



School Funding - again

This hot topic was again in the news last week as headteachers across the country made another effort to explain to the government that the 'cuts' in recent years have had a major impact on the ability of schools to function as they should. I have put 'cuts' in inverted commas as the government keeps saying that they are putting more money into the schools system (excluding Sixth Form), but because schools face increasing costs they actually have less left to use.

We have managed to stay out of deficit but one third of maintained schools are now in deficit, and it has not been easy for us. We are expecting an increase in student numbers next year so this will help, but already there are hints that the government will not fund any pay rise for teachers. If that happens, we will have to find the money by making further cuts.

I am writing this ahead of the chancellor's speech on Wednesday: hopefully by the time you read this there will have been some positive news for schools.

Parents Evening

The next one is on 26 March and is for Years 8 and 13. It will run from 4.00pm to 6.30pm. Parents should have received a letter about this and are asked to make bookings online in advance. The booking system is now open.



Headteachers' Conference

Last week headteachers from the city's secondary schools met for our annual conference. This year's was especially productive as we had presentations from a Multi-Academy Trust that has had huge success in turning schools round quickly, from a charity that supports children in care, and from an expert in attachment and trauma. We also met with the local authority to discuss various issues, including school places and predicted results for 2019.

I was also able to invite the other schools to send students to our Student Leadership Conference which we will again be running in July. Last year's was extremely successful and over 70 students attended from schools across the city.

Sean Hayes

Auschwitz Visit

Last Thursday we had the opportunity to visit the concentration camp Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. We spent the day visiting various barracks where many Jews and prisoners of war were imprisoned and executed during World War 2. The emotions we felt and the thoughts that emerged are very hard to put into words. It was a very emotional experience seeing personal belongings such as glasses, shoes, children's clothes and more. The sites were heart breaking to see as the images only previously seen in history textbooks came to life right in front of us. Memories of this visit are for a lifetime.

Rimante Astraukaite, W2-ME

School Production Matilda The Musical

Matilda Rehearsals are well underway and we have already started to learn some of the songs. Last week we started the ensemble routine to 'Revoltin' Children' and already it looks fantastic.



FOCUS DAY – FRIDAY, 15 MARCH

**ALL YEAR 10 STUDENTS
TO COME IN THEIR PE KITS**

Strive for 5 – Payment Deadline

Deadline for payment for the Strive for 5 Pixl Conference is Friday 22 March. Please make your payments as soon as possible as there are only a few spaces left.

Health Week 18 – 22 March 2019

Next week is our annual Health week. This year the theme of the week is 'Building Resilience' and we are going to think about how we can develop physical, mental and emotional resilience. There will be lots of additional physical activities at lunchtime, including HIIT workouts, Boxercise, Yoga and Circuit training. All students will also be getting an introduction to Mindfulness during form time and there will be extra clubs for students in Key Stage 3 and 4 linked to Mindfulness and wellbeing.

We are also thinking about how we fuel our bodies and after last year's success we are going to be having a healthier options food tasting to show students how they can cut down on salt, fat and sugar and still snack on tasty food.

Year 10 students will also be focusing on how they can build their resilience in social situations during Citizenship lessons, by role-playing interview techniques. Please encourage your child to join in and make the most of all these additional opportunities.



**Positive
Preparation
Production
Planning
Progress**

ROOM 211

**Your Year 11
Study Room
Period 5
Wednesday and Thursday**

Myriad Project

The focus of our work this week has been 'Befriending the difficult.' We have thought about stress – where it comes from, why it is necessary, how it works and the potentially harmful effects. We have encouraged students to identify their stress signature, noticing how their body reacts to stress. We have also thought about we could respond rather than react by noticing and turning towards difficult emotions. We have considered how some of our mindfulness practices can anchor us and help us with difficult emotions.



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Academic Tutoring Years 8: 11 March – 22 March



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

website: www.stjohnfishersschool.org.uk
email: enquiries@stjohnfishersschool.org.uk



Year 7 & 8 'March Mixer'

We have re-organised the social event for Years 7 & 8 which will now take place on Friday 29 March between 5pm and 7pm. There will be music, dancing, snacks and drinks and plenty of prizes. Tickets cost £2.50 and are on sale from Student Services. Our 6th form leadership team will also be selling tickets in forms during registration.

Internet Anniversary

This week the world has been marking the 30th anniversary of the creation of the World Wide Web, the mechanism that allows us to communicate across the Internet and to search for information within it. In this time it has become indispensable and has transformed the way we work and communicate. Unfortunately it has also created new ways in which to do harm, especially when it comes to communication. It has therefore become necessary to teach children to stay safe on the Internet as we do regularly but also annually during Safer Internet Week, which was held recently. One of the lessons that is hard to learn is that once something is shared on social media it can never be permanently deleted, and we often hear stories of politicians being pulled up now for things they 'said' at an earlier point in their lives. The bottom line is that we must all take care, and parents should ensure they know what their children are doing online.

Sponsored Walk

The route has been reconnoitred...wellies washed...packed lunch boxes primed...all we need now is **SPONSORS!!** Please encourage your children to be proactive in getting sponsors. We are going to get form tutors to report an interim total of funds raised next week and there will be a prize for the form that is in the lead at this half way stage. Please ask friends, family, employers to sponsor the children so we can build the best sensory garden we possibly can. Spare forms are available at Student Services and Reception.

