



## Headteachers' Update

Yesterday, headteachers from across the region met in Cambridge for an update on all the current national issues affecting schools. We were already aware of all of the changes that are to be implemented in the next few years – new GCSE and A level courses, the Progress 8 performance measure, restrictions on which courses students may study, new inspection arrangements, and so on – and were also briefed on the current difficulties in recruiting and retaining teachers. While we remain fully staffed the low number of applications for many vacancies has been apparent for a while now, and it was disappointing to hear that the government is significantly cutting the funding for teacher training from next September. This cut will affect teachers who are trained in schools rather than colleges and universities. It does seem to be the opposite to what is needed if the national recruitment crisis is to be addressed.

We were also updated on all of the new expectations being places on schools, especially regarding safeguarding, promoting British Values and guarding against extremism. As ever, there is a lot of change going on but through this annual update I can ensure that we are aware of what we need to do.

## Draft Performance Tables

Each December the government produces performance tables for schools. This year they decided to produce draft tables based only on provisional results. Headteachers believe that this is confusing as any late results or changed results will not be included; neither are any of the usual performance measures included. Although schools get draft data to check each October the final data is often quite different once all the information is included. Although these draft tables are therefore provisional, they do show that the average local authority school achieved better GCSE results than free schools and academies this summer. We have not pursued academy status to date and these draft figures suggest that it would not necessarily improve outcomes.

## Cadets Review

On Tuesday I met with the headteachers of the other three city schools with Cadet Units: Thomas Deacon Academy, Nene Park Academy and The Voyager Academy. We reviewed our first year of working together and discussed the next steps in our development of this opportunity. It was clear that our unit was the most successful of the three set up last year around the existing TDA unit.

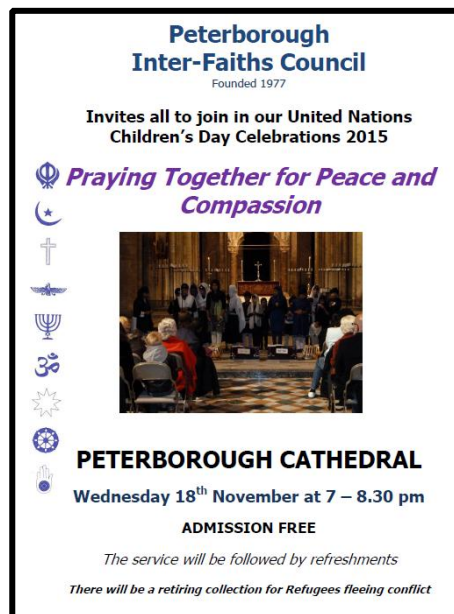
## University Support

On Tuesday evening, Mrs Wilmore and I attended an event provided by Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) aimed at providing students with support in selecting and applying to university. This was very valuable and reflected the commitment that this university has to the local community. Some of our leavers progress there to complete their degrees, some have already graduated, and last year many of Year 9 visited the Cambridge campus. We are hoping that we will be able to continue to work closely with ARU and use their considerable expertise for the benefit of our students.

## Half Term

This week's newsletter is being issued on Thursday as tomorrow is a staff training day; the half-term break for students begins tomorrow. Students return for school on **Monday 2 November** which will be **Week 2** of the timetable.

Sean Hayes



Our school Twitter account is **@sjfpeterborough**  
Please follow us to ensure you have the latest news and announcements.



**Post 16 Options Evening**  
**Tuesday 17 November 2015**  
 For all Year 11 students and their parents  
**7.00 pm in the School Hall**

**Parents' Evening**  
 for Years 7, 10 and Sixth Form  
**Tuesday 24 November: 2.30 – 6.30**

### Spotlight on Learning Support

As usual the Learning Support department is busy planning and delivering a number of different interventions to support students with basic skills. We support all children, not just those identified with Special Educational Needs. Examples of our interventions include:

- Literacy groups in Key Stage 3
- Numeracy groups in Key Stage 3
- Small group pre-teaching and personalised learning at Key Stage 3
- Social Skills groups in Key Stage 3
- Year 9 Learning Support
- Learning Support Option in Key Stage 4
- Coursework intervention and catch up in Key Stage 4
- Homework club (every lunchtime, open to all students)
- Breakers lunchtime club (every lunchtime, by invitation only)
- Handwriting club (during registration)
- Telling the Time group (during registration)
- Reading Buddies (during registration)
- Numeracy Breakfast Club
- Teaching Assistants available for support with learning before and after school in the library

If you have a child in Year 7 who has been placed on the SEN register you will receive a letter during the next couple of days informing you of this, as we are required to do by the SEND Code of Practice. If you received a letter last year informing you that your child is on the SEN register then this will still be the case. We are obliged to inform you if your child is being taken off the register. All students with Special Educational Needs have a link teaching assistant, who is chosen because they either already work closely with the student, or we feel that they are a good match for the student and their needs. The link Teaching Assistant will help monitor progress and will also attend academic tutoring sessions to support with appropriate target setting.

If you have any questions there is a Learning Support drop in on Thursday 26 November, when Miss Wilson and Mrs Sennett will be available to meet with parents to discuss any concerns or questions. The school's SEND information report has also been updated in a more parent-friendly format and can be found on the school website.



### Sixth Form Officers

We had a strong field this year for our Sixth Form Leadership roles. The second round was completed this week with interviews. Congratulations to the candidates who have made it to the final round: Irina Demba, Ciaran Kelly, Marta Oliveria, Daria Raczowska, Ziyad Mohammed and Zeeshan Waseem. All candidates will now deliver a presentation in each House assembly commencing 3 November with voting taking place on 6 November. We wish all our candidates the best of luck!

### Intervention for Advanced Bilingual Learners

Ms Roberts is running a Period 5 lesson every Wednesday for targeted Year 11 students. The aim is to prepare students for public examinations and improve their written academic English. This will enable them to achieve the grades they are capable of at the end of the year. Parents should have received a letter about this already. Students are expected to attend every session and we appreciate the parental support.

### Focus Days

The dates of Focus Days for this year are:

Thursday 12 November  
 Friday 22 January  
 Tuesday 19 July  
 Wednesday 20 July

The planning for November's focus day is well underway and there will be more information on the activities planned for each year group after half term.

### House Points

			
1174	1175	900	928



**Don't forget**  
**The clocks go back at 2.00 am**  
**on Sunday 25 October**