



St John Fisher News

25 May 2018

No. 370

Finances again

I have written in recent newsletters about the very tight financial situation that we find ourselves in this year, in common with many other schools. On Wednesday evening the Governors were able to set a budget for the new financial year – April 2018 to March 2019 – and so we are able to stay afloat for another year.

This has not been without a lot of angst and some difficult decisions, including this first black and white newsletter to save on printing costs. It is a coincidence that a government minister last week suggested that schools save money by photocopying less in colour.

We are aware that there has been talk on relaxing the public sector pay cap which has been in place for eight years now. This will be very welcome if it applies to teachers but if any pay award this year is not funded we will be looking for further savings as a result. Support staff have already had their pay award and it has not been funded.

Blue Day

Today we have the final house charity day of the year with Cambridge's Blue Day. It is a non-uniform day and tickets have again been sold in advance. Thank you to those who have organised additional activities and/or fundraising during the day: we will report on the amount raised after half term.



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.

Congratulations St Mary's

St Mary's Primary School in Ipswich celebrates its 60th Anniversary today with a Mass said by Bishop Alan. I will be representing our school at this event and will be inviting their headteacher to visit us next April when Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass for our 60th Anniversary.

Half Term Holiday

This is next week and the school will be closed apart from pre-arranged revision sessions for some exam classes, please see below. We return on Monday 4 June at the usual time, and this is Week 1 of the timetable.

Farewell Year 13

This morning Year 13 have their Leavers' Liturgy prior to going on study leave. There are many more exams to sit yet but this is our chance to all gather and for us to formally say farewell. Many of the group have been here for seven years, some only joined more recently. For all of them, we wish them well for their exams and the future and trust that they have enjoyed their time at the school.

Sean Hayes

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

KS3 exams

As mentioned in a previous newsletter KS3 exams start on 18 June 2018. For KS3 exams Maths, English, Science and French (Reading and Writing) will take place in the main exam hall and the rest will take place in normal lessons. Students have been e-mailed their exam timetable to tell them when these take place. Hard copies of Year 9 timetables have been issued today as Humanities PPEs will commence on 6 June. Years 7 and 8 will receive a hard copy of their timetable when we return after half term. Some subjects changed the dates of their PPEs to ensure a spread of exams for students and staff. The aim of the exams is to give staff and students an idea of current achievement and also to build up students' resilience in taking exams. The removal of coursework over recent years has meant that some Year 11 students have 25 or more exams for their GCSEs, so the more we can build our students from the start the better able they will be to cope with sitting public examinations.

Students have access to 1000s of resources on Doodle, and can use this as a starting point for their revision for all subjects. Teachers will also talk to students in lessons about suitable resources to support revision for their subjects.



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Deaf Awareness Week

Last week our Hearing Hub ran a number of events to raise deaf awareness in school. All students had the opportunity to learn British Sign Language during form time, and Mrs Helcoop even attempted it in Cambridge House Assembly! The Hub operated drop-in sessions every lunchtime with a focus on games linked to improving language and communication. We also screened the 'Silent Child' in the Dining Hall, which is an Oscar-winning short film about a young girl's attempts to learn to communicate through BSL and her family struggling to deal with her being deaf.

In addition a group of HI students went to Peterborough Tennis Club and took part in a deaf friendly tennis taster session; all had an amazing time and enjoyed the opportunity to try something new.

We were also pleased to formally recognise our two new Hub Ambassadors in assemblies. Magdalena and Elise have contributed so much to our Hub and have also played an important role in hosting students from other schools and developing the work that we do. Congratulations to them both.



Red Day Final Total!

We have been continuing to raise money after Red Day and now have a final total of £1009.93. We are so proud of all the Beverley Students for their continuous hard work. All the tutors and staff would like to say another big thank you to everyone who supported Beverley house on that day. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work on my first Charity day; what a great achievement! I hope to have many more days like this!

Mrs Udeaja

Children of Adam

On Sunday 20 May, the sixth formers who took part in the 24 hour sponsored fast, spent the afternoon distributing food to the local homeless with the charity, Children of Adam. They distributed food and met with people who are struggling greatly in the community. It was incredible to see how determined our students were to get involved. Vanessa Abankwa: "I think that this was a wonderful experience due to the fact that we were able to make a difference in people's lives and put smiles on their faces." Well done to all of the students involved.

Mrs Khan



Year 11 Half Term Revision Sessions

Subject	Date	Time	Teacher
History	Tues 29 May	10:00am- 12.30pm	Miss Cox
Maths Higher	Tues 29 May	1:00pm- 3:30pm	Mrs Gilligan (all Higher students welcome)
Science	Wed 30 May	9:00am- 1:00pm	Mrs Elliot
Maths Foundation	Wed 30 May	1.30pm- 4:00pm	Miss White
Media	Thursday 31 May	11:00am- 3:00pm	Miss Stevens



The Five Rs - Reasoning

Next week we will continue to reward students with merits for showing reason in and out of lessons. Here are a few tips to help you;

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.

