St John Fisher News

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Focus on Year 10

No sooner have Year 11 started study leave than we have turned our attention to Year 10 who now are into their final 12 months before GCSEs. On Tuesday morning we started this phase of their education with an assembly and then followed this with an information evening for parents on Wednesday. The attendance at this was very high and there was much positive feedback from those present about the value of the advice that was given. Parents who were unable to be there should now have received their information packs: if anyone has not please ask your child to collect it from Student Services.

Year 10 is a very able year group and we are anticipating record results next summer, but are wary of being complacent.

School Leaving Age

I noticed surprise on the faces of some students – and a few parents too – when I mentioned at the above event that from this summer it is no longer possible to leave school at 16. This was announced by the previous government several years ago and has been mentioned in previous newsletters, but it seems that the message has not reached everyone. So a recap for you: from September this year the school leaving age becomes 17 and in two years' time, 18. This does not mean that students have to stay at school, but they must be in employment or training – college or apprenticeship - and not simply take on a job.

At the same time a requirement to continue studying English and Maths after Year 11 comes in for students who do not achieve at least a grade C. These changes are being implemented across the country and are not something that we have any choice about. The government's intention is to ensure that as many students as possible reach this level. Not all students will appreciate this but the opportunity to try and get better qualifications in these two basic subjects is worth pursuing.

Farewell

Today we say goodbye to Ms Helen Rossin who as has been teaching our Breakthrough Groups in Year 7. These have been very successful and I know that the students have enjoyed the period of time they have spent with her, and benefited from it. We wish her well in her new position and thank her for her work here and dedication to our students.

The final Breakthrough Group, which started after half term, is being taken by Mr Rawlinson.

Taizé Pilgimage

During half term some of our students went to Taizé as part of the pilgrimage organised with All Souls parish. Miss O'Connor and Mrs Stevens tell me that this was a tremendous success and that the students got a lot out of the experience. They joined a very large number of students from many countries and doubtless will often look back on this as a positive and life changing week. We hope that next year we will be able to organise another visit ourselves and start a tradition of visiting the Taizé community annually.

Chaplaincy

Over the last few weeks we have been interviewing and appointing staff for next year. Among the new appointments we have managed to secure the services of Luke Turner as our new chaplain. It has been an intention to appoint a full time chaplain as soon as we could and I am pleased that this has now been possible. We will now be able to make more use of our chapel and extend the range of experiences that we offer students as part of the prayer life of the school. More about this when Luke joins us next term.

Headteachers' Retreat

Each year the diocese arranges for the headteachers of our Catholic schools to spend some time together recharging our 'spiritual batteries' so that we are able to reflect and pray together. This coming week we are journeying to Assisi in northern Italy, the town made famous by St Francis. My first school was named after St Francis and so he has always been a saint who has been of interest to me, but it is fitting that since the location was selected some months ago we have welcomed a new pope who has chosen to take the name of Francis. There is more than one St Francis and at first it was unclear which one he had in mind when he chose his name, but Pope Francis has confirmed that it was indeed St Francis of Assisi and that the choice was inspired by his work for the poor.

We will pray for all involved in our school communities at Mass in the Basilica on Thursday morning.

Sean Hayes

Sports Roundup

You may have had a relaxing break at half term but for Shikiba Hajizadeh PW-W2 there was no time to chill. Shikiba travelled to Germany for the European Championships for Tang Soo Do. Tang Soo Do is a form of Korean martial art with both defensive and aggressive fighting.
Shikiba represented the UK and came 2nd in fighting and 3rd in form (meaning moves displayed without fighting an opponent).
We are extremely proud to have a European Champion in our school and wish Shikiba well for the next "World Championships".
Very Well done Shikiba! *Miss Wood*

City Athletics Trials

On Wednesday 22 May, 6 students represented the school at the City Athletics Trials held at St Ivo School. 3 students gained selection for the Peterborough Schools team as a result of their performances:

- Stephen Coombe-Boxall finished 2nd in the Junior Boys 200 metres
- Nigel Fonseca finished 2nd in the Junior boys Shot Put
- Artur Tomasevic finished 1st in the Junior boys discus.

All 3 boys will represent Peterborough in their respective events at the East of England Schools Competition to be held on Saturday 6th July. Well done!

Results

Boys' Football
Year 8 boys v Sir Harry Smith: lost 4 - 0
Yr 10/11 boys v Sir Harry Smith: drew 2 - 2 with goals from Alex Cid and Julio Garrido

Boys' Cricket
U13 boys v Nene Park Academy: lost by 1 wicket. Top scorer on the day was Parees Bhima with 23 not out with 4 wickets from Ateeq Rehman.

U15 boys v Nene Park Academy: won by 109 runs. Sohail Hayat scoring 52 not out and Sufiyaan Hussain taking 3 wickets.

U16 boys v Nene Park Academy: lost by 3 runs. Top scorer was Toseeq Hassan with 24 runs.

U13 boys v Stanground Academy: won by 6 wickets.

U15 boys v The Peterborough School: won by 5 wickets. Sohail Hayat scoring another 53 not out!

U13 boys Super 8s cup cricket v TDA: lost by 7 wickets.

U13 boys v Hampton: won by 1 wicket. The winning runs scored by Fazil Khan.

U15 boys v Stanground Academy: won by 6 wickets. Sohail Hayat top scoring once again with the bat scoring 55 not out!

Both the U13s and U15s play their final group games against the Voyager School next week, with both hoping to progress through to the Peterborough Schools Finals to be held in late June. *Mr Baron*

Rochester Waves Goodbye

It seems very empty in the school this week, partly with two Geography trips taking all of Year 7 on an adventure to Ferry Meadows, but mainly because we have said goodbye and good luck to Year 11 and Year 13.
In our final assembly together I reminded the students how the journey into the future is both a scary and exciting time. Year 11 in particular had an exciting return to school that very evening to celebrate at the Year 11 Prom. Mahaliah, Katie, Charlene, Erica, Viktorija and Justina were amongst our Rochester beauties and pictures will very soon be up for all to see on the school website. An big reward was given to Toseeq Hassan who led the dancing as he was crowned Year 11 Prom King.
Now that there are less of us in Rochester House we are looking for the next generation of leaders to stand out from the crowd. Year 10 will now be leading the road to GCSE success next summer, but who will lead the way to success on Sports Day? Remember we need to wear our yellow T-Shirts! *Ms Stevens*

Word of the Week:

~~ Utopia ~~

An imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect

Year 9 Spelling Bee

26 June

~~ 3 weeks to go ~~

Carnegie Reading Group

Wednesday lunchtimes in the Library
Further Information from Miss Oldman