



# Plessington Catholic Technology College

Issue No. 6 Volume 1  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2005

## Plessington News

Note from the Head

Theme for the week: youth

Compare the following:

*When I was a boy we were taught to be discreet and respectful of elders, but the present youth are exceedingly impatient. They have detestable manners, flout authority, have no respect for elders.*

**Greek Poet Hesiod, Eighth Century**

*The young people of today think of nothing but themselves. They have no reverence for parents or old age. They are impatient of all restraint. They talk as if they know everything.*

**Peter the Monk, Thirteenth Century**

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### MASS THIS WEEK

Wednesday – 1.30pm  
In the Chapel

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### “NUMERACY BRAINTEASER”

What number is represented by LIX in Roman numerals?

Give your answer slips to Miss Hodges in Room B12 by Friday 25 November. All correct answers will be entered into a draw to win a £5 gift voucher

Last week's solution 72 days

Last week's winner – Michael Hughes 10MW

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### YEAR 7, 8 & 9 REVIEW DAYS

A big thank you to all the pupils below for their help on the Review Days:

Hannah Bolton	-	8MW
Leah Jones	-	8AL
Stephanie Churchill	-	8AL
Chelsea Holdgate	-	8MW
Jonathan King	-	9EA
Deiniol Cowley	-	9EA
Mark Reynolds	-	9EC
Siobhan McLaughlin	-	7AB
Sean Doyle	-	7EC
Charlotte Kearns	-	7AB
Eddie Fleming	-	7EA
Rachel Gahan	-	7AB
Nicola McNeill	-	7AL

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Mrs Hewitt of the English Department and the father of our Chaplain, Mr Tony McGrath. Our prayers and thoughts are with both their families.

### Fantastic Turnout

Over the past week we have held our parents consultation meetings for Year 7, 8 and 9.

I must thank you for your excellent attendance at what I hope was a worthwhile meeting with your son or daughter's tutor.

Over 90% of all families have met with teachers so far and the final consultation meeting will be for Year 10 next Wednesday 23 November.

From analysis of reports I am delighted to see that pupils receiving 6 or more grade 1 or 2 for effort were as follows:

Year 7	97%
Year 8	92%
Year 9	82%

That is quite an achievement. Well done to all boys and girls who have done so well. Please join us in praising their efforts.

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### Quiz Question

Last week's question proved too tough for all entrants, as no one was able to correctly answer that the First World War began on 28 June 1914.

Therefore this weeks question is a rollover £10 prize.

This week's question relates to Harry Potter & The Goblet of Fire.

*What is the name of the Bulgarian Minister for Magic?*

Answers to Form Tutors for the attention of Mr Quinn

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### YEAR 10 RETREAT

For the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever, Plessington is taking a small group of year 10 students on retreat to Savio House near Bollington.

The aim of a retreat is to allow students time to think and reflect upon their future as adult Christians – as well as relaxing, walking, and having fun in the beautiful surroundings of Cheshire.

We look forward to a superb retreat and shall let you know all about it next weeks Plessington News

**Mr Woods and Mrs Davidson**

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### FORTHCOMING EVENT

Mrs Cushion and Mr Williams have organised an Aim Higher enrichment visit for 60 Year 10 pupils to Manchester University on Thursday 22 November. The Aim Higher cohort for the year group is twenty strong but Mrs Cushion was keen to extend opportunities to a further 40 deserving pupils.

Pupils will tour the University campus, speak with undergraduate students and participate in art / history lectures. Hopefully all will enjoy the visit and opportunities to visit a large

Visit our new e-learning portal – <http://www.samlearning.com>

and well respected university. Hopefully the trip will encourage our pupils to extend their education into university / college. Full evaluations and pictures to follow next week.

Mrs D Cushion / Mr D R Williams

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Plessington v. South Wirral

Year 7	8 - 1	won
Year 8	10 - 2	won

Well done girls! That's a clean sweep year 7 – 10 beat South Wirral. This week the girls take on Ridgeway.

