



Headteacher Appointment

Governors have appointed **Kate Pereira** to succeed me as headteacher from the start of the summer term. Mrs Pereira is currently headteacher of St Benedict's Catholic School in Bury St Edmunds. She worked here previously as an Assistant Headteacher so knows the school and city well. We are fortunate to secure a serving headteacher for the position.

I will invite Mrs Pereira to introduce herself in a future newsletter; I am sure that she will visit the school several times before taking up her new position.

School Performance Tables

These usually appear in late December but the government has taken to publishing draft versions in October to help parents of children in Year 6 who are choosing a secondary school for their child. A version for 2018 was issued just before half term and I am delighted to report that we are again placed second in the city for GCSE results. This is the third year running that the headline Progress 8 measure has shown that our students make more progress up to GCSE level than every other school apart from King's. For some reason the A level data is not yet included so we do not know how we compare at Sixth Form.

It may be that this news has influenced parents' choices of school, or it may be other factors, but we had over 200 applications for next year's Year 7 by Wednesday's deadline: excellent news!

Attendance Figures

Unfortunately, the same performance tables also report attendance. You may have seen in the local paper that Peterborough secondary schools had 14% of students identified as 'persistently absent' last year. The figure for us is actually slightly worse than this, at 18.3%. The phrase 'persistently absent' is used for students who are absent for more than 10% of the term, and the government expects schools to take action where this is the case. This is the reason for us contacting parents when attendance falls below 93%, and we are expected to do this whether the absence is authorised or not. The press will often refer to unauthorised absence as 'truancy' but in reality we find that actual truancy is very rare; instead it is families taking holidays during term time or requesting absence and still taking it when it is not approved. I felt these tables were an ideal opportunity to explain why the approach to attendance is what it is. Please do all you can to ensure that your child is at school every day, as every absence matters.

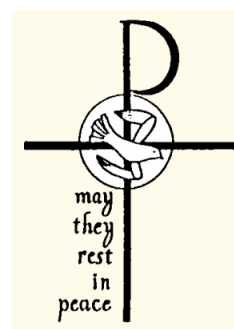


'A year of reading ... a lifetime of memories.'

All Saints and All Souls

Yesterday morning we had Mass to celebrate the Feast of All Saints when we commemorate all those special people who have been recognised by the church. This was the first time that their number included Pope Paul VI and Bishop Oscar Romero. These two were canonised last month: Pope Paul had overseen the work of the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, and Oscar Romero, who spoke out against the persecution of Catholics in El Salvador, was murdered while saying Mass in 1980.

Today, All Souls' Day, we move on to remembering those who have died and gone before us. The remainder of the month is a focus for those we have known and loved: it is good to spend a moment in thought and pray for people we miss. It is a happy coincidence that Remembrance Day falls in the same period: more on that next week.



Sean Hayes

Parents Evening

On Tuesday 6 November, Years 10 and 11 have their Parents Evening from 2.30pm - 6.30pm. Parents of students in these year groups are reminded to use the online booking system to make appointments with class teachers. It is particularly important for parents of Year 11 students to discuss progress before the PPEs begin on 19 November, while parents of those in Year 10 can find out about progress in individual courses as a follow up to the information evening in September.

Red Day

Congratulations to Beverley House on raising £888.50 on Red Day. All forms took part and offered a wide range of food and other activities, as well as organising the mufti day.

Diwali 2018

Happy Diwali to our students, staff and their families who are celebrating the festival of lights which this year falls on Wednesday, 7 November and the Hindu New Year is the following day on Thursday, 8 November - Sal Mubark!

Year 11 – The five Ps – Preparation

Over the next three weeks Year 11 students will be preparing for their first round of PPEs. These are an important indicator of how the students are progressing towards the Public Examinations in the summer.

Preparation is the key, even with a set of practice exams. It is important the students are able to practice the skills they will be need to use in the summer under examination conditions. Other things are equally as important; such as knowing what time the exam starts, being early enough to the exam to ensure a calm start and even knowing where they should be sitting. Timetables have been issued to all the students in Year 11 with this information. This is all part of the preparation.

