



## Disappointing News

I have written in previous newsletters about two issues which are in the news this week, and are linked. The first is the need to open some more Catholic schools across the country, but especially in our diocese. This has not been possible since 2010 when the government introduced new legislation that said that any new school had to be a Free School, and that any faith Free School had to limit places for students of that faith to 50% of those available. The Catholic Church cannot turn away Catholic children when there are places and so there have been no new schools.

In their manifesto last year the Conservative party said that they would remove this cap on places and so we were hopeful that we could progress with our application for a new primary school in Peterborough. Disappointingly the government have now announced that they will not be doing this. They have held out the possibility of allowing new Voluntary Aided schools to be opened but we don't yet know the conditions that would be put on this.

In the same announcement they have said that £50m will be provided to allow existing grammar schools to expand. This is against a backdrop of a very concerning situation regarding funding for all schools: it seems very regrettable that money can be found for some schools while the majority are having to find ways to make further cuts.

## Key Dates for Year 11

Two key dates for Year 11 students have changed from their original date. The most recent communications have been correct, but I will repeat them again just to be sure everyone knows. The Leavers' Assembly will be on **Monday 18 June** at 9am. We will issue more information the week before. For those students continuing into Year 12, your **Sixth Form Induction Day** is Wednesday 20 June.

The **Year 11 Prom** is still on Friday 22 June, as originally planned.

## Westminster House Mass

On Monday morning we have the annual Mass for Westminster, which Father Jeffrey will celebrate. My thanks to him and to all those involved in preparing or taking part in the Mass.

**Academic Tutoring  
Year 9: 21 May to 8 June**

## Parents' Evening

Please remember that **students will be dismissed at 2pm** on Tuesday afternoon because we have Parents' Evening for Years 7, 10 and 12.

The Geography GCSE exam is not affected by this and will continue as scheduled.

*Sean Hayes*

## Success in the NEACO Mentoring Project

Five Year 9 students have been taking part in a NEACO mentoring project, as previously highlighted in the newsletter. The



students visited Cambridge University for a lecture and then embarked on an academic project entitled "Representations in Visual Media". They completed seven weekly sessions in school and wrote a blogpost on this subject for submission to the academic supervising the project. Highly able students from across East Anglia participated in this project and we are delighted to tell you that the winning blogpost was submitted by our very own Georgina Bowden. She received a certificate and prize in assembly on Tuesday along with certificates for the other four students who took part: Elizabeth Lukenuk, Talia Buckley, Zahra Ravji and Xyzanyn Valmonte. The girls have impressed everyone involved with their maturity, intelligence and good humour. Georgina's winning blogpost is published below.

## The Five Rs - Reasoning

This week and next we are looking to reward students with merits for showing reason in and out of lessons.

To help you do this consider these few tips;

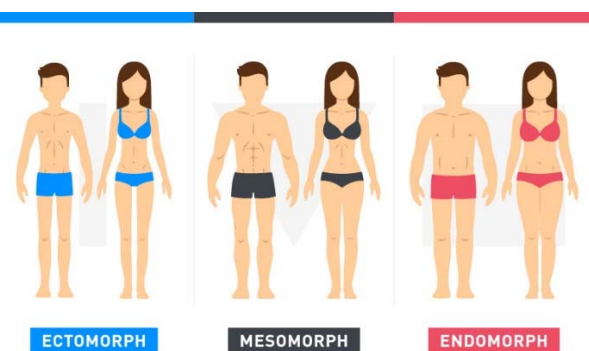
- I take time to plan
- I consider all evidence
- I approach problems logically
- I stop and think before I act
- I work things out on my own before I ask for help



## Do You Believe in the Ideal Body?

Do you ever look at someone and wish you were them? Has social media ever pressured you to look prettier or more handsome or even slimmer?

In society and on social media, you notice a lot of people who are often portrayed as perfect. This is because people like Kim Kardashian and Kylie Jenner have the bodies that everybody wants. They have large breasts, big butts and an hourglass figure. Many people are then pressured to have an unrealistic or unattainable body type. Expressing people's love for people like Kim Kardashian's and Kylie Jenner's body will make the person feel unaccepted and less loved than people with Kim Kardashian's and Kylie Jenner's figures.



However, some people nowadays don't care about their bodyweight or looks, and some people accept that. Although, some people still aren't accepting as others. They criticise them and ridicule them. This could lead to more thoughts about the person's body and how they look. I remember seeing a video about the worst things people had done. One of the examples was about a person being told they were so ugly by their ex, they eventually got plastic surgery. It's upsetting to see someone's thoughts being twisted due to an extended period of exposure to hate and negative words. I saw another video about a man making people believe one circle is bigger than the other. This goes to show when told/shown something for the first time, people will believe it. I also heard that people will believe the lies more than the truth. This also shows people can be more easily manipulated into thinking something else.

Advertising used to be very different. Normally there were slim, pretty/handsome, white people who starred in the advert. I also see a lot of different races and body types in adverts now. Many famous companies use a lot of different races and body types to empower people, and mainly women as we are highly morphed into something else in adverts/media. Some companies such as Nike, even though the body types don't vary that much, they have been more diverse lately. Some adverts used to be racist, either by accident or when racism was 'acceptable' in society. Such as times before the 20th century when white was portrayed as the superior race. As mentioned in the previous paragraph,

people are still more accepting yet some aren't. This is shown through social media more than in real life as it is easier to criticise someone online because you don't know them.



Now, the perfect body. When you read that, did you think of someone? Maybe superheroes? When we see superheroes advertised, normally they are fit and slim. They have unrealistic body types. The female superheroes are normally very beautiful, very slim and very seductive. The women normally wear clothing that shows a lot of their perfect bodies. With the men, they are very handsome and have chiselled faces and sculpted abs and muscles. They may wear a lot of clothing, but the illustrators make sure to show off their abs and muscles through the clothing. Overall, people shouldn't discriminate body types and not showing that people's bodies are imperfect. They also shouldn't judge people based on their appearance. What do you think?

By Georgina Bowden

## Activities Day

Students have now been allocated to an activity and will have received information about this today. Just a reminder that the trip money needs to be paid to Student Services by Friday 25 May in order to secure your child's place.



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## Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for a parent governor and will have a second from September. If you are interested in joining the governing body and will be the parent of a student here next year, please contact reception to arrange an appointment with Mr Hayes to find out more about what is involved, by Friday 8 June.