St John Fisher News

20 September 2013 No. 192

Year 7 Welcome Liturgy

On Tuesday morning we held our liturgy to welcome Year 7 to the school. This was very effective and led by the students themselves, guided by our Chaplain, Luke. Because we work in Houses most of the time we do not often have all of the students in a year group together, so it is important that we come together occasionally, and especially to pray. The students read and lit candles for their houses, focussing on the theme of 'one body' – although they are a collection of individuals they are all one year group.

An impressive sight

I have received several comments this term about how smart the students look, and I have noticed this myself. We haven't changed our uniform but by continuing to ensure that students wear it correctly we have made a difference and they certainly look very good arriving in the morning and moving around school during the day. It all helps to contribute to a sense of pride in the school and gives the public a good impression of what we all know is a good school. I hope that this continues when the weather turns colder and coats are required, so a gentle reminder that coats have to fit *over* blazers and are not something that is worn instead.

Helping other schools

Many of you will know that a few years ago our school was not performing well and we had to do a lot of work to get to the current position. The Catholic Education Service, the national body that oversees Catholic schools, has formed a committee to discuss what can be done to help struggling schools so that we can have support ready and available should others get into difficulties. I have been asked to join this group for our diocese and attended the first meeting in London this week. It would be good to be able to help others and share our knowledge and expertise so I hope that this will be the beginning of something that proves to be very worthwhile.

Open Evening

Our annual Open Evening for students in Year 6 who are choosing a school for next September is on Tuesday 8 October. Parents with children in Years 5 and 6, and the children of course, are invited to attend. The evening will start at 7pm. The school will also be open to parents on Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 October at 9.00 for tours of the school.

Training our own teachers

Each year we have some trainee teachers working with us for a few weeks at a time as part of their training. Until now these students have been from one of the local universities that offers teacher training. There has long been a desire for us to have our own training facility in Peterborough and so over the last year a group of headteachers from the city has been working on a bid for submission to the National College for Teaching and Leadership to establish a facility in the city. This week we heard that this bid has been approved and so from next September we will be able to train our own teachers for our own schools. This is very welcome news and hopefully will enable us to continue to attract high quality teachers to our school.

Our New Seclusion Manager

Hello, my name is Alison Furnell and I am the new Seclusion Room Manager at St John Fisher.

Most students will never spend a day with me. However, a few will receive a Seclusion if they repeatedly fail to follow the School Code of Conduct.

Seclusion is an opportunity for students to reflect on their behaviour and learn from their mistakes. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to complete work and catch up on coursework.

Students will be in the Seclusion room from 8.45am until 4pm; and will have a packed lunch. Breaks and lunch time will be in the room with comfort breaks regularly provided.

The room has been set up as a positive working environment and to reaffirm the school ethos. Students will return to lessons once their period of Seclusion has been successfully completed.

Sean Hayes

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

Home Languages Success

Staff and students in the Languages Faculty are once again proud of the outstanding achievement of 100% A*-C in this year's Home Languages examinations at GCSE, AS and A Level. A larger range of languages were studied this year, including Arabic, Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Persian, Russian, Turkish and Urdu. These additional qualifications are good for the students and make a valuable contribution to the whole school results. Well done to all. *Mme Haine*

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Excellent news - we now have a Silver DofE group of 6 Sixth Form students. This group will be joining up with the Jack Hunt School group and will be off for a three day practice expedition in late October. There will be several after school training sessions to get this group up to speed to be able to navigate, camp and cook for three days. They are Ewelina Strug, Dominika Ciach, Patrick Kelly, Conor Ormsby, Amy Pragnell and Milton Carvoeiro. It is still not too late for Sixth Formers to show an interest - please see me for further details.

You will see our DofE Sixth Formers around the school helping with all manner of activities. These activities will now count towards the volunteering section of their Silver DofE award.

The Silver DofE is a major commitment of time and energy and will take at least a year to complete so we wish our participants *resourcefulness, resilience, reflection, reasoning and responsibility*.

Our Bronze DofE group is off this weekend to be assessed on their expedition skills. They will walk for 25 kilometres and cook and camp as well; whatever the weather! They will be supervised from a distance by our staff: this shows the group can operate independently from adult supervision and we wish them all the best. May they choose the right path!!!

Mr Jones, DofE Co-ordinator

Digital Parenting Magazine

This week, alongside this school newsletter, we have given every student a copy of Vodafone's *Digital Parenting* magazine. This is a great magazine full of information and tips to help keep both parents and students safe online. With the rapidly increasing digital world, online safety is becoming paramount. Although students continue to receive guidance on this, parents often do not. The magazine provided from Vodafone has pulled together resources from a wide range of the leading agencies in this field. The magazine and further information, including how-to videos can be found at www.vodafone.com/parents. A link for this has also been placed on our school website. *Mr J Hayes*

Literacy Corner

Word list for spelling test w/c 23 September

Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
1. percentages	1. variable
2. algebra	2. equation
3. formula	3. inequality
4. solve	4. scalene
5. substitute	5. parallel
6. area	6. perpendicular
7. perimeter	7. quadratic
8. trial	8. factorise
9. improvement	9. quantities
10. value	10. transformation
11. table	11. translation
12. dimension	12. coefficient
13. cubic	13. enlargement
14. expand	14. adjacent
15. evaluation	15. cumulative
16. bearings	16. polygon
17. rotation	17. frequency
18. reflection	18. scatter
19. density	19. probability
20. root	20. outcomes

UNO Tournament

24 to 27 September - in the Library
Prizes to be won
Please see Miss Oldman for details

Word of the Week

~~ Persuade ~~

To prevail on a person to do something

FISHER ARTS FESTIVAL

SJF'S MUSIC COMPETITION

EXAMPLE CATEGORIES- SOLO, RAPPER, MUSICAL THEATRE, BATTLE OF THE BANDS, COMPOSER, BEAT BOXER, INSTRUMENTALISTS

AUDITIONS- 25TH SEPTEMBER

SIGN UP OUTSIDE ROOM 102