



Curriculum & Assessment Changes

There are many changes to our education system that are being phased in over the next few years. I have referred to these previously in the newsletter but now that the process is underway I fear that there could be more disruption and confusion than had previously been considered. I therefore intend to outline some of the main changes here and then give some more details for certain year groups over the next few weeks.

Performance Tables: Progress 8 becomes the new headline measure this summer. It will be a decimal number and if positive this means our students made more progress than others nationally (as happened last summer with the old Value Added measure). The tables will also include the average attainment of each student ('Attainment 8'), the percentage that achieved a grade C in English and Maths, and the percentage that 'passed' the EBacc.

The 'Good Pass': one of the above new measures will only be used for 2016. The new GCSE courses are already being taught to Year 10 in Maths and English and so the results will be given using the new number grades (9-1), where a grade 4 is equivalent to the current C. Last summer the government decided that from next year what they deem a 'good pass' will be a grade 5. This means the tables next year will report the percentage achieving a grade 5 in English and Maths. It is regrettable that the government is determined to not increase the number of students they will allow to do this.

New courses: I mention new GCSEs above but A levels are also changing. More subjects are due to change to the new courses from this coming September but disappointingly many have yet to be approved. Schools were promised that they would be ready in plenty of time to allow teachers to prepare and there is growing concern that if any are not approved by Easter it will add an additional burden on staff. We will do the best we can for our students and we will have the reassurance that this situation is the same for all schools, but it shouldn't be like this.

'Life After Levels': since 1988 we have been using National Curriculum Levels to report students' achievement. The government has decided that a standard system is no longer required and left it to each school to invent their own. The potential for confusion is obvious, but we are now working on this. It is likely that we will, from September, use the new GCSE grades in Key Stage 3 as well as Key Stage 4, mainly as we feel this will be less confusing for students and parents.

Headteachers' Conference

Today and tomorrow I am attending this national conference in Birmingham; perhaps it is appropriate that I have written this week about the raft of changes that are coming. We will hear from Sir Michael Willshaw, head of Ofsted, and Nicky Morgan, Secretary of State for Education, among others. There is usually reference to this event in the national news but if there is anything relevant to report back I will do so in next week's newsletter.



Year of Mercy Door

I explained last week about our Door, which was introduced in assemblies and was used yesterday for Reconciliation. During the year we will have this graphic in the newsletter as a reminder of the Year of Mercy.

Sean Hayes

National Citizen Service

Year 11 students had an Assembly this week from the National Citizen Service (NCS), encouraging them to sign up for the scheme during the summer holidays. Many of our current Sixth Form students have participated in this and have gained a lot from the experience.

Students will get the opportunity to participate in a residential course, learn skills connected with budgeting and also have the chance to develop and carry out a social impact project in the local community.

Many students completed an expression of interest and the team from NCS will be back on Wednesday 9 March to answer any questions.

The cost is funded by the government, with students being asked to make a small contribution of £25 if they sign up before the end of March. Bursaries are also available for certain students.

Students took home information for parents, so please take the time to read it and find out more. Further details can also be found from the NCS website: <http://www.ncsyes.co.uk/>.

Miss Wilson

Weekly Mass

A reminder that Mass is held in our Chapel every Tuesday morning at 8.45. Why not make it part of your Lent commitment?

Beverley House Charity update

We recently received a lovely letter from EducAid that I would like to share with you. Miriam, the founder and leader, sent her thanks for our continued support and of course our donation of £500! Last year the Ebola epidemic hit Sierra Leone, where EducAid focuses its work, very hard. The founders of EducAid have asked me to pass on their complete and heartfelt gratitude for such a well needed and large amount of money. If you donated, helped out during the day or are a parent who supported this day, then please accept this note of thanks, it really will make a huge difference to the students out in Sierra Leone.

We have also spoken to Peterborough Hospital's Early Pregnancy Unit, who are full of thanks and appreciation that a local school managed to raise such a fantastic amount to donate to their work. They have invited us to go and see first hand just how much donations like ours make a difference; an offer we will be taking up. Thank you again for your support in raising this amount. We look forward to having as successful a day next year!

Mr J Hayes

Peterborough Drama Festival

Good luck to the Year 10 Drama students who are competing in this year's Peterborough Drama Festival over the weekend. Break a leg!

Mr Burgess

Yasoda Thapa Natalia Ciborowska
Julia Piotrowska

Sports News

Last week the Under 13 football team took on Stanground in their first football fixture of the year. The game was a thriller. The boys took a while to find their feet in the first half and found themselves 3-1 down. However, a sterling second half comeback saw us end the match winning 6-4. Gedimanis Kozik scored a hat trick, Stanislavsk Lacko bagged 2 with the other goal coming from Ricardo Santos. The boys showed great team spirit and never stopped working for each other throughout the game, they fully deserved their win. Well done to all involved.

Mr Plane

~~ Keep the Date ~~

Year 11 Prom

Friday 24 June 2016 : 7.00 pm

Hollywood meets Bollywood

Tickets available soon from Student Services

CCF Promotions

Congratulations to the following Cadets for being made up to Lance Corporal:

LCpl Galus LCpl Speechley
LCpl Pinkowski LCpl Oliveira
LCpl De Paolo

The process consisted of a rigorous interview with Major Chris Thompson, 2Lt Davis and UO Reid. St John Fisher Catholic High School is the first school in the city to promote cadets under the Cadet Expansion Programme and this is testament to the hard work and leadership qualities shown by our students. Congratulations to you all.

The Student World Fair

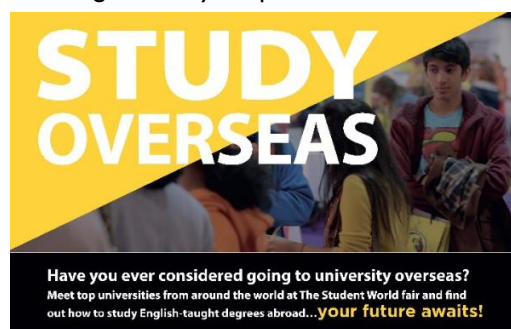
Saturday 19 March

The Student World Fair is a free event where students can speak to representatives from top universities in USA, Canada, Australia and Europe, attend seminars provided by governments such as the USA and learn about exciting opportunities available for British students. More and more British students are studying overseas and we would like to make you aware of the benefits.

Things you might not know about studying abroad:

- Tuition is free in most of Northern Europe or considerably cheaper than the UK eg £1400 in the Netherlands.
- Scholarships and bursaries are available in the USA.
- There are over 1500 undergraduate programmes taught in English across Europe.
- Students can develop valuable employability skills in an international context which will prepare them for working in a global economy

Students who wish to attend the event should register at www.thestudentworld.com/event for their free tickets. Register early as spaces are limited.



LONDON FAIR

Saturday 19th March 2016
10.30am - 4pm

The Emirates Stadium
Hornsey Rd, London N7 7AJ

