



The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place this week (18 – 25 January) which is an international Christian observance remembered every year by Christians of all denominations. The week is an invitation to discuss and reflect together what it means to be one Church in the world, both in terms of our journey to unity and our mission to the world itself.

Pope Francis is quoted as saying “Father, may we be one so that the world may believe you sent me”, and also that “Christian unity was the work of the Holy Spirit, which means Christians need to pray together in a spiritual ecumenism, an ecumenism of prayer.”

We remember our Christian brothers and sisters around the world as we pray:

Lord Jesus, Lord of wholeness, your prayer for unity amongst your disciples has fallen on closed ears and on hard hearts. Forgive us our closed ears, forgive us our hard hearts which perpetuate suspicion, prejudice and division: forgive us our fractured mission. Open our hearts, eyes and minds to your love and truth within all Christian people and strengthen in us the resolve to work to restore the unity of your Church and your creation to the glory of your name. Amen.

Tomorrow

This week's newsletter is being issued a day early because of the Focus Day activities tomorrow. A reminder that instead of going to normal registration students should report as follows:

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|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Year 7 | Retreat (Sports Hall) |
| Year 8 | Kitchen Chemistry (Science) |
| Year 9 | Visit to Anglia Ruskin University |
| Year 10 | Work Skills Challenge (Hall) |
| Year 11 | Maths Revision Workshops (Maths) |
| Sixth Form | Work Skills (Atrium) |

Holocaust Memorial Day

This annual event is being marked next Wednesday in Cathedral Square and then St John's Church. Our students will again be taking part and our head boy and girl will be introducing the church service. Please do come to the square if you are able to that morning.

Student Grants

I usually only comment on government policy that directly affects our students while they are at school, but was very disappointed to read over the weekend that the government has decided to abolish maintenance grants for poorer students. This seems to me to be very regrettable as it will mean the students who would previously have been eligible for these grants will now leave university with even more debt – because they are to be offered additional loans instead.

As a school we encourage every student to aim high and consider university. It is not for everyone, and we appreciate that there is a considerable expense incurred by taking a degree, but nevertheless we ensure that every student is able to make the right decision when the time comes. For this reason we are taking Year 9 students to Cambridge University tomorrow, as we did last year, and we will continue to also provide quality advice on apprenticeships and further education so that students can make informed choices.

Year 10 Behaviour

Last week some Year 10 students sat external exams in Music and Sports Studies, potentially their first proper exams, and ones that are part of their final result. Afterwards the invigilators commented on the exemplary behaviour of the students involved, saying that both groups were impeccable. This is really good to hear and I feel is worth shouting about in the newsletter. Very well done!

2015 GCSE Certificates

These will again be available for collection this afternoon from 4pm in The Atrium. Apologies to those students who did not receive an invitation to the previous opportunity. A level certificates will be available on Monday 21 March at the same time.

Sean Hayes



Our school Twitter account is
@sjfpeterborough

Please follow us to ensure you have the latest news and announcements.

Overdue Library Books

Please ensure that library books are returned to the library on or before the due date. Lost book(s) will require a contribution of £5.00 towards the cost of a replacement. Letters to students who have overdue books have been sent home with the students today.



Half Term Activities

Vivacity run Club Viva at the Regional Fitness Centre, Hampton Leisure Centre and Jack Hunt pool during half term, which puts on a variety of activities aimed at 4 – 12 year olds. Any parents with Year 7 and primary age students may be interested in looking at what they have to offer. They are also able to offer additional support for any students with mild to moderate learning difficulties at Jack Hunt Pool. You can find more details on their website: <http://www.vivacity-peterborough.com/event/let-club-viva-bring-your-childs-imagination-to-life>.

Peterborough Regional College is running a series of taster sessions during half term aimed at students considering their post-16 choices. Any Year 11 students who have not made a final decision about a college course, but know that they want to pursue a vocational course may like to book a couple of sessions in order to help them make the right choice. You can book via their website:

<http://www.peterborough.ac.uk/events/tasters/> or speak to Miss Wilson for further details.

Year 11 PPE results

Year 11 students received their PPE results on the morning of 12 January. They received them in a similar way to which they will receive the real results in August. There were some very happy students and some that looked rather worried! Staff are working hard in lessons and giving up time outside of lessons to help students improve on their PPE performance. There will be a timetable of Intervention Sessions on offer at the School handed out at the Year 11 Parents' Evening. The next session of PPEs will run from 23 February 2016 so students can put into practise the improvements they have made.

Year 11 Positively Mad Day

Following the PPE results Year 11 students spent the day off timetable. Half of the day was spent working with an outside presenter from a company called *Positively Mad* on a session titled *Exam Buster*. It has been designed to help students with revision techniques, specifically improving memory skills and how to best prepare for the stress of exams. It was a lively session with some very interesting ideas for memory skills; I certainly learnt a lot!

Students spent the rest of the day on Careers based activities. They have all now logged onto Unifrog, which is a website that allows them to look at University Courses and Apprenticeship Opportunities to help with planning their next steps. The Skills Service also came in to deliver a CV writing workshop which was very productive.

Mrs Gilligan

The Little Shop of Horrors

7.00 pm

Wednesday 10 February

Thursday 11 February

Tickets available from Student Services

£5 - Adults

£3 - Students/Concessions

Blood and Organ Donation

On Tuesday 19 January, sixth form students listened to a presentation from two NHS representatives about blood and organ donation. The aim was to inform students about what it means, how to become a donor and why this helps people. It was an impartial presentation which reinforced that each person should consider and think for themselves whether to become a donor. It also stressed the importance of students talking to their families and doing their own research before making a decision.

Mrs Wilmore

Sports News

Last week the Under 16 Boys were involved in the Basketball finals. The team stormed to the top of their group undefeated which meant they qualified for the finals night. They played Bushfield in the Semi Finals. This was a tough test but the team started excellently taking an early lead through Gilson Santos' 3 pointer. After the first quarter the scores were level 11-11. Unfortunately a crazy 2 minute spell ruined the team chances of progressing with Bushfield scoring 8 points without reply. The boys battled back with more 3 pointers from Gilson, with Mantas and Paulo also scoring well. Unfortunately it was not enough and the team lost 36-27. Bushfield went on to win the competition.

Sports Clubs

We have some exciting new sports clubs starting this term. Luke Kennedy and ex-student Jones De Sousa are running Boxercise training with Year 10 as well as an after school club every Wednesday in the Sports Hall. The girls are entered into the City Gymnastics competition - training is Monday and Friday lunchtimes. We also have Rugby and Girls Boxing starting soon as well as Cricket training on a Monday with a number of fixtures due to start next week. Please see a member of the PE Staff for more details.

Mr Plane

Year 9 Options Evening

Tuesday 26 January at 7.00 pm