



More recognition

I wrote recently about positive coverage we had received in the media for both our inclusion in this year's Parliamentary Review and for our 2017 exam results. I was surprised at the weekend to see that we were also mentioned in the national education paper, *Schools Week*, as one of the top five schools in the country to benefit from the change to the way in which schools are assessed.

TOP 5 WINNERS

Fullhurst Community School

Holy Family Catholic Academy

St John Fisher Catholic High School

Djanogly City Academy

Harris Academy Upper Norwood

I was aware that the previous system of ranking schools on raw results (grades C and above) did not accurately reflect the difference that we make, and that the new system, introduced last year, which ranks schools on the amount of progress that students make (Progress 8) was a better way of judging us, but it seems that we are one of the schools that has gained the most by this change.

It was certainly good to see us in the national press in this way.

Yellow Day

Congratulations to Rochester House on a superb Yellow Day yesterday. We don't yet have a final figure for the amount raised but know that a huge effort went into the day. Well done.

Parents Evening – Years 7 & 10

This will be on Tuesday 7 November from 2.30 to 6.30pm. Letters have been sent to parents with further details and online appointments may now be made.

Sean Hayes



House Points

Westminster	4251
Cambridge	3583
Beverley	3526
Rochester	3200

Brilliant Club

Last Wednesday, twelve Year 8 students visited the University of East Anglia to find out about university life and how and why people choose to study there. They had a tour of the university and learnt about all the wonderful and (sometimes bizarre) clubs and societies that students can join. They also discovered that there are around 37,000 different courses that students can study at universities in the UK so it can be a very hard choice to decide what to take! They also had a university-style tutorial and tried to determine whether stars would float in the bath. They will have further tutorials in school in the coming weeks and try to come up with an answer to this very difficult question! We will keep you posted!

**Academic
Tutoring
Year 11
30 October to
10 November**



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All Saints

To mark the Feast Day of All Saints on Wednesday, 1 November, we will be celebrating Mass in the Main Hall for any student who wishes to attend.

Mass will start at 8:45am, so students will need to register in their form room before making their way to the hall with their coats and bags. Mass should finish at approximately 9:20am, so there will be extended tutor time that day.

Sixth Form Taster Day: 9 November 17

All year 11 students will have a taster day of Post 16 education on Thursday, 9 November 2017. This is to support their knowledge and understanding of sixth form courses and pathways to help them with their sixth form options that they are making at the moment. Year 12 and 13 will not be required to attend as they will be given a study day in preparation for their pre public examinations which begin on the week commencing 20 November 2017.

Year 11 are to dress in business wear on this day and will be given the opportunity to have break and lunch time in the Sixth Form common room and study areas so they can have a real taste of sixth form life.

Some students will be attending Peterborough Regional College to experience the opportunities they have at that institution.

FOCUS DAY - FRIDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2017

Year 7: Day of the Dead

Year 7 had an exciting day looking at the Day of the Dead with the Technology Faculty. Following an introductory presentation, they split into groups to complete a rotation of 3 activities. They created animations in IT, clay mask pots in Art and made skeleton puppets in DT. Looking at the work that was completed, it was clear that Year 7 put a great deal of effort into the activities. Thank you to Year 7 for making it such a good day and to all the members of staff who helped students and led activities.

Year 8: Focus Day Visit to Duxford

Year 8 accompanied by staff from the Humanities Department had a great day of learning at the IWM Duxford which tells the story of the impact of aviation on the nature of war and on people's lives. Set within Britain's best-preserved Second World War fighter station, Duxford's seven impressive hangars filled with extraordinary collections and state-of-the-art exhibitions allowed us to go on an unforgettable journey through times of war and peace.

Student's favourite experiences were going on Concorde, the world's only supersonic passenger airliner and riding a second world war dogfight simulator. The fly-past by both the second world war Spitfire, as flown by Duxford's own hero Douglas Bader; and the elegant aerobatics of the modern Apache attack helicopter were often incidental to students' rush to get into the next hangar to see some of the massive American bombers and sleek European fighter jets.

Year 9: Spanish Day

Bienvenidos al mundo hispanohablante. Year 9 had a day of fun-filled activities to discover the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Some students did research on countries where Spanish is spoken and presented their findings as a poster. Others became masterchefs at preparing polvorones de canela, a sweet sugar cookie. For our more artistic students, we had mask making and Picasso-style portrait making. Finally, some students spent a lesson discussing different types of music. It was a great introduction to the Spanish-speaking world and should students want to learn more, they can attend the Spanish club every Thursday at lunchtime in room 205.

Year 10: Healthy Relationships

The RE department delivered compelling presentations on the topic of healthy relationships between men and women and boys and girls. We set out to make a real difference in preparing pupils for adulthood and enabling them to take better care of themselves and future partners.

The church teaches us that relationship and sex education (SRE) is part of the mission of Catholic schools to educate the whole person and should be carried out as part of the holistic education which

seeks to form as well as inform young people in preparation for adult life.

Pupils were invited to reflect on the nature of healthy and unhealthy relationships by examining factors that lead to both. Every person reflecting the image and likeness of God deserves to be loved and cherished. We set out to present the Church's vision of human wholeness whilst recognising the contemporary context in which we live today.

Year 11: Focus Day

Year 11 spent the day engaged in a variety of activities that aimed to get them thinking about the future and how they can aim high. A motivational speaker came in to speak to the students about harnessing their potential and improving study skills in order to attain the best grades they could at GCSE. The English department also worked with students, focusing on language for success, thinking about how students could sell themselves to future employers. The day finished with an opportunity for students to reflect on employability skills and then find out more about post 16 pathways, in preparation for the options process, which was due to be launched the next week. Students enjoyed the opportunity to do something different and it helped them link the current focus on exams with future careers aspirations and goals.

SJF House Competitions

"have life and have it abundantly"

John 10:10

The Bench Ball final took place this week and each house was really well supported by their friends. The final competing teams were R4, W6, B2 and C5. It was a close finish, but the winners were.....

Westminster

Well done Westminster you played amazingly as a team and did your house proud.



Coming up after half term:

**Limbo
and
Pumpkin Carving**