### Dance Fever

A range of girls from year 7 – 10 took part in the St. Mary's dance festival on Thursday 17 November. This was our first of many collaborations with St. Mary's who are a media and arts college. Well done to them all. Anyone interested in joining the dance club should come on either Wednesday or Thursday lunch in the sports hall.

### RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE

9MW are raffling a large tin of chocolates to raise money for the Amnesty International Christmas Card Appeal.

Stephanie Manifold, Chelsea Johnston and Amy Fitzmaurice are going round school selling tickets (10p for 1 ticket and 50p for 6 tickets).

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### PUPILS' COMMENTS ON WEEKEND IN BELGIUM

Over the weekend some of the Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE pupils took a trip to France and Belgium through History to commemorate the men who died in World War 1. The pupils took a trip to the Somme in France and took part in the last post in Belgium, to remember each of the Battalions who died in World War 1. The pupils also went to a Trench that had been preserved so that we could see the horrors and the reality of what it would have been like. Overall the pupils learnt a lot and had a great time, so on behalf of all the pupils, Thanks Mr Brankin.

### Laura Scanavacca – 10MC

Over the last week, some of the GCSE History students went on a trip to Amai, France for a commemorative trip to remember the soldiers in World War 1. They travelled to the Somme and many places in Belgium such as Menin Gate to watch the last post parade and the trenches at Hill 62. Greg Croker, a student says, 'it's an experience I will never forget!'.  
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### Sarah Wilks – 10MC

## History Department Trip to the battlefields of World War One

Anyone watching television or listening to the radio recently cannot have failed to notice the number of programmes or news articles featuring the dreadful conflict that became known as the 'Great War'. As advanced old age swallows the last remaining survivors, most media producers have focused on the sacrifice of the men and women involved.

As part of Plessington's contribution to the commemoration of those who perished, and in an attempt to provide pupils with a first hand experience of the events they study, forty seven GCSE History students were given the opportunity to be part of the World War One experience. Our pupils were encouraged to empathise with the fallen at the locations referred to in most recent documentaries, especially the site of that most famous of British battles, the Battle of the Somme.

We made an early start on the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> November and by 6.30am had begun our coach journey south for the Eurostar to France. By early evening we had reach Arras, our 'HQ' for the duration of the trip, and on the following morning began our pilgrimage around the famous sites along the river Somme.

We first visited the eerily silent trenches of the Newfoundland Memorial Park where a solitary caribou stands in silent tribute above the unmarked resting places of countless thousands of Canadians and other empire troops. Students made their way around grass covered craters and piles of corroding forty pounder shells to the cemeteries that lie on the outer edges of the memorial ground. Here they could examine the origins, names and ages of the dead on bleached headstones, the only reminder of men who lost their lives in a distant land.

In the afternoon our party made their way to Thiepval Memorial Park where a vast mausoleum has been erected in memory of over 72, 000 soldiers whose remains lie scattered across the farmland of Northern France. Students could study vast swathes of their names etched into the sandstone interior of the memorial arch, whose dome can be spotted from miles around.

Visiting Thiepval allowed pupils to come to terms with the magnitude of the conflict and the vast numbers of men slaughtered for only a few kilometres of land. The significance of these events can often be lost when school books inform them in motionless black text that 20, 000 young men lost their lives on the first day of the Somme offensive. However, Thiepval's grim roll call of the missing defies the observer not to empathise with their sacrifice.

The pinnacle of the trip for both staff and students was Friday evening's visit to the town of Ypres, on the Belgian salient, for a moving commemoration ceremony beneath the famous Menin Gate . Here we witnessed one of the few remaining veterans lay a wreath in memory of his fallen friends before brass bands solemnly played the last post to a silent crowd.

On the final day of our battlefields visit we once again travelled to the Ypres Salient to inspect a large section of reconstructed trench. Here students could really come to terms with the trench experience of the average 'Tommy'. The proprietors have dutifully recreated a line of typical British trenches complete with tunnels, bunkers, support trenches and craters filled with pools of festering sludge. It was not hard to envisage the sights, sounds and smells of battle as students stormed the opposing trench and bravely made their way through the darkness of a tunnel network designed to preserve the lives of men during fearsome bombardments. Pupils could imagine the officer's whistle informing men, some as young as themselves, that it was time to 'hop the bags' and pour 'over the top' for perhaps the last time.

