



Sympathising with Students

Most adults quickly forget what it was like to be a school student, and the older you become the more this is true. Perhaps we also tend more to remember what we didn't like about school and less about what made learning interesting.

Last weekend this was brought home to me when the diocesan headteachers had our annual conference. The priest who was leading the conference had previously been an English teacher and so he decided we needed to be reminded what it was like to be a student. So after taking us through a selection of texts that he had collected together, he set us the task of writing our own piece in the style of one of the texts. I have probably not written like that since I was at school, and at first was terrified of the idea, but once we were left alone to plan and write it was actually quite enjoyable. And I did manage to hand my homework in on time! I am not sure that I will be having a book published in the near future, but Father Kevin was quite complimentary about my short piece.

Celebration of Achievement

Next Tuesday evening we have this annual event to celebrate the various achievements of our students this year. Invitations have been sent to award winners and their families and we have several guests attending. Chief of those is our Guest Speaker, who this year is Terry Jones, Principal of Peterborough Regional College.

For many years now we have not included GCSE and A Level certificates on this evening as this allows us to have many more students in Key Stages 3 and 4 presented with awards and certificates. More details about who the main winners will be in next week's newsletter.

New Uniform

The new kilts are now being modelled by several girls who have changed uniform early, and very smart they look too. Order forms are now available from reception. Further details were in the letter that was posted home recently. Please remember that the new trousers are part of the changes so it is not only those girls who choose to wear the kilt that need to place an order.



School Funding Update

Concerns about reductions in funding for schools remain, with no clear indication that the recent General Election has changed anything. On Wednesday headteachers from 17 local authority areas across the country wrote to parents, outlining the situation and requesting support in maintaining the pressure on local MPs to raise the issue in parliament. Peterborough headteachers were part of this and the letter was emailed to parents on Wednesday. If you didn't receive it or do not have access to email, a copy is available on the school website in the Parents & Carers section. Please do read it so that you are familiar with the situation.

Feast of Saints Peter & Paul

This Feast Day falls in term time this year and so we will have Mass next Thursday morning at the start of the day. As we anticipate more students than usual attending this Mass it will take place in the hall instead of assembly.

Eid al-Fitr

Best wishes to our Muslim families as you celebrate this weekend.

Hot Weather

We have already had a day or two where the temperature has been much higher than usual. When this happens we have said that students may remove blazers and ties. We will make this decision on a daily basis so I am just confirming that we have not changed our uniform and it is not optional.

Sean Hayes

Invitation

The Peterborough Inter Faith Council are having a 'sports' evening with badminton and table tennis for all ages:

Wednesday 12 July 6 – 8 pm

St John Fisher Catholic High School

If you would like to take part in this evening please contact:

Brian Keegan 01733 265769

Email brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk

Beverley News

Red Day is fast approaching, and Beverley are working hard to make sure that the day is a success. We are holding our annual charity day on Tuesday 4 July – American Independence Day! With this in mind we have decided to have an American theme, and have a host of activities which will raise money for Peterborough Baby Care unit. We will be selling a variety of American snacks throughout the day including; donuts, popcorn, cookies, sweets, cakes, candyfloss and hot-dogs. In addition to this, we will be selling a range of ice lollies over lunchtime, so make sure that you get yours before they run out!

We will be running a lunchtime fete with a range of stalls and competitive games, including target throws, skittles, cross bar challenge and hook a duck. We will have a Hollywood Movie themed photo booth, where you and your friends can dress like a superstar and have your photo taken. There will also be the option for ALL students across the school to wear an item of red, white or blue, in keeping with our American theme. Students will be charged 50p for taking part in this if they wish.

I would also like to mention some recent individual successes of our Beverley students over the past couple of weeks. Kaleem Parris has been awarded 2nd place in a recent Trampolining competition for his local club. We have also had some of our older students receive certificates of appreciation for helping out with the St John Fisher's Reading Buddies programme, so a special thanks to Cassie Maniraguha, Ruth Goodstadt, Sinan Ustuner and Bradley Jones for all their help. The uniform ambassadors for Beverley have been excellent role models for promoting the new school uniform; Elicia D'ambrosio, Ema Cibityte, Urte Cibityte, Emily Taylor, Billie-jo Stratton, Elvie Stratton and Ana Sofia Monteiro Gomes have been setting the standard for the uniform changes in September.

Finally, exam season is nearly over and I would like to congratulate the year 11s and sixth formers in Beverley for putting in a lot of hard work and effort in their studies at this important time. We should have some great results to look forward to in the summer!

English Faculty

Things have been hot hot hot in the English department. Not only have we been sweltering in the beautiful heat, we have been pushing our KS3 students to their limits while they prepare and do their KS3 PPEs. The exams that pupils will do assess skills that are tested at GCSE. This allows us to prepare students in a targeted manner right from their point of entry to St John Fisher.

We have already seen our Year 10 and 11 pupils sit their GCSE English Language and Literature exams. English staff supported students with a number of revision sessions which student feedback indicated were very helpful.

Reading Challenge

Parents and students often ask English teachers how can my child/I get a better grade in this subject. There is no magic wand. Hard work, determination and thoroughly applying yourself in lessons and homework are all vital. But WIDE READING is the one habit that really makes the biggest impact on grades in English. Wide reading creates fluency, it improves vocabulary and your appreciation for a writer's craft. To support you on your journey to becoming a wide reader the English department are setting you a challenge.

Read and review these 6 books we have selected. Hand in your reviews to your English teacher in September by the end of the second week back, and one person (who will be randomly selected) will win a prize with the value of £15!

The Help	Kathryn Stockett
The Maze Runner	James Dashner
The Fault in Our Stars	John Green
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Green
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole	Sue Townsend
If I Stay	Gayle Forman



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Charity Cake and Samosa Sales

During November 2016, I attended a charity sponsored comedy show via Human Appeal. Human Appeal is a global charity that dedicates its time and resources to help those less fortunate around the world. At this event they were raising money for orphan children that fled Syria to escape the warzone; this inspired me to pledge and start raising money with the help of Bongani Luwemba, Fred Cook and Zeeshan Waseem, by selling homemade cakes and samosas in order to improve these children's lives. I need to thank Mrs Burrell for baking the cakes and my mum for the samosas.

We managed to raise £500 and presented the money to Human Appeal on Salaam (Peace) Radio 106.2 FM when they came to Peterborough on 17 June. Salaam Radio is a Peterborough based radio station that aims to promote community cohesion in bringing people together. I hope that our efforts will inspire others to do the same and continue doing good deeds; charity can start from just a single smile from one to another. Mueen Kabir (Year 13)



Academic Tutoring: Year 8
26 June – 7 July