



## Pre-Public Exams

Next Monday, Years 11, 12 and 13 begin these practice exams, often referred to as Mocks. The aim is to allow the students to experience the exams as they will be in the summer. This is more important than ever this year as we have new exams in some subjects, most notably English and Maths GCSE. Over the next few years the government is changing most subjects to end of course exams only, which means more written papers and less coursework. For these new courses we do not have last year's papers to use as a guide so there is a degree of uncertainty, but we have some sample papers to use and hope that the students get as accurate an experience as possible.

The timetable for these exams has been issued to students and is also available on our website: go to the Students section and External Exam Information.

In recent years we have then had a Results Day for Year 11 and a Parents Evening the same day. We are doing so again this year, on 10 January, but extending this to Years 12 and 13.

## Scarves

Fashions change constantly and we occasionally have to clarify our uniform requirements accordingly. This winter we have had a new issue of scarves being worn in and around school, some of which have been the size of large wraps. Students have been reminded this week that they should not wear these during the day, and neither should they wear over-sized cardigans instead of a coat. I would request parents support with this issue.

## Parents Evening – Years 10-13

Thank you to the many parents that attended on Tuesday. The feedback was very positive. I appreciate that it was not possible for every parent to see every teacher: if there are any particular concerns that you have they may be sent to reception and they will be forwarded to the relevant teacher, who will respond in due course.

The dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

- 10 January: Years 11, 12 and 13
- 28 March: Years 8 and 9
- 23 May: Years 7 & 10

## Rochester House Mass

Yesterday we celebrated the second of our annual House Masses. My thanks to Father Jeffrey for saying the Mass for us, and to the students who sang, read and otherwise contributed to the service. As Luke explained last week, this Mass also marked the end of the Year of Mercy.



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## Yellow Day

Rochester House raised over £800 last week, a very commendable effort given the atrocious weather. The open mic session at lunchtime was not only enjoyable but a useful attraction while it rained heavily outside. Unfortunately the non-uniform aspect of the day caused a few issues as some students came to school without the correct equipment, timetables and PE kit. We will therefore review how we do this in future.

Because of the timing of this day, and with Advent so close, we were not able to support Children in Need this year. I am aware that students want to be involved with good causes and support charities but I need to balance this with the need to only make reasonable demands on their generosity.

The remaining House days for this year are 8 February (Red Day), 27 March (Green Day) and 5 May (Blue Day).

*Sean Hayes*

**Academic Tutoring  
For this week – Year 8**

## SEND Policy Review

The parent consultation on the draft SEND policy will now take place on Monday 12 December. Please remember to feedback your thoughts on the current policy by 2 December.

## Year 10 Trip to Hunstanton

32 students went, it was very cold and wet and windy but they all enjoyed holding a starfish and special kudos goes to Lilah Cook who was not afraid to pick up the moody crab. We all watched the cutest otters get fed breakfast and I think everyone fell in love with them. They learnt a lot about the sea creature we are exploring in our art projects, Pamela even learnt that the sea is tidal and that it comes in AND goes out! After spending lots of money in the gift shop, we all went out onto the beach to search for sea shells and photo opportunities where we all got very chilly. So despite the cold, we all had an excellent trip with exemplary behaviour from everyone.

Thanks guys ☺

Ms Guppy



## Learning Support Pantomime Visit

We are taking some of our children to the pantomime, as a reward for their hard work in Learning Support this year. Letters have been sent to the parents of students involved; please make sure you send the permission slip back to school as soon as possible.

## Learning Support Parent Drop-in: Year 7

A quick reminder that there will be an opportunity for parents of students in Year 7 with Special Educational Needs to drop into school on Monday, 28 November from 3.30 – 4.30pm. This will provide the opportunity to ask any questions and also discuss the learning pathways for the year ahead. Parents should have already received a letter notifying them that their child has been placed on the SEND register.

## Year 8 Day Trip to the Opal Coast

The Languages faculty is offering Year 8s the opportunity to go on a day trip to France on Monday 17 July 2017. Letters were handed out during French lessons last week. Please return the slip to Student Services by Wednesday 30 November to secure a place for your child.

## Krazy Kat Theatre Company

We are looking forward to welcoming the Krazy Kat Theatre Company on Monday 28 November, who will be performing 'Rapunzel and her witch' to primary school children with a Hearing Impairment from all over Peterborough. This is an exciting way to launch St John Fisher School's new status as a specialist Hub for Hearing Impairment – more details on the performance and the hub next week.

**krazykattheatrecompany**

## Referee's workshop

Sixth Form and Year 11 students enjoyed a referee's workshop with FIFA and Premier league referee Craig Pawson. Craig conducted a question and answer session where he talked about the joys of refereeing at Old Trafford or Wembley in front of 70-80,000 fans. Craig also talked about the perils of refereeing a Serbia v Albania game when a drone flew onto the pitch during a game. Craig then completed a practical workshop with Year 11 Sport Studies students giving tips on what it takes to become a successful referee. All of the students gained a huge amount from the sessions.



## Christmas card competition

We are delighted to announce the winners of our Christmas card competition.... They are....

Sabina Strug – Year 9

Urte Cibityte – Year 9

Erin O'Shea – Year 9

Congratulations to you all.

Ms Guppy