



## The Armistice Centenary

This week in assemblies I have been talking to the students about Remembrance Day 2018, which falls this Sunday. It is an especially poignant one as it will be exactly 100 years since the Armistice at the end of The Great War, as it was then known – it was hoped that there would not be another.



I talked in particular about two aspects of the centenary commemorations. The first is the installation of 'silent silhouettes' across the country, each of which is one of the designs above. These have been installed to remind people of those who gave their lives during that war, represented by a silhouette indicating their role but not their age or identity.

I also showed the trailer for Peter Jackson's remarkable film, *They shall grow not old*, which has been produced by taking old, silent black and white films, and digitising and colouring them, and adding a soundtrack. This monumental task has resulted in those old pictures and movies coming to vivid life and shows more realistically than ever before what life was like in 1918. The film was shown in cinemas on 16 October and will be broadcast on BBC2 this Sunday at 9.30pm. I urged the students to take a look and properly understand what life was like for soldiers of the day.

We will be having our own commemoration this morning: our cadets will parade after break and there will be a minute's silence at 11.00am. Our cadets will also join the city commemoration on Sunday.

## Parents Evening

Thank you to the parents of students in Years 10 & 11 that came to this event on Tuesday afternoon. I hope that it was valuable. If you have questions about the courses or exams do please contact the teachers at any time, you do not have to wait until the next parents' evening.

## Pre-Public Exams

Students in Years 11-13 will be sitting their PPEs from Monday week. Personal timetables have been issued. This is when students, especially in Year 11, get to experience exams as they will be next summer. For that reason, results will not be issued until the Results Day on January 8<sup>th</sup>, when we will recreate the process that will be used in August.

## Budget 2018

Last week started with The Budget and there was a degree of optimism that the government would find some money to address the difficulties schools are facing, which I have written about previously. Sadly this did not materialise and I decided not to mention it in the newsletter as it was a completely positive edition. However, there has been a great deal of reaction in the media and on social media over the last week, mainly around the fact that the Chancellor only found money for a one-off sum for each school to spend on what he referred to as 'little extras'. No increase in income was announced and nothing to address the cuts of recent years. I only mention this again now to draw parents attention to this should you have missed this detail amongst everything else that was announced.

Sean Hayes

## Author Visit

We were fortunate enough to have guest speaker, Christian Wolmar, visit us on Tuesday 6 November to give an inspirational talk to some year 9 and 10 students about his career as a journalist, author and political figure. Christian is an award-winning writer who has published several books, written for various newspapers including The Independent and even ran for London Mayor. He makes frequent TV and radio appearances and is well-respected for his work especially concerning transport. His talk was engaging and interesting. We thank Christian for coming and especially for donating three of his books which can be borrowed from our library.



## Guvna B Raises the Roof

As part of our PSHE curriculum, the Illuminate tour arrived in school on Wednesday. We hosted award winning rapper Guvna B, who spoke to students about how his life experiences have shaped him, his personal faith journey and how this has driven him to work with young people. He also performed a number of songs during lessons as well as holding a lively concert in the Hall at lunchtime. Thank you to CROPS, a local charity, for offering us this opportunity.



## Fundraising during our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

During our Diamond Jubilee year we have decided to concentrate the school's fundraising activity on raising £10,000 to build a Sensory Garden. The Garden will be open to all of the community and will also function as an outdoor classroom, so we can develop our curriculum further. We also felt that because we have a Hub for Hearing Impairment in school it would be an appropriate way of celebrating our anniversary.

Monies from our House days will contribute towards this and we also intend to run a number of additional events, the first of which is our Winter Fayre. Any donations for the stalls would be gratefully received. Please add the date to your diary and encourage your families and friends to support us.



## Academic Tutoring Year 9: 12 to 23 November

### Parish Social Night

St Peter & All Souls with the Community of Our Lady of Lourdes

at the Fleet, Old Fletton,

Friday 16 November 2018: 7.30pm - Late

Live music, finger buffet, bar and raffle.

Tickets £10 per person.

## Sixth Form Taster Day

On Thursday 15 November we have arranged for Year 11 students to have a taste of Sixth Form life at St John Fisher Catholic High School. On this day we expect Year 11 students to come in to school dressed in Sixth Form business wear. Students will then have an opportunity to experience the A level; Level 3 BTEC courses and Cambridge Technical courses that we offer, in order to help them choose which subjects they would like to do in the future.

The day will start with an assembly and then students will have taster lessons all morning. We have arranged for those students wishing to do Level 2 courses at Peterborough Regional College to visit the college in the morning to experience some of the courses they have to offer. Year 11 students will be able to use all the Sixth Form faculties at break and lunchtime and after lunch they will return to their normal Year 11 lessons. We hope as many of our Year 11 students will stay on with us to ensure we remain one of the highest performing Sixth Forms in the country.



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## Spelling Bee Buzz!

On Monday 5 November a number of pupils participated in the Year 7 Spelling Bee competition. Contestants from Ms Meagher, Ms Northover, Ms Stewart and Mr Chesham's classes took part and despite a large crowd, performed well under pressure. The winning team was from Mr Chesham's class, so a big congratulations to Zahra Samadi, Roxanne Flomo, Andre Acquaye and Hibba Ali, you are worthy winners. The tense atmosphere nearly exploded when the individual competition started. With tight competition between Sean and Tracey, the Spelling Bee winner was finally selected. So overall the 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up was Aiman Azam, first runner up was Sean O'Shea and the Year 7 Spelling Bee champion for 2018 was none other than Tracey Azevedo from Ms Meagher's class. Congratulations to all the winners and a great big thank you to all the teachers for all their hard work in preparing the students for the competition!

The next round of the contest is the Year 8 competition and thereafter, our young Year 7 students will battle it

out with Year 8 to see who the ultimate KS3 Spelling Bee champions are. Watch this space!!! Mrs Winlock



'A year of reading ... a lifetime of memories.'