



Known Unknowns

You will be aware that the first of the new-style GCSEs will be taken this summer. The first two subjects are English and Maths. We have explained before that the grades awarded will be from 9 down to 1, with 4 equivalent to a grade C.

We are now at a very frustrating stage for teachers and students. PPE exams have been completed and marked, but no one is able to say which grade will be awarded for each mark. This is because the government (through Ofqual) intend to ensure that the same number of students are awarded a grade 4 this summer as received a grade C last summer. Until they have the results they can't say what the mark will be to achieve this. The same applies to the other grades. Consequently teachers across the country cannot tell students what they are likely to achieve in the summer.

To work around this we are part of a national project which will see hundreds of schools uploading results of over 100,000 students to a database. From this very large sample it is hoped that a sensible estimate for each grade boundary might be made. This means that we cannot give Year 11 students predicted grades for English and Maths until early next term.

At the moment I can see this situation being the same next year, except that a larger number of subjects will be involved.

Governors Finance Committee

This committee met on Wednesday evening to agree a budget for the new financial year. You will be aware of the coverage in the national media of the funding difficulties in school and I have mentioned it several times in recent newsletters. Governors hope that they have found a way of keeping us in the black without significant cuts to provision. Unless there is a dramatic change in the school's circumstances we should now be financially stable for one more year.

The following year very much depends at the moment on whether or not the proposed National Funding Formula goes ahead. On Tuesday of this week I, along with other headteachers in the Authority, sent a letter to our MP stating our concerns about school funding.

Parents Evening

A reminder that students will be dismissed at 2pm on Tuesday as we have Parents Evenings for Years 8 & 9 from 2.30. Online appointments should be made in advance please.

Sean Hayes

National Apprenticeship Show

Last week students from Year 12 and 13 travelled to Milton Keynes to visit The National Apprenticeship Show. There was a variety of stalls, stands and supercars! Upon approaching the apprenticeship show, I was bewildered by the amount of people that flocked for the opportunity of an apprenticeship. With queues that twisted and turned like a maze.

Personally, my favourite part of the day must have been speaking to all the people from different backgrounds: from BT representatives to McLaren mechanics. Learning about the different careers from all the different sectors was an exciting new experience that I would recommend to anyone unsure of what they would like to pursue. The show had multiple seminars showcasing a diverse range of apprenticeships there were also demonstrations which included a challenging problem-solving task from the Army.



Overall, I would recommend the National Apprenticeship Show to anyone who is uncertain on what career path they wish to take, the day was very informative and the employers were very helpful and approachable. I would also recommend it to those who wish to take an alternative route, other than university.

Rianna De Paolo – Year 13



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Chestnuts Youth Club

For families that live locally, Chestnuts Youth Club runs every Monday from 6.30 – 8pm. The address is 61 Norman Road and it is staffed by Peterborough Local Authority Youth Workers. There are games and arts and crafts activities available, along with project planning work. There is also a tuck shop for anyone in need of a snack. All young people are welcome.

Green Day - Friday 31 March

Westminster's charity fundraising day 'Green Day' is on Friday, 31 March. Break time and lunchtime have been set aside to host a series of activities and stalls in an effort to raise money for our chosen charity, Cancer Research. Each tutor group will be hosting activities ranging from a five-a-side football tournament with prizes for the winner, ice lollies, a samosa sale and even a water balloon throwing gallery at your very own Head of House, Mr Davis. I don't expect the last activity to be very popular so please let's have a big push on all the other activities on offer during the day and raise as much money as possible for our charity. *Mr Davis*

Year 11 - Academic Tutoring 27 March – 7 April

Big Bang Fair

Last week Thursday, seventy four of our year 9 students went to the Science Big Bang Fair at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. The students were able to take part in some interactive workshops and exhibits, watch some exciting theatre shows and collect some careers information from the different STEM professionals that were there. There were a large number of school children from up and down the country and our students were well behaved, got involved with the activities and represented St John Fisher School well. All in all, it was a very good, exciting and educational day for all involved. *Mrs Udeaja*



I really enjoyed the day at the Big Bang Fair in the NEC Arena in Birmingham. There were many stalls, each having a different activity. My personal favourite was the insect stall as I was able to hold many different insects, including two cockroaches and a leaf insect, and I was able to learn more about them in an interesting way. This fair let me see how the things we learn in lessons are used in everyday STEM. Overall, this experience was both very educational and fun.

Urte Cibitye – Year 9

Music News

Jazz Musicians from SJF will be embarking on a large scale performance on Thursday 30 March at Kingsgate. They have been working in collaboration with professional musicians from the National Youth Jazz Collective, Peterborough Music Hub, The Hearing Hub and students and staff from three other local schools. Parents and family are welcome to attend the concert which will start at 12pm. For more details please visit peterboroughmusicclub.org.uk *Mr McCoy*

Best Wishes

This week we say farewell to Ms Henderson as she begin her maternity leave. We wish her well and look forward to her return next year.

Second Inter-Faith Pilgrimage Saturday 1 April 2017

Programme

11:30 Arrive at the Catholic Shrine

The Mass at the Catholic Shrine and the Sprinkling at the Anglican Shrine are part of their respective pilgrim programmes and people of all faiths are welcomed, but no-one should feel compelled to come to everything on this day.

12:00 Pilgrim Mass

13:00 Lunch (please bring vegetarian items to share)

13:45 Introduction to the pilgrimage and Blessing

14:00 Pilgrimage Walk from the Catholic Shrine along the Pilgrim Way to Little Walsingham

15:30 Anglican Shrine: Reflections and Sprinkling

16:00 Depart

Contact for coaches, other travel options and further details is Brian Keegan via

brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk or 01733 265769

Marines Visit

On Wednesday 22 March, three Royal Marine Commandos came into school to talk to a range of students.



The three soldiers spent lunch with the SJF CCF members, who had lots of questions for the visitors about why they joined and what it was like to be in the Royal Marines. During Period 4 the Marines ran a session with a group of Year 8s, explaining about the different jobs within the Marines and why the students may want to consider joining the CCF in school at the end of Year 8. After school the Marines met with the Year 10 students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award this year. The Marines gave the students helpful tips about their expedition, packing their bag and what food to eat whilst walking; as well as going through the key aspects of map reading. *Miss Hayes*

Here is a quote from two students involved:
We met three Royal Marine Commandos named Reece, Jake and Jack. They talked to us about life in the Royal Marines. It was really interesting as they gave us an insight into what it would be like in the Royal Marines. It makes me interested in joining the Cadets next year.

Mustafa Javed and Muhammad Aurangzeb – Year 8s