



## Thank you

I'd like to thank students and staff for the very warm welcome I have received this week into the school and for the positive start to the term. Students are clearly very proud of St John Fisher and quite rightly so and have been very helpful and polite. I have been struck this week by the strong drive, sense of purpose and community of both staff and students. One of the many highlights of this week has been talking individually with students and staff about the school which have been overwhelmingly positive and supportive. Mr Hayes is now enjoying his first week of retirement and we all wish him well. I am very grateful for all that Mr Hayes has done for the school and it is very reassuring that St John Fisher is in such a strong position which helps us to move into the future with confidence. Having worked with Mr Hayes for eight years here at St John Fisher as Assistant Headteacher, I know how dedicated he was to the school and what a huge impact he had on so many young lives. When I took up my first headship in 2016 Mr Hayes was my personal mentor so most of what I have learned about being a headteacher has come from his guidance and advice. Having been away from St John Fisher for three and a half years, after just one week it feels as if I have never been away; It really is good to be back!

## Assemblies this week

In my assemblies this week we have been reflecting on the meaning of Easter though the symbolism of the golden cross that survived the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral and praying for the victims of the terrorist attack in Sri Lanka. Whilst there is much to be sad about in our world there is also much to be hopeful for.

## Exam Season

We have already had practical GCSE French and Spanish exams this week and Year 10 start their PPEs on Monday. Please ensure students have all the equipment they need for the exams and that time is set aside for revision. Getting plenty of sleep and eating a healthy diet helps enormously with exams and concentration. Years 11 and 13 are already well in to their revision and their teachers are providing extra help at lunchtimes and during Period 5 sessions. As always please be mindful of the importance of sleep and a good diet when preparing for exams.

### Magic Breakfast

We had our first Bagel Breakfast yesterday morning which was a huge success. It is free and open to all students between 8am – 8.25am. Many thanks to Mr Karia for organising this.

## Rest in Peace

We hold the family and friends of past student Marko Makula, his wife and brother in law in our prayers and send our deepest condolences following the sudden tragedy over the Easter holidays. This has been a huge shock for everybody. May they rest in peace.

*Kate Pereira*

## Literacy Update

Due to a very busy time here in school, I have not been able to update you so thought this would be the perfect time after our relaxing Easter Break. In March, we joined in across the globe to celebrate World Book Day. We had the usual activities of book related quizzes as well as free book tokens for everyone in school. However, this year was slightly different. With the theme of sharing stories, the school community participated in our first ever shared reading event. The story (The Compass and the Torch by Elizabeth Baines) was very unusual for some but I felt it tied in nicely with Lent and the idea of renewal and taking value in what we have. Many pupils enjoyed the experience and were eager to hear the next instalment as the day went on. It is something we shall definitely be doing again! Secondly, in conjunction with the theme of sharing stories, we had a shared writing competition with the prize being tickets to the Harry Potter Film Studio Tour on the Activity Day next half term. The standard was absolutely outstanding! The overall winners were: **Agata Nurijeva** and **Halifa Arshad**, both in year 7. I would like to give the following students a mention too as they came second and third respectively: Jan Kowalik & Matilde Pires, Andre Acquaye & Isaac Heppell. Congratulations to them and all of those that entered. We also inducted several students as Literacy Leaders who will be assisting me. They are: Keira Dequincey, Mumina Mansha, Zinneerah Abid, Ruby Mills, Rasika Monteiro, Masimba Marariki, Alliyah Gocal, Magdalena Jurdzinska, Ali Ejaz Abbas Sherazi, Roberto Da Silva, Davids Djumajevs, Aminah Ghous, Talia Buckley, Tonyo Jordanov and Georgina Bowden. So, lots more happening over that next weeks as we head into the Summer Term.

*Miss Stewart*



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## Sponsored Walk

The whole school sponsored walk eventually took place on Thursday 4 April. The goddess Fortuna smiled on us as the weather was sunny and mild. Our cadets forged the path with the valiant Mr O'Hara, battling through undergrowth and abandoned shopping trolleys to take up their positions along the way. General Karia marshalled the troops in the School Hall and with Westminster as the leading house we gradually left the school building. The silence in school was ominous, but broken by the admin team running through the building, cheering with relief. We made excellent time, with Westminster arriving at Ferry Meadows shortly after 11am, although we believe there may have been a slight deviation in route – our Geography teachers are excellent navigators, but do not like following instructions!

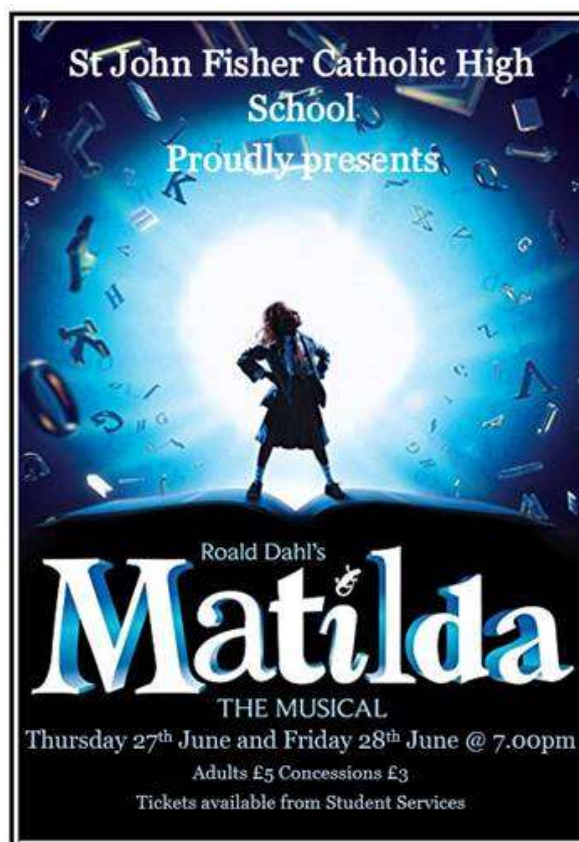


After a brief lunch, with Mrs D'Ambrosio and Mr Cowlin taking up a defensive position near the loos, it was time for the walk back. This was where it got difficult for some of our students. Most had managed the first five miles with a smile on their faces, but when confronted with the return journey, some found it very hard to keep smiling and complete the walk. There are, however, some lovely examples of students who demonstrated amazing resilience. Miss Stevens has mentioned Petra Gregor, who hated every minute of the walk on the way to Ferry Meadows, however on the way back she was 'adopted' by R4 and she ended up cheering on and rallying some of the younger students. Well done Petra! Mateusz J and George Vasile were in real pain by the time we got to town, but they carried on and must be commended for their sheer will power in completing the task.



Glenver Miranda, not for the first time, showed his maturity and leadership qualities as he supported a student who was ill. There was singing, music, games, jokes, laughter and some tears. By 2.30pm we were all back in school, the battle won, with the cadets cheering on the final few, which was much appreciated.

Our students and staff were amazing – each and every one of them – and what was palpable at the end of the day was the sense of community and family that we have in school. We have also raised an awful lot of money for our Sensory Garden, so please could parents encourage students to keep sending in Sponsor Money. The deadline is Friday, 3 May and we should be able to bring you a total amount raised after that date. Keep on marching SJF...



### Learning Support Coffee Morning Friday 3 May 9am – 10am

All parents of students with a Special Educational Need or Disability are welcome to attend

- Meet key staff
- Meet representatives from Family Voice
- Support us to review our SEND policy and Information report and have your say