St John Fisher News

13 September 2013 No. 191

Into our stride

As we come to the end of the second week of term already, we are well into our stride. Things always move apace in school and this week we have had special assemblies for Years 11 and 10 and been planning our Celebration of Achievement evening, which takes place on 1st October. The guest of honour will be our new bishop, Bishop Alan, and we are all looking forward to meeting him.

The following week, on 8th October, we have our annual open evening and so start the admissions process for next year's students. I met with the headteachers of the Catholic primary schools this week and we discussed dates for students to visit and have taster lessons. Over the coming weeks I will be visiting the main primary schools that we take children from and handing out invitations and our new prospectus.

Over the past few years we have made many changes to the school as we have sought to improve it and the way in which we work. This year very few changes are planned as we feel that last year most things worked very well, and I am sure that this was a factor in the excellent exam results.

Year 7 students have settled in well and an article about their first few days appears below. Two new appointments for this year are a full time Chaplain and a Seclusion Manager. I am asking these two to introduce themselves via the newsletter, starting with the Chaplain (see right).

Prayers

Throughout the year we have relations of members of the school community who are ill or die and we remember them in our prayers, especially at the Tuesday morning Mass. It isn't always appropriate or the family's wishes that names are included in the newsletter but this week your prayers are requested for two families: for Rahmana Kazemi, who left school last summer, following the tragic deaths of her parents in a car crash; and for Shoaib Ahmed, a past student, who died on holiday this summer.

Happy are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go before them.

Introducing our new Chaplain

Hello my name is Luke Turner and I am the new Chaplain here at St John Fisher.

I come from a youth ministry background and have spent time as a voluntary youth minister in both the Archdiocese of Liverpool and Westminster. My duties were varied, encompassing small and large group work, public speaking, drama, games, testimony, whole school missions and prayer. I was also lucky enough to travel on pilgrimage to Lourdes twice, volunteering in a hospital there and to also take a group to World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia in 2010.

I eventually ended up in East London working at a day retreat centre, first as Program Leader and then as Director. My work was mostly with local schools, welcoming groups and working to give them a positive experience of God and of themselves.

I have spent the last two and a half years as a School Chaplain in Coventry, working with the staff and students to build a strong chaplaincy based on action inspired by faith, something I hope to repeat here at St John Fisher.

At World Youth Day 2013 in Brazil, Pope Francis said "faith is revolutionary and today I ask you: are you open to entering the revolution?" It is my wish that this mission is fulfilled every day here at St John Fisher through different types of prayer, activities, charity work, space to talk, and retreats. I am also looking for some volunteers to come and help out with the day to day running of the Chaplaincy so if you know someone who might like to do that, please let me know.

If you ever want a chat about **anything** then I am always happy to oblige! *Luke Turner*

Governors' Meeting

The first full meeting of the governors takes place on Wednesday of this coming week. Governors will mainly be discussing the exam results and looking at what more can be done to sustain and possibly increase them this year. We have a very committed group of governors and I am very grateful for the time and support that they give to the school in this work.

Term has got off to an excellent start and we are especially impressed with students' punctuality and uniform. I hope that this is something that we can sustain throughout the year.

Sean Hayes

Year 7 Welcome Liturgy

On Tuesday 17 September we will be holding a Welcome Liturgy for our new Year 7 students. This will take place in the School Hall from 8:40 to 9:00 am

All parents are welcome to attend. Please confirm your attendance with Reception.

Year 7 Induction Day

The new Year 7s arrived in school looking smart and slightly apprehensive. In order to put them at ease and encourage them to make new friends, an inter-house competition ran during the course of the day. Students first met with tutors and completed a treasure hunt designed by the Humanities Faculty. After break it was the turn of the Science Faculty to host the competition. Students had three separate challenges to complete: to write a set of lab rules, to correctly identify scientific apparatus and to write a short paragraph about what they were looking forward to in Science this year.

Next there was an Expressive Arts challenge; bench ball was the first activity, with some manic throwing and catching and some brilliant defending. This was followed by some equally manic and aggressive tug-o-war which saw many people leaning back so far on the rope that they fell over! Students also got to shoot some hoops for house points and the competitive spirit of many came to the fore.

After a barbecue lunch, pupils battled in class to become one of the top four spellers after revising a set of 25 words. We then had a Spelling Bee contest in the Hall with the winners from each class reciting numerous spellings. Eventually, after a tense final, Sami Mohammed emerged the overall champion. Everyone ended the day buzzing with excitement.

After the house points were added up the results were as follows:

Joint 1st:	Cambridge and Westminster
Joint 3rd	Beverley and Rochester

Thank you to all staff involved in running activities and supporting students and well done to the Year 7s who have made an excellent start to the year.

Ms Wilson

Word of the Week

~~ Embarrass ~~
To cause confusion and shame

UNO Tournament

24 to 27 September
In the Library
Prizes to be won
Please see Miss Oldman to sign up

Key Dates for 2013-2014

Autumn Term

17 September	Year 7 Welcome Liturgy
1 October	Celebration of Achievement Evening
8 October	Year 6 Open Evening
25 October	Rochester House Charity Day
28 Oct – 1 Nov	Half Term Holiday
15 November	Focus Day 1
19 November	Post 16 Options Evening
21 November	1st HPV Vaccination – Yr 8 girls
26 November	Parents' Evening
3 December	Advent Reconciliation Services
20 December	Term Ends

Spring Term

6 January 2014	Term Begins
8 January	Certificate Evening
9 January	2nd HPV Vaccination – Yr 8 girls
14 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
28 January	Key Stage 4 Options Evening
12 February	Beverley House Charity Day
17-21 February	Half Term Holiday
24 February	Staff Training Day – school closed
13 March	Focus Day 2
18 March	Parents' Evening
20 March	Lent Reconciliation Services
4 April	Term Ends

Summer Term

22 April	Term Begins
14 April	3rd HPV Vaccination – Yr 8 girls
5 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
20 May	Parents' Evening
23 May	Cambridge House Charity Day
26 – 30 May	Half Term Holiday
2 July	Year 6 Welcome Day
7 July	Westminster House Charity Day
8/9/10 July	Focus Days 3/4/5
18 July	St John Fisher Day/Term Ends

Literacy Corner

Word list for spelling test w/c 16 September

Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
1. Action	1. Caricature
2. Audience	2. Prologue
3. Blocking	3. Realism
4. Character	4. Symbolic
5. Diction	5. Symbolism
6. Dramatic	6. Spontaneous
7. Expression	7. Stereotype
8. Gesture	8. Spotlight
9. Improvisation	9. Stimulus
10. Mime	10. Subtext
11. Movement	11. Technique
12. Motivation	12. Workshop
13. Narrator	13. Cultural
14. Naturalistic	14. Chorus
15. Pace	15. Collage
16. Pause	16. Design
17. Performance	17. Designer
18. Physical	18. Ensemble
19. Pitch	19. Epilogue
20. Posture	20. Monologue