



Christmas is coming

Although the shops seem to have started counting down to Christmas earlier than ever this year, and TV adverts start being shown as soon as



people have removed their poppies, we are only now starting Advent this weekend. There is the sense of a new period as the PPE exams were completed this week and we have started preparing for our Christmas events: the liturgies, Carol Service, and this year a Christmas Showcase.

Our period of waiting for Christmas is called Advent and we mark each week off by lighting a candle, until we light the final one on Christmas Day. As part of this waiting period we offer the opportunity for students to either receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or to talk to a priest. This will happen on Monday week, 11 December, when we will have Reconciliation Services as our Advent preparation.

Congratulations Year 11

We have been impressed with the mature way that Year 11 students approached their PPE exams over the last two weeks. Sometimes we teachers forget that it is the first time for each group of students and potentially something that they might worry about. Well done. (I realise that there were Sixth Form PPEs too but these students are quite used to sitting exams).

Year 11 students will receive results on the Results Day on 9 January. The same day we have parents evening for Years 11, 12 and 13. Will parents please ensure that this date is in your diaries.

Governors

Our termly Full Governing Body meeting takes place on Wednesday evening next. On the agenda will be the diocesan vision for Multi-Academy Trusts. Governors will be discussing this and considering the way forward for our school. I will report back on the outcome of this discussion next week.

Governors will also discuss the report from last week's inspection if it arrives in time.

Sean Hayes

Cadet Camp

The weekend of the 24 November the CCF took 34 recruits to West Tofts Camp in Norfolk. Despite being a bitterly cold weekend the cadets had great fun and real opportunities to practice what they have been taught in school. All cadets were taught their Level 1 first aid certificate and I am delighted to say all recruits passed and will be presented with their badge and certificate this week. The recruits showed real character and resilience throughout the camp to overcome the challenging conditions and were a credit to our school. Well done and my thanks to you all for making it such a successful weekend. *Mr Davis*

St John Fisher Advent Appeal

This year for our St John Fisher Advent appeal, we will be collecting for the charity Hope Into Action.

Hope Into Action is a charity that provides homes for the most vulnerable in society, in partnership with local churches, and operates here in Peterborough. We will be asking each tutor group to do their best to help us to support Hope Into Action.

Over the next two weeks, we would appreciate it if you were willing to donate any of the following items that you may have:

Tinned food; Toiletries; Pasta; Warm clothing.

There will be a large donation box located in the Chapel for students to bring any donations during registration.

Advent is a time when we wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas through prayer and helping our neighbours. Join us as we begin our school Advent journey by helping those less fortunate than ourselves."

SJF House Competitions

"have life and have it abundantly"

John 10:10

Thank you to everyone that competed in the inter-house music quiz, we had a great turnout. Winning team to be announced soon.

Coming soon.....Deal or No Deal

Academic Tutoring - Year 8: 4 to 8 December

Year 7 Humanities Visit to Twycross Zoo - 16 March 2018

As part of the Humanities curriculum, a visit to Twycross Zoo has been arranged for Year 7 pupils. Staff in the faculty have been reissuing letters and reminding students of the need to return the letter and monies for this visit for what seems like an epoch. In order to avoid any disappointment, we ask for your support in ensuring all Year 7 students return any outstanding permission slips as soon as possible.

Advent History Trivia

December 1st 1851 saw the arrival of the first Advent calendar, but what other noteworthy events have happened on this day in history?

1919 Lady Nancy Astor was sworn-in as first female member of Parliament

1934 Stalin began the Great Purge

1939 SS-Fuhrer Himmler began the deportation of Polish Jews

1941 Japanese Emperor Hirohito signed his declaration of war

1942 The Beveridge Report unveiled plans for a post-war welfare state

1955 Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to move to the back of a bus and give her seat to a white passenger

1988 Benazir Bhutto was named the first female Prime Minister of a Muslim country

1990 The first British & French workers met in the Channel Tunnel

Geography Lessons

Our teacher told us one day he would leave
And sail across a warm blue sea
To places he had only known from maps,
And all his life had longed to be.
The house he lived in was narrow and grey
But in his mind's eye he could see
Sweet-scented jasmine clinging to the walls,
And green leaves burning on an orange tree.
He spoke of the lands he longed to visit,
Where it was never drab or cold.
I couldn't understand why he never left,
And shook off the school's stranglehold.
Then halfway through his final term
He took ill and never returned,
And he never got to that place on the map
Where the green leaves of the orange trees
burned.
The maps were redrawn on the classroom wall;
His name was forgotten, it faded away.
But a lesson he never knew he taught
Is with me to this day.
I travel to where the green leaves burn
To where the ocean's glass-clear and blue,
To all those places my teacher taught me to love
But which he never knew.

Brian Patten

Geography Quiz

As the Advent seasons begins in school, the activity that I am saving for my very last lesson is a Christmas geography quiz – general geographical knowledge interwoven with Christmas. Here is a selection of my favourite questions:

1. What country does Lapland belong to?
2. Which country won the race to the South Pole?
3. What can scientists use to measure past levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere?
4. How many films have currently been released in the Ice Age film franchise?
5. What type of animal is herded by the Sami people of Northern Europe?
6. Father Christmas is known as Pai Natal in which European country?
7. Which country traditionally gives London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree?
8. Bethlehem is a tiny village in which UK country?
9. Which country gets Christmas first?
10. Which country does Christmas Island belong to?
11. Why is it named Christmas Island?



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Get Caught Reading – GCR

A new programme has been launched in school to help promote reading with our pupils. If any pupil is caught reading outside of lesson then they can earn merits for themselves as well as a ticket into a half termly draw for a prize. We have also extended this to pupils attending Homework club in the Study Centre as well as Year 11s attending the Study room at lunchtimes. The benefits of reading are numerous with examples such as; better concentration, more developed language skills and stress reduction; it is no wonder that book sales are on the up in the UK as reading continues to be a popular way to relax. So open that book and Get Caught Reading!

Miss Stewart

Chromasport – Festive Offer

10% Discount on all School Uniform*
From: 27 December to 6 January

10 Wulfric Square, PE3 8RF
01733 262 526

*Available in store only – Subject to Availability