



Plessington Catholic Technology College

Issue No. 8 Volume 1
2nd December 2005

Theme for the Week: Advent

Celtic prayer

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you

MASS THIS WEEK
Fr Nick Kern
Wednesday – 1.30pm
In the Chapel

GRADUATE MENTOR

We now have working in school for one day a week a Graduate Mentor called Dave Painter. Dave was appointed by the Education Authority to offer information, advice and guidance to young people from year 9 to year 13, on going to university, college or 6th form. He works with students to show them that they have the potential to go on to further education. In January 06, Dave will be working in conjunction with the Learning Mentors providing, motivation, study skills, revision techniques and forming personal education plans for year 11 students preparing for their GCSE's in May.

If a student wishes to self refer to Dave they can arrange this through Sandy Skillen the Learning Mentor.

S Skillen

NUMERACY BRAINTEASER

There are ten blue socks, ten red socks and ten brown socks in a drawer in a dark room.

How many socks must be taken out of the drawer to ensure you get a matching pair?

Give your answer slips to Miss Hodges in Room B12 by Friday 9 December
All correct answers will be entered into a draw to win a £5 gift voucher for WH Smiths

Last week's solution: 5

Last week's winner: Stephen Dawson

Plessington News

Note from the Head

Thank you to all students, parents and staff who attended our Year 11 Study Skills Evening on Tuesday. It was tremendous to see the enthusiasm and support for the learning process. The evening was a timely reminder that we learn in different ways and I'm sure the Year 11 students will put the ideas (presented to them) to excellent use as they embark on their mock examinations. Good luck to them all.

Quiz Question

Last week's question:

If you have 2 coins totalling 11 pence and one of the coins is not a 10 pence, what 2 coins do you have in your hand?

The answer was: the two coins would be a 10 pence and a 1 pence (one of the coins is not a 10 pence!!!)

Last week's winner: Samuel Tarpey – 8MC

This week's question begins our season of Advent. So, what are the names of the three wise men that journey throughout Advent?

Answers to Form Tutors for the attention of Mr Quinn

DANCE FESTIVAL IN ST MARY'S

On Thursday 17 November the girls from years 8, 9,10 took part in a Dance festival in St Mary's High School in Wallasey. Years 8 and 9 danced to '1,2 Step' by Ciara. A professional dancer came and taught us. Year 10 danced to 'Loose Control', 'It's Like That' and 'Nasty Girl'. There were 3 schools taking part in the festival, which were Plessington, St Mary's and Hylton Bromley, a ballet school.

Year 10 went on first doing their 'Lose Control' dance which went to plan, then Years 8 and 9 went on to do their '1,2 Step'.

During the interval St Mary's and Plessington had a dance off which ended quite quickly as the interval had finished. As the second half went on the last dance 'Nasty Girl' (Year 10) went off ok. At the end of the dance show, all the schools that took part went on and bowed.

It was a very enjoyable show, where everyone involved said they would love to do it again.

Pupils who took part: Kim Caul (10), Leah Foster (10), Laura Donville (10), Rebecca Lound (10), Aimee Billington (10), Stephanie Martyn (10), Laura Murphy (10), Rachael Dale (10), Holly McCulloch (10), Nicola McCulloch (8), Danielle Quayle (8), Nicola Fleming (8), Charlotte Thompson (8), Charlotte Doran (8), Natasha Murphy (8), Antonia McArdle (8), Lucy Fitzpatrick (8), Helen McNeill (9), Kate Kokborg (8), Natalie Rennicks (9), Jennifer Cass (9)

Girls P.E. Department

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

YOUTH MASS ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CHURCH

After successfully performing in the dance show at St Mary's High School, Years 8, 9 and 10 were asked to perform at a Youth Mass on Sunday 20 November at St Joseph's Parish Church, Birkenhead. On the day some people who took part in the Dance Festival at St Mary's were not able to attend the mass. The Youth Mass was open to Families and the community and was a different mass from every other Sunday.

First to perform where the Year 8 and 9 dancing to '1, 2 Step', then Year 10 performed their dance 'Loose Control', the dances were all successful and everybody enjoyed it. The experience at St Mary's and the Youth Mass at St Joseph's was brilliant for everyone. Thank you to Miss Harris and Miss Showler and Mr Marsden who organised the events. We all look forward to doing more shows in the future.

Helen McNeill (9), Kim Caul (10), Jennifer Cass (9), Rebecca Lound (9), Antonia McArdle (8), Laura Domville (10), Kate Kokburg (8), Leah Foster (10), Aimee Billington (10).

Girls P.E. Department

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Please find attached our Enrichment Programme of Activities, which take place Monday to Friday each week either during lunchtime or after school. Hopefully your son/daughter is taking up the opportunities offered by our hardworking staff, if not perhaps you might encourage them to take part in some of the activities. The programme will be updated termly and will be published in Plessington News.

