



Sixth Form Open Evening

This takes place next Tuesday and is the beginning of the process for all Year 11 students to consider their options for next year. I particularly stress that this is for all students: although the focus is on what is available at our school we will also have staff from the Regional College here so students can compare the courses available there with the ones we offer: they deliberately do not overlap.

This year we are holding this event about a month earlier than we usually do as the deadline for applications for most institutions, including our own, is the end of term and we want to give students enough time to properly consider their options. We will again be running some A level courses in conjunction with Kings, an arrangement that gives our students access to a larger range of courses than we could offer alone, and one that benefits both schools by enabling more efficient use of staffing.

World Youth Day

This massive event takes place every three years. The 2016 one was in Krakow in Poland and Miss O'Connor attended along with the group from All Souls Parish. I am grateful to her for writing a report for us and apologise that we have not had room to include it in our newsletter until now.

At the conclusion of the event Pope Francis announced that the next World Youth Day will be in Panama City in 2019. I wonder if some of our students will be able to attend? Perhaps we need to start planning now.

Parish Mission

Father Adam has asked me to publicise a Mission which will take place in All Souls parish from Monday, 7 November. A Mission is a time when the normal life of a parish is halted and different events are arranged to which everyone is invited, and through which it is hoped people will become more aware of their own faith and the direction of their life.

As part of this event we will be welcoming John Pridmore into school to talk to students. Mr Pridmore is a former gangster who saw the error of his ways and now travels the country telling his story.



Sean Hayes

World Youth Day 2016

This year saw the second time Pope Francis met with millions of young Catholics from around the globe for the 14th World Youth day in July. I was lucky enough to join Bishop Alan and over 70 pilgrims from East Anglia diocese for the 10-day festival held in Krakow, Poland.

This was my first World Youth Day and my first visit to beautiful Poland. It's difficult to adequately put in words what the experience was like. If you ever worried about the life of the Catholic Church in the lives of young people today, this event would fill anyone with joy and great hope for its future. The opening Mass saw well over a million people gather to welcome Pope Francis. He arrived to rapturous chants and songs booming from every nation gathered. He spoke about seeing nothing more beautiful than the enthusiasm, dedication and energy with which so many young people live their lives. He encouraged everyone to continue living life to the full in service of God and each other.

The Holy Father's speeches and homilies over the following days were simple with key messages of mercy, engagement, grace, faith, commitment and compassion. Whenever he spoke, well over a million pilgrims fell silent and listened, hooked on his every word. Forever engraved in my mind will be the images of 1.5 million little candles lighting up the night sky for as far as the eye could see during the overnight vigil. In those special moments, the church as one body in Christ never felt so real for me and so many. We truly were one in faith, one in friendship, one in our shared Catholic belief and one in our absolute love of this humble and inspirational man.

At the closing mass, Pope Francis said we must take the experience of World Youth Day beyond the city of Kraków and into our daily lives so that we might become witnesses, not to an insular or forlorn way of life but to the joy and mercy of the Gospel. Four years ago, our school led its first pilgrimage to Taizé in France followed by a second pilgrimage two years later. Renewed and enthused by the Holy Father's call, chaplaincy, the RE faculty and 25 of our year 10 pupils officially begin fundraising for our third pilgrimage. We ask God to bless our efforts and guide us in all our ways. We thank God for our Holy Father and the great blessings and graces all gathered experienced at the World Youth Day, 2016.

Miss O' Connor

RE Faculty Website

The RE faculty today officially launches its very own online revision platform, Reviserewithoc.com. The website is designed to offer pupils support in their religious and philosophical studies. Homework tasks accompanied with relevant resources will be uploaded each week. Exam support and revision material are ready to be used by both GCSE and A level pupils. Our home page also has a communication facility where by students can request support for their work outside of school time. The website is also smart phone friendly. We invite parents to familiarise themselves with the platform also so they can monitor and support their children's progress at home.

Miss O' Connor

Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter:
@sjfpeterborough



Focus Days

This week's newsletter is being issued a day earlier because of the Focus Days tomorrow. For morning registration students should go to the following areas:

Year 7: French Year 8: Humanities
Year 9: Technology Year 10: Drama
Year 11: English Sixth Form: Atrium

Please also check the notices which will be displayed outside the Dining Hall corridor.

Academic Tutoring
this week Year 9

Up for the Cup

Year 7 and 8's road to Wembley was sadly cut short by TDA with Year 7 suffering penalty shootout heart break and Year 8 beaten by an injury time winner. The Year 7s started the stronger versus TDA and found themselves 1-0 up within the first 20 minutes but strong pressure saw TDA get themselves back into the game taking it to 1-1 at half time. In truth, in the latter stages of the first half, SJF could count themselves fortunate not to be 2 or 3 goals behind and can be thankful for a string of excellent saves from 'keeper Mohammed Basharat who at times kept TDA at bay almost single-handedly.

Despite his heroics, SJF found themselves behind early on in what would be a topsy-turvy second half that was incredibly open. SJF found themselves behind on three occasions, but were inspired by captain Adrian Bilicz who ran the game for SJF in a number 10 role. His performance was hugely supported by excellent finishing from Jowapu Mutendi who bagged himself a hat-trick. A thrilling game ended 4-4 and then went to penalties. Despite further saves in the shoot-out from 'keeper Basharat, the pace of the game took its toll on the SJF team who could not convert the final penalties in sudden death. Despite the tough loss, the team should be incredibly proud of their performance and never-say-die attitude.

Year 8 went up against a strong and extremely tall TDA team struggling to get into the game they found themselves 2-0 down at half-time. Knowing the next goal was crucial St John Fisher's Captain Sidney Pereira broke the offside trap and finished coolly to make it 2-1. Year 8 continued to battle and win a fiercely contested midfield battle. Diogo Costa (not of Chelsea) was fouled in the box and kept his nerve to make it 2-2 from the penalty spot! The team continued to have chances to win the tie but were unfortunately undone in injury time by a last free kick which was converted at the back post by a powerful header.

