

PETERSPEAK

The Newsletter from
St. Peter's Catholic College of Maths & Computing

South Bank, Middlesbrough
'Learning together - Living in Christ'

March 2011

A DCSF Designated Specialist Maths and Computing College

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Hello

Latest News

I am sure you have heard or seen the "Friends of Eston Park" newsletter which misinformed people about the future of St Peter's.

A full retraction has been made **ST PETER'S WILL NOT CLOSE NOW OR IN TWO YEARS' TIME.**

This fact has the **full support and agreement of the diocese, Local Authority and Redcar & Cleveland Council Cabinet.**

We look forward to welcoming a much improved number of Year 7 students in September. There are still a few places left for **Catholic** and **non-Catholic** children to apply to be part of our excellent school. Please contact me at school and/or school admissions on 01642 444108.

Student Attendance

Attendance at St Peter's from 1st September 2010 to February 2011 stands at 91.4% which is a full percent increase on last year at this time despite a number of cases of flu, the poor weather prior to Christmas and students taking holidays during term time.

Mr Hanrahan has taken over the lead role and is working very hard this term with the Pastoral team of Heads of House and Tutors to improve the statistics further. We are aiming to exceed our target of 92% with 5.5% persistent absences.

St Thomas More won last week's attendance with 94.8% - well done.



Student Events

Lunchtime challenge events have begun again. These vary from football on the MUGA, to dance mat competitions, talent shows, quizzes etc and are highly popular with the majority of the student population who are either participating or watching and supporting. These are a great motivator to increase attendance. Thank you to all the staff who help organise these challenges.

Our Lenten Observance began with a "pancake tossing obstacle race" as part of the lunchtime challenge: St Thomas More won the lower school race and St John Fisher won the upper school race.

On Ash Wednesday, all students attended a reconciliation and ash sharing service led by Deacon Pat. Thanks to Deacon Pat, Mrs Cutler, Miss Glanville and the Heads of House for organising these events.

The Pope Idol final took place at Middlesbrough Little Theatre on Saturday 5th March 2011. Our acts were brilliant and well supported by staff, parents and friends. Well done to Rachel Carter (singer) and Courtney Norman, Courtney Jones, Caitlin Trainor, Amy Truscott and Georgia Wilkins (dancers).

Our dancers also took part in Boro's Got Talent on Thursday 17th March 2011 and were fantastic. They came joint third with Ian Ramsey and Kings Academy but the judges, 3 MFC players, were extremely complimentary and were bowled over by their smiles, enthusiasm and gymnastic techniques. The girls were interviewed on Radio Tees, by the North East News and the competition will be broadcast on ESPN worldwide. Many congratulations.



The competitors and last year's winner will be performing in school at lunchtime as part of our fundraising day for **CAFOD** on **Friday 18th March 2011**. There will be a non-uniform day and a "generation game" type of challenge for all students. Thanks to Mrs Cutler, Miss Glanville and Mr Hanrahan and the Heads of House for organising this fun way to care for others.

Evening Gazette Wish 10 Campaign

This was highly successful raising £307 for us to purchase materials requested by the students. Many thanks to parents, Governors, staff, students and supporters of St Peter's for their help in saving tokens.

Charity

Staff raised £56.86 for Zoe's Place through the Share a Card Scheme at Christmas. Thank you to all who made a donation, and thank you to Mrs Gallacher for arranging this.

Miss Glanville has arranged a sponsored silence next Wednesday in order to raise money for Japan.

Staffing

We will be interviewing for a full time MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) Teacher this month to start in September.

Curriculum

Year 11 are working very hard in the final months before their examinations. Some excellent results have already been achieved in modular examinations and controlled assessments. Many students are now following a highly personalised timetable to enable them to concentrate on areas of their study that are most in need.

We are on course for another high achieving year. Thanks to Mr Bell for leading on this and to all staff for facilitating it – many using their own time.

