



Year 6 Transition

Students joining us in September into Year 7 had their transition activities this week. Mrs Reay led a virtual assembly on Thursday and students were given some transition activities to do at their primary school. We hope that this has given students an opportunity to think about starting secondary school in September and we look forward to meeting them all in person at the beginning of term.

COVID

Please support your son or daughter in taking two lateral flow tests per week at home. It is very important that this happens and that the results are recorded. We continue to have restrictions in school to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 including wearing face coverings, hand sanitiser and the one way system up until the end of term. From September we will be able to ease these restrictions.

Changes to School Restrictions

On Tuesday the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson outlined the plans for the easing of restrictions in schools. For us here at St John Fisher, this will happen from September. I have written to you all separately in a letter this week with more details about what to expect in September. We want to make this transition back to 'normal' as smooth as possible and I am sure you will support your child in doing this.

Eco Warriors and Blue Peter

Congratulations to our Eco Warriors who have achieved a Climate Hero award from Blue Peter! The school has received a certificate and each student involved has been awarded with a green Blue Peter badge and award in recognition of the amazing work they are doing to help the environment at school and in the local community.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This is a reminder to register your interest for this by **Friday, 16 July**. To sign up via the School Gateway app – click on 'Payments' and then select 'Duke of Edinburgh – register interest' / slide the toggle to the right and click 'ADD TO BASKET'. Finally, go to your Basket and click 'SAVE CHANGES' to provide your consent. Please note you will not be charged to register your child's interest.



Kate Pereira

Tall Ships Adventure: 21 - 25 June

Last week 10 sixth former students and 2 staff headed down to Portsmouth for an action packed week sailing around the Isle of Wight!

The first thing we had to do on arrival was a

Covid test and thankfully we were all negative. In total there were 12 from our school community and 4 crew. We were now in a "bubble" for the week on board which meant no masks! What a relief that was for us all!

The boat was the Challenger 4 weighing in at 56 tons, 72 foot long with a main mast of 93 foot. It has sailed around the world twice so it has a few miles on the clock! The mainsail alone weighed a hefty quarter of a ton!!!

Activities started immediately - we were split into 2 "watches" to watch or look after different jobs and areas of the boat. We quickly stored our rucksacks away in our separate cabins and got the ropes ready to sail. The whole boat was controlled expertly and very calmly by the "skipper" who was qualified as an "Ocean Master" the highest qualification sailors can achieve. He issued orders to his small crew and eventually to our team of trainee sailors.

A few hours later we arrived at Cowes on the Isle of Wight and moored up for the night.

The next day was an 8 and a half hour sail all the way to Weymouth. To speed us on the way we hoisted (lifted) the mainsail. It must have taken a good hundred pulls from one watch to get the mainsail up to the top of the mast while the other watch kept rolling the ropes away. A marvellous team effort.

Next day we sailed to Lymington just next to Southampton. As it was pretty windy 7 of the team experienced sea sickness of varying degrees - enough said! The next day we were invited to climb the mast – the whole team and myself managed to grapple our way up to the top - with a safety harness on of course!

The next journey was back to the Isle of Wight where we anchored offshore in sight of Queen Victoria's Osborne House. We were then set probably our most technical challenge which was a night navigation exercise. Skipper gave us a mini lecture on cardinal buoys, compass use, sea charts and depth gauges. Cardinal buoys use different flashing lights to identify dangerous shallow areas. Portsmouth harbour is one of the busiest harbours in the world according to skipper!



The team planned 5 different legs back into Portsmouth. We set off at 8pm and each watch actually piloted the boat with directions from their watch members. Eventually we arrived at 1:30am on Friday! We avoided huge container ships, the main ferry to Brittany, several tug boats and various smaller vessels. This was an awesome experience and a great team effort.

Our last duties were to clean the vessel from top to bottom and pack our belongings away! Before we set off back home we received official sailing certificates and a Tall Ships t-shirt from our sponsor Cross Keys Housing, Peterborough.

Other highlights of the week include:

- Learning one of our team has never eaten a baked potato or eggy bread
- A fantastic curry cooked by Althea and Sidon
- Sabina and Crisaldo being offered a volunteer position to work on the Tall Ships - maybe one of them may eventually become an Ocean master themselves!
- Skipper saying our students were an "outstanding" team

There are so many thank yous;

Mr Karia for arranging this superb visit; Cross Keys, Peterborough for sponsoring our visit and our team of trainee sailors from our Sixth Form for making our school so very proud of you and also to Mrs J Austin for all her support during the week. We definitely lived up to our school motto "Live life to the full". *Mr Jones*

Juliet Stevenson

Last week, we all attended a virtual meeting with Juliet Stevenson, an actor heavily linked with our school now, who gladly listened to the things we have managed to accomplish during the academic year (she seemed impressed). She was also really keen to come and visit the school sometime next year but to also work with us to find ways to improve our school environment. We will be attending some upcoming meetings with Amnesty regarding important matters around the world which we'll feedback to all of you.

Juliet showed us positivity and kindness, which gave us lots of determination to try to accomplish even more next year. We want to thank her for giving up some of her time to join us in this lovely meeting and showing us such appreciation for our efforts. A warm thank you also goes out to Miss James, who set everything up for us. We hope to meet again next year for a catch-up!

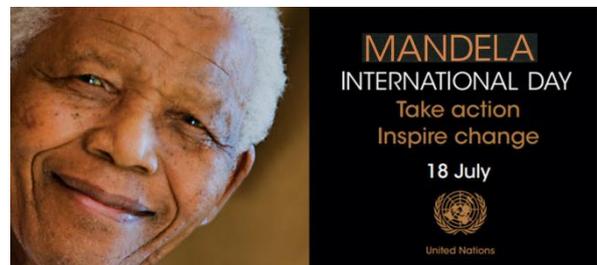
Student Leadership Team



Word of the Week - Commemorate

- verb: commemorate; 3rd person present: commemorates; past tense: commemorated; past participle: commemorated; gerund or present participle: commemorating
1. recall and show respect for (someone or something).
 - "a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the war dead"
 2. mark or celebrate (an event or person) by doing or producing something.
 - "the victory was commemorated in songs"
 - Similar: celebrate, pay tribute to, pay homage to, honour, salute, toast

The word of the week is 'Commemorate' as this week we celebrate Nelson Mandela International Day on the 18 July. Mandela Day was created to inspire people to embrace the values of democracy and contribute towards the ideals of ensuring a just and fair society. President Jacob Zuma first introduced the concept of Nelson Mandela Day in 2009 to motivate a nationwide campaign to get the public involved in charitable activities.



We also celebrate World Youth Skills Day next week on the 15 July. This is a perfect opportunity to celebrate what we have achieved in the last eighteen months during the pandemic and to be proud of our achievements, even the little ones, '**...and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets, and the singers with their musical instruments leading in the celebration.**' (2 Chronicles 23:13)

Fundraising Update

Last Friday the sixth form leadership team and Rivell raised nearly £100 for girls defence classes for year 12. A big thank you to Morrison's for providing 100 doughnuts, popcorn, hot chocolate and marshmallows for free.

