



Spring might be coming...?

I hope that everyone had a restful half-term break, and that students enjoyed the additional day on Monday. Staff were focussing on wellbeing during their training day, which began with a session on Spiritual Wellbeing led by Father Tony Rogers. This was followed by a series of activities that were designed to take people out of their comfort zones and to challenge themselves to learn a new skill. We can hardly expect the students to do this if the staff don't also do this from time to time. The marvellous weather greatly helped both the training day and the holiday and we have enjoyed the sunshine this week. I doubt that this is the last of the winter but we have enjoyed it while it lasted.

1959 – 11 April – 2019

Anniversary Mass

In April it will be 60 years since the school opened on the Park Lane site. During assemblies this week I have been talking to students about the school in those early days – as a Secondary Modern School with just 200 students in four year groups – and I have outlined what we are doing for the Anniversary. The main event is a Mass on **Wednesday 3 April at 7pm**, which will be celebrated by Bishop Alan and the deanery priests. During the afternoon the bishop will plant the first tree in our Sensory Garden and he will bless new stained glass windows in the Chapel.

I will say more about those projects in a future newsletter, but for this week it is the Mass that I want to focus on. This will take place in the Sports Hall where we plan to have 400 chairs. About half of these are already taken by students, choirs from our primary schools, and invited guests. This means we may not have enough space for everyone that would like to attend, so **we are asking that you let us know if you would like to attend the Mass** and we will reserve you a seat.

Please email enquiries@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk giving your name and the number of seats you would like. If your son or daughter is not already taking part in the Mass and will be coming with you please include them. Similarly, students who are not already involved should also tell Student Services via this email address. We expect the Mass to last an hour and it will be followed by a reception in the main Hall.

If we reach a point where we are not able to take any further reservations we will make this known via the newsletter.

Courageous Students

I was delighted to hear last week that two of our students were commended for their role in helping to catch a mugger. When Shaan Mahmood and Mustafa Karim saw an old lady being attacked in the street last summer they ran to her aid. One of the boys stayed with the lady and called for help while the other chased her attacker and was able to direct police to him. When the case came to court last week the judge described the two boys as 'courageous' and rewarded them with £150 each.

Teenagers so often get bad press but this was a good news story, made even better because it involves two of our students. We are very proud of them and their actions, and especially their intention that the attacker 'should not get away with it'.

Very well done.

Sean Hayes

Year 11 – The 5 Ps – Production

The Year 11 students begin their second round of PPEs on Monday. They will last for two weeks. This is their final chance to practice examinations under exam conditions and will serve as an important indication to how the students are preparing for their summer exams. The first written GCSE examination is on Monday 13 May. Students must arrive at school in good time and be prepared with black pens and equipment necessary for every exam. Following the PPEs students will receive feedback from their teachers once they have been marked, and revision programmes will then be put in place. All students are still expected to attend period 5 on a Monday in either English or Maths. Many other subjects are running Period 5 lessons on a Wednesday or Thursday and the Year 11 study room is available for students to get support whilst studying, doing homework or revising. This was well attended before half term and it would be good to see more students making use of the facility. There was due to be a Year 11 information evening on Tuesday 12 March. This is now cancelled and we will be inviting students and parents to attend progress interviews for some of our key students in its place.



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Sponsored Walk

Our whole school sponsored walk takes place on Tuesday 2 April. We have been sharing more details with students this week about our plans and can confirm that the whole school will be walking to Ferry Meadows (and back!!) on that day. All students will take part, with any students with medical issues having appropriate modifications made for them.

We are doing this walk to raise money as a community for our sensory garden, the design of which is now underway. All students and staff will be issued with a sponsor form and we ask parents to encourage students to seek sponsorship. We are challenging the students to try and raise at least £5 each - we think many students will be able to raise much more than that.

We want the day to be a celebration of our school and the unity we have as a community. Our House teams are currently making plans for fancy dress themes, with prizes being awarded to the best individuals / forms and houses. We hope all the students will fully embrace this opportunity and make the most of the day.

**Academic Tutoring
Years 7:
26 February – 8 March**

Myriad Project

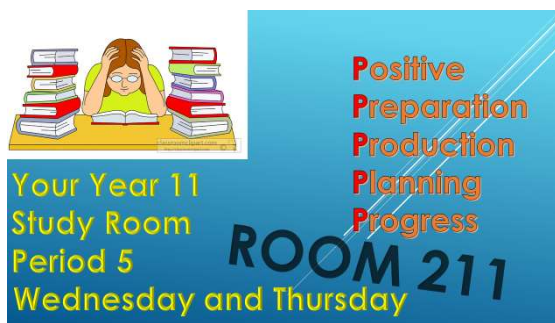
During the last two weeks students in selected groups in years 8 and 9 have been continuing their .b mindfulness course. We have thought about the concept of being on autopilot, and eaten chocolate mindfully in order to help us notice what is happening for us in the present. We have also used mindfulness techniques to manage a more unpleasant situation when we ate chillies. We have also thought about how being mindful can involve movement and students have been challenged to engage in their samurai walking for their home practice.



World Book Day 7 March

The annual events occurs next week on Thursday and to celebrate we have lots of events taking place in school. Students will receive book tokens towards buying a book – a selection of which are greatly reduced especially for the occasion. Furthermore to celebrate the theme this year of Sharing Stories, as a school, we are going to be doing just that! A short story has been divided up into four parts and at the beginning of each lesson we will be reading it together. This is something very different for St. John Fisher but a unique way of us all being able to share the joy of stories and reading collectively as a school. What is more, there is a creative writing competition with a winning prize of tickets to the Harry Potter Studio Tour on activity day but to tie this in with the theme, the entries need to be submitted in pairs. As you can see, a lot is planned and hopefully this year we won't be beaten by The Beast from the East. Happy Reading!

Miss Stewart



Activities Day

Just a gentle reminder that deposits for Activities Day were due in just before half term. If any student still needs to pay they must do so by Monday or they will lose their place on their chosen trip.



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