

Issue No. 6

Week Ending 19 October 2007
Learning Programme Unit 1/7

HEALTHY SCHOOLS AWARD

Theme for the Week:

Eradication of Poverty

Poverty is something that exists all over the world. Every country has homeless people, hungry people and lonely people. Many people try to help those who live in poverty through making donations of food or money, other people donate their time to work on fundraising projects or spending time with those in need. Other people spend time in prayer. No one of us can eradicate poverty. It is something that will only happen through the co-operation of everyone on the planet, yet we can lead the way ourselves by acting and praying.

Compassionate and loving God, you created the world for us all to share, a world of beauty and plenty.

Create in us a desire to live simply, so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

God of peace and justice, you give us the capacity to change, to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.

Create in us a desire to act in solidarity, so that the pillars of injustice crumble and those now crushed are set free.

Amen

Earlier this year, SJP became one of the few schools in the area to be awarded the prestigious Healthy School Award. The Award was granted to the College as a result of its excellent work in P.E. and in Citizenship, delivered by Form Tutors once a fortnight. It was also achieved through the workshops linked to Citizenship and experienced as separate events, such as Healthy Lifestyles Day which was an opportunity for Years 7 & 8 to take part in various activities including recording their endurance on a bike, among other things.

Years 9 & 10 took part in a Social Choices Day where outside agencies such as the School Nurses and Relate delivered sessions on issues relevant to pupils of that age.

The P.E. department worked diligently throughout the year to provide numerous extra-curricular activities such as trampolining, cricket, boys' and girls' football and many other opportunities to take part in sport. This, together with the fact that SJP College is one of only two schools locally to have achieved the Sportsmark Gold Award, contributed to our recognition as a Healthy School with this award. Congratulations to all those who helped to make this possible.



NEXT PFOP MEETING

To be held on 8 November 2007 at 7.00 p.m. All Parents and Friends of SJP are welcome!

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer will take place every Thursday in the chapel from 8.20 – 8.35. You're all very welcome – the more the merrier!

WORD OF THE WEEK



Precocious

• **adjective** to describe a child who is very advanced or developed for his or her age.
Example: *She was a rather precocious young lady.*
Adverb: precociously

Literacy quiz:

Anagrams

An anagram, says the Concise Oxford Dictionary, is 'a word or phrase formed by transposing the letters of another word or phrase'. Can you transpose these words or phrases to make new words or phrases?

Example: Rearrange the letters of the word 'rail' to make a dishonest person

Answer: Liar.

1. Rearrange the letters of the word eat to make something to drink.
2. Rearrange brush to make a kind of bush.
3. Rearrange skate to make a poet.
4. Rearrange supersonic to get part of an orchestra.
5. Which part of the body is a ten-letter word in which the last five letters are an anagram of the first five letters?

Answers:

1. Tea 2. Shrub 3. Keats 4. Percussion 5. Intestines

FRIDAY 19 OCT

College Parents should please note that the College will be closed to all pupils on Friday, 19 Oct. All staff will be engaged on that day in a Staff Development Day.

WEEKLY FOCUS

Next week's focus is:

Making sure that all targets are now written in Planners

Year 7 Retreat to Pantasaph

Every pupil in Year 7 attended a retreat to the Franciscan Friary, Pantasaph, North Wales last week. Pupils were accompanied by their form tutors, RE teachers, support staff, Fr. Peter Hooper and the College Chaplain. The retreat days gave pupils the opportunity to think about the theme of *Friendship*. Through games, banner making, a walk up the Stations of the Cross and time to pray, the Year 7s considered their friendships with people and with God.

A great time was had by all!!

Numeracy Brainteaser

Last Week's Solution : Man - 60kg, Daughter - 30kg, Cat - 10kg

Last Week's Winner : Cara Jones, 9MW

This Week's Brainteaser:

Small oranges cost 8p each, large oranges cost 13p each. Some oranges are bought and the bill is exactly £1.00. How many of each size oranges are bought?

Answers to Miss Hodges in Room MA2 by Thurs 18th October. All correct answers will be put into a draw to win a £5 gift voucher for WH Smiths

SIXTH FORM PARENTS' EVENING

Please note that the Sixth Form Parents' Evening is on Thursday 1 November 2007, 4.30 to 7.00 p.m. This is an opportunity for Sixth Form Students and Parents to discuss their progress and targets for the future.

ATTENTION - CYCLISTS TAKE CARE

As members of an Eco-School, we can all be very pleased that a good number of our pupils continue to cycle to College each day. It is important for cyclists to remember, however, to take real care when approaching the College, as there are other pupils arriving by car. In particular, they need to make sure that they are looking out for cars as they approach the College gates. Thankfully, we have had no traffic accidents at all at SJP, and we are all keen to keep it that way!



