



Issue No. 23
Week Ending 21 March 2008
Learning Programme Unit 4/5

Holy Week

Holy Week begins with happiness – Jesus travels into Jerusalem and is cheered by the crowd who acknowledge his greatness. Yet it quickly turns to bitterness and sadness, as Jesus is betrayed by someone close to him, arrested, convicted and murdered. Cheering on the Sunday, to weeping on the Friday. Betrayed, abandoned, Jesus dies on the cross and those closest to him and scattered and heart-broken. We know how the story continues. It did not end in a cold tomb on the worst Friday the world has ever seen, but continued with the glory of the resurrection. Jesus died for our wrongdoings and rose again so that we can go to heaven. We live in the glory of the resurrection and can rejoice in it each day.

*Lord Jesus,
Your passion, death and resurrection closed the gap between us and heaven.
Help us every day to become closer to you by our prayers, actions and thoughts.
Let us live every day in the joy and of the resurrection and the hope of everlasting life in heaven, with you.
Amen*

All year groups will take part in a service this week in College. This will give everyone the opportunity to reflect on and pray about the events of Holy Week and to consider what this means to us today.

MASS FOR THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY AT THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING 23 APRIL 11.00 A.M.



Preparations have been busily under way this week as we draw near to one of the College's landmark events of the year. Our Mission week (14-18 April) will be crowned by the College's first visit en masse to the Metropolitan Cathedral in Liverpool, where the entire community at St John Plessington will gather in celebration of the many highlights of the liturgical and spiritual year at the College. The principal Celebrant for the Mass will be Fr Peter Hooper of St Luke's, who will be joined by a number of his fellow clergy from our Partner Parishes and from our Local Pastoral Area.

The day promises to be a joyous event for the whole of the College community and will act as the closing ceremony for our College Mission week. As you might expect, all Pupils and staff will be attending the event and we will be joined at the Cathedral by Governors and representatives from our Partner Schools and Parishes. I should like to take this opportunity of extending a very warm invitation to all those Parents who are able to be with us as well. Mass begins at 11.00 on the 23 April, and I would respectfully ask Parents to take their seats by 10.50 in order to accommodate the huge numbers we are anticipating on the day.

Details of the day, together with guidance on directions and parking, will be sent via post over the next week. I am confident that our trip to the Cathedral will rapidly become an integral part of our annual celebration of the Catholic Mission of the College and I will be very pleased, therefore, to be able to welcome all Parents able to be present at this inaugural visit.

Mass & Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer takes place every Tuesday and Thursday in College Chapel from 8.20 – 8.35.

Fr Tony Elder from Holy Name will be celebrating Mass in College Chapel at 12.50 on Wednesday.

SJP's Novel Approach Wins Over Whole School

As part of SJP's World Book Day celebrations, staff, pupils, parents, and outside speakers combined to make the week long celebrations a resounding success. Rather than simply celebrate the day itself on the Thursday of the week, staff at SJP, led by the English Department, decided to make a whole week of it!

The aim of the week was to try and include everyone in the whole school community to celebrate the gift and importance of reading. With this aim in mind staff planned a wide variety of events to involve and capture people's imagination.

All staff shared their Memorable Reads with the Pupils and parents via a power point presentation collated by Miss McNally that is currently being run on the TV screen in the Atrium as well as the school's own TV channel on the screens dotted around the school.

Miss McNally said that it was a wonderful chance to find out from all different subject teachers what books had inspired them either in their youth or recently. This power point is also available for viewing on the school VLE website.

Pupils were at the heart of the week, however, with a Year 7 drama group led by Ms McGowan and Ms Rossiter staging dramatic readings of their favourite novels in the library all week. As you can see from the photographs the library was full of Pupils enjoying these events.

Not only did Pupils have a chance to see a scene re-enacted by their peers they were also encouraged to enter the fancy dress competition in which they could dress up as their favourite literary characters. This competition was won by Louise Emslie of 7MW who dressed up as her literary heroine Jacqueline Wilson. Emily Guttridge and Emily Jones were a close second with their version of Dorothy and the Lion from the classic novel, *The Wizard of Oz*, and third place went to Emily Brown of 8MW who dressed up as *The Worst Witch* from the series of novels by Jill Murphy (see Page 3).

