

# PETERSPEAK

The Newsletter from  
**St. Peter's Catholic College of Maths & Computing**  
South Bank, Middlesbrough  
'Learning together - Living in Christ'

**26<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**A DCSF Designated Specialist Maths and Computing College**

Headteacher: Mrs Pamela J M Hanrahan

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## **Ofsted Inspection of School – 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

I would like to thank parents and carers for their support during our recent OFSTED inspection. Students were very well behaved during the visit and interacted with Inspectors extremely politely. As a reward they enjoyed a non-uniform day and 'surprise' ice lolly on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

The Inspectors' decision is confidential until ratified by Ofsted's governing body. However, when I receive permission, I will inform you immediately.

## **Examinations**

GCSE examinations are now underway for all of Year 11 and, due to our innovative curriculum, for some Year 10 and Year 9 students also.

Year 11 students are permitted to wear their own clothes during this period. However, there are some restrictions:

- Jewellery rules still apply, eg. no rings or large earrings
- Baseball caps are not permissible
- No bare skin to be shown, eg. no low cut tops or revealing clothing, no cropped tops or bare midriff.
- No garments with offensive logos or words
- No shorts
- No ripped or torn clothing
- Audio players of any description are not permitted
- There are strict rules regarding mobile telephones – telephones must be switched off and left in bags adjacent to the examination hall; they are not permitted in the examination hall itself. If a mobile telephone rings whilst students are in the examination hall, they will be disqualified. There cannot be any second chances with this national regulation.

Please ensure that your child arrives in good time and is properly equipped with writing equipment and spare pens, pencils etc. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in the student being sent home and may mean that they miss an important examination.

I would ask for your support during the revision process, ensuring your child has the best possible chance for success.

### **Year 11 Prom**

The Prom is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at Rushpool Hall and tickets will be on sale in the school Office very shortly. This is always a great celebration of five years in St Peter's. We pray for fine weather.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Year 11 leavers great success in the future.

### **Councillor Ian Swales MP**

We had a visitor in school on Friday, Ian Swales, the new Liberal Democrat MP for Redcar & Cleveland, who spent time with students and staff. Mr Swales has always been very supportive of St Peter's and we are all pleased he took time out of his very busy schedule to visit us.

### **Timetable Change**

I wish to inform you of a proposed change to the school day **from September**. This is as follows:-

- Every day there will continue to be 5 lessons of 1 hour's duration.
- To ensure registration is completed accurately - a legal requirement - Lesson 4 will have 6 minutes added.
- Break 1 will be 6 minutes shorter to facilitate this time in Lesson 4.
- Year 10 & 11 can easily go through lunches in 24 minutes with time to spare, based on evidence this year.
- Over a two week period, the extra 6 minutes per day that students will be working totals one hour.
- The timetable will therefore end at 2.15pm every Monday Week B (once a fortnight) and students will be allowed home.

### **This model:**

- Ensures enough time for lunches to be eaten in comfort (they still have 30 minutes during break 2 – total 54 mins).
- Ensures we are meeting our legal requirement regarding register taking.
- Gives students an hour every fortnight for extra study at home when they can access the portal, do projects and homework in addition to their regular homework time.
- Facilitates time fortnightly for quality staff training to ensure staff are kept up-to-date with new initiatives and continue to provide the best education possible for your young people.

**A number of the secondary schools in Redcar already adopt this model with success.**

## **Uniform – Changes to be Implemented from September**

We have been very dissatisfied with our present uniform supplier this year. The garments are frequently wrongly sized and the service the firm offers has been unacceptable.

We have therefore taken the decision to move to Ross's in Middlesbrough. We have investigated their prices, which are reasonable, and they have the added advantage of being local, allowing parents the autonomy to buy garments when they wish.

I am also happy to accept a slight variation to the present uniform. I will allow students to wear **PLAIN BLACK CARDIGANS WITH BLACK BUTTONS** as we have listened to their opinion and accept many do not like the fleecy sweatshirt.

However, I must emphasise this is the **only change** and we expect full co-operation by all students with the uniform including **black shoes**, not trainers, and **no T-shirts** under polo shirts.

## **Lourdes Pilgrimage**

Our annual Pilgrimage of 38 students, led by Miss A Glanville, Mr R Dixon and Mrs E Gittins, leaves school on the afternoon of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May. We ask for your prayers.

## **Half Term**

School breaks up for half term on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 3.15pm and returns on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 8.50am.

## **Flamingo Land – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010**

Places are going quickly for the annual school trip in July. If your child would like to go, please book a place as soon as possible. This is connected to our reward system – anyone who is poorly behaved may be declined a place.

## **Congratulations to:**

Jodie Hodgson has been awarded a Head's Merit for Art, Amy Degnen has been awarded a Head's Merit for football and Courtney Jones has been awarded a Head's Merit for RE.

Congratulations to Adil Hassan, who has a string of wins under his belt and recently reached the North East finals of an ABA boxing competition; he has also been awarded a 'best boxer' belt.

Congratulations to Jessica Robinson, a former student, for getting to the last 5 in "Over the Rainbow". It's a pity she could not stay for one more episode of the competition as school would have been featured on the show. The camera crew spent half a day filming earlier this term – a large number of students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

## **Headteacher Appointment**

Finally, I am delighted to tell you that the Governors recently decided to make my appointment as Headteacher permanent.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

7 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to school after half term holiday
22-23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 6 Induction Days and Parents' Evening
28 <sup>th</sup> June	PSE Day 7
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 11 Prom at Rushpool Hall
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Review Day for Years 7, 8, 9 & 10
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Health & Fitness Day for the whole school
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
20 <sup>th</sup> July	ACES
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Whole School Trip – Flamingo Land
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	School breaks up for the Summer Holiday

Please do not hesitate to contact me at school if you wish to discuss any of the above.

I wish you and your family a happy and safe half term holiday.

**Mrs P J Hanrahan**  
**Headteacher**