



School Finance

There has been much in the media this year about the cuts to school budgets and the effect they are having on our ability to continue to deliver the education we feel students deserve. Some schools have been hit more than others, and I am aware that we have been in a stronger position than many. However, last year and this we have had less money available to us and increased expenses to cover.

I very much hoped that the annual Budget statement on Wednesday would include some money to improve this situation. I hoped it would include removing the public sector pay cap which is now in its seventh year and has definitely made it more difficult to attract and retain teachers. Again, we buck the trend in that regard but even though we have been able to appoint to every vacancy it has been noticeable that we are selecting from a reducing pool of applicants.

It was therefore disappointing to hear that the headline announcements on education funding in this budget were not things that would address this issue. Making some money available to provide training for some teachers in a subject is not the same as reversing some of the cuts that have been made to school income. Neither does offering schools £600 for each student we persuade to take A level Maths have any attraction as we will be penalised in performance tables if they do not do well or if they drop the subject once they have started.

It may be that when the details are fully revealed there is some more relief but at first glance this would appear to have been a missed opportunity to address a serious shortfall in funding for schools.

Ofsted Inspection

You will be aware that Ofsted visited the school on Tuesday. As we were previously judged to be a Good school, in 2013, we received a short one-day visit by two inspectors. The intention behind this is to confirm that we remain Good.

The next stage of the process is for the lead inspector to write a report on the visit and we should receive this in two to three weeks' time. I will make this available to parents when it arrives. In the meantime we are not allowed to comment on the feedback we received or likely outcome from the visit.

However, the inspectors did ask me to pass on their thanks to everyone for your cooperation with the inspection, and particularly to the students they met with. They were impressed with our students, but that was to be expected!

New Catholic Schools

You will be aware that last year the Government promised to lift the 50% cap on faith admissions for new religious schools. This policy had proved to be an effective ban on any new Catholic schools as the Bishops' Conference ruled that opening a Catholic school that could potentially turn away Catholics in favour of non-Catholics was against Canon Law. Last September the Government acknowledged the cap was unfair to the Catholic community and pledged to scrap it. The Conservatives included a commitment to remove it in their manifesto. Unfortunately, the feedback we are getting is that the Secretary of State for Education is thinking about U-turning on this manifesto commitment. The Catholic community now needs to make its collective voice heard and tell the Secretary of State that this level of discrimination against Catholic schools, parents and children is unacceptable. As such we are urging Catholics to write to the Secretary of State and their MP expressing their concern that this promise to our community could be broken. These emails can be automatically generated by following this link, <http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/item/1003640-safeguard-the-future-of-catholic-education>.

Helen Bates

Diocesan Assistant Director of Schools

(This link is being sent out to parents today)

Parliamentary Review

I wrote earlier in the term about our inclusion in this annual publication. Following this we have now received the following logo which we may use on our website and letter head.



Sean Hayes



Follow us on Twitter:
@sjfpeterborough

**Academic Tutoring
Year 8
27 November to 8 December**

Uniform reminder

Next week we will be doing a full uniform check in addition to our normal routines. As a reminder students should be wearing black V-neck jumpers, school trousers with a logo and if they wear a skirt then that should be with tights not leggings.

If any students are wearing nose piercings then they will be asked to remove them for collection at the end of term.

Attendance

Congratulations to Grace Simpson for 100% attendance last half term. Thanks to Vision 4 Education for their sponsorship.



Please find below the latest attendance figures:

Cambridge:	96.17%
Westminster:	95.76%
Beverley:	95.31%
Rochester:	94.74%
Overall:	95.49%

Good attendance is essential if your child is to make maximum use of their time at school and reach his or her full potential.

Faizan Madina Mosque Open Day

**Sunday 26 November
at 1.30-4.30pm.**

**Free Hot Food, Literature and
Exhibition.**

Free Entry. All Welcome!

**SJF House
Competitions**

"have life and have it abundantly"

John 10:10

Action Shot from last week's Limbo Competition; a school record of 70cm!

Well done **Beverley**



Next week we have a Music Quiz:
Name that Tune, Wednesday 29 November at lunch time in the hall.

Coming soon....Deal or no Deal

Supporting your young person through exams

Are you a parent/carer of a young person with a diagnosis of Autism and/or ADHD in Year 10 or Year 11?

Come and hear tips and strategies to support them in preparing and revising for their GCSEs, delivered by Peterborough Local Authority's Autism and ADHD Advisory Teacher Service.

Tuesday, 28 November 2017

10am – 11:30am

**At: Family Voice Peterborough
The Goldhay Community Centre,
105 Paynels, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough,
PE2 5QP**

**Tea and coffee provided
No need to book, just come along!**

Inclusion Drop-In

There is a drop-in on Monday 27 November between 3.15 and 4.15pm for parents of students in Year 7 with Special Educational Needs. If you have any questions or queries or want help and support then come and see Miss Wilson and Mrs Sennett.