



Headteachers' Conference

Last weekend I was at the annual conference of the Association of School and College Leaders. I even made it onto Sky News! There were some interesting speeches from the new head of Ofsted, Amanda Spielman, and the National Schools Commissioner, Sir David Carter, and some more impassioned ones from the Secretary of State, Justine Greening, and her Shadow, Angela Rayner.

From some of these there were optimistic signs that there might be some common agreement about the way forward, but two issues dominated as you may have seen in the media. These were the national recruitment crisis and the situation with funding for schools. I have explained in a recent newsletter how it can be that schools are being given more money yet have less to spend. There was a lot of anger from those at the conference that the government found money in the budget for grammar schools – and to transport children to these schools - but none to address the funding shortfalls that schools face.

Our own governors will meet next week to consider the budget for the next financial year, which begins in April.

Civil Servants in Schools

The Department for Education rightly recognises that if its civil servants do not go into schools they cannot properly understand the day to day issues that schools face. They therefore run a scheme whereby these people are placed in schools for a few days to experience the daily routine of a headteacher. As part of this programme we will be hosting a civil servant next week. This person is based in the section that deals with teacher supply so I will make sure we have a conversation about this while she is with me.

Parents Evening

Tuesday week, 28 March, is Parents Evenings for Years 8 & 9. This begins at 2.30 so students will be dismissed at 2pm that afternoon. Online appointments should be made in advance please; details have been posted to parents. This is the final parents evening for these two year groups; the next one will be on 23 May for Years 7 and 10.

Sean Hayes

**Year 8: Academic Tutoring
20 March – 24 March**

Voice In A Million

SJF singers had a brilliant time at Wembley Arena last Thursday. They sang with thousands of other singers in the nations largest choir event. Students spent a long day rehearsing the set list in preparation for the performance and some of our lucky students managed to get a pass to take part in the parade on stage representing our school. We had performances from Reggie and Bollie and the Boyband Roadtrip as well as other professional performers. Students arrived back very late from London due to unavoidable road closures but the brilliant memories of this experience will remain with them.



Thanks to Mrs Bancroft and Mr Turner for supporting the students on the trip and for belting out all the songs (including all the dance moves!).



Brilliant Club

Last week, a group of twelve Year 8 students went on a trip to the University of Nottingham as part of our work with The Brilliant Club. We had the opportunity to look around the campus and to meet university students who talked to us about how it feels to be at university. We all enjoyed the trip and it was a great experience that got us thinking about our choices for the future.

Oliwia Koniuszewska (Year 8)



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School Gate

Please be aware that the school gate will be shutting at 8:35am in the morning from 27 March onwards. All students therefore need to arrive prior to this time.

Banding Together Jazz Project

Yesterday SJF Jazz musicians travelled to Kingsgate to rehearse for a large scale performance with 3 other Peterborough schools. Students have been working with professional musicians in workshops in school developing their own musical Jazz piece. There is one more in-school workshop taking place next Thursday Period 2 in room 101, this will be the last chance to put everything together for the final performance on 30 March at Kingsgate.



Year 10 English Literature

Students in year 10 have been preparing since Year 9 to take their English Literature GCSE exam in May this year. The exam dates are:

- Monday 22 May at 9am
- Friday 26 May at 9am

This is a real exam so it is vital students are present on that day.

In preparation for those exams the English department are running a mock exam on 21 and 22 March. This will allow students to get experience of what to expect in the real exam. It will also provide staff and students with an idea of their strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to focus on areas which will make most difference to their final grade. The results for these exams will be available on GCSE results day at the school which is on 24 August.

Flame Conference

Five year 11 Pupils from SJF joined young people from across our diocese as well as Bishop Allen in attending Flame, an event organised by CYMFed, a federation of Catholic organizations across England and Wales at Wembley Arena. It was a truly amazing experience.

It was like being at a pop concert but with Christ as the centre of each song and act. This was for young people. It spoke in a language we all understood.

The music appealed to our age group. The sight of thousands of young people clapping and singing at the top of their lungs about their faith is something we've never seen or never will forget. All of a sudden, friendship with Christ was cool. A huge thank you to Fr. Adam and the Parish of All Souls for helping out



with the cost of the day so we could attend. Thank you to Miss O' Connor for convincing us to go with her.

Year 11 GCSE Update

We have just finished a very successful two weeks where students sat another series of GCSE mock papers (PPEs). I must congratulate students on their behaviour during this time as it was a high pressured period and the vast majority approached the exams in a mature and sensible way. Teachers are busy marking and feeding back to students so that they can focus their last few weeks on the areas they most need to improve. There are many after school sessions happening in all departments and I would encourage students to take advantage of this extra support being offered.

The first formal written GCSE exam is on Monday 1 May and is RE. However the period running up to that has controlled assessment and practical sessions being completed that count to the final grade. I would like to remind students and parents that it is vital that students are in school for exams and unless there is an illness accompanied by a doctor's note non-attendance will result in 0 marks for that paper and usually a fail for that subject. They cannot be taken at another time. We will be charging parents for the cost of the examination when students are absent without a medical note from the doctor. Exam charges vary but cost around £35 per subject.

Learning Leaders

We are delighted to confirm the following students have been awarded Art Learning Leader status:

Ilij Albuquerque	Isabelle Martin
Wiktorija Betcher	Nicole Portugal
Alexandra Guy	Stella Smith
Natalija Jovkovska	Sabina Strug
Aukse Kabasinskaite	Sandra Ziromskaite
Emilija Klimaite	Hazel Goodfellow
Natalia Kusnierczak	

Second Inter-Faith Pilgrimage Saturday 1 April 2017

Programme

11:30 Arrive at the Catholic Shrine

The Mass at the Catholic Shrine and the Sprinkling at the Anglican Shrine are part of their respective pilgrim programmes and people of all faiths are welcomed, but no-one should feel compelled to come to everything on this day.

12:00 Pilgrim Mass

13:00 Lunch (please bring vegetarian items to share)

13:45 Introduction to the pilgrimage and Blessing

14:00 Pilgrimage Walk along the Pilgrim Way to Little Walsingham

15:30 Anglican Shrine: Reflections & Sprinkling

16:00 Depart

Contact for coaches, other travel options and further details is Brian Keegan via

brian@briankeegan.demon.co.uk or 01733 265769