



PETERSPEAK

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

December 2010

A DCSF Designated Specialist Maths and Computing College

Headteacher: Mrs Pamela J M Hanrahan

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Great News

The Adjudicator has announced his decision which is to completely revoke the notice to close St Peter's. It is over thank goodness – we can now continue to offer a high quality education to all our students throughout their secondary school life.

Many thanks to all those who supported us throughout the process with letters, e-mails, petitions and attendance at meetings. Without you, the decision may have been very different.

This is a brilliant Christmas present for us all! Our prayers have been answered.

Snow

What weather!! I have never seen it as bad as this. We tried to open during the week but could not because it was dangerous for both staff and students on health and safety grounds – the entrances and car parks were impassable with ice and snow.

However thank goodness for the School Portal which enabled students from all years to access work and contact teachers for assessments and advice. Working from home has taken on a whole new meaning. Please encourage your child to use this facility in the future – it isn't just there for snowy days!

Review Day

Another casualty of the weather. This has been re-arranged for **Friday 14th January 2011**. Please ensure you attend if your child is in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 or if you have a child in Year 11 and have been invited to attend.

Year 11 are presently doing their Trial Examinations and there will be a parents evening for discussion regarding this on **Thursday 3rd February 2011**.

Attendance

Our figures show an improvement from last year but they are still below target. I urge you to support us by ensuring your child attends regularly. If they are absent, contact school through the Portal for work once they are recovering.



Staffing

It is with great sadness I announce the retirement of Mr Hartley Ward, Deputy Headteacher. Mr Ward has been at St Peter's for 31 years and has influenced many hundreds of people over the years. He is always highly professional while being a shoulder to cry on. He will be greatly missed.

Mr Raylton Dixon is also retiring after 42 years at St Peter's. Mr Dixon is a highly valued member of staff who has many roles in school and will be greatly missed by staff and students alike.

We wish Mr Ward and Mr Dixon a very happy, healthy and long retirement.

Mrs S Gallacher is cutting back her hours in the New Year due to family commitments. Our prayers are with members of her family who are ill at this time.

Mrs L Cutler, Chaplain, returns after Christmas and will work Thursdays and Fridays initially. The Chaplaincy will therefore be shared between Mrs Cutler and Miss Glanville, who has been carrying the full job for the last 12 months. Thanks to Miss Glanville for her excellent work in this area. Mr P Terry has also been very active in the Chaplaincy team this year – our sincere thanks to him. I hope he will continue to work with the team.

Mrs E Brown, our SENCO, is relocating to the South of England to be with her husband. Mrs Brown has only been at St Peter's for a year but has made a huge impact during that time and will be sadly missed. We wish Mrs Brown every happiness for her future.

Mr K Neasham will be replacing Mrs Brown in the New Year as SENCO. Mrs Brown was also in charge of child Protection and Mrs C Phillips and Mrs L Simpson will now take over this role.

Mr G Hanrahan will be joining the staff in January as Behaviour Manager. He is highly experienced in this role. Mr Hanrahan has been doing 1to1 and Achievement for All work with students and parents this term so he has become a familiar face around school.

Celebration

Congratulations go to the following students who have all recently gained Head's Merits:

PE: Laura Strike (Netball), Alice Wilson, Eleanor Hart, Elliott Venis, Joe Sullivan, Lauren Walker, Nicole Doyle, Adele Hughes and Shauna Walton.

Graphics – Ashleigh Carter, Andrew Richardson, Ben Armishaw, Joshua Lowe, Lucy Evans, Roxanne Conway and Brooklyn Waterfield

Art – Alex Grecoe, Aimee Truscott, Bethany Barry, Chloe Meggison, Gabrielle Appleton, Jordan Feher and Courtney O'Riordan

Gifted & Talented – Chloe Dalton, David Morris and Suzy Appleton.

Services to the School Community – Glen Bowe and David Morris

Danielle Hare has also been awarded a Head's Merit for her fantastic achievements in Dance when she recently won the 2010 East of England Championships. Well done Danielle.

Rachel Carter, who is a member of Mandale Harriers, will be competing in the NE Athletics Championship very soon at 100 metres and 100 metres hurdles. Good luck Rachel.

Last, but by no means least, Zoe Keating has passed her Grade 2 Music Theory with a Distinction – very well done.



Sporting Results:

U16 Girls Football: St Peter's 10 Macmillan 1

St Peter's 11 UCA 2

St Peter's 7 UCA 2

Netball: U16 St Peter's 7 Sacred Heart 8

U14 St Peter's 9 Sacred Heart 1

Lanehead

The following Year 8 students recently went to Lanehead in the Lake District for a residential outward bound course: Michael Booth, Caitlin Brown, Chelsea Cunningham, Callum Dawkins, Mark Devenport, Andrew Docherty, Matthew Duck, Lee Dunn, Jordan Evans, Lucy Grabham, Luke Hammill, Danny Higgins, Matthew Hoskins, Aneesa Hussain, Serafina Hussain, Courtney Jones, Zoe Keating, Sophie Maher, Brittany McDougall, Daniel McCubbin, Lucy McGee, Jodie Miller, Courtney Norman, Matthew Purvis, Abigail Robinson, Caitlin Trainor, Dominic Wilkinson, Georgia Wilkins, Nicole Binns and Jacob Nee.

As you can see by the photographs, all had a fantastic time, despite the cold weather. Many thanks to Mr N Stebbing, Mrs A McIntosh and Mr S Wallace for giving up their time to organise the trip and for supporting our students



Charity Work

Staff recently held a Macmillan Coffee Morning and raised £142.39.

This includes an amount of £15.86 raised by Megan Walton, John Bailey and Ryan Cairney from a Raffle as part of the Petition Group. They also raised £15.86 for Zoe's Place!

Thank you to Mrs Gallacher and Mrs McIntosh for organising this event.

Christmas Fayre

We held a highly successful event on 25th November – just before the heavy snow! And Santa came!!

Governors, staff and students worked tirelessly before the event and on the night to ensure it was a success. Over 200 people attended and we were able to make £2,032 for school funds.



Part of this will be spent on benching in the playground – requested by the students through the very effective School Council.

Evening Gazette Wish 10 Campaign

Please keep collecting and sending in tokens until the end date, Saturday 15th January 2011. The more we get the bigger cut of £50,000 prize money we get to use on our students.

South Bank Tomorrow

We are working in close partnership with this group. They have been extremely supportive of St Peter's – tidying up the front garden of the school, donating bulbs to school, taking some Year 11 students on work experience. They have also facilitated digging out the school yard following all the snow. Thank you to Danny Ackroyd and Linda Fleetham.

Tesco

We have held talks with the management of the planned Tesco Store and are very excited about the prospect of so many new jobs being available in the area. Tesco supported our Christmas Fayre with a generous donation, showing they are investing in our area.

PTA/Friends of St Peter's

I have been disappointed by the reluctance of people to join our very friendly group. We work together for the good of our school and students and I implore you to get involved. Our next meeting will be in January, date to be advised.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US

Dates for the Diary:

6 th – 17 th December	Y11 Trial Examinations
21 st December	Christmas Lunch
22 nd December	End of Term
7 th January 2011	Staff INSET Day
10 th January	Start of Spring Term
12 th January	PSE Day 3
14 th January	Whole School Review Day (postponed from 3 rd December)
18 th January	Y11 Trial Examination Results
3 rd February	Y11 Consultation Evening
7 th February	Y10 Work Experience
18 th February	School Closes for Half Term

And Finally

I would like to wish you and your family a happy, healthy and holy Christmas.

Kind regards

Mrs P J Hanrahan
Headteacher

