



## Busy, busy, busy

We have come back from a well-earned break to a very busy time of year. This week we have had Year 10 students on Work Experience, Years 11, 12 and 13 sitting Pre-Public Exams, Ash Wednesday and a visiting author. And if that wasn't enough today is a Focus Day with all sorts of different activities taking place. So perhaps the holiday was well timed to prepare us for this range of events. It is always better to be busy than idle and I trust that the students will make the most of these variations on their normal timetable.

## National Issues

Education continues to feature in the national news, mainly as the realities of funding cuts are coming to be better understood. We are just beginning work on next year's budget and as this progresses I will keep you informed as appropriate.

*Sean Hayes*

## Lent News

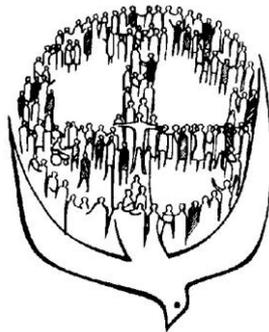
We are now in the season of Lent, the 40 days of reflection and prayer leading up to the celebration of Easter.

On Wednesday we marked the beginning of this season through our Ash Wednesday services, and those who wished, received the ashes on their foreheads

to show their willingness to start this journey.

Here at St John Fisher we continue to try to mark Lent through the act of raising money for our four House Charities. Each form will be asked to undertake a fundraising activity and all of the money they manage to collect will be put together with the other forms in their House to go to their specific charity. This year Pope Francis has called for Christians to abandon "the love of money" that leads to indifference towards others, which we will do our best to answer.

During lent, as part of our preparations for the celebration of Easter, we will also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This is so that we can enter the season of Easter having been renewed and ready to meet the risen Christ at this time.



## Music News

SJF Musicians have been chosen to represent the school in a musical performance in Kingsgate on 30 March to take part in a celebration of Peterborough's cultural diversity. The Banding Together Project is a collaboration between Peterborough Music Hub and The National Youth Jazz Collective engaging up to 120 young people from 4 schools in creative music making and performance. Participants have begun work with workshop leaders and professional musicians from The National Youth Jazz Collective in a series of three in-school workshops. Inspired by cultural diversity they will collaboratively create a new work for performance to 1500 of their peers. *Mr McCoy*



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## Duke of Edinburgh

Over forty year 10 students attended a recent D of E presentation and we have recruited several Bronze candidates.

As there were so many students who attended this session there may well be some students who think they are too late to register or who have forgotten to register.

It is not too late.

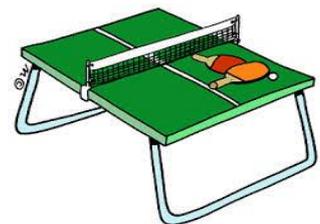
The new D of E group have started this Tuesday 7 February after school and have already decided their planned activities. This group will soon be preparing for 2 walking expeditions that are planned for May and June.

For further information please see the D of E noticeboard in the Humanities/English corridor or contact myself. *Mr Jones*



## Table Tennis News

Many congratulations to Jakub Kurowski who recently won the Cambridgeshire Tennis Table Championship. Jakub has automatically qualified for the national championships taking place in Birmingham.



## Year 10 GCSE Drama

Our Year 10 Drama students have been exploring the artist 'Banksy' and the idea of letting go of demons.



## Dance Academy

Dance Academy is on Tuesday lunchtimes. Students are currently choreographing a Contemporary Dance piece to 'Clown'. They work extremely hard and the dance so far is really engaging. They are pushing themselves really hard with challenging and complex choreography.



## Multi-faith Service

On Wednesday 8 February, we were part of a group of students from St John Fisher, who joined a multi-faith service at Peterborough Cathedral organised by the Peterborough Interfaith Council. We read passages from both the Quran and from the Beatitudes, joined by an all-girls Muslim school, Iqra Academy. Iqra Academy is a fairly small school based in Bretton, and when we went for the practise the staff and students were hospitable and made us feel welcome.



Also at the service, we were joined by different religious groups and received an insight into how important their religion is to them. We witnessed a Church of England Primary School demonstrating the importance of dance to Hindus and also a Sikh group highlighting the significance of music to their religion. Overall, the experience of the service was extremely inspiring and brought us together as a community, in harmony even though we were not of the same faiths. We were left with the message, "An attack on one faith is an attack on all faiths," reminding us to stand together even in the darkest of times. Erin & Urte

## Fundraising

Recently Mueen Kabir brought in homemade cakes and treats to sell to students in aid of Syrian Orphans.

## Year 9 - Academic Tutoring 6 March to 10 March

## Email Competition

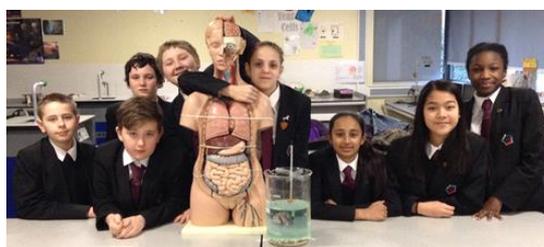
Don't forget there's still time to enter the draw for an iPad Mini. To enter the competition you need to send an email to: [attendance@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk](mailto:attendance@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk) with your child's name and form in the email. The subject should be: **Email competition**. The draw will take place before Easter.

The first form to have a reply for every student will have their names added to the prize draw more than once, and so will the first house to do so, increasing the chance of success. *Mr Karia, Assistant Headteacher*

## Science Club

Year 7 and 8 Science club runs every Thursday lunch time, at 1:30pm, in room 308. All year 7 and 8 students are welcome. All students who attend receive a Science Reward Stamp and an Extra-curricular Loyalty stamp.

*Miss Hayes*



A couple of quotes from the Science Club are below:  
Science club is really fun. We learn different things every week but in a fun way. This year we made DNA, put different metals in flames, we tried to hatch sea monkeys, we've done competitions, and we've tested different circuits. Science club has been really helpful because it's made me learn things in a fun way.

Zainab Hussain - Year 8

This year Miss Hayes has been running a science club on Thursday lunchtimes. We have done cool and fun experiments that have been both successful and unsuccessful. Our first project was about making protection for an egg and Miss Hayes threw it outside to see how good it was. Myself, Julena, Jenae and Zainab won the egg competition. We hope that more people can join us to do challenges and experiments.  
Xyzany Valmonte - Year 8