



# St John Fisher News

13 January 2017

No. 318

## School Funding

There has been much in the news recently about school funding. Partly this has been because the government is planning to change the ways that schools are funded from April 2018. The intention is to make this fairer by having a standard system across the country – it may seem surprising that this is not how it is at the moment. The trouble with trying to introduce a common system is that there will be winners and losers, with some schools getting more money and others getting less. We have seen some draft calculations of what the change might mean for us and so far it looks like we should gain slightly.

That should be good news but we could still have less money to spend on our students, and that may seem puzzling. So too might the government's assertion that they are protecting the school budget yet schools are saying they have less money. The answer to both puzzles is the same: the money that has been 'protected' by the government is for children aged 5-16, so funding for Sixth Forms and colleges is not protected. Schools are also being asked to spend more money on things other than education, including higher national insurance and pension contributions. The new apprenticeship levy applies to businesses with a salary bill above a certain level, and a school our size does. This levy alone will take about £15000 from our budget for next year.

School finance is very tight and there is definitely less money available to us to spend, but I thought it was worth explaining how this can be the case.

## Possible New Catholic Schools

The Diocese of East Anglia is intending to submit bids for up to eight new Catholic schools across the region. These bids will be submitted in March and if successful, schools could open as early as 2019. Primary schools are being proposed in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Thetford and Norwich. A Catholic high school is being proposed in West Cambourne, Cambridgeshire and possibly a sixth form in Norwich. More information about these proposals can be found on the Diocese's website <http://rcdea.org.uk/freeschools/>.

There is also the opportunity to register your interest in these new schools, which will also allow the Diocese to keep you updated on the proposals. It is important that as many people as possible register their interest on the website as this will provide strong evidence to the government of the need for Catholic schools in East Anglia, making the bids more likely to succeed.

## SEN Drop-in Session

On Monday afternoon parents of students in Years 8 and 9 are invited to drop in between 3.15-4.15 for a SEN update. Letters have been sent out already to invite parents to attend. No appointment is required: just come to reception between these times.

## Progress Reports

Progress reports for students in Years 11-13 were issued at parents evening on Tuesday. If parents were unable to attend a copy has been posted home.

Please note that the predicted grade for each subject is in the column labelled TFG, which is short for Teacher Forecast Grade.

*Sean Hayes*

## Email Competition

We are running a competition to collect all the email addresses from our parents. This will enable us to communicate with you more efficiently.

To enter the competition you need to send an email to: [attendance@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk](mailto:attendance@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk) with your child's name and form in the email. The subject should be: **Email competition**. The students whose parents reply will be entered into a draw for an iPad Mini. The first form to have a reply for every student will have their names added in more than once, and so will the first house to do so, increasing the chance of success. The winner of the draw will win the iPad mini and the draw will take place before Easter.

*Mr Karia, Assistant Headteacher*

## Uniform

This is a reminder to parents and students that all uniform must meet the school requirements. There have been a number of students in trainers instead of shoes and students wearing very tight trousers or skirts. Students that do not have the right uniform will be provided with uniform from our stock until replacement uniform is arranged.

*Mr Karia, Assistant Headteacher*



Follow us on Twitter:  
**@sjfpeterborough**

## 'High School Musical'

Students from SJF are performing in Rare Productions' *High School Musical* at the Cresset Theatre in Bretton from 16 -18 March. The story: Disney channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life on the stage! High school jock and basketball star Troy and brainy Gabriella discover a shared love for singing on their winter vacation and then Gabriella fortuitously joins the very school that Troy attends. A story of high school life, love and basketball, the movie won millions of viewers and the stage version looks to follow in its footsteps. It contains all the songs from the Disney Channel movie soundtrack plus two new numbers. For more information, check out [www.cresset.co.uk](http://www.cresset.co.uk)

*Charley Stokes, Year 11*

## Christmas Panto Visit

On 20 December, 25 students and staff from the Learning Support Department were treated to a visit to see "Dick Whittington" at the Key Theatre. Everyone enjoyed the production and even joined in with the audience singalong. One student said he was going to take his family to see it as it was so funny – Oh yes he did!

*Mrs Sennett*

## Pre-Public Exams (PPE)

Tuesday 10 January marked the PPE results for Year 11 - 13. These results are at a crucial point in their studies to ensure that each student has the chance to make progress before the actual examinations which start in May. Please encourage your children to be proactive with their results and to look carefully at the forecasts that their teachers have made. The next set of PPEs are in just 7 weeks so students should be organising their revision to ensure that they make progress. Form tutors will be discussing revision timetables with their tutees during academic tutoring but any further support from home would be beneficial.



## Year 9 Options Process

Today Year 9 will be having a talk on GCSE options. This is the start of a process involving many conversations with teachers, family and friends. In order to be happy and successful, students need to make the right choices for the right reasons. All parents and students in Year 9 are invited to the GCSE Options Evening which takes place on Tuesday 24 January at 7.00pm. We will start in the Hall and then move to individual subject presentations. This is an important evening and it is essential that students and their parents attend.

**Academic Tutoring  
16 January to 20 January  
Year 11**

## Rochester – Time to Celebrate

Rochester House had a fantastic start to the school year. We have now raised over £900 since September for Marie Curie Cancer Care and Teenage Cancer Trust, with our advent charity efforts including Christmas Cakes from Around the World, Name the Bear, a Chocolate Raffle and cookie / samosas sales. Well done to all the students who went the extra mile to support our House Charities.

The Celebration Assembly at the end of term saw many students being rewarded for their effort and their achievements both in lessons and across the school. Form Tutor awards were given to students who stood out as being an asset to each form.

Congratulations to:

Abdul Aziz Hussain  
Andre Feijoca  
Alex Guy  
Oliver Guy

Misbah Hussain  
Brooke Muncey  
Erin O'Shea  
Elvira Vasconcelos

Also deserving the Best in House award for being a member of the most proactive House council to date, were;

Sabina Strug – House Leader  
Saeed Arman – House Council Secretary  
Paulo Rocha – Sport Ambassador  
Erin O'Shea – Charity Ambassador  
Patrycia Kosinska – Chaplaincy Ambassador  
Harry Davey – Anti-Bullying Ambassador  
Elvira Vasconcelos – School Council  
Blazej Berezowski – School Council  
Ali Akhbary – School Council  
Brooke Muncy – School Council

I look forward to awarding more students for 100% attendance and giving them their badges for reaching the merit milestones over the coming months at our next celebration assembly before the Easter break.

*Ms Stevens*