St John Fisher News

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Politeness costs nothing

The theme of our assemblies this week has been 'Be polite'. I have been talking to students about the benefits to themselves and their influence on others by being polite: saying 'please' and 'thank you', answering appropriately, not pushing in, and so on. I explained that many visitors comment on how polite and well behaved our students are, but it doesn't hurt to stop and consider the issue from time to time.

I focussed particularly on how easily it is to offend someone by using the wrong words, and combined this with the old adage that 'actions speak louder than words:

> *What you do speaks so loudly*
> *that I can't hear what you say*
>
> Ralph Waldo Emerson

We then watched a short clip about a man who calls himself The Scary Guy. He travels the world giving talks on ridding the world of Hate and embracing Love. I was only able to give a short introduction to what he does but more can be found by putting his name into an Internet search engine.

Hopefully all the students have found the others being more polite to them than usual this week and have felt better for it. Let's see if we can keep it up!

Next Week

A reminder again of the arrangements for next week. On Tuesday afternoon we have **Parents Evening for Years 7-9** and all students will again be dismissed at 2.00. Parents should have made appointments by now on the new online booking system, but if you have not been able to do so by Tuesday you may turn up and we will make appointments for you on arrival. This takes a few minutes and will only be possible if the teachers you wish to see still have spaces.

On Thursday afternoon Year 13 have their **Leavers' Liturgy** and the officially start Study Leave.

On Friday morning Year 11 will have their **Leavers' Liturgy** after break and will be dismissed before lunch. That evening we are hosting their **Prom** and we are hoping to have a great evening. Please note that only students who have bought a ticket in advance are able to attend. My thanks to Ms Stevens and all who have played a part in preparing this event.

Some lessons will continue for Year 11 after half term – see details below.

The following week is, of course, half term and school is closed. We return on Monday 3 June (Week 1).

House Masses

On Tuesday morning Father Michael celebrated the fourth and final House Mass. Throughout this season of Eastertide each house has had a Mass for its own students which the students have prepared and contributed to. These have been very prayerful and reflective occasions, with each one slightly different. The musical contributions have very much added to the atmosphere and I hope that more students will be willing to contribute to future Masses. As we do not have anywhere large enough to conveniently gather the whole school, coming together as a house is a very good substitute. My thanks to all who have contributed to these Masses, to Father Michael for celebrating them, and to the students for their positive response.

Sean Hayes

Parents' Evening for Years 7 - 9
Tuesday 21 May: 2.30 - 6.30
Students will finish school at 2.00 pm on Tuesday (with the exception of students taking an exam)

Punctuality

Please could I remind parents that school starts at 8.40 in the morning and students should arrive on time. The school gate is closed at 8.40 and a 30 minute detention will be given to those students who are late without a valid reason. Thank you for your support.

Mr Reilly

Year 11 RE Revision Class

Saturday 18 May: 10.00 – 12.00

All Year 11 students are welcome

This is the final session before the examination on Tuesday 21 May

Year 11 English revision

English language revision with Mrs Winlock and Ms Roberts on Thursday 30 May (during half term) from 11am-1pm, in Rm 112.
This is essential if you are resitting your language exam in June.

Library during exam time

Please note that on Friday 17 and Friday 24 May it will be silent study only in the library at break times. There will also be a restriction on how many students can use the library. This is due to exams taking place.

The Carnegie Reading Group will now meet in the Library on Wednesday lunchtimes. *Miss Oldman*

Library Word of the Week

Rhetorical

(of a question) asked in order to make a statement rather than to gain information

Year 11 Maths

If you are sitting a maths exam on either 11 or 14 June, you should attend your normal maths lessons until the exams. Please sign in at reception and go to lessons when you normally have them.

Ms Harrison

China Trip 19-30 April 2013

This was a combined trip between St John Fisher Catholic School and Jack Hunt School to the Gold Apple School in Shanghai. This is the third year that I have led the trip and each year we seem to do more and more during our time in China!

The focus of the trip is centred on Sports Leadership, and the original link between the schools came from the Dreams and Teams Project in partnership with the British Council.

The Gold Apple School is a very large school and delivers a bilingual curriculum, so the Chinese students in the upper school have many lessons delivered in English. Our students had the opportunity to go to lessons in the school and also to teach lessons to the primary school students.

The students were an absolute credit to the schools; they worked hard and showed great initiative in planning and delivering lessons and, working with sports leaders at the Gold Apple School they showed how students from very different cultural backgrounds can both work together, through sport, to develop their leadership skills. We ran a sports festival for 300 8 year old students. Also they taught dodge ball and English at a school for the children of migrant workers who have moved from all across China to work in Shanghai.

There was an opportunity for some sightseeing; Shanghai is an amazing city with a population of around 26 million. Everything, especially some of the buildings in the central business district, is on a much bigger scale than we are used to! During the visit the students had the opportunity to for a 'homestay' with a Chinese family. I think that this is a unique opportunity and I don't know of any other schools that offer Chinese homestay.

For the staff that went it was also a great opportunity to teach in a different country and to share practise as we taught lessons in the Gold Apple School.

In China we did various activities, like going up the Pearl Oriental Tower. One of the activities was teaching children at a school for the children of migrant workers, we taught them dodgeball and English. I've gained a massive experience and the trip was really good.

(Archie Murfitt. Year 9)

We stayed in a Chinese boarding school and also at a Chinese student's house at the weekend. We taught the younger students how to play dodgeball and also English Language. We also ran a sports festival. We went on a river cruise and saw all the sights of Shanghai. We ate Chinese food, which tasted really good! Overall it was a fantastic experience and I would go again if I got the chance. *(Aidan Bailey Year 9)*

A big thank you to the staff that assisted with the trip and to all the students who were amazing sports leaders, and ambassadors for the school.

Mr Barwise

Parent Perception Survey

If you still have a Parent Perception Survey that you have not returned, please do so by the end of next week. Thank you to everyone who has done so.

Mr Reilly