



A very busy week!

This week has been filled with various activities and trips aimed at enriching the Curriculum for our students and you can read about some of them below. The two Focus days were filled with a wide variety of opportunities for students, including learning about Space and a trip to the National Space museum, intensive deep learning in English Literature for Year 10 and preparation for life after 18 with Year 12 culminating in a visit to Anglia Ruskin University. The week continued with Sports Day yesterday and today we celebrated St John Fisher day with our usual liturgies and whole school barbeque. Thank you to the staff of St John Fisher for their hard work this week.

Staffing changes

We said goodbye today to Ms Polly Stewart who takes up post as Head of English at another school in September and to Ms Jasmine Northover who is moving abroad to teach English. We also say goodbye and good luck to Mr Mike Horden, ICT teacher who has another teaching post elsewhere and to Ms Kali Guo, one of our teaching assistants who is going to train to be a teacher. We wish them well and thank them for all they have given to the students at St John Fisher. In September we will be welcoming some new members of staff:

Jacinta Barnicoat - Head of English,
Claire Moore - Teacher of English,
John Clayton - Teacher of ICT
Laura Bowden - Teaching assistant
Wilhemina Assiamah - Trainee teacher of French
Karen Wilson - Trainee teacher of Science
Ebony Welch - Trainee teacher of History

End of Year

It has been an important and significant year for St John Fisher with the 60th Anniversary, the retirement of Mr Hayes and the change in Headship. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term here and thank you for your friendly welcome and your continued support of the school. I wish everybody a happy, safe summer break.

Kate Pereira



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Sensory Garden Fundraising News

Regular readers of our weekly newsletter will be aware that throughout this academic year we have been dedicating all our fundraising efforts to raising £10,000 to build a Sensory Garden. We are very proud to announce that the students have exceeded the target by raising a total of **£10,400**. This is an amazing achievement and is testament to the hard work and commitment to the project from every single member of our school community.



The idea of a Sensory Garden was inspired by our school's Hub for Hearing Impairment, which is a centre of specialist expertise, serving all schools in Peterborough. Our vision is to create an outdoor learning environment for all students in school and also offer this facility to students from around the city with a sensory impairment.

The design of the garden has been finalised and the students have already begun work on some sections; the Focus Day reports below outline some of the projects that are ongoing. During the summer holidays the landscaping work will be carried out and students will see a significant difference in the area from September. Over the next year we will plant up different parts of the garden and also embed the work within our school curriculum so all students have the opportunity to transform this space and learn outside. Thank you to our students and staff for all their hard work and thank you to parents who have supported this effort in many ways. There will be opportunities next year for people to visit the garden and see what we have achieved.



Focus Days

Monday, 15 July – Focus Day 3

This was an exciting day with many different activities taking place. The Science faculty took a large number of students to the National Space Centre in Leicester. The students had the opportunity to visit the six interactive galleries, a huge planetarium and the rocket tower.



The Year 7s who stayed in school had a STEM day linked to space, and engaged in projects such as building a rocket, researching a planet to visit and designing a vehicle to land safely on a planet's surface. Students enjoyed the opportunity to have a day of practical learning and focus in depth on one topic. It was particularly well chosen, given that this week commemorates the 50th anniversary of the first landing on the Moon.

Year 8 students were team building with the Maths Faculty. The year group were catapulted into 2095 and an apocalyptic scenario, with aliens invading. They had to use all their communication, leadership and team working skills to cross a river of lava, check for Psi powers, recreate the Eiffel tower and flush the ball. Thankfully all made it through, although some were slightly wetter than others!



Congratulations to Commando Group 5 who outperformed their peers. It was wonderful to see some students flourish and demonstrate their leadership talents – particularly notable were Elizabeth and Kiera, who formed an unlikely, but effective leadership team

Humanities and MFL shared Year 9. The Humanities staff took a large group to do some fieldwork in Wicksteed Park.



They improved their navigation skills as they found their way from one ride to another and were able to map the terrain from the top of the rollercoaster. Those students who stayed in school had a cultural and creative day linked to languages. They painted stones with greetings in different languages, wrote multi-lingual short stories in languages as diverse as Portuguese, Slovak and Punjabi and had a Spanish escape room activity in the afternoon.

The RE faculty took on the challenge of Year 10 and delivered a really thoughtful day of activities linked to relationships. As well as the usual discussion groups and debates, they also linked the day to art, exploring how relationships could be represented visually and using the work of different artists to inspire the students to describe their own relationships in a visual manner. The finished work was extremely powerful. Students also got creative in an activity that encouraged them to think about their relationships with our world and they re-used cardboard to create everyday objects, reflecting on the need to conserve and value the world in which we live.

