



## Chinese Visitors

Last Friday we hosted a group of students and their teachers from Gold Apple School in Shanghai. This is now an annual fixture in our calendar and is part of the Connecting Classrooms Project in conjunction with Jack Hunt School. The students were very enthusiastic and eager to see what life was like in a British school. They enjoyed lessons which were new to them, like French, and shared some of their skills with our students, such as calligraphy. A very big thank you to our students who partnered them on the day and made them feel at home: they were very grateful and we had a very nice Thank You letter afterwards.

## Welcome to Year 7 Students

On Wednesday we welcomed the students who will be joining us in September. This year we are oversubscribed and there is now a waiting list for places, which is very good news for the school as an indication of how popular we have become, but means it is even more important that applications for places are made correctly and on time. This is likely to continue for the next few years so we will make an extra effort next term to ensure that parents are aware.

## Welcome to Year 12 Students

Yesterday we welcomed the students who will be joining us in September, and again this year there were several from other schools as well as those that have just finished Year 11 here. Changes to A level courses have meant that every minute of available time has to be used, and so this year we have given the students work to take away which needs to be completed before the start of term in September.

The other change this year is that students will formally enrol for Sixth Form on **Monday 5 September**, the staff training day, rather than Wednesday 7 September, which is the date that Year 7 begin.

## Governors

Have you ever thought about becoming a governor of our school? All governors share a corporate responsibility for the educational standards of the school by providing a supportive challenge to the Headteacher and the staff. Other matters important to a large organisation are also covered. To give you a flavour the following were discussed at our recent meeting:

Whether the time was right for the school to become an academy – it was decided that the school should continue to work in co-operation with other schools, especially the other nearby Catholic schools but as yet there was no financial or educational standards benefit for becoming an academy. The situation would be regularly monitored.

Child Protection and Safeguarding – we received a report on the procedures and outcomes for pupils in our school. The governors are pleased that these are well-established and approved by Ofsted and the local authority.

There were also the regular reports on Curriculum, Finance and Personnel.

If you feel you would like to make a contribution to the school and community by being a Governor, we currently have two vacancies for Foundation Governors. Foundation Governors are appointed by the bishop with specific responsibility to maintain the Catholic ethos of the school, although all governors contribute to this. A Foundation Governor therefore must be a practising Catholic and will need the support of her/his parish priest. In the first instance let the Headteacher, Mr Hayes, know. You will be asked to complete a form and have it supported by your parish priest. The final appointment, however, rests with the Bishop.

*Paul Rossi, Chair of Governors*

## Next Week

This is a very busy time of year and is set to continue next week when the Army Cadets will be attending their annual camp, the Year 10 Geography students will be on their field trip to Wales, Year 9 will be attending the Careers Fair and on Tuesday we have our Celebration of Achievement Evening.

As we have Focus Days, Sports Day and St John Fisher Day to fit into the following week, we will also be holding our Celebration Assemblies next week, starting with Beverley on Wednesday.

*Sean Hayes*

## Spelling Bee Success!

The annual inter-school's spelling bee was another roaring success this week when it was held here at St John Fisher Catholic High School on Tuesday 5 July. Key Stage 3 students from three other schools: Thomas Deacon Academy, Ormiston Bushfield Academy and City of Peterborough Academy, joined students from St John Fisher to take part in the spelling bee. It was once again a close contest.

The first round was the group round where four students from each school battled against the clock and had only two minutes to spell as many words correctly as they could. It was very close with only one word between first and second place!

The final results were as follows:

Fourth Place: Ormiston Bushfield Academy  
Third Place: St John Fisher School  
Second Place: City of Peterborough Academy  
First Place: Thomas Deacon Academy

Well done to all the students who took part and congratulations to the winners, Thomas Deacon Academy.

The next round was the race to become the best individual speller from across all three schools. After two gruelling rounds, spellers from TDA, CPA and SJF all took part. It was a tense round lasting over ten minutes. Eventually, after a battle between the last two standing, Renita from St John Fisher and Mahfuza from Thomas Deacon Academy, the title went to Mahfuza from Thomas Deacon Academy who spelled 'government' correctly to go on and win the title of Spelling Bee Champion.



A special mention goes to those students from St John Fisher who battled to win spelling bee contests earlier in the year in order to qualify for the inter-school's competition. Those students are Renita Pereira, Sami Mohammadi, Chiko Manuel, Brooke Muncey, Nicole Portugal and Khijir Hadi. Well done and congratulations to all students who took part from across all four schools. We'll see you next year!

*Miss Green*

## Maths Book Sale

The maths department is selling KS3, GCSE and A-level textbooks, revision guides, workbooks and practise papers. All at a bargain £1 each! Available at lunchtimes and afterschool. Hurry before they go! *Miss Young*

## HEG Residential Trip

On 14 and 15 June, three of our year 10 students went on a residential to a university. Matt Diston leads these residentials and said this: "I'm delighted to say that Bruna, Rafael and Mohammed engaged with every element of the programme with enthusiasm and a fantastic attitude. They seized every opportunity and made a real effort to integrate with the attendees from other schools during all the practical, social and academic activities we lined up for them. Grafham Water was particular wet and windy this year, but all three of them climbed, swung, swam, paddled and crawled through mud. At no point was there any negativity from them and they were a real pleasure to work with from start to finish. They did the University, St John Fisher High School and themselves great credit and I am confident that they have returned home with an overwhelmingly positive and inspirational experience."

Well done Bruna Goncalves, Rafael Rodrigues and Mohammed Dhanji!  
*Mrs Wilmore*

## Eid Mubarak

Eid-ul-Fitr ('festival of breaking fast'), the most important festival in the Muslim calendar to mark the end of the Holy month of Ramadan, was celebrated on Wednesday 6 July 2016.

This is a time - once the fast of Ramadan has been completed - for making gifts to the poor (the charity of the fast, Zakat-ul-Fitr, must be paid before the communal Eid prayer takes place). It is especially a time for new clothes, good food and presents for children. Families get together and contact friends, especially those who live far away. The community assembles for Eid prayer and a sermon at its mosques. The traditional greeting is 'Eid Mubarak' - 'a happy and blessed Eid'.

*Mr Akbar*

## Walk to Rio

After a good weather week, scores have gone up considerably - as a school we have just passed Madrid... but the furthest an individual house has reached is Exeter! Results are currently as follows:

Rochester 353,600m      Beverley 316,400m  
Westminster 261,400m      Cambridge 245,800m

We are in the last two weeks now, so let's see how close we can get.  
*Mrs Fountain*

## The Big Show

Thank you to everyone who visited The Big Show last Friday. Our Year 12 artists (Annie Barfield, Adheela Ghouss, Stanzy Noronha and Jodie Paling) did a fantastic job meeting and greeting, keeping an eye on fragile exhibits and discussing their own portfolios.

We had students of all ages bringing parents, siblings, cousins and grandparents to see their work and the feedback was very positive. Parents appreciated the opportunity to see what their child had been doing all year and the year 9 and 10 students found it useful to see the competition below them and the expectation on them to perform equally as well in Year 11. Standards were set!

*Ms Guppy*