St John Fisher News

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And now the time has come...

At some point we will see some Year 11 and all Year 13 students for the final time this term. We have marked this formally with leavers' liturgies this week although most will be coming in and out of school for exams until late June. Some of these students have been with us for seven years and others for just a few months. Whichever is the case, I hope that all are leaving with positive memories of their time at St John Fisher. This is only a staging post in life's journey and there will be many more momentous ones to come, but the end of school tends to be one that all of us remember.

A lot of friendships will have been started and grown during this time and I am sure many promises made this week about sustaining these in the future. Each year I see students who are very aware of this and determined to enjoy their final days at school. I would just ask that they spare a few moments to thank the adults who have helped them get to this point: their teachers, form tutors, house staff, teaching assistants, and everyone else in the school community who may have been part of their personal journey. And perhaps a few will pause and thank their parents and carers too.

We have benefitted from every one of these students and the school would not have been the same without them. I wish them all the very best for the future and the remaining exams, and hope that they keep in touch to tell us how they get on in future. May God bless you.

Parents' Evening

On Tuesday afternoon we had our Key Stage 3 Parents' Evening, the second of the new format introduced for Years 10-13 last term. This was very successful and the online booking system worked well – apart from the parents who turned up without an appointment. I am sorry that some teachers had no spare slots by that stage, but we have advised that early booking is essential.

Feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive and I am sure we will continue this pattern next year. The earlier start clearly suits many, but by still running until 6.30 we are able to accommodate parents who can't come earlier. If there are any further comments about the arrangement that you would like us to consider, please send them in via one of the methods at the foot of the page. My thanks to our office manager, Mary Austin, for administering the appointments system, and to the sixth formers and support staff who welcomed parents and students.

Work Permits

The local authority has asked me to remind parents and students about the laws regarding employment for children of compulsory school age. In particular, the requirement for them to apply for a work permit before taking on any part time work.

Young people are legally permitted to work from the age of 13 but the types of work and hours permitted are restricted to ensure the child's welfare and to ensure that their education is not disrupted. From age 13-16 a maximum of two hours per day is allowed (or 5 hours on Saturdays) up to a weekly limit of 12 hours. There are further conditions around working in the school holidays and on the type of work that can be done. Full details are on the back of the work permit application form.

Work permits are issued by the local authority and need to be completed by the employer, the parent and the school's headteacher or head of house. Further information can be found on the local authority website: www.peterborough.gov.uk

Spelling Bee

The second of our Spelling Bees took place on Wednesday afternoon. This time it was the turn of Year 8. There was a lot of excitement and the competition was tough but a worthy winner was found in Sam Maxwell (W1). Congratulations! Thanks to Mrs Winlock and the English teachers for organising this event.

Have a good holiday. We return on Monday 3 June which is Week 1 of the timetable.

Sean Hayes

Thank you

Yesterday we spent our last official day in school. For most it was the final moment after being at St John Fisher for 7 years.

As a year group we would just like to say a massive thank you to all the staff and teachers who have done so much for us during our time at school. We are very blessed to have been a part of such a special and unique community. *Year 13 students*

Pilgrimage to Taizé

Next week some of our students are joining the pilgrimage from All Souls Parish to Taizé in France. We wish them a safe journey and hope that the experience will be rewarding.

Ask.fm

For the past couple of weeks in school, we have highlighted the serious dangers of the social networking site, ask.fm. After speaking in assemblies and in form groups, we have received a really positive response from students and we are pleased that so many pupils have already shut down their account. The message that we have tried to get across as a school as that ask.fm is not just another social networking site. Members can both ask and answer questions anonymously and so any bullying or harassment will always be kept a secret; there's no way of uncovering the people behind it. As parents, please see that your child is aware of the dangers of this website and, if they have an account, ensure that they close it down. Thank you.

Siobhan Kelly and Chynna Pascual (Sixth Form)

The Big Sing

On Saturday 18 May, at the KingsGate Community Church, our choir joined choirs from primary and secondary schools across Peterborough to participate in the Big Sing event.

Students had the opportunity to sing with professional musicians "String Fever". They performed "The Lord is My Shepherd", "Sing" and many more sons in front of a capacity crowd.

The students enjoyed the whole day where they also learnt what it was like to be professional musicians with a question and answer session. The students were left in awe and wonder at the outstanding talent of the musicians and were inspired to play an electric string instrument.

Thank you to all who were involved.

Miss Bird, Subject Leader for Music

Join us on Thursday 6 June for

Cambridge Blue Day

All the fun of the fair!

House Update	Points	Attendance
Beverley	15149	92.9%
Cambridge	14493	93.9%
Rochester	16570	92.9%
Westminster	18609	93.1%

Library Word of the Week:

~~ Acrimonious ~~

Angry and bitter

Beverley House News

It is the time of year where we have to say a few goodbyes. With final exams looming we are to say goodbye to our Year 11 and 13 students. Although I haven't been their Head of House for long they have certainly made an impression. Mrs Hostead and I will certainly miss a lot about them, although we won't miss the collection of cardigans and watches.

Thank you to those who have contributed so well to Beverley House and supported us. We wish you well in your final exams and in your future success.

For those staying with us, as part of moving Beverley House forward we are now giving our students the opportunity to purchase a red Beverley House T-shirt. This can be worn on Red Day but also, and sooner, the up and coming sports day. The t-shirts will have *BEVERLEY HOUSE* printed on the back, as well as the school logo embroidered on the front. We have been able to make these available to the students for just £5.20 each. Students just need to return their slip, signed, along with the money to Student Services, by Monday 3 June. Although not compulsory, it would be fantastic to see as many students as we can in these t-shirts. The letters have been given out to students this week with further details on.

John Hayes – Head of Beverley House

Year 10 Parents' Information Evening Wednesday 5 June – 7.00 pm

All Year 10 parents and students are invited to attend an Information Evening on **Wednesday 5 June at 7.00 pm** in the school hall.

The aim of the evening is to provide an overview of Year 11 and GCSE examinations. Information will also be available on the mentoring and intervention programmes to help students achieve in GCSE examinations. There will be an opportunity to ask questions over refreshments. *Mr Sargeant*

Year 8 Spelling Bee

This week saw another successful Spelling Bee organised by Mrs Winlock, this time for Year 8 students.

St John Fisher is now on the road to taking on greater vocabulary with a competition next term for Year 9 students. The winners of this will ultimately stand against Years 7 and 8 at the end of the Summer Term to become ultimate champion. If you are in Year 9, you may want to practise!

Our winners for Year 8, with outstanding performances were:

Group Winners: Finley Allen, Carmen Gaywood, Jake-Michael Neal, Afifa Zaman

2nd Runner-up: Mahnoor Tariq

1st Runner-up: Nathan Simpson

Winner: Sam Maxwell

Our thanks to family, friends and members of staff who attended and supported those involved, especially Ruby who acted as an impartial judge giving up free time to encourage this great opportunity for the school. *Mr Palmer*