Louise from Year 7 said, "I really enjoyed the week at school. I love dressing up and it was great fun with the rest of the Pupils on the Friday. The whole week showed just how many people read and that amazed me. Also I loved our Year 7 assembly when we went on the VLE and saw *The Golden Compass* trailer - that has made me really want to read the book. I am looking forward to next year's competition already!!"

All the Pupils who entered the competition enjoyed a special lunch provided Mrs Broom after the competition which was enjoyed by all in the library. College Librarian, Mrs Broom said of the week, that, "it was great to see so many Pupils from different year groups come together with staff to celebrate the simple pleasure of reading a great book! The whole week was a wonderful experience and I'm already looking forward to next year's celebrations."

In addition the English Department ran a series of specialised assemblies in which they shared their own views and experiences of the joy of reading. Ms McNally and Mr Coogan offered a hugely enjoyable assembly in which they shared their experiences of reading. Pupils were delighted to see Mr Coogan reading out sections from his personal favourite by Roald Dahl - *George's Marvellous Medicine*. Mrs Jones also selected Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*. Mr Pearson led the Sixth form assembly selecting Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* assisted by Sarah McCurry and Katherine Trigg of Year 13.

The English Department also ran competitions and a questionnaire via the VLE to find out what books the Pupils across the school enjoy.

Sixth formers were also involved as Mrs Jones' English Combined A level group were visited by an external speaker, Mike Youds, who works as a journalist in Dubai to speak to the Pupils about an insider's view of the industry.

I would personally like to thank all the staff who helped the week to be such a success and share with the Pupils their inspirational stories of their love of reading.

SJP Pupil mixes with the stars of T.V. and Hollywood



When a Year 9 Pupil gets Music homework, the last thing they might expect is to meet a Hollywood actor at the press night of a sell-out play.

Declan Evans (9JA) chose to research 'Brick up the Mersey Tunnels' as his project on musicals instead of the more obvious 'Grease' and 'High School Musical'. He has been to see 'The Tunnels' once before and is a committed fan. Mr McGinity plays in a band with one of the main actors in 'The Tunnels', Carl Chase, and asked Declan if he'd mind showing the homework to him. Carl was delighted with it and showed the homework to the other actors and director of the play. They were so impressed that they immediately invited Declan and a guest to the special press night, the performance on the evening before the public come to see this long-running sell-out show.

Declan will be able to meet Carl who has appeared in films including *Batman*, *Tomb Raider* and *Alien 3* but may be remembered better as the rogue vicar, Father Abraham, in *Coronation Street*. He will also mix with Andrew Schofield, who has starred in Alan Bleasdale T.V. dramas, and who played the shepherd in the live broadcast of the

'Liverpool Nativity' last December.

Rumour has it that Declan is thinking of researching Madonna, Paul McCartney and The Rolling Stones for his next homework to see what happens next!

World Book Day Fancy Dress Competition

Here are the lucky winners of the fancy dress competition. From the left:

Third place -Emily Brown (8MW) as The Worst Witch from the Jill Murphy novels

First place – Louise Emslie (7MW) as Jacqueline Wilson

Second place – Emily Guttridge and Emily Jones as Dorothy and the Cowardly Lion from the novel The Wizard of Oz by L Frank Baum. Congratulations to All!



After the competition the entrants enjoyed a special lunch laid on by Mrs Broom in the library.

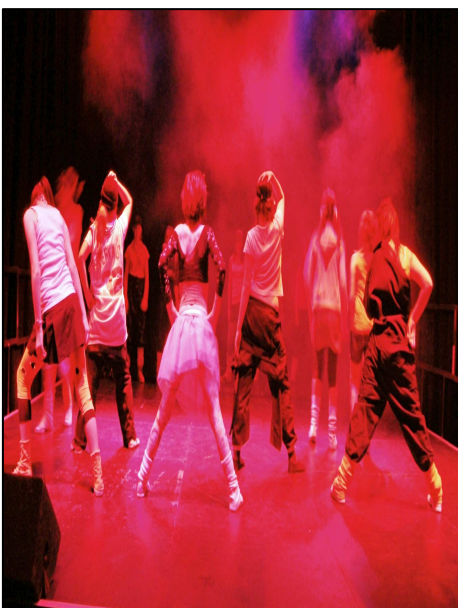


Fairy cake anyone?.....



