



Excellent Lessons

Over the last two weeks we have been visiting lessons to see how well students are doing. These termly checks allow us to be sure that lessons are of good quality and that students are learning and making progress. We have been very impressed with what we have seen, and especially by the commitment of students to their studies. There has also been a notable improvement in behaviour this term: although it was already good, as Ofsted said when they visited two years ago, there has been a further improvement with fewer students being removed from class and less low-level disruption. This is an excellent start to the new school year.

Chinese Visitors

Last term we welcomed a group of students from Shanghai who were on an exchange trip to Jack Hunt School. This is the second year that we have been part of this exchange and we hope to sustain the link with the schools in China. This coming week, two of the teachers from those schools will be visiting Peterborough and visiting our school. I am hoping to discuss with them some aspects of Chinese education as it is currently being frequently talked about by our government ministers as something to emulate: only last week, Schools Minister Nick Gibb suggested that schools of over 3000 students might be considered for this reason. I remain of the opinion that we know our students well and can provide the support they require because of the size of our school and would very much doubt that a school four times bigger could do this as well. I will report back on our meeting in a future newsletter.

Cambridge House Mass

Each House has a Mass once a year and the first of these for 2015-16 is today, for Cambridge House. I am grateful to Father Adam for coming to celebrate the Mass and to Luke for preparing the students. We are developing a student Liturgy Group which will be able to help in the planning of other services throughout the year, including the weekly Tuesday Mass. If any students would like to be part of this could they please speak to Luke. One such event to note in diaries is our Carol Service which is on **Thursday 10 December**. This will again be in conjunction with the Catholic Primary Schools and will be held in our hall.

The dates for the other House Masses this year are: Rochester 10 December, Beverley 3 February and Westminster 25 April.

Year 11 Dates

Year 11 students and parents are asked to note that the Leavers' Liturgy and Prom will be on Friday 1 July. We have decided to hold the prom after the exams rather than before them this year, as many other schools do. Induction Day for Year 12 is the following Thursday, 7 July. Please ensure that holidays are not booked for these important events.

Half Term Holiday

Next Friday, 23 October, is a staff training day so the half-term break for students begins that day. They return for school on **Monday 2 November** which will be **Week 2** of the timetable.

Sean Hayes

Under 16 Rugby

On Monday I had the pleasure of taking the Under 16 Rugby team for their game away against Sir Harry Smith. Sir Harry Smith reached the finals last year and so were a tough opponent, but they proved no match for St John Fisher Rugby team. The boys put in probably the best sporting performance I have seen in my time at SJF. Brandon Calderbank scored a great try following a wonderful cross field kick by Aiden Rowe. After this the floodgates opened - tries from Aiden, Lewis John, Brandon, Tyreke and Mantas followed with some great conversions from Alanas to complete the rout. The final score was a superb 51-0! The highlight was a great try when Aiden caught the ball past our own try line, he went on a 60 yard run before passing onto Brandon, Brandon then made the final pass to Dominic Pulcyn to score a try of the highest quality.

Well done to all of the boys involved for a top class team performance.

Mr Plane



Chaplaincy News

A huge thank you to all of those who donated items to our refugee appeal. The Chapel is full of boxes and bags of clothes, blankets and food that will go to those who are living in camps while trying to escape conflict and hardship in their own countries. The appeal is now over and the items will all be picked up to be delivered at some point in the next week. Thank you again for all of your generosity.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, on 2 October a group of our students attended a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan Hopes at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich, together with students from St Thomas More and Sacred Heart primary schools. Our students were brilliant representatives of St John Fisher and the Bishop himself was very complimentary and thanked them for attending. *Luke Turner, Chaplain*

Cambridge News

As you may know, the Great Eastern Run was held in Peterborough last Sunday. One of the Cambridge House students, Elisha Reid, participated. Running in a half-marathon is hard and she felt like giving up but "I'd already made it half way," Elisha said, "so I can finish it". Running is a hobby that Elisha enjoys and she wanted to compete. "I trained with my boyfriend," she said "though, we didn't train much. I would definitely do it again and train more next time so I can beat my personal time." Well done, Elisha!

Mufti Tickets on sale at break and lunchtime in the Hall - £1



On Thursday 22 October, students will also be able to enjoy the cake sale, face painting and Open mic entertainment in the Atrium at lunchtime.

Rochester Tutors Miss O'Connor and Mr Plane will be up for auction! The highest bidder on the day can pay for either Mr Plane or Miss O'Connor to complete one piece of homework for them. Students must show the colour of their money to place a bid, so if you wish to win the teacher auction and have Mr Plane or Miss O'Connor complete your homework, **DON'T FORGET YOUR CASH!!**

All proceeds will be going to Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Refugee Crisis Appeal



Open Evening Winner

Students visiting on Open Evening were encouraged to collect stickers from as many departments as possible during the evening. The completed cards were then put in a box and a winner drawn at random.

Congratulations to Rebecca Smith from St Thomas More Catholic Primary School who has won a £10 WHSmith voucher after having her completed card picked out of the box first. Well done Rebecca!

CCF Thetford Training Camp

7, 8, and 9 October saw 18 of our cadets travel to Stanta training grounds in Norfolk. For many this was their first taste of military life. The week consisted of lessons which ranged from drill and turn out to military knowledge, living in the field and command tasks. The three days were part of the CCF Hub development and our cadets were joined by other cadets from Voyager and TDA. The highlight of the week was on Friday morning when schools were pitted against one another in a drill competition which was inspected by a Sgt Major from the Coldstream Guards. This was a nervous time not only for our cadets but in particular for Niall Speechley who had to take the parade. I am delighted to say that Niall did the contingent proud and led us with his drill team to a well deserved victory over the other two schools. Well done to all who took part; a very proud moment. Our cadets return to school to work towards our next parade on 11 November to mark Remembrance Day details of which will follow. The CCF continues to offer our students a unique and rewarding extra-curricular avenue and I was extremely proud of all those cadets who represented our school.