The Sixth Form had a day of thinking about UCAS applications. Following a celebration assembly they had a presentation about post-18 options and then had the opportunity to work on their personal statements. Our partners from NEACO delivered a number of talks, including one on higher level and degree apprenticeships and students had time with staff to talk through their aspirations and really start to focus on creating the best university application they could.

Tuesday 16 July – Focus Day 4



Year 7s were with MFL for the day and attended a play performed both in French and English which was so entertaining and really enjoyable for all. Our very own Cardost Ali joined the cast and flew out on the spaceship, meeting an alien and performing for his classmates. Year 7s were also asked to produce their own multi-lingual stories and the work of Agata Nurijeva and Aiman Dad Azam in Year 7 was exceptional.

Year 8 spent the day working on activities connected with the sensory garden. The students worked really hard and by the end of the day they had built a crazy bug hotel, completed a spray paint project on two huge planters, made signs for the garden linked to the senses and the wildlife, made mobiles, researched and produced a presentation on sensory gardens and their benefits and experimented cooking with herbs and fruit, in preparation for using our own produce in the years to come.

Year 9 spent the day with Expressive Arts. They had two music workshops, including a guest from Peterborough Music Hub who delivered a workshop on body percussion. They also had a Drama workshop and the opportunity to play cricket in the Sports Hall, having been inspired by England's victory in the World Cup at the weekend.

Year 10 were with the English faculty, they spent the day focusing on revision of their GCSE literature texts. The faculty had come up with a creative way to consolidate their knowledge and revise quotes – the students prepared materials and then used them to create new classroom displays for next year. This means that every time they go into an English classroom they will be surrounded by vibrant displays, linked to their set texts and full of quotations to learn! A competitive element incentivised the students further, with a significant number giving up their lunchtime to continue with the work and be the winning group.

The Sixth Form visited Anglia Ruskin University to help them reflect on their options for post-18 education. They experienced tasters in three different subject areas: Business; Journalism and Nursing. Even those students who were not particularly interested in the three disciplines enjoyed having the opportunity to get a taste of university teaching and resources and think about the opportunities available to them.



Activities Day

Our second annual Activities Day took place on Wednesday. Students were first given their choice of activities back in February and since then a lot of hard work has gone into planning a range of activities to excite and engage students. We were pleased at how many trips went out of school. A group of students visited Warner Brothers Studios to go on the Harry Potter Tour – they had a 'wonderful' day. Students were able to look at the interior sets, including the potions room and Dumbledore's study, some even rode on a broomstick for the green screen experience. Others braved the Forbidden Forest and encountered a Dragon in Gringotts Vault. They went on the Hogwart's Express, shopped in Diagon Alley and drank their body weight in Butterbeer. The last room contained the model of Hogwarts castle, 'witch' was a fantastic way to end the experience – how could we sum it up? 'Absolutely wizard!'

A smaller group of students accompanied Dr Bottrill to Grafham Water, where, as usual, a cracking pace was set and they covered 11 miles and were back at school by 2.30pm! The highlight of the day was a lazy grass snake, which was approximately three feet in length. Other students went with Mrs Drummond to the Maize Maze – we were not able to lose any of them, however hard we tried. They enjoyed navigating through the Maze and also taking part in the other activities, enjoying the sunshine and the ice-creams.

The PE department took a group cycling to Rutland Water. It was a glorious day and thankfully all were able to cycle the distance – there were some sore posteriors at the end, but a great sense of achievement.



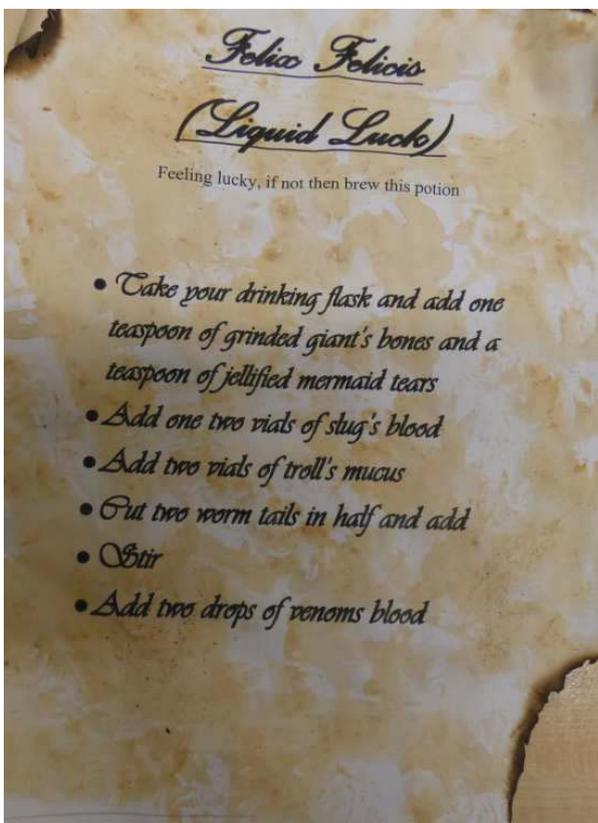
Mr Double led the activity that included a visit to the park, a picnic and then Laserquest.

