St John Fisher News

18 January 2013 No. 167

Parents' Evenings

Last term we tried a different arrangement for Parents' Evening with an earlier start and having the evening open to all year groups. The evening was very well attending but some parents were unable to get appointments with some teachers and some came without appointments.

We have decided to make some alterations to the next two evenings to address these issues and some of the other feedback we had from parents and teachers.

The next evening in March will be for Years 10-13 only, and the May one will be for Years 7-9. We will also change the booking system: parents will be asked to tell us in advance which teachers they would like to see and between which times they can be in school and then we will schedule the appointments centrally. Letters with appointments will then be sent to parents in advance of the evening.

We hope that this arrangement will mean that we can have more appointments but it will mean that we will only be able to see parents who have appointments. Parents in Years 10-13 are asked to look out for further information in newsletters around half term.

Weather

Snow has arrived this week and the inevitable disruption. We do all we can to continue operating as usual when this happens. Can I remind parents of our policy concerning bad weather: if it is not possible to open the school due to heavy snow, announcements will be made on local radio and text messages sent to parents. We will also post a notice on the school website as soon as we are able to. Parents are asked to avoid ringing the school to ask if we are open as this jams the phone lines. If the school opens in the morning it will remain open until the end of the school day: once we open we stay open and will not close early.

Maths GCSE

Last week Year 11 students received results of the November GCSE exams. 17 students achieved a grade C in the linear paper so have a full GCSE result already. Congratulations to *Mateusz Betlej, Patryk Betlej, Rebecca Burgess, Lucy Cawston, Dawid Czekaj, Omera Ejaz, Tiffany Guest, Zulaikha Haider, Ben Johnson, Justyna Jurka, Thanushiya Konesalingam, Carly Lee, Jordan O'Flynn, Pawel Osieja, Katie Smart, Ali Ustuner, Sean Williamson*. There were pass grades for all of the other students who took the linear exam and good results for those who took the modular exam. There will be more exams in March and June.

Year 9 Options Evening

This evening takes place next Tuesday, starting at 7pm sharp. This is an important occasion for all students and we urge all parents to attend, with the students. Continual changes to courses and exams mean that the decisions to be made are different again this year to recent years and so even parents with older students should attend to find out the latest situation.

The school leaving age is increasing and these students will not be able to leave school at the end of Year 11, making it all the more important that courses are taken now that will help with decisions about Year 12 when they need to be taken in two years' time.

The present government has announced an intention to replace GCSEs from 2015 but this applies to the students who will be starting Year 10 then not those taking exams that year. So the current system continues for the present Years 9 and 8.

Sean Hayes

House Update

Up to week ending 11 January 2013	House Points	Attendance %
Beverley	6375	92.9%
Cambridge	5875	94.0%
Rochester	7375	92.2%
Westminster	9300	93.9%

Music Taster Sessions

Is your son or daughter interested in learning to play the piano or keyboard?

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 25 January, 1 February and 8 February.

There is no need to book, just turn up and have a go.

Miss Bird, Subject Leader, Music.

Twitter

We now have an official Twitter feed that you can log on to, for news updates from the school. You can find us here: @sjfpeterborough.

Mr Sargeant

Year 11 Mock Results Day 2013

On Tuesday this week, all Year 11 students received their mock result, from the exams they took in November. This was an opportunity for the students to reflect on what they achieved, look at options for the future and see what post-16 higher education courses they could potentially do. The aim of the day was to help students to progress even further in their abilities at exams.

After the first mock exam reflection session, a company called 'Positively Mad' joined the Year 11 students to do a session on positive thinking and goal setting. Students had the opportunity to think 'outside the box' in terms of how to set and achieve targets. Some students even had the chance to go up onto the stage to talk about their goals. Ali Ustuner and Saf Nawaz were two students who spoke to the whole of Year 11 about their personal goals and how they achieved them.

In the afternoon, a group of Year 11 students worked with 'Positively Mad' on exam skills and memory techniques. All students said they really enjoyed this session as it helped them to prepare for exams.

The final part of the day was parents' evening after school, where parents and students had the chance to talk to their teachers. Also, 'Positively Mad' offered two parental workshops which went down very well and both parents and students enjoyed them.

All in all, a busy and successful day. *Mr Sargeant*

This week we all received our mock results. After another wonderful lecture from Mr Sargeant we all now know where we are and where our main focuses lay. In the afternoon we had a workshop with "Positively Mad". In this we learnt about how our minds work and how we can change our ways to become more determined and achieve the best GCSE results possible.

The whole day was an extremely useful experience and we are thankful to Mr Sargeant and Mr Barwise for organising it all. *Jessie Scutts HD-W5*

News from Cambridge House

At the end of last term Cambridge celebrated individual and tutor group successes at our final assembly of 2012. It was a great pleasure to welcome Mr Trevor Cook, Cambridge parent and governor, to present certificates to those who had worked so hard for them.

Individual performances from Lukasz Pinkowski (Dhol drums), William Healy (piano), Bob Loveridge (beat boxing) and Zainia James, who sang her own version of our House theme song "Simply the Best", demonstrated the wealth of talent that we have at school.

Mr Cook presented the Cambridge House Cup to C7 (Mr Sboui's form) whose combined efforts in the interform benchball, merit and house quiz competitions earned them the title of Best Form for the Autumn term.

Our fundraising totalled £200 for our House charities. This money will be donated to Cambridge Nazareth Trust, who support the education of young people in the Holy Land. Following the parable of the talents each tutor group had been given £5 to kick start their fundraising. Zeeshan Waseem is to be congratulated for his outstanding effort in raising £67 by selling cakes and biscuits every break and lunchtime for the duration of Advent.

Looking forward to 2013, this week we have celebrated the successes of our Year 11 students who have done well in their GCSE mock exams. I am proud that Cambridge students have worked well to achieve their target grades and we look forward to their successes in the summer.

We must not forget that our Sixth Form students are also working exceptionally hard at the moment as they sit their modular A level exams.

I hope that all students will rise to the challenges that this term will bring them and that as always Cambridge students will strive to live up to our motto to be "Simply the Best".

Mrs P Helcoop, Head of House

UNO Tournament

28 January – 1 February
in the Library
Prizes to be won
Please see Miss Oldman to sign up