

Issue No. 1
Week Ending 14 September 2007
Learning Programme Unit 1/2

Welcome Back!

Theme for the Week:

Racial Justice

9th September this year is Racial Justice Sunday. It is a day when Christian churches consider the importance of treating all people, regardless of race, with love and respect. Rather than treating the differences between people as something that can divide us, we are encouraged to celebrate the diversity that is found between people from all around the world..

WEEKLY FOCUS

Next week's focus is:

**ALL PUPILS MUST REMEMBER
TO WEAR THEIR COLLEGE
JUMPERS**

A warm welcome back to all Students and Staff to what promises to be another exciting year. I am delighted to have been able to celebrate our best ever examination results this year, a fabulous way I think to welcome everyone back to the College.

During the Summer we have been able to expand and upgrade our facilities throughout the College. We are sure you will agree that the building work, the new installations and the refurbishment that took place over the summer have all paid off. Be sure to take a look at the new-look ICT suites, where our state of the art ICT facilities now provide the very latest in multi-media teaching. We have invested heavily in purchasing 160 **additional** PCs throughout the College increasing our overall provision to over 500 computers throughout the College. All our classrooms are now fully equipped with interactive whiteboards. An incredible 68% of last years Year 11 have returned to us into our sixth form—another new record ! To welcome them back we are now able to boast a newly designed Common Room, at the heart of the College, providing them with high standard facilities and a place to socialise when they are not hard at work in the Basil Hume Centre, itself completely refurbished and upgraded now providing conference-standard facilities for Staff and Students alike. Look out for details on all of the above in our special 'Celebration' issue coming out later this week.

Next week I will introduce all our new staff to you and share with you our exciting plans for the next year. On behalf of myself and the staff thank you for your continuing support.

Year 11 Break the Record!

GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS 2007

66% five plus A* - C passes

The College recorded its greatest ever exam results at every level and as a Community we are immensely proud of all that our pupils achieved. In particular, we were thrilled to see that 66% of our Year 11 Pupils gained 5 or more GCSEs at Grade C or higher. Special mention must go to Stephen Bilko, 8 A*s and 4 A, Patricia Simmons 7 A*s and 6 A, Matthew Stott 5 A*s and 5 A, James Barnes 3 A*s and 4 A, Sophie Mitchell 3 A*s and 5 A and Laura McNally 2 A*s and 6 A — outstanding results and well deserved!



Congratulations to Year 11 on the best results in the history of the College !

Numeracy Summer School

The Summer holidays started later for some Pupils (and staff!) as 45 of our new Year 7 Pupils spent the first week attending St John Plessington's Numeracy Summer School.

The Pupils participated in different Mathematical activities and games designed to increase ability and confidence, as well as making new friends before they started in September.

The Pupils built a 4-metre high Towering Tetrahedron, solved puzzles in the Fun Maths Roadshow and completed a Maths Treasure Hunt, to name a few of the activities.

More photographs are displayed on the Maths corridor.



English Summer School

The English department were early starting back this year with the English Summer School taking place on the 28th, 29th and 30th of August.

In the mornings, after enjoying some ice-breaker activities and drama games, the students worked on a drama production focusing on 'myths versus the reality of starting high school'. This production, coordinated by Miss Rossiter and Miss McGowan, will be shown to the whole year group in an upcoming assembly, and will also feature in SJP's Year 7 Welcome Mass.

In the afternoons, Miss McNally and Mr. Coogan started the students off on a 'blog and video diary project' that we hope will soon be accessible via the College website. This team of students explored the College (with Miss McNally carefully avoiding the building work going on!) and wrote eloquently about their hopes and fears before formally starting at SJP. Over the coming year the students, who will form part of our Gifted and Talented cohort, will update their blogs in order to allow other students, and especially those from our Feeder Primaries, an insight into how much fun starting high school can ACTUALLY be! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children who came along and made coming back to school a week early so much fun! They are: Jess Beech; Ellie Smith; Joseph Lyons; Jamie Wood; Christopher Smith; Megan Lawlor; Bethany Smith; Alex Bell; Matthew McAdam; Nathan Noronha; Sean Flaherty; Helen Parsons; Becky McCann; Faye Doughty; Adam Statham; Melanie Ferguson; Michaela Wilson; Katie McCoosh and Elizabeth McGee. Well done and a big thanks to you and all of the staff involved. Photos soon to be seen in the English corridor!

Competition

In the first edition of "Plessington News" in October 2005, I announced that I would offer a prize to any pupil who collected every edition at the end of the school year. Once again, I am pleased to offer a prize to any pupil who successfully collects every edition of SJP News this year.

