



Merry Christmas

Although we will only be celebrating the Third Sunday in Advent this weekend, this is the final newsletter of this term so it is my opportunity to wish everyone a blessed and holy Christmas.

We have our final Celebration Assembly on Monday and then on Tuesday we will have our two Christmas liturgies before sitting down to dinner together. This is always a special day when we can relax and enjoy each other's company and celebrate our successes this term. This year we have the added bonus of these being recognised last week by Ofsted. I do hope that you have read the report and are as pleased with it as I am.

End and start of term

Students will be dismissed at 2pm on Tuesday. Anyone that needs to wait until later for any reasons should go to the library.



3RD SUNDAY OF Advent

The Spring Term begins on **Wednesday 3 January** at the usual time and we will continue with Week 1 of the timetable.

Exam Certificates

On Thursday 4 January we welcome back students who sat GCSE and A level exams in the summer as they come to collect their certificates. This is a very informal event but it is always good to see those that have left and hear how they are getting on. Please pass on this message to anyone that ought to be there. It will be held in the Atrium between 4-5pm.

Farewell

At the end of term we say farewell to three members of staff: **Zahid Akbar**, *Computing teacher*, **Asta Baranauskiene**, *Teaching Assistant*, and **Eliza Devanny**, *Head of Beverley House*. I would like to thank them for their work in the school and wish them well in their new positions.

When we return in January, we welcome **Mike Horden** to teach Computing and **Hannah Littleton** to teach Art and Textiles. **Emma Udeaja** will take over as Head of Beverley House.

Merry Christmas

Sean Hayes

Election Day

Today we are electing our Head Boy & Girl and their deputies. We have had some excellent speeches in the hustings assemblies from strong candidates. The results will be in the next newsletter.

Opal Coast Day Trip – 17 July 2018

The trip is now all booked up so 53 students (and 5 lucky members of staff) will be leaving very early on Tuesday 17 July 2018 for a day visit to the North of France. We are planning a visit to a French bakery, slightly different from last year, and we will have more time on the beach (weather permitting). If you are booked on the trip, remember to make payments. The deadline for the full amount will be Friday, 20 April 2018. Note that you must bring a photocopy of a valid passport (or ID card for EU nationals) to Ms Rodriguez as soon as possible.

Sleeping Beauty

Once again, Year 10 students are going to the Pantomime at the Key Theatre to sample the delights of a traditional Christmas institution! We are expecting them to get involved, booing the baddy, exchanging greetings with the Dame, singing with the audience and generally getting into the swing. We might even have a few converts to this popular English entertainment genre – three million tickets were sold around the country last year!

Portuguese Youth Pastor

On Friday afternoon, Years 10 and 11 Portuguese students will be visited by the Youth Pastor from the Portuguese church. This is following a youth event in October which attracted 100 young people from the city.

Mrs Roberts



RE Department Update

We are thrilled with the feedback from Ofsted and extremely proud of Dr Karangi, whose lesson and pupils were specifically mentioned in the report. Well done to all. The department now looks forward to the Diocesan Section 48 Inspection later this year, which will specifically focus on Religious Education and Catholic life in the school. We were graded outstanding in the last inspection in 2013 and look forward to celebrating our students' achievements across the school. With Mr Reilly as the driving force behind A level RE and Dr Karangi and I delivering Philosophy and Ethics, we continue to achieve some of the very highest A level results in the country.

Students in Years 9 to 11 are adapting to the challenges the new RS GCSE syllabus is presenting. It certainly is tough. I want to thank those Year 11 pupils whose hard work saw some excellent results in the first PPE. Dedication to regular independent revision at home is so crucial for success. Mr. Reilly, Mrs Khan, Dr Karangi and I are always happy to provide extra tuition at lunch and/or after school if required. We encourage pupils to attend.

Mrs Khan agreed to oversee general RE for the Sixth Form. I very much believe in the value of involving pupils in planning at all levels. She has already assembled a student working party to help her develop her ideas. Speakers have been arranged and she is in the middle of looking at possible social projects they might undertake in the New Year. Dr Karangi once again continues working with Learning Leaders across the whole school and Miss James is delivering some KS3 lessons for us. By all accounts she is doing a wonderful job. I often hear pupils talk about how much they enjoy her lessons.

We love trying different approaches to helping our pupils get the very most out of our RE lessons. My classes are currently helping me trial an approach based on William Glasser's choice theory. He maintains that pupils retain 10% of what they read, 20% of what they hear, 30% of what they see, 50% of what they see and hear, 70% of what they discuss, 80% of what they experience and 95% of what they teach others. The students have been so mature, patient and enthusiastic. Divided into groups, students were given new information without any explanation. They were then required to deliver a 15 minute lesson to the rest of the class. They came up with amazing ways of explaining their sections to the rest of the class and made fantastic worksheets to support. I simply stood by and observed them take control of their own learning. Inspirational stuff! Finally we wish all of our students and their families a very happy and blessed Christmas. We hope 2018 will be our best year yet. Thanks.

Miss O' Connor

**Academic Tutoring -
Year 7
11 December to 5 January**

Table Tennis Tournament

I took a number of students in Years 7 - 11 to the Table Tennis tournament at King's School on Monday 4 and 11 December 2017. Jakub Kurowski and Meran Hersh were runners up in the Doubles and Jakub Kurowski won the Singles tournament. Well done!
Mr Akbar



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Football News

The Year 9 football team beat Queen Katherine Academy 3-2 last week – Abelino Lopes, Ruben Simoes and Diogo Costa with the goals. Goalkeeper Ronnie Jeeves made some saves which registered in the 'worldy' category. Well done to all involved!

SJF House Competitions

"have life and have it abundantly"

John 10:10

Deal or No Deal has been a resounding success and the students have all been supporting their own Houses extremely well.

Last week saw Cambridge compete with Mrs Maudsley taking 40 house points. She was so lucky as she only had '0' in her box; well done Cambridge.



Tuesday saw the turn of Rochester who won an amazing 100 house points. Mr Akbar continued to repeat "No Deal" throughout and when the final box was opened he won 100 points. Westminster and Beverley play next. What a great end to the year.