



Chaplaincy News

I wrote earlier this term about our Chaplain, Sister Cinzia, making her Final Profession in Italy. I said at the time that we were expecting her to return to us this month. Unfortunately I have learned that this is not going to be possible as her Order have other work that they need her to do. They have however, promised that they will arrange for one of her fellow sisters to replace her and that this too should be able to happen this month.

We are also extending the Chaplaincy Team, from Monday 21 June, through the services of an Imam from the Faizan-e-Madina Mosque. This is to be a short-term arrangement initially, running through June and July. The Imam's name is Hafiz Qari M Muneer and he hopes to be in school for 4 days each week, at break and lunchtimes. He will work primarily with the Muslim students but as with the Catholic Chaplain all students will be able to talk to him about issues. This is the first time that the school has been able to provide this support and it will be useful to have some feedback on the success of it afterwards. I am grateful to the local Muslim community for arranging this for the school. If any parents wish to speak to Hafiz Qari M Muneer with questions concerning their religious life then he can be contacted on: 0700593727.

Year 10 into the spotlight

As the GCSE and A Level exams move into their final weeks we really do start to see the end: this evening we have the Sixth Form Prom at The Bull Hotel and next Friday the Year 11 Prom in school. Both of these are always very enjoyable events and I would like to thank the organisers on behalf of the students attending.

This means that it is time to turn our focus to next summer's results and our Year 10 students. Last week I introduced them to a range of support initiatives that we have planned for them but I also met with two groups of students to find out what else they thought we could do to help. They had plenty of suggestions, among which was a request for me to meet with them monthly during the year to allow any burning issues to be discussed, and this I am happy to do. They were two very impressive groups of students so I am optimistic that this is going to be a strong year group. We will shortly be inviting the parents of our target group to an information evening so that we can tell you more about what we are going to be doing for your students. Please watch for further details in future newsletters.

Parent Governors

Our Shadow Governing Body ceases to operate from the start of the new school year, when it is replaced by a permanent Governing Body. The process for this transition has now begun with the Shadow Governing Body agreeing, at its June meeting last week, on the structure of the new group. It was agreed that we will have a Governing Body of 18 members. Various rules then dictate how many of these should be Parents, how many Foundation Governors, how many Staff and how many from the Local Authority. Foundation Governors are Catholic and appointed by the Bishop; they may or may not also be parents of children at the school.

We now need to elect four Parent Governors. These people need to have a child at the school but do not have to be Catholic. This rule, when combined with the one above on Foundation Governors, is designed to ensure that this is the minimum number of parents that are governors, as other parents may be Foundation Governors. The other key rule for a Catholic School is that the Foundation Governors must be the majority.

If any parent is interested in finding out more about this role or would like to take a nomination form would you please contact me at the school. I will then arrange to talk the process and requirements through with you.

Parent Governors are simply governors who happen to be parents. There is no expectation that you will represent the views of other parents so you do not need to canvass views or report back on issues. The commitment would be up to four meetings a term and these are currently at 6.30 pm on a Wednesday, although this could change once the new Governing Body is in place and people's other commitments are taken into consideration. Through the Local Authority and the Diocese there is specific training that is provided for governors and which is paid for by the school.

If you would like to make a positive contribution to your children's education and have a say in the next stages in the development of the school, being a governor could be one way to do this. I would very much hope that we can represent our diverse ethnic mix of students in the new Governing Body. Please give this opportunity serious consideration and contact me if you are interested in discussing it further.

Sean Hayes

The following was written by Jaber Khan, 8BE, who joined St John Fisher at the end of February:

5 times
5 x I play cricket
10 times I took a wicket
15 times I am the best
20 times I play the test
25 times I win the match
30 times I made the catch
35 times my ball a six
40 times in the paper my pics
45 times my century
50 times cup to me

Well done Jaber.

Ms Roberts

Low Carbon Day

On 24 June, along with many other schools in the country, we are holding a Low Carbon Day to focus children on their own energy consumption and to inspire children and their families to cut their carbon footprint. Schools Low Carbon Day is about:

- Educating children about climate change.
- Focusing children on their own energy consumption / carbon footprint.
- Encouraging action by asking children and / or their families to make a pledge to cut their carbon emissions in some way.

Sports News

Year 10 Girls Rounders Match

Ten Year 10 girls competed in their first Rounders match against The King's School on Tuesday 8 June. All girls played really well, putting up a good fight against a strong King's side, losing by a few rounders. Well done to all who competed in the match: Rounders club is held on Tuesday nights after school 3:30-4:30. All girls are welcome.

Gemma Titchmarsh (10HD) has been very busy in recent weeks, competing in local and national rowing events. Her recent successes include:

- 3rd place in the National Schools Quadruple Sculls
- 1st place in 3 Quadruple Sculls events at Peterborough Regatta, setting 2 new records
- 1st place in 2 Quadruple Sculls events at Bedford Regatta

Gemma's next challenge will be Henley Regatta this weekend and on 27 June she will participate in the Great Britain v France trials which, if she is successful, could see her representing Team GB in the 2012 Olympic games.

We wish Gemma well in all her endeavours!

Mission Week : 28 June – 5 July 2010

Our Mission Week will be led by Steve Murray and Hamish MacQueen.

Steve Murray is a professional mime artist. He travels all over the world presenting the Gospel in a fresh, unique and original style.

Hamish MacQueen is the Director of the Diocesan Youth Service. He regularly leads retreat and mission days in schools and parishes throughout East Anglia. He will be joined by a team of volunteers.

Our Mission Prayer

God our father

We ask you to bless our School Mission.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit

*may we come to know more of your love for us
and deepen our faith in you.*

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen

Asdan news

We have offered several Asdan courses this year – all of which help students develop several transferable skills which will be essential in the workplace. Most Year 11 Asdan students have followed the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) Level 1 skills course. This requires each student to develop 6 essential skills.

- **Working with others** They worked together and put on a very impressive assembly on Haiti
- **Improving own learning** Each student came up with different ways of learning how to perform resuscitation. When they were finally assessed they all performed this task perfectly.
- **Research** Each student produced a major project on 3 possible careers they would like to follow. They did this by spending a considerable amount of time producing a jobs booklet.
- **Problem solving** Each student had one week to raise money for CAFOD and EducAid. Students washed cars, sold cakes, organised a small raffle, produced quizzes, ran a football cross-bar challenge and organised a 5-a-side tournament.
- **Discussion** Students researched the importance of being a good neighbour. They were observed holding their own discussion on this topic.
- **Oral Presentation** Students gave a PowerPoint presentation on a country of their choice. Each student was assessed by their peers and tutor.

More news will follow about Year 10 Asdan courses.

Mr Jones, Asdan Co-ordinator