I am grateful to all of the staff and pupils involved in making our trip such a memorable and moving experience. Students were starkly reminded of the futility of modern war and the sickening losses experienced by all sides during a protracted and terrifying conflict. Our time in France and Belgium has left a deep and lasting impression on all of us.

Mr. Brankin

### DULCE ET DECORUM EST

My friend, you would not tell with such high zest  
 To children ardent for some desperate glory,  
 The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est  
 Pro patria mori.*

Wilfred Owen



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SCHOOL MENU: Please see our new menu for next week.

WEEK 4	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Pasta Dish</b>	Sweet Chilli Chicken	Spaghetti Bolognese	Ham in Cheese Sauce	Lasagne & Garlic Bread	Creamy Tomato & Smoked Bacon
<b>Rice Dish</b>	Chicken Tikka	Sweet & Sour Pork	Chilli Beef	Chicken Korma	Chef's Special
<b>Main Course</b>	Toad in the Hole	Beef Bourguignon	Roast Lamb Dinner	Spiced Chicken Legs	Battered Fish
<b>Vegetarian Choice</b>	Roast Veg and Yorkshire Pud	Spanish Omelette	Roast Nut Loaf Dinner	Veggie Noodles	
	Potato Wedges Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy	Potato Wedges Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy	Potato Wedges Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy	Potato Wedges Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy	Chips Mashed Potato Veg of the Day Beans Gravy
	Pizza	Burger	Pizza	Burger	Pizza
	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie	Sausage Sausage Roll Fish Cakes Cheese Pastie

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**THEATRE VISIT TO SEE THE LION KING**

With all the bravery of an old lion, Mr Owen and a young lioness, Miss Youds, the "cultural enrichment" Drama Department visit went ahead initially in the face of a raw morning, 6.30 a.m. at Lime Street and finally a dark evening 9.45 p.m. at the same place. The students behaved themselves impeccably and were mutually supportive throughout the trip. The theatre museum workshops on make up and costume were informative and enjoyable as was the subsequent tour. A finale in the theatrical spectacular, which was the Lion King, made a memorable London visit into a special one. The long trek there and back with the jostlings of the tube saw a tired group of students and staff head home with some great experiences to look back on in the future.

Mr J Owen, Head of Drama

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**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – YEAR 7**

Year 7 have been actively collecting shoe boxes that will be sent to children who are victims of war, famine, disease, poverty and natural disaster. A very big thank you to all the students who have donated boxes – in some cases more than one box.

7AL	-	12
7EA	-	11
7EC	-	10
7AB	-	10
7JP	-	8
7MC	-	6
7JA	-	4
7MW	-	1

A total of 62 boxes have been collected so far by Year 7, a big thank you to you all, the deadline is Monday 21 November. Could we collect any more boxes before then? "Your Gift makes a world of difference".

Mrs J Ford

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**CONSULTATION MEETINGS**

**Consultation Meetings Autumn Term**

<b>Year 10</b>	Wednesday	23 November	10.00-6.30pm
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Parents should now have returned the reply slip indicating a preferred time for the meeting. The Form Tutor will write the time of the appointment in the pupil's planner. Parents are reminded that pupils will be on study leave for their relevant consultation day. When accompanying parents for the individual appointments, pupils should arrive in full school uniform.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

**15 December 2005 7.00 p.m. – Main Hall**

A service of prayer & reflection, song & scripture to prepare for the celebration of Christmas. It will involve pupils from all year groups, the school choir and musicians.

Why not take some time out of your busy pre-Christmas schedule and be still and listen to our Faith story told anew.

A time to gather, pray and reflect together as one common faith community.

Mince pies and refreshments available afterwards.

**ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY**

PLEASE INDICATE BY RETURNING THIS REPLY SLIP IF YOU WOULD LIKE TICKETS AND RETURN FOR ATTENTION OF MR R WOODS

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the Christmas Carol Service on 15 December 2005.

Pupil Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_