“I don’t believe in luck, I believe in preparation.” – Bobby Knight

Focus Day

Year 7 - The Expressive Arts faculty welcomed Year 7 the theme being Sports Numeracy. They rotated around 4 activities: Football Dartboard, Calories Circuit, FootGolf and a classroom lesson looking at sugar content, calories and a healthy diet. Each activity was a house competition – on the dartboard students had to score the highest total; Calories Circuit students chose between a piece of fruit or a chocolate bar and had a competition to try and burn the most calories off in one session. As a group they managed to burn off the equivalent of a Big Mac – individually they struggled which highlighted the amount of calories in fast foods. On the astro turf 4 golf challenges were set up with each house looking to score the lowest score, we saw a number of fantastic hole in ones. Finally, during the classroom lesson students played a game of higher or lower when guessing the calorie content for different foods. Overall Year 7 were fantastic with Rochester house earning a great win, Westminster were a close second. Well done to all involved.

Year 8 - We went to the war museum and went around different places in the buildings. I really enjoyed going inside one of the giant planes. In every building we had 20 minutes to walk around and then go back to the teacher. We went to 3 big buildings and one of them had statues of what the war was like. There were bricks on the floor as well as fake blood. *Oliwia Gotkowitz – Y8*

Year 8 went to Duxford and we saw loads of replicas of planes and other stuff. We had a lot of fun. We even got to go inside a replica of a plane, it was crowded and cramped. We also went down some stairs and we saw some tanks and some replicas of trenches.

Arozo Hassan Zada – Y8

Year 9 - On Friday, Year 9 spent the day exploring energy and recycling. All students had fun making little houses made of yogurt pots and cardboard which they then used wrapping paper to decoupage. The results were fantastic and will make great little presents or decorations. They also spent time researching different types of energy and discussing which ones were best. We also had a visit from Matt from Tomorrow's Engineers. Students looked at what engineers did and were challenged to think of a brand new energy source. The highlight was to complete an electronic car and race it on a track. The challenge was to work out the amount

of charge to get the car the furthest and the position of the wheels to keep a straight line. It was great fun watching the cars running up and down the corridor. There is a competition on the back of the student booklets to design a new energy source, so get thinking! Thank you to Year 9 for taking part.

Year 10 - The Science Department ran a physics day for the Year 10 students focusing on space and energy. The day was inspired by the Soyuz spacecraft that took British astronaut Tim Peake to and from the international space station Soyuz is currently displayed at Peterborough Cathedral. Throughout the day students visited the exhibition in the cathedral; a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Students were lucky enough to see the museum of the Moon exhibition too - a 7 metre model of the Moon by UK artist Luke Jerram, suspended from the Cathedral ceiling.

Back in school, we invited Cambridge Science Museum to run a workshop on energy. Students were reminded of Newton's Laws of Motion with some memorable demonstrations(!) and then tasked to build a structure, very much like a giant marble run, transferring the energy of the marble into different stores – results were mixed with the marble having to be nudged at times but good fun had all round!!

Year 11 - We used this day to motivate students, support the development of study skills and improve their financial literacy. Students spent half the day in the hall with a motivational expert and claimed they were duly motivated. They then made a film about money which was a fantastic success as students contemplated a future without money, great training for adulthood! We hope to find a facility for you all to watch the films, which have been entered into a Bank of England competition.

Sixth Form - The Sixth form fully participated in a range of activities preparing them for their examinations as well as for University life. Many of the sessions were led by a team from the University Centre of Peterborough and the day included a visit to the UCP to have a lecture on finance and budgeting at University. The focus for the day for Year 13 was to complete their UCAS applications and using Mindfulness to cope with the strains and stresses of this important year. Year 12 started the process of thinking about what they aimed to do in the future as well learning key study skills to be successful in the Sixth form. Thank you to Mrs Ahmed, Miss Wilson and the English faculty for their support during the day.

Parish Social Night

St Peter & All Souls with the Community of Our Lady of Lourdes

at the Fleet, Old Fletton,

Friday 16 November 2018: 7.30pm - Late

Live music, finger buffet, bar and raffle.

Tickets £10 per person.