UNIFORM QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Thank you to all of you who responded to the questionnaire about making changes to the uniform. All the returns have been collated and analysed and the results are as follows:

- The majority of you agree that the uniform should be changed
- The majority of you agree that there should be a different uniform for Years 7-9 and 10-11.
- The majority of you say that girls should have the option to wear trousers if they want to.
- The majority of you say that there should be a different uniform for the summer months and the winter months.
- The majority of you say that girls should not have to wear ties.

These results will now be put to the Governors for approval. Further information will be published very soon in *Plessington News*, particularly regarding the option of girls wearing trousers. However, it would be unwise to go out and buy trousers for wearing in school just yet.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 15 December 2005 7.00 p.m. – Main Hall

Just to remind you that tickets are still available for the Christmas Carol Service

Mince pies and refreshments available afterwards.

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY

BOLLINGTON

Last week 18 year 10 students together with Mr Woods and Miss Davidson ventured for the first time as Plessington Catholic Technology College to Savio House, Bollington.

The purpose of the 3 day retreat was to allow pupils the chance to step back from the everyday pressures of school life to laugh, reflect, think and pray together.

A team of 7 young people led the discussions and sessions which allowed us all to go "below the surface" to share our thoughts about family, friends, school and our faith.

But it wasn't all serious and deep... there was pool, table tennis, table football, 5-a-side, air-ice-hockey as well as the treasure hunt, the walk up Everest (well "White Nancy" but for some it seemed like Mount Everest!!!), the indoor snowball fights and the outstanding karaoke!!

A fantastic time was had by all. We can't wait to go back in Year 11.



REMINDER FOR YEAR 11 GCSE P.E. STUDENTS

On Thursday 8 December 2005 the exam will run until 3.30 p.m. – all students should have had a letter regarding this.

YEAR 11 GCSE HISTORY REVISION EXERCISES

Students are reminded that History teachers will be collecting your work on the first three topics in the revision programme after the exams:

1. 'What was the part played by Britain in the defeat of Germany on the Western Front?'
2. 'How important was the role of Britain in the war at sea?'
3. 'How did the First World War change life in Britain?'

THE ROMANS HAVE COME! AND GONE!

On Friday 25 November, the History Department hosted yet another very successful Romans Day for Year 7 pupils. The aim of the 'experience' was to provide pupils with a deeper understanding of their first unit of study in the Year 7 programme. Having recently completed their coverage of the Roman army, a real life centurion, Severus Maximus, visited the school in full replica armour and equipment.

Pupils were introduced to the weapons, equipment and lifestyle of the average soldier on the European campaign trail. Before invading 'Britannia' the Roman legions had completed successful operations in 'Gaul' and 'Germania', and our centurion carried with him the spoils of such victories. Students could observe torcs, bracelets, gold and other valuables looted from Celtic tribes or marvel at the cutting power of a typical sword or the defensive features of the Roman armour and shields.

Some pupils were even given the opportunity to become legionaries themselves after Centurion Severus dressed them in complete outfits with matching kit and equipment. Under the burden of their armour they struggled to cross the Drama Studio before being reminded that legions performed forced marches of up to 40 km every day.

In interactive sessions students were given the opportunity to examine the basic equipment of the Roman legionary and observed how broth and bread were produced on a simple camp fire. Pupils benefited from the insights gained from a question and answer session, during which Centurion Severus maintained his guise as an authentic servant of the Roman Empire.

Overall, the day provided an excellent learning experience for the students involved, since it

removed History from the text book into a new world of colour, movement, empathy and dramatic experience.

History Department



STUDY SKILLS EVENING

Many thanks to over 200 parents and students who attended the Year 11 Study Skills Evening on Tuesday, and to Mr Dolan, Miss Kilfeather and other staff who attended.

The evening demonstrated to parents and students the different techniques for revision and how to deal with stress.

90% of feedback said the evening was "very good" or "excellent". I hope you benefited and took home useful tips and skills for the mock exams and final GCSEs.

Mrs Singleton

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

WEEK 2	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pasta Dish	Sweet Chilli Chicken	Spaghetti Bolognese	Ham in Cheese Sauce	Lasagne & Garlic Bread	Creamy Tomato and Smoked Bacon
Rice Dish	Chicken Tikka	Sweet & Sour Pork	Chilli Beef	Chicken Korma	Chefs' Special
Main Course	Cottage Pie	Spiced Chicken Legs	Roast Pork Dinner	Steak & Veg Pie	Battered Fish
Vegetarian Choice	Vegetable Pie	Leek & Mushroom Quiche	Roast Nut Loaf Dinner	Cauliflower Cheese	
	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
