



Winter and Travel Problems

Last week we had to close the school for the first time in many years. The usual reason for doing this in bad weather is because we can't make the site safe. However, this time the issue was that a significant number of staff could not get to school. The closures of the A1 and A15 were among the travel problems that caused this. Staff may have been able to leave home and not been aware that they could not get through until they became stuck. I made the decision to close as soon as it became clear that we would not have enough staff to open, as did many other local schools. Had the issue been an unsafe site, we could have made an announcement earlier, but on this occasion the circumstances were different.

I do hope that parents received the text messages. If you did not it is likely that we do not have your correct details so please contact reception to update them.

The exams that were postponed have all been rescheduled for this week, and we will look at doing the same for the trips and governors' meeting too.

Do a good turn

At Mass last Tuesday morning, Father Piotr suggested to those present that for this week of Lent they should do a good turn: help someone out, make a cup of tea, tidy something up, and so on.

Can we all do at least one good turn this week please. Yesterday morning we had our Lent Reconciliation Services. Some students were able to speak to a priest later in the morning, and receive the sacrament, but for most this will be possible next Tuesday morning.



Parents Evening

The next Parents Evening is on 20 March and is for Years 8, 11 and 13. This time we will start at 4pm rather than 2.30 so students will not be leaving school early on this occasion. This is partly due to the time lost last week because of our closure. Online appointments should still be made in the usual way, using the details that have been sent home by post. The final Parents Evening of the year is on 22 May, and that will be for Years 7, 10 and 12.



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Headteachers' Conferences

This week was the annual conference for Headteachers of secondary schools in Peterborough. Our main speaker this year was the new Service Director for Education in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, Jonathan Lewis. Mr Lewis is well-known to us as he was previously Assistant Director for Peterborough. He has most recently been the Deputy Regional Schools Commissioner for the East of England.

Next week there is a national conference for headteachers on Renewing the Mission of Catholic School Leadership. We have had diocesan and regional conferences before but rarely a national one. It promises to be a valuable experience.

Visitors

This week we welcomed a group of trainee teachers from the University of East Anglia. They came to see a different school in a different context. This is something that we have been part of for the last few years, in conjunction with Jack Hunt School. We are pleased to be involved in the training of the next generation of teachers and it is always good to show the school off to visitors.

Sean Hayes

Focus Day

Friday 16 March is the second Focus Day of the year. Once again there is a broad range of activities for all year groups. Students should ensure they know where they are registering. Groupings and room information can be found outside the Hall. Registration is at 8.40am as usual, unless otherwise stated.

	Activity	Registration
7	Visit to Twycross Zoo Medieval Day	8.00am Hall 108
8	Big Bang Science Fair* STEM activities	8.30am Tennis Courts Science rooms
9	Energy Quest	Hall
10	Health Day	Sports Hall
11	Lloyds Bank Finance Day	Maths rooms
12 / 13	Retreat	Atrium

* All students to dress in complete school uniform (no trainers, hoodies etc.) and bring a packed lunch including drinks. If free school meals, school packed lunch and drink will be provided.

CCF Big Blitz Bash, Peterborough Town Hall

A huge thank you to all the cadets who gave up their Saturday night to help at Peterborough Town Hall and support the Mayor and his charity work. The cadets helped to see people to their seats and did a fantastic job of serving the food. The comments that were made to me about our cadets were so heart-warming; people said what great role models and ambassadors they were for our school. My thanks to Mr O'Hara and Miss Guppy for their support and finally to parents for turning out to collect you. Having a presence in public and allowing our cadets to interact with people from different walks of life is such an important skill. You all did our school proud. Well done and thank you.

Mr Davis

Combined Cadet Force

On the 9 February, I travelled to Beckingham Training Area to complete an SCIC (Senior Cadets Instructors Course), which has enabled me to get promoted to Sergeant upon passing. The course is a week's residential and consists of two phases; a teaching phase and an exercise phase. During the teaching phase I taught lessons on Skill at Arms, Drill, Map and Compass and a Battle Lesson. The hardest part of the course for me was the night exercise because we were all very tired and had very little sleep due to sleeping in a barn with bad weather conditions overnight. The most rewarding part of the camp was finding out I had passed the course and was eligible to receive promotion when I returned to my detachments. The week was very enjoyable and I wish luck to everyone going on the course in the future and to those who were with me on the course for their future cadet careers.

Cadet Sgt Speechley

Congratulations to Sgt Speechley, very well deserved. 2Lt Davis.

Cricket Update

The Under 15 Indoor Cricket team have had an unbeaten start to the season. The boys maintained their 100% record with a convincing win over King's this week. The boys won by 16 runs with Farhaan Ali starring with the bat. The team managed to bowl King's out for just 47 runs with Mohammed Azan, Farhaan Ali and Omar Hayat all taking 2 wickets apiece. Well done boys on an excellent start to the season.

Take Your Place Project

The five Year 9 students involved in this project with NEACO visited Cambridge University on Tuesday. They took part in a Debatemate event with other schools from the region and had the chance to think about putting the finishing touches to their blog on Body Image. The deadline for submitting this is 19 March and we wish the girls luck in the competition.

Attendance

Last half term we had 215 students with perfect attendance. This is brilliant and we would like to congratulate all the students who turned up every day. Zahra Ravji, Year 9 Cambridge won the Nando's £25 voucher.



Under 15s Futsal Team

A mixture of year 9 and year 10 students attended NPA to represent the school in the EFL Kinder Cup on Thursday, 22 February. In the first game the boys competed against



The Peterborough School, eventually winning 4-2 in a very close game. In the second game they came up against a strong Ken Stimpson team with a number of Peterborough futsal players in. The boys played some wonderful futsal but lost the game 2-0. In the final game they needed to win against Nene Park Academy to qualify for the final. The boys started well and found themselves 2-1 up with 2 minutes to go, however a momentary lapse in concentration allowed Nene Park to equalise and the game ended as a draw. Well done to all the boys involved!

Summer Exams Update

Year 11 have now completed their final set of Pre Public Exams (PPEs). These exams are vital in giving students and teachers a final look at what they know and what they still need to work on before the GCSEs begin in the summer.

We have a Parents' Evening on 20 March at 4pm for years 8, 11 and 13. For Year 11 and 13 this will be the final time teachers will be able to feedback to you before the summer exams start. We will also be providing Year 11 students and parents with a revision guide with lots of information about subjects and general tips to help them during what can be a very stressful time.

Looking further ahead the first written exams start on 14 May which are Computing (am) and RE (pm). The final exams are on Friday 22 June. Students have received a timetable and will get a more detailed version in the coming weeks. Students are not able to sit an exam if they miss it so it is vital that all students attend school during this time. We will be publishing a Study Timetable for Year 11 students prior to the exams to make best use of time in school during the exam period.