



## Creative Learning

Last week 15 of our Year 9 students took part in a workshop in school which was designed to help them achieve greater potential by developing motivation, concentration and attendance. The workshop was run by CLiP – Creative Learning in Partnership, and used the medium of the Arts to allow the students to explore factors that hinder progress and find ways of working around them. It was a very successful session and I would like to thank our PCSO, Jacqui Reid, for organising it.

## Cashless Catering

Our new system has gone 'live' this week. On Monday and Tuesday the students and staff were all registered onto the system and now we are able to have a quicker service with no money being collected. Two machines have been installed for students to credit their accounts with cash (notes or coins) or cheques may be handed in to Student Services.

Cheques will be accepted in a sealed envelope marked 'Lunch Money' via the post box at Student Services, and will be posted into student accounts before lunchtime each day if they are handed in by morning break. Cheques should be made payable to Cater Link Ltd. Please write the student's full name, form group and school name on the back of each cheque.

Obviously the system works on the expectation that students will have enough credit in their accounts to pay for the food they wish to buy, so it is important that these are kept topped up. For students who are entitled to free school meals this is done automatically. If you have any questions about the new cashless system please email the school at [enquiries@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk) or telephone Mrs Austin, our Administration Manager.

## Do you want to learn Chinese?

We have been offered the opportunity for students to learn Chinese which is not something that is yet very common in schools, despite the growing Chinese economy and value of knowing at least some of the language. We also have the opportunity for students to learn more about Chinese culture and cooking. At the moment we expect that these 'lessons' will happen either during lunchtime or after school, as this way we can make them available to all the students. Over the next few weeks we will be asking the students to indicate which classes they are interested in with a view to starting the lessons next term. We will also make this offer part of the Year 12 Induction Day on 2 July. I do encourage the students to take advantage of this opportunity.

## New A level Grades

From this summer the way A Level exams are graded is changing following the introduction of new specifications (or syllabuses) two years ago. As a result a new A\* grade will be available for the first time. The mechanism for awarding an A\* grade is rather complicated and needs some explanation.

First, the grade is only available for a full A Level and not for the AS Level. It will be awarded to students who have achieved an A grade overall and 90 per cent of the maximum marks on the aggregate of their A2 units. This arrangement means that it will be possible for a candidate to not be awarded an A\* but have higher UMS scores from their two years of work than one who is.

In line with other grades, the number of A\* grades is likely to vary from subject to subject, and it will not be awarded to a set percentage of candidates but just to those who fit into the above criteria. It will be interesting to see how the media report this change in the summer.

### Mission Week : 28 June – 5 July

Next week we welcome Hamish MacQueen and Steve Murray into school for our school mission. Each year group will be off timetable for the whole day and be taking part in a variety of workshops and sessions around the theme of 'Who Do You Think You Are?'

The mission days will run as follows:

Monday 28 June:	Year 9 Mission Day
Tuesday 29 June:	Year 8 Mission Day
Wednesday 30 June:	Year 7 Mission Day
Monday 5 July:	Year 10 Mission Day

**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*

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## Goodbye Year 11, Hello Year 12

On Friday last we held our Sixth Form prom and this week it is the turn of Year 11 to celebrate as their exams season ends. We hope that this will be a very enjoyable evening and that the students are able to relax for a short while at least. We will be welcoming many of them back the following week as we have our Year 12 Induction on Thursday and Friday next week.

## Headteachers' Conference

This week the headteachers of the Catholic schools in the diocese, both primary and secondary, are meeting for our annual conference. These few days together allow us to build links and share experiences as well as recharging our spiritual batteries. I do hope to bring back some ideas that we can explore in the coming year, especially with regard to strengthening the prayer life of the school.

Next month we will have our diocesan inspection from which we will receive some advice on how to further develop this part of our school life. These inspections usually follow the Ofsted ones but ours is a little later than usual as our Ofsted inspection was originally expected to be this term.

Next week we will celebrate the Feast of St Peter & Paul with Mass on Tuesday morning and we have Year 7 Parents' Evening on Wednesday afternoon.

*Sean Hayes*

## UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

On 29 April a number of students from Years 7 and 8 participated in the annual United Kingdom Junior Mathematical Challenge. They faced a variety of problems requiring the application of mathematical skills and logical thinking. There were over 240,000 entries from schools across the country. Congratulations to the following students on their success:

Gold Danae Larham - Year 7  
Silver Toni Curtis - Year 7  
Bronze Daisy Webb - Year 7  
Josephine Smith - Year 7  
Cameron Hutchings - Year 8  
Zahra Iqbal - Year 8  
Mahaliah Meriales - Year 8  
Mia Smith - Year 8

Students will be presented with their certificates in an assembly.  
*Ms Harrison*

## Reading Matters

We were pleased to welcome year 6 pupils from St Thomas More Primary School as visitors to our school library this week. Pupils in year 6 will be able to borrow library books on a regular basis and enjoy our library facilities and resources. We will be asking them to share their reading preferences and favourite authors with us, so that we have a good supply of reading materials in stock for pupils joining us in September. They will also be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Summer Reading Challenge in public libraries.  
*Ms Stack*

## Achievement in History

This week we are celebrating the achievement of students in the History department.

### Progress

Year 7 Kamil Kopiejka  
Year 8 Zehra Latif  
Year 9 Sabah Hashmi  
Year 10 Nayab Walji  
Year 12 Joseph Coombe-Boxall  
Year 13 Hannah Bolton

### Achievement

Year 7 Josephine Smith  
Year 8 Amy Pragnell  
Year 9 Tristan Goodfellow  
Year 10 Daniel Tetnowski  
Year 12 Natasha Marcfeld

Congratulations and well done to all. *Mrs Hostead*

