

Issue No. 2

Week Ending 21 September 2007
Learning Programme Unit 1/3

No Place like Home!

Theme for the Week:

Global Ceasefire

21st September is Global Ceasefire Day. It is a day that the United Nations promotes as a day for peace.

We might ask ourselves how we can create global peace when there seems to be little that we can do to prevent or stop wars being fought on the other side of the world. Yet in our own way, we can bring some peace to this world. It might mean that we try to settle arguments calmly, try not to scream and shout when things don't go our way or to ask forgiveness from someone we have upset

Lord,

*We ask for peace.
Peace in our homes, in our country and in our world.
We pray that we will learn to be peacemakers,
treating others with love and gentleness
so that we might influence others to act the same way.
We make this prayer in Jesus' name.*

Amen

The return to school this year has been more like a College reunion for a special group of our staff who have something very important in common. Mr Davies, Mr Farrelly, Miss Sutton, Miss Hale, Mr Jones, Mr Holmes, Miss McNally and Miss Wilson are all former pupils of the College, with Mr Farrelly still pacing the corridors as a sixth-former up until four years ago! The group met up last week to compare notes on old times and to consider some of the changes that they have witnessed in recent years. Miss Sutton spoke about some of the changes that she has seen in the buildings, noticing how the extensions to the old school have added so much light and space to the College. Mr Jones was struck by how many new faces are now to be seen on the staff, though it was nice to see plenty of the longest-serving members still hard at work.



Having former pupils on the staff is a great sign that our Community spirit is alive at SJP and getting stronger all the time. After all, these colleagues wouldn't want to come back if they hadn't had a very positive experience during their own times at the College. These colleagues are also a big help to our current pupils in forming good relationships with staff because today's pupils really are talking with people who have been there and seen it from their point of view. After all, who knows better than an SJP pupil what an SJP pupil needs to know?

My hope is that many more of our own will want to come back and pass on their knowledge to the next generation. Who knows – somebody reading today's SJP News could be writing it in times to come!

Road Works

Parents will have seen the road-works that have taken place outside the College. We here at SJP were not consulted about the works and therefore had no input into the changes which leaves us all very frustrated. We are disappointed about the reduction in car parking spaces and the lack of access for parents. Our first port of call is to ensure that our pupils are safe as they travel to and from College. Can we please ask that parents do not park on the double yellow lines near the pupil entry/exit gates. Pupils are at risk of being seriously hurt because of the congestion at this area. We appreciate the inconvenience that the works have caused but in the safety of all our pupils we ask for and appreciate your co-operation.

Numeracy Brainteaser

Last week's solution: 5..1, 2.7, 2.1, 1.2, 0.9

Last week's winner: Charlotte Kearns, Year 9

This week's brainteaser:

IF you wrote all the numbers from 0 to 600, how many times would the digit 0 appear?

Answers to Miss Hodges in room MA2 by Friday 21st September. All correct answers will be put into a draw to win a £5 gift voucher for WH Smiths.

College Council Elections

The process to elect all Form Council, Year Council and College Council representatives for the academic year 2007/08 starts in the 'Citizenship' lesson on Monday 24th September 2007, period 2.

This is THE opportunity for any student to be actively involved in decision making at SJP.

1st PFOP Meeting of 07/08

To be held on 20th September 2007 at 7.00 p.m. All Parents and Friends of SJP are welcome

Free Music Tuition!

In keeping with our established practice of encouraging our youngsters to use all of their gifts and talents, we are again offering free Music Tuition to all Pupils in Year 7. Please see Miss Stott for details of courses available.

Three of the Best

College Parents will all be aware by now that our new Year 10s performed at record levels in last year's SATs exams. The English department continued in its high standards and over 81% of our pupils passed their SATs exam at Level 5 or above. This really is a tremendous achievement and a credit to the hard work of staff and pupils alike. What was also very encouraging last summer was how the Maths and Science departments also pulled off magnificent results. Indeed, both departments broke College records for achievement in their subjects, with 71% of pupils achieving a Level 5 or above in Science and a ground-breaking 75% doing the same in Mathematics. Well done to all!

I think we can be particularly proud of the performances of Grant Gamble, Hannah Caldwell and Ryan Caird. These three pupils scooped Level 8 in Mathematics, the highest grade available nationally. What a performance!



Former Head Girl says Farewell!

Last week, former Head Girl, Lauren Shevlin, popped in to say goodbye to her teachers. Having scooped straight As at A Level, Lauren is off to start her new course in Theology at the University of Leeds. Lauren's achievements include the incredible feat of gaining 100% in her Philosophy module at A Level, something the exam boards tell me is practically unheard of. I am sure all College Parents will wish to join me as we say Goodbye and Good Luck to Lauren and to the rest of the Year 13 Class of 2007 who now begin the exciting journey into the world of University life or employment. I am sure that their time at the College will stand them in very good stead for whatever awaits them. I also know that they will be keeping in close touch with all of College life via our website at www.stjohnplessington.com and, of course, SJP News! We look forward to welcoming them back soon.

WEEKLY FOCUS

Next week's focus is:

PUPILS MUST REMEMBER TO TRANSFER THEIR SUBJECT TARGETS INTO PLANNERS THIS WEEK.