Year 8 are approaching Option Choices, which is more prescriptive this year due to the Government directives to ensure students achieve the English Baccalaureate qualification as well as their individual subjects. Mrs Ithurralde has done a lot of preparatory work for this and will lead everyone through the process. Many thanks for all her hard work.

World Book Day

School supported this event by designing Author Boxes during tutor time which became part of the House challenges. Tutor groups were given a specific author and they had to design a box of information showcasing that author. Entries were absolutely fantastic, students should be very proud of their hard work.



House winners were: St Thomas More – Miss Ali’s class, St Alban – Mr Tuck’s class, St John Fisher – Miss Dial’s class and St Edmund Campion – Mrs Mason/Mrs Elvin’s class.

There was a tie for the overall winner between Miss Ali and Mr Tuck. Many congratulations to all who took part.



Young Writers in the North

Last year, students from St Peter’s were entered into a competition for Young Writers in the North where they were assessed for their ability to write with perception, expression, imagination and creative use of language in writing a Mini Saga in 50 words.

Of the 150 students entered, 131 were successful and will have their work published in an anthology "**Mini Sagas - Creative Capers North Yorkshire and The North**" which is scheduled for publication on **30th June 2011**. The editorial team will now go on to select a winning school and, if successful, St Peter's could be in line to win £1000.00.

School Uniform and Timings of the School Day

Initial responses have been collated and I can report as follows:

Uniform preferences were for blazer, white shirt/blouse and tie OR coloured polo shirt (one colour for all) PE – jogging trousers and hoody top with shorts/skirt for the summer.

Further talks are continuing to determine finer details – news soon.

There was an overwhelming majority for a change to the timing of the school day. This was agreed by Governors and will take place after the Easter Holiday. Timings will become:

8.50am	Tutorial
9.15am	P1
10.15am	P2
11.15am	Break 1 (upper school lunches)
11.35 am	P3
12.35pm	Break 2 (lower school lunches)
12.55pm	P4
2.00pm	P5
3.01pm	End of the school day

Sporting & Achievement

Results from the recent Dance Matt lunchtime challenge are as follows:

Lower School: 1st Courtney Jones, 2nd Tia Brown, 3rd Courtney Norman, Joint 4th Nicole Binns & Georgia Wilkins

Upper School: 1st Junior Mondal, 2nd Farah Karim, 3rd Demi-Leigh Saunders, 4th Natasha Scurr
Well done to everyone who came along and had a go!

Courtney Norman, Y8, has been selected to be part of the “starlight” scheme for talented netball players aged 12-13 years old. This is a fantastic achievement for Courtney – well done.

Liam Walton has recently received an award for work undertaken in Grangetown Library with his youth worker. Well done Liam and keep up the good work!

Jack Crosby won the Athletics North of England title and got the bronze in the National Championships as well as setting three personal bests that put him in the UK top 10 for the individual events of shot putt, hurdles and 60 metres. Mr Ainsley has nominated him for the Catholic Schools 2011 games to be held in Portugal. This is a fantastic achievement.

Head's Merit

Well done to the following students who have received a Head's Merit award recently:

Leia Scott (Art), Sophie Maher (Graphics), Sophie Thomas (Graphics). The following students received recognition for taking part in the Humanities Review: Jack Crosby, Hamilton de Almeida, Dylan Tate, Grace Wakelin, Hannah Coverdale, Keaton Moloney, Suzy Appleton, Jodie Seaman, Liam Millward, Bethany Tuffs, Jack Bowen, Daniel McCubbin, Lucy Evans and Daniel McGee.

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 31st March

Thursday 14th April

Tuesday 3rd May

Friday 20th May

Monday 23rd May

Friday 27th May

Monday 6th June

Y8 Options Evening

End of Term

Start of Summer Term

Y11 Leavers' Mass

Y11 GCSE Examinations begin

Lourdes Pilgrimage & break up for half term

Return to school

Kind Regards

Mrs P J Hanrahan
Headteacher