



## Coming to the end

As we are coming to the end of the school year this will be the final newsletter. There is some important information here so I would ask that it is read carefully and kept handy for the start of term arrangements.

We have had another very successful year as a school. Students have enjoyed a large variety of additional activities above and beyond their lessons. As I write this, we have History and Geography students in Wales, Cadets in Scotland, and students involved in athletics. We are also celebrating Languages Week as well as celebrating student achievements in House Celebration Assemblies.

It has been a difficult year in which to be leading a school, with funding pressure and uncertainty, and many changes continuing to feed in. We will find out over the summer how our students have fared in the new exams, but it is frustrating to not have any benchmark against which to gauge this. The recent general election has added to the uncertainty at the moment as we don't yet know which policies in the Conservative manifesto will go ahead and which will not.

But that is all for next term now. In the meantime we have a final week of events which are part of the additional provision that I have outlined above, with Focus Days on Monday and Tuesday and Sports Day on Wednesday. Our final day in school will be next Thursday when we will celebrate the Feast of St John Fisher and finish with a whole-school barbecue. Students will be dismissed at 2pm.

## Key Dates

Please note these and keep them safe.

Mon 17 July: Focus Day (see overleaf for details)

Tue 18 July: Focus Day

Wed 19 July: Sports Day

**Thu 20 July: St John Fisher Day. Term ends at 2pm**

Thu 17 August: A and AS Level results, 9-11am

Thu 24 August: GCSE results, 9-11am, and Year 12 enrolment

Fri 1 September: Year 12 enrolment

Mon 4 September: Year 13 enrolment

Wed 6 September: Term begins for Year 7 students

**Thu 7 September: Term begins for Years 8-13.**

Students should be in school by 8.35.

Term dates for next year have already been issued but will be repeated in a September newsletter.



## Sports Day

As I said last week, the School Cup is usually decided by the outcome of Sports Day. At the moment it is all to play for between current holders Cambridge and Westminster. Sports Day is on Wednesday and students may come to school wearing anything in their house colours. Heads of Houses have arranged teams for the various events and will be able to answer any questions that students may have about the day, which will begin with the traditional Grand Parade around the field. It will finish at 3.15 and lunch arrangements will be as usual.

## Farewell

At the end of every year we have to say farewell to a few staff who are moving on, and this year is no exception. Three teachers are leaving us for new positions: **Tiffany Shaw** (Science), **Tim McCoy** (Music Subject Leader), and **Natalie Hayes** (Science). Between them they have made a significant contribution to the school, both in their own teaching and in additional work that they have done with our students.

We also say farewell to four teachers who have covered posts during the year: **Aidan McGarry** (French & Music), **Rebecca Gould** (PE), **Trefor Lewis** (Geography), and **Nigel Baker** (History & RE). We are appreciative of this support which enables us to continue teaching when staff are unwell or we are waiting for them to take up new positions.

Finally, we say farewell to three members of our support staff: two teaching assistants, **Tad Piotrowski** and **Jebbie Ivory**, and our library manager, **Anna Valenti**.

I would like to say a sincere thank you on behalf of the whole school community to all of these people.

I am also pleased to announce that we will be fully staffed when we return in September. I will introduce the new teachers in the next newsletter.

## Final Uniform Reminder

Everyone must now be aware that our uniform is changing from the start of next term. This is a final reminder that the only skirts that may be worn in future are the new kilts, and that the official black trousers with school logo must be worn by students in Years 7 to 10. Year 11 students, for next year only, may continue to wear the black trousers they already have if they meet our current requirements. We will also be insisting on black shoes, and continue to say no denim or coloured scarves. We are looking forward to seeing the improved appearance that these changes are intended to create.

## High School Musical

Last week's production was stunning and has received huge praise. Congratulations to all involved, and especially to Cathy Young and Tim McCoy on putting on the show in such a short time. It was good to see so many students involved - perhaps we can have even more next time. The bar has been set!

## Attendance

In the last two newsletters we have explained to parents the latest requirements around attendance at school. These appear below again.