The students had the venue to themselves and spent two hours on a lengthy mission, with great fun being had by all. Mrs Helcoop meanwhile led a very large group of students shopping in town and then to Showcase Cinemas. Students had the choice of watching Toy Story 4, Men in Black or Spiderman. They nearly cleaned the cinema out of popcorn and all enjoyed watching the films with their friends.

The final visit out was Mr O'Hara's paintballing expedition - that activity did what it said on the 'tin'.



There were also many events taking place in school. Students had a Netflix Day, and lounged in the Drama Studio with their friends. Others went to IT and were able to game with friends. Some spent the day with the art department and produced their own comic books. There were wonderful aromas emanating from the Food room as Mrs Elliott, Ms Essilfie and Mrs Udeaja cooked on a budget. The curry deserves a special mention as do the amazing meringues. Other students were based in the Study Centre and played with Lego and visited New Ark City Farm. Mrs Wilmore, Mrs Griffin and Miss James transformed the Art and DT department into Harry Potter World and students got to cook, make wands, produce potions and watch a film.



A great quote from Miss Griffin, which sums up the day for many: "This has been my favourite day of the whole year."

Octathlon Day

We held our Octathlon Day last week as part of our Sports Day celebrations. We saw some outstanding athletic performances from all participants. The morning session of 100m and 800m was particularly tough with a couple of students pushing themselves to the extreme.



We then had some tense throwing events especially in the shot put and javelin before finishing with the jumping events. There was a superb high jump competition with a number of athletes pushing each other to achieve their best. The event demonstrated great sportsmanship and teamwork throughout with all participants producing performances to be proud of.

The final results were:

- 1) Rochester
- 2) Westminster
- 3) Cambridge
- 4) Beverley

Humanities Visit to North Wales

Last week the Humanities faculty led a trip for students of all ages to North Wales. The group stayed in the Youth Hostel in Conwy which was an excellent base for the activities. The week began with a visit to Conwy Castle, which has fantastic views over the coastline and towards Snowdonia. Students even had the energy to bounce up Conwy mountain on the first evening. The visit also incorporated a day to Newborough Beach and Beaumaris Castle on Anglesey. They ventured into Snowdonia, walking at Cwm Idwal- the National Nature Reserve - and then visiting the honeypot village of Betws-y-coed. Students went to Llandudno where they conquered the Great Orme and wandered by the beach. They also visited Penrhyn Castle. Students were able to develop their geographical skills and historical knowledge as well as make new friends and develop their resilience in a new environment.



House Logos



After consultation with the Cambridge House Council and all Cambridge tutor groups we have unanimously voted to rebrand our house The Cambridge Challengers. Our new logo is a shield which embodies our house ethos. We have chosen a shield as "shields protect you". At the heart of our shield is a cross which symbolises Jesus' presence in our lives. At the centre of the cross is our original logo as this has been our identity since the creation of the four houses and the students felt that it was always important to have a link with the past and never forget our roots; for it is in knowing where we have come from that helps us to shape our future. Finally we have incorporated our original house motto 'Simply the Best' within a scroll at the edge of the shield, only this time in Latin; "Simpliciter Optimum". The students felt this was important as, if we are really going to 'live life to the full' then we need to be always challenging ourselves to do our very best.



We are Westminster Warriors! The process to rebrand the House was a collective one. We started with a ballot for the House name. Students were given a choice of four names and as a result there was a clear winner: we were to become Warriors! The new logo design was again a collaborative process; we wanted a design that represented the name as well as reflecting the Catholic ethos of the school. We selected a shield design which encompassed a stained glass cross through it. Two of the quarters have the letter W to represent Westminster Warriors. Skilful artwork from Austin Goodfellow, shows a tree representing growth and strength, which as a House we feel is important for all students. The final quarter has the helmet of our warrior. Our motto interlinks our name and design with a Catholic thread as it is taken from Corinthians 16:13 "Be on your guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong". Westminster are so proud of their new House name, logo and motto and look forward to its official launch in September.



We have chosen to be known as 'Beverley Believers!'. We believe that every one of our students have come that they can have life and have it to the full. And we encourage them to believe that they can achieve their full potential at SJF.

The symbol in our logos represents the following:
The circle represents eternity not contained within the circle. It goes beyond the circle, implying that the cross is the centrality of our faith and that its significance transcends eternity.

Dove  The dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit

Heart  The heart represents love

Book  The book represents the Word of God

Fish  The fish represents the food of life and learning.



Following a consultation with students and tutors, Rochester Raccoons emerged as our favoured name. Many students and staff collaborated on the final design of the logo, which we feel embodies our House's resilient nature.