



## Happy New Year

We ended the Autumn Term in traditional style and began to celebrate the season of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. I hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable break. Although it is the end of the calendar year, and we move into 2016, it is mid-year for the school. And so we have rather hit the ground running this week.

On Wednesday afternoon we welcomed back students from last year's Years 11 and 13 when they came to collect their GCSE and A level certificates. It was great to hear what everyone is up to and reminisce, as well as to celebrate their achievements.

But life continues and it is already time for the next cohort of students to receive results: on Tuesday next **Year 11** will receive their PPE results first thing in the morning, in the same manner as they will receive the real results in the summer. They will then be given tips and experience from **Positively Mad**, who are returning for the fourth year running to provide exam advice. This year we have separated the **Parents' Evening** and this will now be the following **Tuesday, 19 January**, from 4.30 to 6.30pm.

## Student Service

Several years ago I asked students to jot down for me their New Year's Resolutions, and included a selection in the first newsletter of the Spring Term. It was a fascinating and lengthy list of ideas and promises that the students came up with.

Rather than repeat the same this year I thought I would ask students to consider what they do to serve others, which could include service of some form at school. Just before Christmas we heard about the Sixth Form students who had graduated from the National Citizen Service, we frequently see our Cadet Unit around school, we have students on House and School Councils, and we have Learning Leaders and other forms of service that are open to all.

So can I suggest to the students that you imagine you are filling in a form and there is a box that asks what you have done to contribute to the life of the school or for others: what could you put in the box? If the answer is nothing, look for opportunities in 2016 to do something that you could put on the form.



## Term Dates

We had several students absent from school on Monday with some parents saying that they didn't know when term began. Term dates have been included in this newsletter frequently and are on our website; I also included reminders about the start of term twice in the newsletter in December. Where students were absent without good reason on Monday this has been recorded as an unauthorised absence.

To avoid any further confusion this year please note the following:

February Half Term: Mon – Fri 15-19 February

Staff Training Day: **Monday** 22 February

Spring Term ends **Wednesday** 23 March

Summer Term begins: **Monday** 11 April

May Half Term: Mon 30 May – Fri 3 June

Summer Term ends: Friday 22 July

The days in bold will differ from other local schools.

Please note that the city council website gives dates for maintained schools, not voluntary-aided schools, which we are, or academies. Other unofficial websites such as myschoolholidays.com do not check with us and should not be relied on. Please only refer to our own website for such information.

Over the next few weeks we will confirm term dates for 2016-17 and I will share these with you via the newsletter.

## Other Dates For This Term

Tuesday 19 January – Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thursday 21 January – Rochester House Mass

Friday 22 January – Focus Day for all year groups

Tuesday 26 January – Year 9 Options Evening

Wednesday 3 February – Beverley House Mass

Wednesday 10 February – Ash Wednesday

Tuesday 17 March – Parents' Evening Years 11-13

*Sean Hayes*



Our school Twitter account is

**@sjfpeterborough**

Please follow us to ensure you have the latest news and announcements.

## Under 16s Rugby

On Thursday 17 December our under-16 rugby team marched out onto the Peterborough Rugby Club pitch in what was to become an epic match. The floodlights lit up the arena. Our team warmed up with rain falling hard and the wind picking up, our captain Brandon Calderbank leading the way. Our opponents, The King's School, turned up to see our team of only 15 players ready to take on anyone. We were underway and holding our own, 15 vs 15, no wind or rain was going to stop us. However, losing Tyreke Simms to a bad leg injury early in the first half was going to hamper our efforts. Before this injury we saw a stupendous try by Brandon who picked the ball up deep in our own half, he then put his running shoes on, danced and tip toed around what seemed to be the whole King's team, to score our first points. Our spirits were dashed shortly after with a King's break through, who converted their try to make the score 5-7 to King's. We battled hard, despite losing another player, this time to the sin bin. But we held off into the half time break. We regrouped and went back out heads held high. Unfortunately King's retaliated with an unconverted try. Nevertheless, Brandon led by example, he was not going to give up and burst through the King's back line and scored, and then went on to convert and take the score to 12-12. The referee then deemed it appropriate to sin bin another player for a repeat offence, again we were back down to 13 men versus 15. Kamil Charzynski stood up to the pressure and burst straight through the defence of our opponents and scored a wonderful try in the corner, an angle that was not possible to be converted. Leaving us in the lead at 17-12. With 10 minutes left on the clock, we lost another player through injury, this time Dominic Catanese had to be taken off with a bloodied nose. We were set to finish this final with a maximum of 12 players on the pitch. Our team were a credit to themselves at this point. They with stood an onslaught of attacks. Holding the opponents up, 5 metres from our try line. We knew at this point that there were only 50 seconds left on the clock. This was agonising! With a last ditch attack, the man-mountain on the King's side dropped over the line to score a try. You could feel the SJF team deflate there and then. With a quick pump up from their outstanding captain they stood back on the halfway line ready again to take this to the end. Unfortunately, despite a valiant effort from Brandon, we were unable to claw back any points, the final score stood at 17-19.

Although it was a devastating finish, and the team deserved to win, they did St John Fisher proud with their effort right to the very end. Despite at times being down to 12 men they kept their heads up. Well done to all of those who played.

I would also like to thank the students, parents and staff that came to support the team. It was great to see support on the sidelines, we were the only team to bring support, so thank you.

*Mr J Hayes and Mr Plane – Future Lions coaches*

## Learning Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who have recently been awarded Learning Leader status in Humanities:

Iwona Baranska B3  
Alice Bowden C2  
Urte Cibityte B2  
Maria Da Silva C8  
Carmen Gaywood W5  
Bartlomiej Juszczynski B3  
Jake-Michael Neal C4  
Katherine Pollard R6  
Blue Rogan R4  
Martyna Wykrota B5  
Afifa Zaman W1

## Rochester Fundraising

Rochester have once again been working hard to raise money for Charity. Before Christmas we organised both a Christmas Jumper day and a Bring and Buy sale. Well done to everyone who helped organise the festive fun; it was a great team effort. Thank you also to all parents who donated items to the Bring and Buy sale. We managed to raise a further £354.08, which means we have raised well over £1000 since September. This money will be split between the refugee crisis and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

*Ms Stevens*



## BYOD for Sixth Form Students

We have recently taken the decision to allow Sixth Form students to use their own electronic devices in school (laptops, smartphones, iPads, etc). This means their work can be kept on or accessed by one device rather than having to transfer documents using memory sticks or emails.

However there are several points which students and parents should bear in mind:

1. It is not the responsibility of the school to maintain laptops or any other device and these are brought into school at your own risk.
2. You should ensure that you have adequate insurance in case of loss or damage, which the school absolutely does not accept any responsibility for.
3. You must ensure that your Windows updates are up to date and you have a working anti virus.
4. When working on this system, please note that the school acceptable usage policy applies and you are filtered and protected by systems in place on the standard school network. Please be responsible and treat this as any of the other school IT resources.
5. Your laptop should run Windows 7 or above. Older versions are not supported.

*Mrs D Wentworth  
School Business Manager*