



Key Meetings

On each of the last two Friday's there have been meetings with key people. The first was with our MP, Fiona Onasanya, who met with myself and Darren Ayling, headteacher of King's School, to discuss issues that we wished to raise about education and especially in the Peterborough context. It was a very productive discussion and we were able to share our perspective on a range of items, including funding cuts, the excellent relationships between our city schools, and the particular demographic of our students. Ms Onasanya will be the guest of honour at our Celebration of Achievement evening in June.

The second meeting, last Friday, was with Sir David Carter, the National Schools Commissioner, who met with a larger group of secondary headteachers. This was also a valuable opportunity to share experiences and views of current education policy and how it affects our schools here in Peterborough. Sir David was very attentive and interested to hear what we had to say. He has been a very impressive National Commissioner, the first person to hold the post which was created following the appointment of Regional Schools Commissioners a few years ago. The meeting happened on the day that news broke of Sir David's retirement this summer: he was thanked for his work and wished well in his retirement. It is to be hoped that his replacement is able to continue the excellent work that he has done.

Next Week

Monday is a Bank Holiday so school is closed. Thursday is Ascension Day and so we will have Mass at the start of the day. For several years this feast has been celebrated on the following Sunday but it has now reverted to the Thursday.

Free School Meals

There was important information about changes to the entitlement to free school meals in last week's newsletter. If you missed this please take time to read it. Newsletters are available on our website, or you could request the information again from reception.

Newsletter

We are now issuing the newsletter directly to students via their Office 365 email accounts. This is in addition to providing a paper copy to take home and emailing it to parents who have given us an email address. This should make it easier to find and keep some of the important information that is included, such as key dates.



The National Online Safety Team have provided some advice for parents about the use of Snapchat. The guide informs parents about the dangers associated with the social media platform and how they can reduce the associated risks, including sexting, snap map and snap streaks. It is often the case that students are ahead of parents and teachers when it comes to social media and so I am sure that parents will welcome this information. It is rather too long to include in the newsletter so we have put a copy on the school website: it can be found in the E-Safety section of the Parent and Student areas. Please take the time to read what it says. We have also tweeted the details.

Sean Hayes

Celebrate Conference

The following is a letter to all parents and guardians from Hamish MacQueen, the Youth Director of the Diocese of East Anglia;

Dear Parent

I am writing to tell you about the Celebrate Conference (2-3 June) which the Diocesan Youth Service help run: It's a faith-filled, family friendly conference for children and their parents. It includes inspiring talks, workshops, praise and worship music, performing arts and opportunities for prayer. Bishop Alan will be joining us to celebrate Mass on one of the days.

There are four individually tailored programmes for young people of different ages, from Lower Primary right up to Sixth Form. Two of the programmes are run by our Ignite Team. There is also a room (full of toys!) for parents with babies and very young children where the talks from the main hall are relayed by video link.

Come and celebrate your faith! For more information and to book, please see www.celebrateconference.org and click on 'East Anglia' for more information.

Thanks.

**Academic Tutoring -
Year 12 & 13:
23 April to 4 May**

Futures Easter school

Futures is a university access programme for sixth-form pupils to improve their chances of attending one of the country's top 25 selective universities. Through day trips and a four-day residential Easter School, held at the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, they provide first-hand experience of higher education to help pupils make informed decisions about what they want to do next. During the Easter Holidays a group of Year 12 students had the opportunity to attend an Easter School at Oxford or Cambridge University. The Easter school which I attended was at Cambridge University, where I completed academic sessions on Biological Sciences / Zoology. The four day residential included talks on applying to competitive courses, an employability skills panel, society taster sessions and advice on coping with university life and managing money. We also had an enterprise challenge to complete within our groups which involved making our own university and there was a formal dinner held at the university. The whole experience was phenomenal, memorable and a real eye opener because it gave us an insight into the life of a student going to such a reputable University. There were many enjoyable moments, but one of the best parts of the experience was listening to the variety of accents from other students around the UK, which was extremely amusing!

Glenver Miranda, Year 12

Duke of Edinburgh's Award News Expedition 19 and 20 April

Last month saw our current batch of D of E Bronze participants go away for their Bronze practice expedition. This involved walking all day on Friday and Saturday with fully loaded rucksacks in unfamiliar territory using maps and compasses. The group set up camp near Rutland Water and cooked all their own meals - with not a pot noodle in sight!

They learnt to work together and deal with all manner of problems. They will be finally assessed on their expedition skills at the end of June. The skills they learn will set them in good stead for adult life.

Congratulations

All of our current D of E participants are presently contributing to our school community and the wider neighbourhood by being reading buddies, attending school clubs such as choir, drama, netball, dance and badminton clubs and several have volunteered to help out with local charities as well.

Our school community is very proud of our D of E participants. Well done.

Mr. Jones and the D of E Staff Team

School Council

The senior student leadership team including Glenver, Vanessa, Mohammed and Yasoda have completed a handful of ideas during their time. A few of these are:

• **Canteen suggestions:** We are changing dishes in the canteen based on student suggestions.

- **TED Talks:** Every Monday lunch times Year 12 students have been leading sessions and have been teaching younger years on various future career topics.
- **Reflectional Tasks:** As a team we have brought forth the idea of reflectional tasks for students who are persistently in after school detentions.
- **Office 365:** Our aim with this is to try and promote students to use their email accounts effectively and appropriately.

The ideas we are currently organising are as follows:

- **Great Get Together:** The intention of this is to involve students from various year groups to bring food and snacks to share together outside in the courtyard.
- **Movie Nights:** Our idea is to hold movie nights in the main hall after school for students who have made great improvements.
- **Improving Toilet Facilities:** Automatic air fresheners are also one of the ideas which we would like to be implemented in all student toilets.
- **Student Conference:** We are planning a students conference, which will be hosted and held in our school, on 10 July 2018.

The Five Rs - Reflection

This week and next we are looking to reward you with merits for being reflective in and out of lessons.

To help you do this consider these few tips;

I question my work

I check my work

I take on board and respond to my WWW, EBI

I learn from my mistakes

I stop and think before I respond



SJF House Competitions

"have life and have it abundantly"

John 10:10

Music Quiz Results

Last week saw the return of the music quiz and the winners were:

1st Cambridge

2nd Rochester

3rd Westminster

4th Beverley

This week has seen the **Bottle Flipping** competition with an excellent turn out from students supporting their house.

The winners were:

1st Westminster

2nd Cambridge

3rd Rochester

4th Beverley

Coming Soon.....Play Your Cards Right