Mr Davies enjoying the refreshments....

SJP DANCE REVOLUTION



On Wednesday 19 March, SJP will hold its first dance festival. This is the culmination of many weeks of hard work from pupils in Years 7 – 11, who have put a lot of time and effort into rehearsals. Some have choreographed whole pieces themselves in their own time which really are outstanding. Over 130 pupils will perform on the afternoon.

In addition to our own pupils, seven local primaries will be represented by over 125 pupils who will perform in the show. Each of the performances has been choreographed and taught by our Year 10 dance leaders, all of whom have been running dance clubs for the primaries for the last seven weeks. They have given up their own time and traveled to the schools every Tuesday.

We are extremely excited about the event and due to the sell out crowd of primary pupil parents, we may have to plan a future performance at a later date.

Good luck everyone, we know you will do us proud!!!

LITERACY CORNER

Word of the week

Spurious // Pronunciation Key [spyoo r-ee-uh s]



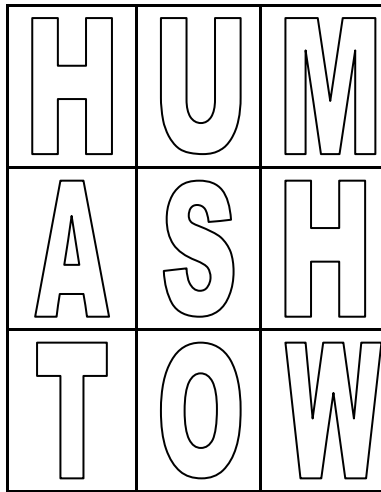
MEANING: Adjective meaning not genuine, authentic, or true; not from the claimed, pretended, or proper source; counterfeit.

DERIVATIVES: spuriously, *adverb*; spuriousness, *noun*

ORIGIN: From the Latin spurius, meaning *illegitimate*

Literacy quiz

How many words can you find in this word square?



List your words here

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22 Words - Good

26 Words - Very Good

30 Words - Excellent

R.E. REVISION LESSONS

Year 10—Wednesday Evenings

19 March—Ministry / The Pope / Bishops / Priests / Deacons J2 (Mrs Ford) in RE4

Year 11—Tuesday Evenings

18 March—Life after Death C2 (Mrs Davidson) in B4

YEAR 11 GCSE SPANISH REVISION

Coursework help and revision classes will take place every Wednesday from 3.30—4.30 p.m.

HISTORY REVISION CLASSES

History Revision classes for Year 11 take place every Tuesday (3.30—4.30 p.m.)

Numeracy Brainteaser

This Week's Brainteaser:

DIX is French for ten but what does DIX represent in Roman Numerals?

Answers to Miss Hodges in Room MA2 by Thursday 20 March. All correct answers will be put into a draw to win a £5 gift voucher for WH Smiths.

St John's Parish News

The first meeting for St. John's Confirmation will Monday 17th of March in the Parish Centre. Meeting starts at 6:30pm. It is asked that your parents come along with you to the first meeting.

CAFOD Soup Lunches

A great number of pupils decided last week that instead of having their usual lunch, they would have soup and a piece of bread and to pay £1 for the privilege! Soup lunches raised £300 for CAFOD.

Football

Year 11 lose out in extra time

The Year 11 football team travelled to Park High School this week in the latest of SJP's Wirral Cup fixtures. The boys were in confident mood and started the game brightly. Danny Morgan quickly established himself in midfield with some solid challenges and clever through balls. Unfortunately Danny's performance was ended by an uneven pitch as the midfielder suffered a painful ankle injury after only ten minutes. A quick re-shuffle saw Luke Cassidy take his place in midfield with the aim of supplying our lone striker Charles McInnes. The game developed into a scrappy affair with neither team managing to maintain possession. As a result the game was taken to extra time and both teams had chances to win it. With just six minutes left until penalties, Park High put their best series of passes together which resulted in a quality goal for the hosts. Despite the result, the boys can be proud of the effort they put in and the attitude shown throughout.

