St John Fisher News

28 June 2013 No. 186

Speaker for Schools Revealed!

Our long-awaited guest arrived on Tuesday and spoke to Years 10 and 12. He was Piers Shepperd who, among other things, was technical director for the London 2012 Olympic opening and closing ceremonies. Most of us had seen the ceremonies but were bowled over by the amount of planning and time that went into staging them.

After we wrote to thank him for coming to our school, Mr Shepperd replied:

I'm very glad I came.

It's always good to share experiences.

You should be very proud of the school, staff and your pupils.

Welcome Days

This coming week we welcome our Year 6 students who will be spending Wednesday with us. This has come around very quickly – it hardly seems like yesterday that the current Year 7 were visiting for the first time. I hope that they make the new students very welcome so that they quickly feel at home.

On Thursday those students from Year 11 who are returning for the Sixth Form will be with us for a taster day. Sixth Form life is quite different and we want to ensure that the students are ready for their new courses as soon as possible.

Both of these groups will be joining us a day before the rest of the school next term, on Wednesday 4 September.

Uniform reminder

A few weeks ago I mentioned the issue of girls' skirts sometimes being shorter than they should be. Over the next couple of weeks we will be writing to the parents of girls whose skirts are too short to make clear that we expect them to be the correct length when the new term starts in September. This will allow plenty of time for new ones to be purchased where this is necessary. We used this approach last year in relation to hoodies and it was very successful.

From September all skirts must be at least knee length – and no hoodies!

Please do support our charity concert next Thursday evening: the students have worked very hard preparing for it.

Sean Hayes

Spelling Bee Results

The Year 9 Spelling Bee final took place on Wednesday evening and what a final it was! Despite the nerves and a large audience of parents, staff and students, each contestant tried their hardest, with many making few mistakes. The group heats were effortlessly won by Mr Barwise and Mrs Dunn's class, who correctly spelled 21 words in 2 minutes. Fantastic spelling by Rute Oliveira, Shanygne Horne, Aqil Muhmood and Amanda D'Cruz

As the final began, the atmosphere was tense as every spelling mattered, but there could only be one winner. Well done to Shaun Douglas, who won the tough battle for first place! Harry Davey came second and Daria Raczkowska came third.

A huge thank you to all those students who took part and made it a fantastic contest. *Mrs Dunn*

Word of the Week:
Plagiarism

The act of imitating the language and thoughts of another author without permission and the representation of that work as one's own.

Mayor's Open Day

Last Thursday, Markus and I had the opportunity to join the Mayor of Peterborough for afternoon tea at the Town Hall. With students from Ormiston Bushfield Academy assisting at tables, we spent the afternoon in the company of Councillor June Stokes, the previous Mayor, George Simons, and many others who contribute to the city.

It was a delight to witness another female Mayor in office, representing us and our community, and certainly pleasing to notice the growing authority of females in Peterborough.

It was a pleasure to represent our school at the Mayor's Open Day and meet some remarkable people who have such a big influence on the city.

Ewelina Strug, Head Girl

UK Junior Mathematical Challenge

A number of students in Years 7 and 8 recently participated in the UK Junior Mathematical Challenge. They had to work logically and apply their mathematical skills to a wide variety of problems and contexts. There were over 240,000 entries from students in schools and colleges across the United Kingdom.

Congratulations to the following students who gained certificates:

Year 7: Barnabas Brunner W4 - Silver
Year 8: Cerys Porter C5 - Silver
Lukasz Siemasz W7 - Bronze
Sinan Ustuner B9 - Bronze
Jake-Michael Neal C4 - Bronze

Barnabas Brunner deserves a special mention: to gain a silver certificate in Year 7 is an excellent achievement, as a significant majority of the entries were Year 8 students. *Ms Harrison*

Tug of War Results

Congratulation to Mr Dewdney's form B3 who were victorious in the recent inter-house Tug of War finals.

B3 faced the winners from the other 3 houses and overcame the challenges of C2, R5 and, in Mr Dewdney's words, destroyed W7 to win the overall competition. This now concludes the inter-form competitions although there will be plenty more to play for on 18 July on Sports Day.

Mr Plane

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Last weekend our Bronze Award candidates from Year 10 participated in the first of two expeditions. The group walked for 25 kilometres (16 miles) over two days and camped overnight at Wing Campsite near Rutland Water. There were many after school training sessions which dealt with numerous topics including cooking, tent pitching and detailed map reading.

The weather over the weekend ranged from brilliant sunshine to very windy and rainy periods. We had to cook and pack up our tents on Sunday morning in the pouring rain - good character building stuff!

This expedition was a chance to practise skills such as ensuring we all had the correct equipment and experience what it is like to walk for at least 5 hours each day with a fully loaded rucksack in all weathers. Some rucksacks were larger than the walkers! Everyone managed to get from the start to finish - this was not a race but more of a mini marathon. Many fields were full of crops that were so high supervising staff could not see certain members of the group –they know who they are!

The campsite was full of other local schools all doing their DofE and at least three students from other schools withdrew from the expedition during the weekend. This shows that the expedition is a major achievement that requires resilience and a great deal of physical and mental strength. All the participants worked extremely well together, helping out with carrying kit and sharing roles.

We now record our expeditions onto electronic DofE record books. The second and final expedition will take place in late September. The group is carrying on with gaining evidence for other parts of their award -volunteering, skills and physical recreation.

A very big thank you goes to Miss Wood and Mrs Davey for giving up so much of their spare time to make DofE happen. DofE would not run without them. *Mr Jones, DofE Co-ordinator*

The Carnegie Book Awards

The Carnegie book award is a major award in the UK for children's books. Here at St John Fisher School, we have been reading and reviewing some of the shortlisted books: come and check them out in the library. This year's winner is Maggot Moon by Sally Gardner. *Miss Oldman*