St John Fisher News

8 March 2013 No. 173

Meeting for Parents

On Tuesday next I have arranged for Mrs Julie O'Connor, the Diocesan Director of Schools Service, to attend a meeting to discuss Catholic education in the city. This has been prompted by a desire to find out why there are more Catholic children attending church on Sunday than attend our schools.

It will be an open discussion and we hope to find out if there is enough provision for our children and whether or not there are any factors that are causing parents to not apply for places at our school or the two primary schools.

Any parents with Catholic children under the age of 11 are welcome to attend. The meeting will take place at Sacred Heart School at 7.00 pm. Further details in the box opposite.

Last Friday students in Year 6 heard which school they will be attending next September. Places remain very tight in the city and it is important that parents accept the offer promptly. It is now very difficult for students to move between schools once they start due to the lack of places.

Secondary Headteachers Conference

This week the secondary headteachers met for our annual conference. The focus this year was on closer collaboration as we are eager to continue working together to provide the best education for all students across the city. We are very aware that government policies for many years have focussed on competition between schools but we feel better overall provision will come from more co-operation. We discussed a plan for us to start training our own teachers for our schools, welcomed a delegation from Slough where very strong collaboration is working well, and heard from three different schemes which are designed to improve teaching and leadership in schools.

It was a very productive two days and we are optimistic this it will bring positive benefits to all our schools, including St John Fisher. We are already involved in the current system for training teachers but government changes mean that this will become much more school-based in future. I am one of two headteachers on the committee that is planning this development.

House Update	Points	Attendance
Beverley	11175	93.0%
Cambridge	8150	94.1%
Rochester	11350	92.8%
Westminster	12625	93.7%

Sixth Form Parents Evening – 19 March

Parents should be aware of the arrangements for this event, especially the new online booking system. I am concerned at the low number of appointments that have been made for sixth form students so far and thought it worth mentioning again. Appointments are required and are made on a first come, first served basis so please do not leave it too late to make an appointment. The 'evening' will run from 2.30 to 6.30 with all students being dismissed at 2.00 pm.

Sean Hayes

Meeting for parents of children at Catholic Primary schools

Tuesday 12 March - 7.00 pm

Sacred Heart Primary School
Tollgate, Peterborough, PE3 9XD

All parents with primary-age children are invited to a meeting to discuss the provision of Catholic education in Peterborough. Julie O'Connor, Diocesan Director of Schools Service, will chair the meeting

Can I have a P?

In the area of Teaching and Learning, in order to encourage students to take greater responsibility for their learning, we have introduced the 5Ps.

be: **Prompt**
Prepared
Positive
Productive
Polite

We hope these responsibilities will enable students to have the key tools for success in learning.

We have also introduced the code C3B4ME. This code we use when students are stuck. Instead of asking the teacher directly and so preventing students from being an independent learner, we are asking them to C3B4ME. In other words, use their brain, books, buddy before asking the boss, their teacher.

We would ask parents to encourage the same approach at home and involve their child in researching an answer rather than just being given it straightaway.

Mr Reilly

Students excel at Peterborough Drama Festival

On Saturday 2 March, Year 8 and 10 students participated in the Peterborough Drama Festival at Dogsthorpe Junior School. St John Fisher students participated in Prepared Speech and Verse Speaking categories. Our students performed exceptionally well in their categories with Ryan New getting second place for Verse Speaking, Finley Allen third place for Prepared Speech and Sam Maxwell was placed first overall in his age group for Prepared Speech.

I am extremely proud of all the students who participated in the festival as it took courage to perform in front of an audience and a panel of judges. They prepared themselves very well by writing their own speeches, selecting their own poems, memorising lines and learning key public speaking skills.

Well done to Katherine Pollard, Andrew Bellars, Maxwell Ngondi, Jade Chiltern and Elizabeth Ager who achieved first and second class certificates for their performances. We are keen to apply public speaking tips given by the judges and looking forward to participating in the event next year. *Mrs Winlock*

When Mrs Winlock first asked me to enter the Peterborough Drama Festival, I had no idea what I would have to do. I was told I had to memorise a poem under the category of 'Historical things'. I didn't think I was able to do it at first but once I started learning the poem it became easier and I felt more confident. As the date of the Festival drew nearer, my nerves started to creep back in. We rehearsed during lunchtimes and I felt more confident.

We performed in front of an audience and a panel of judges. After my performance, I received many comments and advice on how to improve – these I will take on board. I ended second in my category and have the certificate to prove it! I hope to do it again next year. *Ryan New*

Pupils from all over Peterborough attended the festival to compete in various categories. Each category had a different subject which ranged from prose and verse reading to prepared speeches and acting. These were judged by adjudicators who came from professional stage and drama backgrounds. They gave constructive criticism to help competitors progress with future pieces.

A great big thank you to Mrs Winlock who helped all of us rehearse for the big day. If any of you would like to take part in this competition in 2014, please speak to Mrs Winlock and I hope to see lots of you there next year. *Sam Maxwell*

Sports News

Thursday 21 February saw a group of Year 8 girls play in a tough battle in a dodgeball tournament.

The girls were Bethen England (C2), Cerys Porter (C5), Dovile Tamutyte (C9), Joanna Galus (W9), Katherine Pollard (R9), Martyna Wykrota (B5), Sandra Strug (R2) and Shikiba Hajizadeh W2.

They played 4 games against King's, Voyager, Bushfield Academy and Jack Hunt school to make their way to the top of their group and into the semi–finals. Here they played the top 2 teams from the other group, TDA and King's B team. Unfortunately they lost their semi-final match, but came 3rd place out of all 10 teams. Well done girls! *Katherine Pollard and Bethen England*

One Night Only

Tickets are on sale now for an evening of Musical Theatre on Wednesday 13 March.

This promises to be a show stopping event that you will not want to miss. Tickets are available from Student Services priced £3 for adults and £1 for students. We look forward to seeing you there.

Music Taster Sessions

Mr Hansel will be running taster sessions on Friday lunchtimes from 1.30 to 2.00 pm in the Music practice room. Sessions will run on 15 and 22 March. There is no need to book, just turn up and have a go.

Miss Bird, Subject Leader, Music.

UNO Tournament

18 - 22 March in the Library. Prizes to be won. See Miss Oldman to sign up

Coming soon from the Library
~~ Word of the Week ~~

Focus Day 2

Next Thursday, 14 March, is our second Focus Day of this academic year, where we have an alternative timetable for the day.

Year 7:	Science and Technology day – Nutrition
Year 8:	Languages and Enterprise day - Learning Habits
Year 9:	Humanities day and Geography trip
Year 10:	Expressive Arts day. Multi activities.
Year 11:	Revision skills and ICT catch-up.
Sixth Form:	Retreat on the theme of Taking a Leap. Off site at Peterborough Cathedral.