Year 10 ease into next round of Wirral Cup

Danny Ramsden, SJP's skipper, lead the boys in blue over the line in windy conditions against Hilbre. SJP were determined to get back to winning ways after their unfortunate elimination from the Merseyside cup two weeks previously. They did so comfortably. Match preparations were excellent, with all members of the squad very committed during training. The 14 strong squad were focused and hungry for victory.

SJP took the lead mid-way through the first half, after John Skipsey out-muscled the Hilbre full back to flick the ball past the rooted goalkeeper. The goal came after much pressure from the visitors and was thoroughly deserved. The noise from the Hilbre fans, who packed out the sideline, did not distract SJP from the task at hand. The boys continued to press and created a number of chances in the first half. Hilbre were over-run in midfield and SJP's wide men enjoyed plenty of possession. Despite continued encouragement from their avid followers, Hilbre were unable to penetrate the SJP back four, who stood firm and dealt comfortably with any pressure. At the half time whistle SJP were 1-0 up.

The second half saw several changes to the SJP team. Tom Critchley was replaced in goal by Danny Piggot who, although untroubled, distributed the ball to the wings impressively. Tom and Chris Giles also entered the fray at left wing and upfront and made a real impact. The second half saw a similar script to the first; with SJP continuing to attack and Hilbre trying their best to keep the blues at bay. The second goal finally came through an Adam Mazier penalty, after a mazy Stephen Drinkwater run was brought to an end by a mistimed tackle. Adam Mazier now finds himself on four goals in three games, whilst fellow striker, John Skipsey has hit three in three. Scott Soderberg came on with twenty minutes to play, replacing the impressive Stephen Drinkwater. SJP remained in control of the game until the final whistle, creating a number of chances, with Adam Mazier's and Danny Ramsden's long range efforts being the pick of the bunch. The game finished 2-0.

All boys who travelled performed excellently and the attitudes of the players was exemplary, before, during and after the game. Congratulations! A big 'well done' must go specifically to Joel Belmar who was voted Man of The Match by his team mates. Joel was outstanding throughout the game, pulling the strings in midfield and setting up attack after attack. SJP are through to the next round and on the evidence of this latest performance, who would bet against us not to go all the way?





College Library News



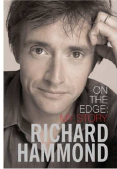
This term has been another extremely busy one. It's been great to see so many Pupils from all year groups using the library facilities regularly.

The **ACCELERATED READING** programme is now up and running and the link for this can be found on the school's website. **Accelerated Reader** is a fantastic tool that offers access to more than 1,500 fun, motivational quizzes on popular books that can be found in the school library. Points are awarded for each quiz taken, resulting in certificates being awarded at the end of each term for the highest number of points gained.

Congratulations this term go to: Adam Statham, Joe Lyons, Pam Smith, Becky Streatfield, David Lane, Joyleen Pemhenai, Melissa Ryan, Jonathan Washington, Callum Mason, Aiden Clay and Lucy Riley.



Great new books to look out for this Summer term include:

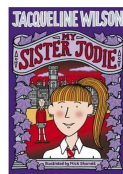


My Sister Jodie - Jacqueline Wilson

On The Edge - Richard Hammond

Sara's Face - Melvin Burgess

Skulduggery Pleasant: Playing With Fire - Derek Landy



DON'T FORGET – The library is open from 3.20 – 4.15 Monday – Thursday and 3.20 – 3.45 on Friday for anyone who wants to do homework or coursework

KEY STAGE 3 SATS revision guides available after Easter

SIXTH FORM POP MATHS QUIZ

On Saturday 8th March Miss Hodges and Mrs Bell accompanied four of our Sixth Formers Jasmine Talib, Joe Furey, Stephen Alawode and Michael Brockway to compete against Sixth Formers from all over the North West in the Liverpool Mathematical Society Sixth Form Pop Maths Quiz at Liverpool John Moores University. Although our team was not amongst the winners it was a fantastic experience and great fun was had by all!

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Parents should please note that the College will close for Pupils at 2.20 p.m. on Thursday 20 March 2008.

College will re-open for staff and Pupils on Monday 7 April at 08.35. We start on Week 2.