St John Fisher News

15 March 2013 No. 174

Habemus Papam! – Pope Francis

While a packed hall was enjoying the musical evening on Wednesday our new pope was being announced in St Peter's Square, Rome. The first Argentinean pope and the first from South America, Cardinal Jorge Beroglio has taken the name Francis, and that is another first. It was an earlier result than had been expected but there is much delight and optimism about the election.

Parents' Evening: Years 10-13

This is the final chance for parents to make appointments for next Tuesday afternoon. We are hoping that the new online booking system will make the evening run more smoothly. This is a very important event for all students in these year groups as they are all taking exams next term. This is the last formal parents' evening for these groups of students this year – next term's is for Years 7-9 – so please make the most of this opportunity.

Parents in Year 10: I will be speaking to Year 10 in a special assembly on Tuesday morning as we start to identify those students who we feel will need additional support over the next year, leading up to their GCSEs. We hope to speak to the parents of the first group of students at this parents' evening. Appointments with senior staff will be added to your appointment sheets where appropriate.

All students will finish school at 2.00 pm on Tuesday so that we can prepare for this evening.

Parents' Evening
Years 10-13
Tuesday 19 March
2.30 – 6.30

Appointments should be made in advance online – please refer to the letters that were posted home

A Night at the Musicals

Wednesday evening saw one of the highlights of the year for the Music department with our *Night at the Musicals*. It was a superb event with performances of favourite songs from many top musicals: *Les Misérables, Oliver!, Miss Saigon, Sister Act, Billy Elliott, Fame* and more. It was clear that much rehearsal had gone into the evening and it was also clear that the audience very much enjoyed themselves. Very many thanks to all those involved in making the evening a success, including Miss Bird, Mr Jones, Mr McCoy, Mr Burgess, Mr J Hayes, Miss Stevens, Ms Davey, Mrs Rawlings, Miss Wood and Miss O'Connor. And of course to the students who took part.

The Summer Concert will be a charity fundraiser and takes place on 4 July. Make a note in your diaries now as it is sure to be another excellent evening.

Term Dates for next year

With this week's newsletter we are issuing the term dates for next school year. Parents are asked to keep these handy so that any holidays can be planned outside of term time.

At the start of the year I reminded parents about the governors' policy on student absence, which essentially means that requests will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. This is in line with government advice and reflects the experience that students who are not at school achieve lower qualifications. Despite this I am still receiving requests for holidays in term time three or four times a week. These are almost all declined and on occasions when parents go ahead regardless we do request that a fixed penalty notice be issued.

Whether absences are authorised or not, they are still absences. Parents are asked to please support their students by not taking them out of school.

Sean Hayes

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~~ Term dates for 2013/14 ~~

Autumn Term 2013

Staff Training:	Monday 2 September *
	Tuesday 3 September *
Term Starts:	Wednesday 4 September
Half term:	28 October - 1 November
Term Ends:	Friday 20 December

Spring Term 2014

Term Starts:	Monday 6 January 2014
Half term:	17-21 February
Staff Training:	24 February *
Term Ends:	Friday 4 April

Summer Term 2014

Term Starts:	Tuesday 22 April
Bank Holiday:	Monday 5 May
Half term:	26 - 30 May
Term Ends:	Friday 18 July
Staff Training:	Monday 21 July *
	Tuesday 22 July *

* School is closed for students on staff training days

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 15 and 22 March.
There is no need to book, just turn up and have a go.

Miss Bird, Subject Leader, Music.

Library:
Word of the Week

Consolidate:

make (something) physically stronger or more whole

Table Tennis Triumph

Congratulations go to Cambridge students Nedas Juraska (AD-C1) and Corey Mazurek (SB-C7) who took part in a National Table tennis tournament last Saturday.
Nedas won the Cadet boys singles and came 4th in the Junior event. Corey came 3rd in the Cadet singles and 5th in the Junior event. The boys then paired up and came 2nd in the doubles event. Well done!

The Catenian Association Public Speaking Contest

On Sunday I had the privilege of participating in a public speaking contest at the Yew Lodge Hotel in Kegworth. It was a fantastic opportunity for me and the other contestants (from various schools) to develop our enthusiasm and confidence in speaking to large audiences. There were various topics to choose from, exploring areas such as science, music and charity work.
I would like to thank Mr Sargeant for allowing me to enter this contest for the experience and the people I was able to meet.
Much thanks must go to the Catenian Association who hold this event every year for Catholic schools. I would strongly encourage others to apply for the contest next year as it is an exciting event with various prizes to be won. *Tristan Goodfellow, Deputy Head Boy*

Well done Tristan! *Mr Sargeant*

House Update	Points	Attendance
Beverley	11775	93.0%
Cambridge	8400	94.0%
Rochester	12050	92.8%
Westminster	13275	93.7%

Secret Reading Circle

Would you like the chance to read and review books from other schools? Then why not join the secret reading circle. Please see Miss Oldman in the library for more information.

Current books to read:
The White Giraffe by Lauren St John
Young Samurai: The Way of the Warrior by Chris Bradford