



General Election

This is the last newsletter to be issued before Polling Day on 8 June. This election has been different to most that I can recall as Education has been a key issue to raise with candidates. There are many aspects of education policy that parents and teachers will have views on – school meals, tuition fees, changes to exams, and so on – but the biggest issue this time is funding for schools.



Since the 2010 election there have been significant cuts to public expenditure but for several years education was not affected as badly as other services. Since the 2015 election this has changed and you will be aware from the news that schools across the country are having to make massive savings this year, and are expected to have to do so each year for several years to come. As I have explained in a previous newsletter, this is because additional costs such as increased national insurance contributions, pension contributions, pay rises, and the apprenticeship levy are not funded, meaning schools have to pay for them from an income level that is unchanged.

For our school this has meant that in order to set a budget for the coming year the governors have had to identify £100,000 of savings. This has been done but it has required staffing cuts that we would not otherwise have wanted to make.

So without making any overtly political statement, I would urge parents to raise the following issue with your local candidate if you have the chance:

- **To fund education fully and fairly**, reversing the £3bn real terms cuts that schools are facing and providing enough money to make the new national funding formula a success.
- **To put forward a national strategy for teacher recruitment and retention** that recognises teachers as high-status professionals and guarantees enough teachers for every school.
- **To adopt fair methods to hold schools to account**, recognising that test and exam results are only part of the picture when judging a pupil's success or a school's effectiveness.
- **To value a broad range of subjects in the school day** so that pupils' opportunities are not limited and they are properly prepared for adult life.
- **To make sure that schools are supported by health and social care services** to allow schools to fulfil their role to promote pupil wellbeing rather than making up for cuts to other services.

Please see this election as an opportunity to address these issues. Without a significant increase in spending on education the next few years could be very difficult.

Year 13

Tomorrow morning Year 13 students have their Leavers' Liturgy prior to starting Study Leave. For many of them this is a reflection on the Welcome Liturgy they participated in in September 2010, while others have joined them along the way. Most of their exams have yet to happen and we wish them well with these, and look forward to celebrating the results with them in August.

Ramadan

As our Muslim students begin the Holy Month of Ramadan at the end of this week we are writing to the parents of those who are sitting GCSE and A level exams with some information. This is aimed at supporting the students through their examinations. Further copies are available from reception.

Half Term Holiday

School is closed next week for the half term holiday. Lessons resume on Monday 5 June at the usual time. This will be timetable Week 1.

Sean Hayes

Academic Tutoring: Year 10
22 May – 9 June

Holocaust Education Trust

On the 8 June, forty year 9 students will be hearing testimony from Holocaust survivor, Mala Tribich MBE, as part of a visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET). Mala spent time at Ravensbruck Concentration camp and then Bergen-Belsen during which time she lost all but one of her family. The testimony will be followed by a question and answer session to enable students to better understand the nature of the Holocaust and to explore its lessons in more depth. The visit is part of the Holocaust Educational Trust's extensive all year round Outreach Programme, which is available to schools across the UK.

Dr Bottrill



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Cambridge News

As we enter the exam period we would like to wish all students luck. They have been working hard in lessons, extra revision sessions and period 5s to make sure that they are prepared. As usual our good wishes and prayers go with you all into your exams. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Cambridge House Council for the work they have done this year so far. A number of them will be leaving us shortly to complete their exams; Taisha Peplowska, Ziyad Mohammed, Gilda Lleshi, Shannon Foreman, Vanessa Abankwa and Cheyenne Guest. We are therefore appointing new house council members to replace them for the rest of the year. Students have been writing letters of applications for the posts of Cambridge House Leader, House Secretary, House Ambassador and Anti-bullying Ambassador. So far we have appointed Mustafa Javed (C8) as Cambridge House Leader and Ashley Knight and Devshi Karavadra as House Ambassadors who will continue to represent Cambridge on the school council.

With the new uniform coming in from September we have selected two students from each house to wear the uniform during the latter part of the summer term. Our uniform ambassadors will be Olga Holubova and Anete Vinovska.

Finally each week in assembly we check to see who is currently leading the Cambridge quiz and the Maths in Minutes league. These competitions run during form time. I am pleased to announce that C5 are currently in the lead. We are also very proud that we are currently leading in the St John Fisher School cup. Well done to everybody and keep up the hard work.



Did you know you can follow the Expressive Arts Faculty on Twitter?
@sjfexpressive

Cycling Lessons

Our Year 8s have been enjoying biking sessions with Thorpe Ventures Coaching and Sports.



Our Catholic Cathedral - Invitation

'Why not visit the Cathedral of St John the Baptist for a stunning tower tour? Nowhere else in the city can you experience such memorable views of Norwich. Climb 280 steps up a spiral staircase to the top of the tower and find yourself surrounded by a 360 degree view of the historic and beautiful city. Spot iconic local landmarks on the skyline and of course don't forget to take advantage of this perfect photo opportunity! But that's not all; on your way up the tower stop off to catch your breath at the crossing balcony and view the transept and nave from great heights.

Tower tours take place every Saturday and started on 6 May at 1.30pm, and go through until the end of September. Sensible shoes are advised – children must be 8 years old or at least 130cm tall. No need to book, but arrive early to avoid disappointment. £5 adult, £3.50 child, or pre-book a group visit for a discounted tour.'

*Julia Stafford, Culture and Heritage Officer
St John the Baptist Cathedral*

Were you in General Mickey in 1987?

That's the question those behind a musical phenomenon which started in the city 30 years ago want to know – as they're planning a grand get-together.

In 1987 a musical titled General Mickey was written about a real life Roman Catholic saint – Don Bosco. It was staged first in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Dogsthorpe in May of that year, but proved so popular it was moved to the Key Theatre in August.

Now those behind the show want to stage a 30th birthday party for the show and to be reunited with as many as possible who took part.

Producer Mark Long said: "At the church we had people literally queuing round the block, and at the Key it was again completely sold out. Subsequently many productions of the show were put on in places like Paisley, Farnborough, Calcutta, Sawston (near Cambridge), Wembley and finally at Cambridge's Corn Exchange – with a massive chorus of some 250! From modest beginnings, it touched hundreds of lives."

Jonathan Craymer who wrote the show added: 'Were you in, or connected with, any of those shows then or in the years since?' If you were, we'd love to see you at the Key Theatre on Sunday 13 August 2017 from 6.30pm-10.30pm.

The last known performance of General Mickey was in the 1990s at the Corn Exchange in Cambridge, where 250 children from three schools took part."

General Mickey is based on the lives of Saint Don Bosco (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bosco) who in the 19th century dedicated his life to working with the street urchins of Turin, and "General" Michael Magone, a young gang-leader.

To contact the reunion organisers (Mark or Jonathan) visit www.generalmickey.com or email info@generalmickey.com. Anyone interested in attending is urged to fill in their details on the web page to receive updates.