



## SJF in top 10% of Schools

Last week the Department for Education published the provisional exam results for 2016. The change to Progress 8 at GCSE means schools are being more fairly judged on the amount of progress students make rather than just raw grades. When I wrote previously that our 2016 figure is **+0.46** I said that I thought this was going to be very good compared with other schools, both locally and nationally.

We now know that we are 249<sup>th</sup> in the country: as there are over 3000 schools this puts us **in the top 10%** and is certainly something to celebrate. We also now know that we have the second highest Progress 8 score in the city, behind Kings.

The average figure for all schools in England (the system doesn't apply to Wales or Scotland) was -0.03, slightly below the expected figure of zero; the average in Peterborough seems to be just above zero. Last week I received a letter from the Regional Schools Commissioner congratulating us on these results and thanking the staff and students for their hard work in achieving them.

As this new system is taking a while to adjust to, I will remind you that a score of +0.5 would mean students achieving half a grade per subject above the performance of other students nationally with the same starting point from primary school.

## All Saints Day

For the first time in many years, this Holyday falls in term time. We will therefore start the day with Mass to which all are invited.



## Half-term Holiday

School is closed next week. We re-open on Monday 31 October at the usual time; this will be Week 2 of the timetable.

*Sean Hayes*

## Twitter

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## Health Week

The school had its first Health Week last week. The mantra for the week was "Healthy Body and Healthy Mind" and during form time, lessons and lunchtimes, students were invited to think about how they keep themselves healthy and what they might do differently. Another aim was also to signpost where students can receive advice and support. The Local Authority brought their Stoptober anti-smoking roadshow into school and our School counsellor, School Nurse and Chaplain all held drop-ins which were well-attended. There were some fantastic entries to the poster competition, which was won by Taisha Peplowska, in Year 11. Her poster will now become the school's healthy lifestyle poster. Congratulations Taisha.

The aim is to continue this work in a number of ways. Year 7s will be involved in Operation Smokescreen after half term, which is an anti-smoking education programme, delivered by the local authority. Our Year 10 students will also be completing an accredited Level 2 course in Public Health in Citizenship. This will lead to us training and working with Health Champions, who will continue to lead this work in school. We will also work as a whole school on promoting resilience, thinking about how we manage our learning and life to reduce stress and improve our mental health.

*Ms Wilson*



## Diwali 2016

Happy Diwali to our students, staff and their families who are celebrating the festival of lights which this year falls on Sunday, 30 October 2016.

**Year 11  
Academic Tutoring  
after Half-term**

## Focus Day, Friday 14 October 2016

"Ni hao, wuo jiao Isabelle." Last Friday, Year 7 students experienced a range of activities exposing them to Chinese culture and words. They learnt about Chinese New Year and the Lantern festival. They then created their own lanterns and decorated them with a Chinese theme with Mr Cowlin and Mrs Ellen. Students were also spotted making slow, graceful, continuous movements following Mr Perera's lead and seemed very relaxed afterwards: tai-chi is indeed very beneficial for your health and helps reduce stress! Students practised writing numbers, months and simple symbols with Miss Rodriguez. They created their own slat books and some created their own stories. Mrs Guo provided students with an insight of Chinese history and culture. Finally, there were quizzes and singing YMCA in Mandarin Chinese with Mr McGarry. A fun day was had by all! Can you guess which theme we will cover? Submit your answer to Miss Rodriguez before November 15th and you will win a small prize if you guess right! *Miss Rodriguez*

Year 8 pupils visited the Imperial War museum at Duxford on Friday 14th of October as part of their History curriculum. During the visit, they had the opportunity to see a variety of Great War and Second World War aircraft and tanks, as well as part of the Berlin Wall, a B52 bomber and debris from the 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers. They also had a chance to walk through a Concorde and experiment with various aspects of aviation. A good day was had by all!

The Technology Faculty decided to try something new with Year 9 and had an options based Focus Day. Students were able to opt for either Art, Food/Product Design or a Business/ICT/Computing combination. All day, students were challenged with different activities to show them what the subjects were all about. In Art, students had a fantastic time making and decorating clay pots. Students worked hard to shape and decorate their clay pots. Ms Guppy said that the students achieved amazing results.

In Food, students had a great time baking miniature cakes and pastries. They also created packaging by designing them on CAD or by hand.

Students choosing the Business/ICT/Computing combo had the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial skills in Dragons Den. There was the chance to learn about how animations are made and to have a go at making their own. The Computing part of the day was learning about programming by using the BBC MicroBit. During the session, there were programs to make the lights make pictures, and my personal favourite Rock Paper Scissors!

At the end of the day, we all thought what a brilliant day. Year 9 were positive about the experience and said it was one of the best Focus Days they'd had.

To finish off our school Health week, year 10 had a PSHE day devoted to four different aspects of health. Mr Plane led a session which involved circuit training and thinking about how and why we engage in physical exercise. A second session focused on looking after others and involved Miss Giarusso, who is a first responder, demonstrating CPR and giving students the opportunity to learn how to give basic first aid. Students then focused on Healthy lifestyles, with a talk from the police about the dangers of knife crime and also healthy relationships. The fourth session focused on their minds and was led by a Yoga and meditation teacher. Students enjoyed the variety of different activities and the opportunity to ask lots of questions and try new things. It is definitely a day that we will repeat with other year groups. Eve Godia in Year 10 said "It was fun and informative. I especially like the fact that many of the activities were based on real life experiences".

Year 11s had a day thinking about the future in two different ways. They had a session from Maximize Positivity focusing on study skills and how they could use their brains better. This involved a motivational talk and exercises with an outside speaker, whom all the students found engaging and interesting. Students also worked with members of the English faculty on writing letters of application and CVs, as well as thinking about how they would present themselves in interview. The afternoon was devoted to launching the post – 16 options process, and gave the students time to reflect on their options and what their post 16 pathway might be. This was done in preparation for the post 16 evening, which also took place this week. We will be following up this work in PSHE, to support students in preparing for their upcoming PPEs.

The Sixth Form Focus day was about 'Life after Post-18' concentrating on options other than university as well the key skills that young people need. There were four sessions which all students took part in: Presentation skills, Interview skills, Apprenticeships and Goal Setting plus a talk about different pathways a young person can take when they finish in our sixth form. 92% of the sixth form found that they had learnt something from the day! Fardeen Khan said: "I learnt about setting goals and going for them and how you have a plan to achieve them." Joanna Galus felt that she had learnt: "Good presentational skills and tips for an interview." On the day itself, Alex Widmann-Dardis said: "It was informative and interesting." Making a choice is a huge step in any young person's life; it is a choice which must be carefully considered before deciding on it and we're glad that we were able to help them with this. *Mrs Wilmore*