



2016 Performance Tables

The school performance tables for 2016 were published yesterday. As I reported back in October, these have placed us in the top 10% of schools nationally at GCSE. This is an amazing achievement and a credit to the hard work of our students and staff over many years. This in turn is greatly assisted by the support of parents.

Our high position in these new tables is a result of a change to measuring the progress that each student makes during Key Stages 3 and 4. Previously we were measured on the percentage that achieved five or more grades at C or above, including English and Maths. Now students are measured on the progress they make in eight subjects, and every student with Key Stage 2 data is included. This means the focus is now on the work the school does with each student and less on the student's ability on entry to the school.

Here are our figures for 2016:

Progress 8: Our final figure in the new measure or **+0.46** means that all students achieved on average almost half a grade per subject higher than similar students nationally. This measure is now the headline one on which schools are judged. The new 'floor standard' is -0.5.

Attainment 8: The average attainment per student in the same eight subjects. **45.6** is approximately midway between a C and a D grade. It is expressed using the points each grade is worth (the higher the better).

Basics: The percentage of students who achieve grade C or above in English and Maths. Our figure of **46%** is in line with our previous best year on the old measure.

EBacc: The percentage of students who achieved a grade C or above in all subjects in the so-called English Baccalaureate. Our figure is **8%**. We do not have a high figure here as the Department for Education continues to not recognise RE in this measure.

Amongst the other data in these tables it is especially pleasing to note that progress in English and in Maths was higher than our headline figure, as both were above +0.5, and that students who qualify for pupil premium funding had a Progress 8 score of +0.25.

Please do spread this good news: we are doing a very good job in educating our students and it has now been recognised.



New GCSEs

At the same time as publishing the new performance tables the government is concerned that people do not fully understand the changes to GCSEs that are starting from this summer. Current Year 11 students are taking new GCSEs in English and Maths, with Year 10 taking them in more subjects, and Year 9 and below in all subjects. The new courses will be assessed by exams at the end of Year 11 and these will be graded using numbers 9 to 1, with 9 (being the highest).

The new grades do not directly compare with the old ones, but a Grade 1 is equivalent to a G, a 4 to a C and a 7 to an A. So where previously we might have asked for someone to have a C in Maths we will now expect a 4. We are including explanations in each report that is sent home. We are also going to be using the same number grades in Key Stage 3 to aid understanding and familiarity with the new system. So in future a 3 in a subject will mean a GCSE grade 3 even if the student is still in Year 8.

Student Feedback

We have various mechanisms that we use throughout the year to obtain the views of students. These include the House and School Councils, surveys, and comments made in class and during parents evenings. We also involve the students in the work of the school as often as we can: as Learning Leaders, lunchtime supervisors, reading buddies, in the teacher interview process, and so on. If students can think of any other ways in which we could extend their involvement I would be very pleased to hear them.

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 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

Drama Workshop Visit

On Friday, 13 January the A Level Drama students attended a 'Frantic Assembly' workshop at Jack Hunt School. Here they learnt the skills of physical theatre and had the opportunity to work with a professional actor. Throughout the day they put their new skills into practice and devised a range of short drama pieces in collaboration with other students. We are hoping that we can incorporate these into their exam piece for their upcoming exam.

Mrs Young



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Autism &/or ADHD Revision Support

Peterborough City Council's Autism and ADHD Specialist Teacher Service would like to make parents / carers of students with a diagnosis of Autism and/or ADHD in Year 10 and Year 11 aware of a revision support workshop for parents / carers at the Family Voice, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough. on Tuesday, 14 February 2017 at 10am to 11:30am Should you have any questions, please contact them directly on 01733 864009.

**Academic Tutoring
23 January to 3 February
Year 12 and Year 13**

Learning Leaders

We are delighted to confirm the following students have been awarded Technology Learning Leader status:

Year 9

Ophelia Flomo

Rean Rosario

Emilia Klimaitė

Year 10

Maxwell Guest

Da-Shannel Brown

Ginificent!! Road Safety Workshop

Last Friday we had a theatre company, Ginificant, come in to do a production on road safety. It was so that we could understand the topic as there are many road traffic accidents in the UK involving children, causing death and serious injuries. It is very important to stay safe: one lesson we learnt is to stop distractions, as that is the main cause of accidents, so students should stay aware and not be distracted by phones or friends. This was a good experience for us and made us think about our safety. We think this was a nice production for us as there were funny moments in the play but these didn't distract from the message. Miss Wilson thinks it was "an excellent way to raise awareness of the serious issues around road safety, which all students must be aware of."

Dolly Deyna-Hayward and Batul Mehdi, Year 7

GINIFICENT

Year 7 RE

Mr Reilly recently came to our RE lesson to teach Year 7 students about Mass and the particular objects and symbols used in this celebration. Mr Reilly educated us about the altar, Bible, Crucifixions, Body and Blood of Jesus, candles and what they all mean or are used for. The class discovered a lot of new, interesting facts, which we shared and were enthusiastic about. We were then assigned homework to explore what we had learnt in more depth. We enjoyed the lesson and were happy with the outcome. Mass takes place on Tuesday in the Chapel at 8.40am and all are welcome.

Joanna Rodrigues, Year 7

Author Visit

Fantasy Author, Mark Robson, delivered a creative writing workshop to thirty KS3 students on Thursday, 12 January 2017. It was a fantastic day.

Magdalena Jurdzinska in Year 7 said:

"A very good author came into school and taught us a great many writing techniques I can use in future. I enjoyed the day and found it very helpful"