



Happy New Year

We welcome in a new year having celebrated the joy of Christmas. I hope that everyone returns to school feeling relaxed and refreshed and ready for the new term. It seems odd writing '2018' and makes me realise that we are heading towards the end of the second decade of the century – time seems to go so fast on occasions. The start of a new year is a moment to pause and reflect on what has gone before, and remember people who are not with us in this new year, but also to look forward with optimism to what is to come. I have often encouraged students to make New Year's Resolutions as it is a good time to take stock and decide to aim to be a better person in some way in the coming year.

We return to school in the middle of Christmastide. This comes to an end on Sunday when we celebrate the Feast of The Epiphany: the arrival of the Three Kings, or Wise Men, who came to pay homage to the infant Jesus. Once this celebration is over we remove our decorations and pack them away until next year.



Exam Certificates

Yesterday afternoon we welcomed back students who sat GCSE and A level exams in the summer as they came to collect their certificates. This informal event is always good and a chance to see those that have left and hear how they are getting on. It was pleasing to hear that those who have left have good memories of their time at the school and the friendships that they made, but also good to know that they feel they have made the right decisions about the next stage of their lives. Our very best wishes to all of last year's certificate recipients. Your excellent results were a big factor in our recent Ofsted inspection.

Election Results

The results of our senior student elections are:

Head Boy: **Glenver Miranda**

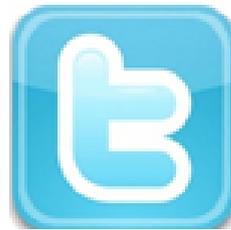
Head Girl: **Vanessa Abankwa**

Deputy Head Boy: **Mohammed Dhanji**

Deputy Head Girl **Yasoda Thapa**.

Congratulations! Thank you to the other candidates for offering your services and for excellent hustings speeches in assemblies.

My thanks to our retiring team: Sam Maxwell, Afifa Zaman, Alasdair Ager, and Suriya Gul. You did sterling work and it is much appreciated.



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Results Day & Parents Evening

Next Tuesday, Years 11-13 will receive PPE results. This will take place first thing in the morning in the same way as the real results will be issued in the summer. We find that students are able to associate the results more with the real ones if we issue them in this way.

To coincide with the issuing of results, we have Parents Evening for Years 11-13 on the same day, starting at 2.30pm. Please make use of this occasion to discuss results and agree actions that would be appropriate to improve on the real ones in the summer. **Students will be dismissed at 2pm on Tuesday 9 January.**

Coloured Scarves

A reminder that coloured scarves and wraps are not part of our uniform and should not be worn to school.

Sean Hayes

**Academic Tutoring
Year 11
8 January to 19 January**

An Insight into the future

On Saturday 9 December, 10 Sixth Form students (Glenver Miranda, Iwona Baranska, Mohammed Dhanji, Asiyah Hakeem, Nassim Rhaiem, Khalisah Ali, Hamzah Hussain, Yasoda Thapa, Neringa Kolesnikovaite, and Basera Nasserri) went on a trip to the University of Nottingham, as part of the futures program.



**University of
Nottingham**

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

The futures program is ran by Teach First, and it helps students with university options as well as university applications. These 10 students along with 900 other students from across the UK, were chosen to be part of this program. On this trip the students were given a campus tour of the university, the university was massive and had a wide range of courses available, that can suit a wide range of students. Some students said that it was similar to the University of Cambridge, it had lots of café and the Library was huge. There were also a lot of clubs for all kinds of hobbies, such as the Harry Potter club or the Star Wars club. After being given a campus tour, the students then proceeded to the workshop, where they were introduced to what the program is, and they were also given the chance to meet the other students that were there. They did a few activities which involved getting to know the other students more, by asking about their interests, and they also got to know the leader of their group Fiona Rutherford. Overall the day was amazing, and it really gave them an insight as to what it would be like to go to university, and also how hard they would have to work to get there. Other events planned are a visit to Birmingham University and a residential school during the Easter holidays at Oxford / Cambridge University.

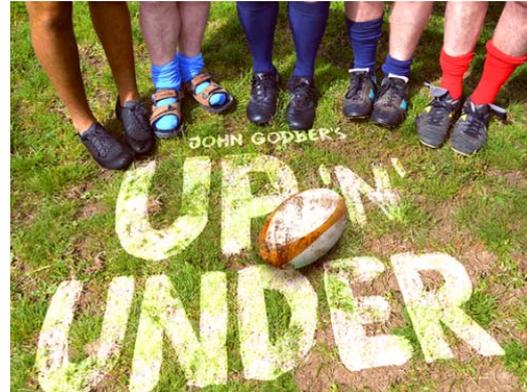
Mohammed Dhanji – Year 12

Myriad Project

At the end of last term we were lucky enough to have a team of researchers from Oxford University visiting school to carry out some research with our Years 7 and 8 students. The Myriad (My Resilience in Adolescence) team are currently embarking on a three year project, involving over 100 schools in the UK, which will evaluate the effectiveness of mindfulness teaching on student well-being. 'Mindfulness' is currently talked about a lot in connection with student resilience and well-being, and there are many educational packages that purport to teach it, however up until now no-one has carried out any sort of research to assess its impact. We are delighted to be taking part in this trial, supporting this important research, and look forward to more visits from the team during the next three years.

Deaf-friendly Theatre Performance

Fingersmith Productions are bringing a deaf-friendly performance of John Godber's Up and Under to the Key Theatre during half term, 12 – 14 February.



This theatre company work with both hearing and deaf actors and their performances are signed. They have been to Peterborough before and received very good feedback. If anyone is interested you can contact the Key Theatre for further information: www.vivacity-peterborough.com/vivacity-venues/the-key-theatre.

Sensory Garden

As you are aware, our school works in partnership with Peterborough Local Authority to provide a Secondary Hearing Hub for Peterborough; we offer specialist provision for students with a hearing impairment and a support service to other schools in Peterborough. As part of the development of this work we want to design and build a Sensory Garden in school. This would be for the use of our own students and would also be open to other primary schools and the local community to use.



The intention would be for it to be a learning space and outdoor classroom, as well as a garden. During the next two terms we want to raise money towards building this garden. If any parent has contacts at work that we could use, or offers of donated equipment or time we would be most grateful. Our fundraising begins this weekend with Mr Davis climbing Mount Snowdon with the intention of donating any monies raised to the Sensory Garden fund. For more information or to get involved please contact Miss Wilson.