We do have students whose attendance is excellent and those with 100% attendance this term were presented with certificates in the Celebration Assemblies this week. We also presented certificates to the following students who had 100% attendance for the whole year. This is quite commendable and something we should all be aiming for.

*Da-Shannel Brown, Eromu Ehwerhemuepha, Ophelia Flomo, Eve Godia, Shannon Hall, Amia Hill, Emanuel Jose, Sara Kuszyk, Ken Man, Ricas Pires, Nicole Portugal, Bruno Walewski, and Wanessa Zerella.*

We should also congratulate W5-HD for being the highest attending tutor group.

*From previous newsletters:*

This is a reminder of the changes that have been made regarding absences during term time. The target for attendance is 100% and as such all absence requests are likely to be refused. As part of our statutory duties we have to record all unrequested and request refused absences of 3 or more days during term time as unauthorised and these may lead to Penalty Notices from the local authority with fines of £120 per parent per child. Parents may request up to 5 school days in exceptional circumstances, that is, circumstances that are rare, significant, unavoidable and short. Unavoidable means an event that could not reasonably be scheduled for another time.

As of this term absences from school are likely to be recorded as unauthorised unless accompanied by a medical note. If your son or daughter needs to be absent for an exceptional reason then they need to apply to the Headteacher in advance for special consideration.

*I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer.*

*Sean Hayes*



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## Art Show

The art show held last Friday was a huge success with record numbers of parents through the doors. We even said hello to some of our future year 7s who had come to see their year 6 art work up on display. The Atrium looked beautiful and we truly celebrated the stunning art work and artists we have here at St John Fisher. I am so very proud of everyone who had work submitted.

A massive thanks and congratulations to the Arts Council for their expert help in setting up the show in record time and manning it so professionally.

Same time next year folks!!!

*Ms Guppy*

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Bethen England and Nathan Simpson have been awarded Bronze D of E certificates at Peterborough Town Hall by Joe Fox, Mayor of



Peterborough City Council. They were invited into the Mayor's parlour for photographs after the presentations! A rare honour! They have contributed considerably to the life of our school and local community and we are most proud of them.

Nathan gained his award by helping out at a local school as a teaching assistant, helping children read and write and gave up much of his spare time to put on several school drama productions. He joined a local gym and attended regularly and successfully took part in three local expeditions including a day of orienteering.

Bethen gave up many weekends working voluntarily in a Heart Foundation charity shop dealing with a wide range of jobs such as sorting clothes and working on the tills. She took up the acoustic guitar and can now play competently; she joined a local tennis club regularly taking part in competitions, and also took part in three local expeditions.

Our current D of E group have recently undertaken their practice expedition around Rutland Water. The group covered up to 30 kilometres on foot over two days carrying all their kit including tents, stoves, spare clothes and food. The weather was kind but tents had to be set up in the rain!! A good character building experience - our waterproof clothes came in handy!

*Mr Jones, D of E Co-ordinator*

## Focus Days next week

### Monday 17 July

**Year 7:** a) Visit to Twycross Zoo – meet at 7.45am, no uniform required for those on this visit. b) Students in school to wear full school uniform and to check noticeboards outside Hall for groups and rooms

**Year 8:** a) Day trip to the Opal Coast, NW France. Leave 2.00am. b) Life skills sessions: register in atrium

**Year 9:** 'Feel the Burn'

Students to wear PE kit and register in Sports Hall

**Year 10:** English: GCSE Speaking & Listening preparation: Register in Hall

**Year 12:** Visit to Cambridge

Students should be in school by 7.50am

### Tuesday 18 July

**Year 7:** 'Mini-Olympics'

Students to wear PE kit and register at Sports Hall

**Year 8:** 'Wish you were here?'

Check noticeboards outside Hall for groups and rooms

**Year 9:** English Macbeth workshop – register in Hall

**Year 10:** Science - Chemical Heaven

Check noticeboards outside Science for groups/rooms

**Year 12:** UCAS and post-18 preparation

Register in atrium

## Languages Week

Thank you to everybody who took part in Languages Week. We hope you had fun! *Mrs Roberts*