



## Farewell

Today is my final day as Headteacher. I will be sad to leave the school and especially the students and staff that make each day something to look forward to. I very much hope that you all enjoy coming to school and being here, because if you do then we have been successful.

For my final newsletter I want to highlight some of the features of the school, perhaps as a marker in the sand from which further improvements can be made.

## Admissions

As I have mentioned in recent newsletters, we are heavily oversubscribed for places in Year 7 next year with many children on the waiting list whose parents put us as their first choice of school. Similarly, we have had over 100 applications for 75 places in Year 12. We are very popular indeed.

## Results

We are now achieving consistently good exam results each year at both GCSE and A level, and are on track to do so again in 2019. We also have an outstanding record of ensuring that every student who leaves continues in education or goes into employment or training. Those who wish to go to university are able to do so.

## Staffing

We are fortunate in being fully staffed and have been most of the time in recent years, despite a national shortage of teachers. It makes so much difference if students have a subject specialist in front of them, preparing them for exams. Our staff, both teachers and support staff, are very dedicated and give a lot of time to the school and the students. I am very grateful to them for this and am sure that students and parents are too.

## Part of the landscape

The school is very involved and well known in the local education scene. We are part of the Teaching School Alliance and the local teacher-training scheme, we host the Hub for hearing impaired students, we are part of the diocesan inspection and RE teams, and we support other schools when asked to do so.

## Catholic Life

Everything we do is informed by the fact that we are a Catholic school. We provide opportunities for students to pray and reflect throughout the year in a variety of ways. We are also inclusive and ensure that what we do allows students of other faiths or backgrounds to feel invited and involved. The success of this is evident in both the positive relationships in the school and in the fund raising and acts of kindness that students do each year.

## Pastoral Care

One of the things we do very well here is looking after the students. A very caring team of staff lead this and students know that they have somewhere to go or someone to talk to, as

appropriate. Whether they are unwell, unhappy, struggling with their work, having difficulties with friends, and so on. And even better still is that some of the support comes from other students, such as our Learning Leaders and Heroes.

## Living life to the full

We encourage all students to make the most of every opportunity that is available to them based on our theme of living life to the full. We provide a very large range of roles in which students can lead as well as clubs and activities beyond the classroom. It is pleasing that so many are part of regular activities each week, whether it be our cadets, the house competitions, sports teams, or something else.

## The next 60 years

It is a fortunate coincidence that as we mark our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary we begin the next chapter of the school's life. And so this is not an ending but a new beginning. I am sure that the school will continue to thrive and I look forward to watching it do so from my home in Essex. I wish Mrs Pereira every blessing as she succeeds me next term, and pray that everyone in the school community is able to live life to the full.

Thank you for letting me be part of the story, and thank you for the cards, presents and best wishes. I will be forever grateful. God bless.

*Sean Hayes*



## Thank You

A massive thank you to everyone that was involved in any way with the anniversary celebrations on Wednesday. It was a truly memorable evening and the Mass was a great opportunity to show the school at its best. As is typical, everyone pulled together to plan, rehearse and deliver a splendid occasion. And we have left a legacy for the future with our beautiful stained glass windows, the new plaque of St John Fisher and our soon to be built Sensory Garden.



## Adventures at New Ark Farm

During the last term a small group of students have been going to New Ark Farm for one afternoon a week. The aim of this has been to engage students in outdoor learning and also to support them to develop their communication skills. The students involved have really enjoyed the opportunity to get out on the fresh air and get stuck in to some practical activities.

Godfrey and Hassan have done particularly well and their favourite activity is looking after the chickens. Well done boys for your enthusiasm and commitment!



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## Sponsored Walk

The Sensory Garden has been the main focus of our fundraising this year and yesterday's sponsored walk has hugely increased the amount we have raised. There was a lot of planning for this event, essential when you have 800 people walking across a city, but it was successful and enjoyable, and there is every possibility that this can be an annual event in future.

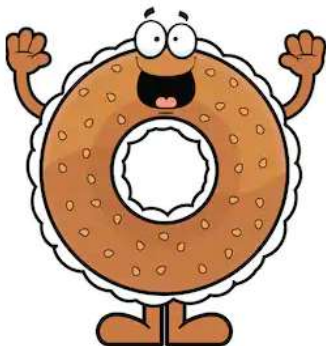
**Academic Tutoring  
Years 12 & 13  
23 April - 3 May**



## Magic Breakfast

We are starting the Bagel Breakfast on Thursday 25 April. This is a free breakfast for all students who want one. This scheme has been running with funds from the sugar tax and has been very successful in schools across the country.

The breakfast service will run each day between 8am and 8.25am and provides one bagel per student who wants one with a choice of toppings.



## Next Term

The Summer Term begins on **Tuesday 23 April** at the usual time; this will be Week 2 of the timetable.



Your Year 11  
Study Room  
Period 5  
Wednesday and Thursday

**ROOM 211**

**Positive  
Preparation  
Production  
Planning  
Progress**



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