



“Schools should...”

It often seems that barely a day goes by without a news story that includes the line that schools should do something about whatever issue is being discussed. ‘Schools should teach children to stay safe’, ‘Schools should tackle bullying’, ‘Schools should teach children Chinese’, and so on. My great irritation is that most of the time schools are already doing something and it is assumed that they are not.

So it is good this week that we are reporting in the newsletter several things that demonstrate this. Last week a group of Year 8 students took part in a Fire Break initiative, working with the local fire service. On Sunday our cadets were part of the city’s Remembrance Day event, and next week we have a programme of activities to reflect the fact that it is national anti-bullying week. All of this is in addition to the regular events that are happening throughout the year, such as the house competitions.

There is a lot that we do that is above and beyond normal lessons, and many students take advantage of what is offered to them.

School Cup Competition

At the moment it is a close thing between Westminster and Beverley, with 1886 and 1845 points respectively. Cambridge are in third place with 1615 and Rochester have 1550. We are about a third of the way through the year so there is still everything to play for.

Cold Weather Procedure

I will repeat this item from last week so I can be sure that it has reached everyone. There are two main points to the procedure in the event of very bad weather:

1. If we are unable to open the school in the morning we will send text/email messages to parents and staff. We will also post a notice on the school website.
2. If school has started as usual but the weather then deteriorates, we will **not** close early.

It follows that we do need correct contact details for parents. We check these regularly but if anything has changed please let us know.

Sean Hayes

Rochester House Mass

The annual House Mass will take place next Thursday and will be celebrated by Father Jeffrey.

Year 11 Taster Day 2017

On Thursday, 9 December, Year 11 had a Taster day of Post 16 education both in school and at Peterborough Regional College.

The majority of students stayed in school and had six 35 minute lessons on A Level subjects they were interested in or had three Advanced Level 3 lessons in Performing Arts, Health and Social Care, ICT and Business.

Eighteen students went to Peterborough Regional College where they experienced vocational courses in areas like Hairdressing, Construction, Engineering and Beauty.

The students responded really well and looked and acted the part of being a sixth former at St John Fisher. **The deadline for applications to our Sixth Form is Tuesday, 19 December 2017.**

The next stage of preparing Year 11 for Post 16 education will be interviews of all Year 11 students with members of the Senior Leadership Team to ensure all students have made arrangements for the next steps of their education next September 2018.

Here’s just some of the excellent feedback:

“I had a great time. I found out about very interesting subjects I could choose to do when I go to college. I met two teachers, one of them was an engineering teacher, then I met an electrician who let all students have a go at wiring a plug. I saw what the college was like and am thinking about going there. I liked the big spaces and saw lots of people who could help me. I still haven’t made up my mind but I now have choices.”
Erik (Year 11)

“I really enjoyed my day as a sixth former. I learnt how sixth formers are treated and how the younger years respect them. I now have a clear idea of what I want to do.”
Molly (Year 11)

Mr Reilly



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**Year 9
Academic Tutoring
20 November to
24 November**

Pre-Public Exams

Next Monday, Years 11, 12 and 13 begin these practice exams, often referred to as Mocks. The aim is to allow the students to experience the exams as they will be in the summer. This is more important than ever this year as we have new exams in most subjects. These exams are end of course exams only, which means more written papers and less coursework. For these new courses we do not have last year's papers to use as a guide so there is a degree of uncertainty, but we have some sample papers to use and hope that the students get as accurate an experience as possible. The timetable for these exams has been issued to students and is also available on our website: go to the Parents & Carers section and Exam Information for Parents. As in recent years we will have a Mock Results Day followed by Parents Evening on 9 January. This gives the students a taste of opening their results as they will in the summer and we have found it to be very effective in motivating students in past years. It is vital that students treat these exams seriously and we expect everyone to come with correct equipment and behave appropriately in the exam hall.

Rewards

On Friday twenty five pupils went to see 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'. The people that were chosen to go were students with 100% attendance in the first half term. The second factor was that they had to have no behaviour points and the final category was number of merits. From the remaining children a number were selected at random. Pupils were allowed to bring their own snacks but some decided to buy their own. We all really enjoyed the film.

Beth Desborough (Year 7)

Remembrance

Last Friday to honour Remembrance Day, the CCF attended a brief service on the school's parade square in full kit. They had spent six sessions preparing for the one movement the contingent had to demonstrate; a full march around the square in honour of those that we were there to remember. After a rather solemn demonstration the rain began and the audience (made up of students, staff and family members) dispersed. We all then went inside for a large group photo to commemorate the day and the efforts that the newest recruits had made since they joined. Mr Davis, Ms Guppy and I were all extremely proud of each and every one of the cadets on the day for their mature and respectful attitude. Thank you to those parents who came.

Mr O'Hara

Youth Club

There is currently no Catholic Youth Club in Peterborough: would you like one? If you are interested in finding out more, please come to the hall next Friday after break for a short meeting where the idea will be discussed further.

Intervention Programme Year 11

Students in Year 11 have been handed details of the Intervention Programme by their tutors. Details of the sessions being run have also been published on the school's website (Parents & Carers section / Exam Information for Parents). Please encourage your child to attend the sessions or any drop in / revision sessions. For "Invitation only" sessions, students will be invited by teachers and parents informed accordingly.

Anti-bullying week

Although Anti-bullying week was officially this week, here at St John Fisher Catholic School we will be doing a range of activities and assemblies over the next week to keep in mind that any form of bullying is unacceptable.

SJF House Competitions

"have life and have it abundantly"

John 10:10

Limbo!!! How low can you go?

Well done to Beverley for winning the Limbo competition.

Many congratulations to Ondrej Herak in Year 10 for going the lowest with an amazing 70cm....WOW!!!

Please check out Twitter for the photos!

Also this week we had Inter-house Basketball; we will announce the winners next week.

Thank you to everybody that entered the Pumpkin carving; Rochester won and provided some excellent entries.

Firebreak



Well done to our Year 8 students who completed their Firebreak training programme with Cambridgeshire Fire Service.