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.

Year 11 Review Evening

Please note that our Review Evening for Year 11 Parents and Pupils takes place this Thursday at 4.30.

Numeracy Brainteaser

A chimney sweep has 7 rods – they are 5.1m, 4.5m, 2.7m, 2.1m, 1.2m, 0.9m, 0.6m.

Which 5 rods will reach exactly to the top of a 12-metre chimney?

Answers to Miss Hodges in room MA2 by Friday 14th September. All correct answers will be put into a draw to win a £5 gift voucher for WH Smiths.

SJP Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2007

Fifteen Year 12s went on pilgrimage to Lourdes during the summer holidays to help a group of elderly and ill people (we call them our VIPs) from Shrewsbury Diocese.

We arrived on the Monday after a tiring twenty hour journey, but we didn't let our tiredness get us down! After settling down in our hotel we joined the rest of the Shrewsbury pilgrims for Mass. This gave us the opportunity to see some of Lourdes and to understand the scope of the pilgrimage.

Our work involved collecting VIPs from the hospital and hotels and taking them to various services and Masses. We sometimes took them shopping or for a cup of coffee during their free time. This gave us a chance to get to know people and learn about their story.



We took part in the Torchlight Procession, which took us around the Rosary Square. The prayers were in lots of different languages which showed us that people from all over the world were gathered in one place for the same thing. All the people there were carrying candles, and in the darkness, this looked beautiful. It was a fantastic experience.

Each evening when our duties were completed we would all meet together on the opposite side of river to the Grotto for a short reflection. This gave us time to wind down from the day and reflect upon our experiences and to pray for the people at home who we love. We would then socialise with young people from other groups.

As the SJP group worked so well during the week, we were asked to take on a number of hospital duties. We felt that this was a real privilege, especially as we had not been to Lourdes before.

One evening we took a trip down to the Grotto at 12.30 at night. This was different to going during the day because it was quieter and it was easier to pray there in peace. There, we had an opportunity to light candles.

We did the Stations of the Cross twice. One time we did it as a group and followed the stations up a hill. At each station we stopped and had a reflection and prayer. We were all tired after the walk, although we were glad

The Oval Wirral – Refurbishment Programme

Work on the above programme has commenced and will be running until at least January 2008.

In the interest of Health & Safety, we would advise you that the whole of The Oval grounds are designated **NO GO AREA** to all members of the public.

Please ensure that your children do not use The Oval grounds as a public thoroughfare and that they make their way to school via an alternate route.

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!

SJP Governing Body

We are delighted to advise the appointment of Ms Carol Johnson-Eyre, new Foundation Governor, and the re-appointment of two Parent Governors, Mr Quentin Neal and Mr Glenn Paisley.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE 2007-2008

			No. of days Teachers	No. of days Pupils
OPEN	Teachers	Monday 3 September (SDD)		
	Teachers	Tuesday 4 September (SDD)		
	Pupils	Wednesday 5 September		
CLOSE	Pupils	Thursday, 18 October		
CLOSE	Teachers	Friday, 19 October (SDD)	(35)	(32)
HALF TERM : MONDAY 22 – FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER 2007				
OPEN	Teachers/ Pupils	Monday 29 October		
CLOSE	Teachers/ Pupils	Friday, 21 December	(40)	(40)
CHRISTMAS : MONDAY, 24 DECEMBER 2007– FRIDAY 4 JANUARY 2008				
OPEN	Teachers	Monday 7 January (SDD)		
	Pupils	Tuesday, 8 January		
CLOSE	Teachers/ Pupils	Friday 8 February	(25)	(24)
HALF TERM : MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2008				
OPEN	Teachers/ Pupils	Monday 18 February		
CLOSE	Teachers/ Pupils	Thursday 20 March	(24)	(24)
EASTER : FRIDAY 21 MARCH – FRIDAY 4 APRIL 2008				
OPEN	Teachers	Monday 7 April (SDD)		
OPEN	Pupils	Tuesday 8 April		
BANK HOLIDAY	Teachers/ Pupils	Monday 5 May		
CLOSE	Teachers/ Pupils	Friday 23 May	(34)	(33)
HALF-TERM : MONDAY 26 MAY – FRIDAY 30 MAY 2008				
OPEN	Teachers/ Pupils	Monday 2 June		
CLOSE	Teachers/ Pupils	Tuesday, 22 July	(37)	(37)

SDD= School Development Day (Staff Only)

(195)

(190)