



Ascension Day and Eid

This week has seen two great religious celebrations. The Islamic celebration of the end of Ramadan, Eid and Ascension Day for Christians, which was celebrated yesterday. Ascension Day celebrates the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven and Mass was celebrated in Parishes. Students have been learning about and reflecting on the Ascension through our daily thoughts in form time this week but due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to have a Mass in school. We wish our Muslim students and families a very Happy Eid.

Latest Government Announcements

As part of the Government's roadmap for ending the restrictions in the UK, the Prime Minister said that Stage 3 of the roadmap could go ahead from 17 May. However, for schools almost all restrictions are still in place with the exception of one recommendation on the guidance issued over the use of face coverings. However, it is guidance only. This means that individual schools have their own individual circumstances and risk assessments to keep students and staff safe. Although cases nationally have gone down, cases across Peterborough are still relatively high, especially in the 11 – 18 age group. Our own risk assessment on the use of face coverings shows that wearing a face covering in communal areas and corridors for staff and students has been crucial in preventing the COVID 19 virus from spreading between bubbles. We will keep this rule in place at least until half term and then review again. It is likely that this will continue up until Stage 4 of the Government's roadmap on 21 June. We have never insisted that students wear face coverings in lessons but have given students the choice to do so if they wish and most have chosen to do so. The Government does not recommend that students wear a face covering in lessons anymore but if a student feels that they need to then that is fine. Staff will continue to wear face coverings as they have been doing for now.



Newsletter

From today all school newsletters will be electronic only. This means that there will not be a paper copy handed to your child in form time anymore. A link to the newsletter will be sent to your contact e-mail address. Please note if we do not hold an email address for you, please visit our website to access the latest version of the newsletter:

<https://www.stjohnfisherschool.org.uk/newsletter/>

This was an idea that was proposed by the School Council in order to reduce our environmental footprint. My thanks to the Sixth Form leadership team in particular for their thorough presentation of their successful proposal, especially Tonyo and Kazim.

Kate Pereira



Sensory garden update

Once again on a mission, we, the Eco-warriors have been working extremely hard towards reviving our



sensory garden. With the contributions of our dedicated and enthusiastic team, we'll finish it in no time! We are currently digging ourselves a lovely little pond which will be decorated later on with lots of different flowers and plants to match the aesthetic of nature. This will hopefully be happening in the next couple of weeks, for which we are very excited! A special thanks goes to Miss James & some of our Sixth Formers for dedicating their time to contribute with the digging. Our working hours are from 3:15pm to 5:00pm every single Friday, so if you'd like to contribute or just see how it's going, we'll be located outside room 303.

Year 13 EPQ – Congratulations!

The EPQ (Extended Project

Qualification) is a year 13 option involving writing a dissertation on a subject chosen by each student. It is an excellent option, which builds both academic skills and confidence. It is also highly regarded by universities.

The EPQ requires determination, responsibility, independence and an inquiring mind and our EPQ students have clearly shown they have all of these skills. Please also read the item below from Erin O'Shea which provides information on the qualification from a student's perspective.

Well done team!

Mr Jones & Mrs Helcoop



Extended Project Qualification

Last week we finished and handed in our EPQ projects for marking, something myself and ten other year 13 students have been working on since September. The Extended Project Qualification consists of a dissertation on our chosen topics of around 5000 words, which we then delivered a presentation on to our assessor. One of my favourite things about the project was finding out which topics everyone else had chosen and learning more about those topics myself from them.

The EPQ has developed my confidence, in both presenting my project and in actually writing it. I have never been fond of essay-writing, my brain is definitely better with numbers, so I was worried about having to write long essays at university. Completing this project has shown me that I am capable and I know that I'm not the only one in the class who is surprised and proud of what they have achieved.

Our class overcame a lot to complete this project, as we went into lockdown after Christmas and some had to self-isolate as well. This made it quite hard to stay motivated, although we kept going and met our deadlines. Completing this project has massively improved my time management skills, as we were juggling the project with our three A levels.

I am glad that I completed my EPQ and would encourage students to do it if they can, it was a bumpy road at times but it is definitely worth it.

Erin O'Shea – Year 13

Level 3
Extended Project

Word of the Week

Descend

• verb

1. move or fall downwards.
"the aircraft began to descend"
- Similar: go down, come down, drop, fall, sink, subside
2. (of a road, path, or flight of steps) slope or lead downwards.
"a side road descended into the forest"
- Similar: slope, dip, slant, decline, go down, sink, fall away

The word of the week is 'Descend' as we celebrate Pentecost on Sunday 23 May which is a week on Sunday – The day the Holy Spirit descended onto the Disciples. Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter (the name comes from the Greek pentekoste, "fiftieth"). The Holy Spirit is the third part of the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that is the way Christians understand God.

Pentecost is a happy festival. Ministers in church often wear robes with red in the design as a symbol of the flames in which the Holy Spirit came to earth. The descending of the Holy Spirit is described in the Bible - **"They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."** Acts 2:3-4

