



Welcome back

We start the new school year in a strong position. Our exam results this summer were very good, and especially at A level; we are fully staffed, and we have a waiting list for places in Year 7.

The Sixth Form did remarkably well in their exams this summer, averaging a grade B across all subjects and with a 100% pass rate. I believe that all the students who wished to proceed to university have secured places and know that the vast majority of these got their first choice. Some chose to do an apprenticeship and others to begin working, but whichever route they have taken I wish them all well with their future education and careers.

The GCSE results also appear to be very pleasing. I say 'appear' because with the changes to courses and progress measures we need to wait for national data towards the end of the month to be sure. However, there were a lot of smiles on results day and no big disappointments, so we are optimistic. We have had some early indications about our Maths and English results – which were the first of the new GCSEs – and these suggest that our students made better progress than others nationally. Confirmation of this is expected around the end of the month and I will share this via a future newsletter.

Welcome

I would like to welcome all the new students who have joined the school this week, both in Year 7 and in other years, including Year 12. I hope that you will enjoy your time here and make new friends. Do make the most of the opportunities that we provide: as Father Jeffrey reminded us at Mass on Monday, this is "not a dress rehearsal". This is the real thing and you should grab opportunities with both hands. We do not want you to wish afterwards that you had done more with these few years.

I am also pleased to welcome the following new staff who are joining us this week: **Jodie Bartle** (PE), **James Chesham** (English), **Audriee Ennin-Mensah** (Music Subject Leader), **Michelle Harris** (Science), **Zainia James**, (History and RE), **Jack Marcham** (Science), **Miguel Kirwan** (Geography), **Emmeline Moins** (French) and **Jasmine Northover** (English). I hope that these people all enjoy working here and bring new ideas and approaches to share.

It is especially pleasing that we are again fully staffed with subject specialists in a period of great difficulty nationally with recruitment of teachers.

School Cup

As we went into the final week of last year it was very close between Westminster and Cambridge for the School Cup. As is often the case, Sports Day decided the issue and Cambridge won for the second year running, but by the narrowest of margins. Commiserations to Westminster who so nearly made it.



The new competition is already underway with Year 7 taking part in three competitions on Wednesday. Will Cambridge make it a hat-trick this year – and join Beverley in winning three times in a row – or will it be a third time for Westminster, or will Rochester break their duck? All is to play for.

Senior Staff Changes

As we begin the new academic year I have made some changes to the roles of the senior leadership team. Mr Reilly is assuming the role of Head of Sixth Form and Mrs Wilmore is assuming responsibility for Teaching & Learning. Their other responsibilities and those of the rest of the team remain unchanged. Mrs Ahmed continues as Student Support Officer for the Sixth Form.

Education Sunday

This weekend the church holds its annual Education Sunday when we pray for our Catholic schools and colleges and all who attend them or work in them. We began this new academic year with a joint Mass on Monday for the staff of our school, St Thomas More, and Sacred Heart, which was celebrated by Father Jeffrey from St Luke's. It is important that we come together for this annual event to pray together and focus on our mission to educate.



*I remember my first teacher, that woman, that teacher I had when I was six years old, in first grade. I have never forgotten her. She is why I loved school. I visited throughout her life, until she passed away...
Pope Francis to students and teachers in Italy, 2014*

Uniform

Nothing has emphasised the new school year better than the sight of the students in their new uniforms. The changes have made a significant difference to their appearance and we hope that it will be easier for staff to check uniform. Although we gave many months' notice of the change we understand that there were some supply issues last week which Chroma Sports have worked hard to resolve. We have therefore been lenient with students who did not have completely correct uniform this week but are expecting all to be correctly dressed from Monday.

Weekly Newsletter

A reminder that this weekly newsletter is our main communication with home. A paper copy is issued to students every Friday morning and one is emailed to parents if we have a valid email address. Please do read it so that you are aware of what is happening in school and any important messages. We do use Twitter to tweet items of news as well and you can follow us at [@sjfpeterborough](https://twitter.com/sjfpeterborough). The newsletter is also available on the website where previous editions can also be viewed.

Graduation News

Congratulations to Hannah Nawaz and Kirsty Macintosh who have been awarded First Class Honours degrees. Hannah's is a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Science from Westminster University. She was also awarded with an Excellence Prize of £1000 for Outstanding Academic Achievement last year, having topped her peer group. She is now part of the group representing the university in IGEM - International Genetic Engineering competition - working on antibiotic resistance. Kirsty's degree is in Musical Theatre from West London University and she has also landed the Lead role in The Lion King for 6 months in Hong Kong. We would like to share news of other successful past students. Please let us know and we will publish in the newsletter.

Sean Hayes

Music Theory Results

Congratulations to the following on recent successes:

Sam Maxwell Grade 6: Merit
Wanessa Zerrella Grade 6: Merit
Charlotte Pollard Grade 6: Pass
Erin O'Shea Grade 5: Distinction (95%)
Emmi Pollard Grade 5: Pass.



High School Musical

Last term we had the amazing performance of High School Musical and we even had a standing ovation! From laughs to tears and guest appearances from Mr Cayley, Mrs Khan and Mr Akbar the show was such a success and the students did St John Fisher proud. Ivo Ribeiro and Charlie Stokes took the lead roles of Troy and Gabriella with Sam Maxwell and Endija Miltina playing their arch enemies Ryan and Sharpay. The whole cast was absolutely terrific and we are extremely proud of every single one of them. Well done to everybody involved, we are looking forward to what this year will bring already.
Mrs Young, Head of Faculty



Technology Faculty News

Last year was very busy in Technology with lots going on and all students working so hard. There was some wonderful Art work and some creative ideas in DT. Food had a cook along and produced some delicious dishes. In Computing and Business Studies we had really good success on ECDL and in BTEC at Level 3. We congratulate all our students in Year 11, 12 and 13 on their results.

We had a final Focus Day with Year 8, who were doing activities based around summer holidays and we hope they really enjoyed the day.

This term, we are launching a STEM club. This will be for a small number of students, so keep your eyes open for information. There will be things to make and competitions to join. For those of you keen to learn programming, there will be programming club opportunities and the Arts Council will be working hard to produce some fantastic events.

Miss Griffin, Head of Faculty

Key Dates

Important dates for the year will be included in next week's newsletter.