



Happy Easter

This year the term ends in Holy Week – we finish school next Wednesday at 3.15pm. The holiday therefore falls mainly after Easter itself so it seems more appropriate to wish everyone a Happy Easter now. There will not be a newsletter next week.



The summer Term begins on **Monday 11 April**. Please note that this is not a staff training day as it is for some other local schools – we had ours in February. This will be Week 2 of the timetable.

Celebrating Success

The focus of this week's assemblies has been celebrating success – enjoying the success of others as well as ourselves. This neatly runs into our Celebration Assemblies which begin today with Cambridge House. It was appropriate then that last Sunday Euridice Ribeiro Silva represented the school with a stunning performance at the Catenian Public Speaking Event in Nottinghamshire. An excellent performance which has brought many messages of congratulations, including from Bishop Alan.

We will be celebrating the success of last year's A level students when we welcome them back to collect their certificates on Monday afternoon. This will take place in the hall from 4pm.

Thank You – Parents

Thank you to the parents that attending Parents Evening on Tuesday for Years 11-13. Although this was the final one for these students you may still contact us at any time if you have questions, especially regarding the forthcoming exams.

During the evening we issued Reports and Revision Guides to Year 11 students. In the run up to the final exams subjects will be issuing further guidance so please take careful note of extra revision sessions and important deadlines. Please also ensure that the individual exam timetable is kept safe and referred to carefully: the main timetable on our website should only be used as a guide.



I wish everyone a peaceful and Holy Easter.

Sean Hayes

Changes: Key Stage 3

Continuing the articles from the previous two newsletters

As the changes are phased in more and more will apply to younger students, as follows.

Year 9: New GCSE courses are due to begin this September for just over half of subjects, in addition to English and Maths. As I explained a few weeks back, many of these are not ready and headteachers are hoping that this is resolved very soon so that teachers have time to plan for the changes. There is the slight consolation that this is the same for all schools but it really isn't good enough. All of the new courses will be graded from 9 (top grade) to 1, with 4 or above being equivalent to the current C or above. However, the government intends to refer to a 'good pass' as a grade 5 or above. The rest of the subjects will continue with the current courses using grades A*-G.

We are aware that reports this year are rather confusing as National Curriculum Levels are being used for most subjects, new 9-1 GCSE grades for Maths, and old A*-G grades for Science (because the new course has yet to be approved). We will need to continue with this for next term.

Year 8: It should be the case that all subjects are using the new GCSEs, and everything said above about Year 9 will also apply. We will need to stop using National Curriculum levels from September and so during Year 9 these students will be assessed using our own system, which is likely to use the new GCSE grades (9-1). I will write about this in a future newsletter once this is confirmed.

Year 7: all of the above changes will apply to these students from the start of Year 8. In addition, these are the students for whom the government intends to make the 'English Baccalaureate' (the so-called EBacc) compulsory. In practice this would mean all students having to take GCSEs in Geography or History and a modern language. With English, Maths, Science and RE already compulsory this would leave students with just one optional GCSE choice to make.

We are very hopeful that this will be the end of major change and a period of stability will begin, but unfortunately experience tells me that politicians find it very difficult to leave alone. It is also possible that some of the changes I have summarised over the last three weeks do not work as planned and need to be revised. The key thing is that all of this applies to all schools equally and so is not necessarily unfair. As I said at the start of this series of articles, our priority will be to provide the best possible curriculum for our students. I hope that these articles have been helpful to parents.

Learning Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who have recently become Learning Leaders in RE:

Year 7

Bismillah Alam C3, Elicia D'Ambrosio B6, Trinity Francis B7, Ruby Gascoigne R3, Mobin Hosseini C1.

Year 8

Matas Baranauskas W5, Ophelia Flomo R2, Omar Hayat B1, Erin O'Shea R3, Grace Simpson W4, Sabina Strug R7, Bruno Walewski C6.

Year 9

Da-Shannel Brown C4, Irmina Falkowska B4, Jade Paling W3.

Year 10

Asiyah Hakeem W5, Brian Passos B6, Fahima Syed Ibrahim C7, Yasoda Thapa B6, Madeeha Walji C6.

Year 11

Ciara Dee W1, Jasmine Kelly-Gobuiwang W4.

National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day – 18 March 2016

Today is National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day and in school, through tutor time, we have been reminding students what to do if they are worried about CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) and who they should contact. Unfortunately CSE is common throughout our country and the news headlines have demonstrated that it is widespread. The following advice for parents on spotting CSE comes from the NSPCC:

1. Your child may become secretive and stop engaging with usual friends. They may become very prone to mood swings.
2. They may be associating with older men and/or women.
3. They may go missing from home and be defensive about their location and activities.
4. They may receive odd calls and messages on their mobiles or social media.
5. They may be in possession of new, expensive items which they couldn't normally afford, eg mobile phones, iPads.

If your child displays three or more of the above signs then you should contact the Police on 101 or Peterborough Children's Services on 01733 864180 or 01733 864170 or ChildLine on 0800 111

Duke of Edinburgh News : Orienteering and Cooking in Wakerley Woods

On Saturday 19 March our new DofE group will take part in their first training session for the expeditions in May and June. The group will visit Wakerley Woods for a full day of orienteering and practising their cooking skills. The aim of the visit is to learn and develop essential skills in order to go on a practice two day expedition in the summer term. Wakerley Woods is a 30 minute drive from Peterborough and has a permanent orienteering site with 21 orienteering posts located around the woods. *Mr Jones, DofE Co-ordinator*

We're making communication easier, faster and more effective

We have changed our texting provider to 'School Gateway'. This means that we can communicate with parents more cost effectively via email, text and smartphone app. The old number for texting will no longer work so please delete this from your phone as the school will no longer receive these messages.

You can help us save money by downloading the School Gateway app

If you have a smartphone, you can help us save money by downloading the 'School Gateway' app from your app store (Android and iPhone). By doing this we can send you app messages (avoiding the cost of texts) and you can send messages back for FREE. It's quick and easy to do. All you need are your email address and mobile number that the school holds on record for you. If you have changed your phone number recently and not told the school, please do so now.

If you have trouble logging in please contact your Student Support Officer to check that your records are up to date.

We're aiming to get 50% of parents using the School Gateway smartphone app – please help us achieve this target.

If you do not have a smartphone, don't worry you will still receive text and email messages from the school.

18 full days of Revision

The first A level and AS exams are on 16 May; that's just 8 weeks away. You should have planned your time now up to and including the exam period using either a paper calendar or an App on your device.

There are many ways to revise: learning poster, revision cards, video clips, online resources, quizzes, revision pairs or groups, past papers to name just a few. Choose a variety and what works for you. Are you a visual learner? Auditory? Practical?

Look at your PLCs which are based either on your PPE results or most recent test. Where are the gaps in your learning? How can you fill these gaps? Revision works best in short bursts of about 20-30 minutes. You should revisit key topics increasing the time gap each time to check your memory and recall. For example, revise Unit 1 on Monday, then on Thursday and then again a week later. If you study BTEC you also have deadlines fast approaching for units of work. Please ensure that you work on these over the Easter break.

Remember, you want to be able to open your envelope in August knowing that you have done all that you can to achieve your potential – no regrets. Make those 18 days count!

Year 13/14 Baby/Toddler photos

When we return after Easter, we will have just 6 weeks with our Year 13/14 students before they start their Study Leave. We will be celebrating their time with us on Friday 27 May with a liturgy and celebration. As part of this celebration, I would like baby or toddler photo of each student – I will return any originals.

Please could I have these by 11 April (the first day back after Easter)?

Mrs Wilmore