SPECIALIST SCHOOL EVENING CLASSES

Are you looking to meet new people?
Interested in gaining an innovative qualification?
Looking for ways to improve your employment potential?

Adult
Literacy
And
Numeracy

This nationally recognized qualification is worth a full GCSE. It will be delivered on Tuesday evenings from 5-7pm by experienced and enthusiastic SJP staff in our newly refurbished SJP ICT suites. All we need now are our students!

If you are ready for a Basic Skills qualification in both Literacy and Numeracy this could be just what you're looking for. The enrolment session will take place on 30th October and the course will run for six weeks only.

And if you're nervous about exams don't be. Your knowledge is tested live on-line in the comfort of our ICT suite and you can take the tests as many times as you want!

Please contact me at College either by telephone or e-mail if you are interested in taking advantage of this new and exciting opportunity for parents to put themselves in their children's shoes. Likewise, if there are any courses that you would like to see delivered at SJP in the near future, I would be very interested to hear your ideas.

Come and join us!

Miss Youds, carolineyouds@plessington.wirral.sch.uk



humanities



TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGES

Girls' Tag Rugby World Cup

On Tuesday afternoon, 15 pupils took part in the 1st Wirral Girls' Tag Rugby Tournament where we came 2nd overall. The tournament was organised by our local school sports partnership and was sponsored by Merseyside Police. On arrival each team was registered and given a country to represent throughout the tournament. We represented Scotland.

The girls were outstanding during their games and played exceptionally well. Our toughest game was against Australia (Wirral Grammar) which was the only game we lost during the tournament. Congratulations to the squad.



Alice Hinton, Caitlin Hamilton, Elizabeth Johnson-Eyre, Whitney Taylor, Sian Bilko, Megan Gallagher, Danielle Boughey, Katie Robinson, Jessica Partridge, Shannon Reid, Siobhan McLaughlin, Bryony McNelis, Olivia Webster, Rebecca Lunt & Pamela Smith.

Dance Festival

Congratulations to Amy Fitzmaurice, Laura Roberts, Hayley Sutton, Rebecca More, Nicola McCulloch, Charlotte Thompson and Charlotte Doran who stole the show last week at the St Mary's dance festival. The girls really are true performers and were fantastic.

Trampoline Star

Well Done to Chloe Burnett, 8EA, who is a member of Birkenhead Trampoline Club and qualified to move on to level 2 in trampolining, last Sunday. This was only her second attempt, which is a huge achievement for a young girl who hasn't been trampolining for very long.

Year 7 Netball

Eight Year 7 pupils took part in their 1st tournament of the season last week. The tournament was organised at Park High and was run by their Sports Leaders. All participants from schools were mixed into teams in order to get to know pupils from other schools and to improve their skills. Our pupils stood out and were fantastic, Well Done!

Ashlea Ryan, Lauren Lefebre, Ashleigh Keating, Jessica Dutton, Louise Roche, Amina Talib, Bryony McNelis, Hannah Naylor and Erin Hamilton.

ST CASSIAN'S CENTRE, KINTBURY (OCTOBER 2007)

This year's Sixth Form retreat to St. Cassian's in Kintbury, Berkshire, was a brilliant success. Ten of us, accompanied by Mr. Kitchin and Alison, departed on the 4th October in the school minibus with a five hour journey ahead of us. Little did we know that this journey would result in such an amazing time.



We arrived in Kintbury village after the successful navigation of Alison, only for her to spoil her efforts and get us lost in a place barely a mile wide! After our eventual arrival we were welcomed by the Centre's coordinator, Tony - a De La Salle Brother - and two of his junior team.

The first night went fairly slowly as we settled into our rooms, met students from colleges in Bury, Poole, London and Bristol and took part in some ice-breaking activities.

The first part of the weekend held the theme of 'Welcome' and this was where we all welcomed each other, separated into our groups and started the ball rolling for our time there. One of the most significant activities for us all was finding our 'prayer buddy.'

For this we were in two circles facing each other and we moved around so many people and got to know them. The person we ended up with (by fate!) became our prayer buddy. It was instantly fathomable that every person there would be so close to their prayer buddy by Sunday and it was obvious that this would be a very touching and emotional experience for us all.

On Friday, the retreat moved to its second phase - 'Awareness.' The aim of this part was to help make us aware of ourselves, others around us and of our faith in God. This was perhaps the best part of the retreat because it involved us spending an hour walking and talking with someone we had never met before and some firm friendships were created during this Emmaus walk- so called after the place where Jesus walked two with two of his disciples after his resurrection.

The Awareness part of the retreat was a moving time for us all as we were given a taste of everybody else's lives and shared love, joy, happiness, tears and sadness in such a short time.

The most rewarding part of this was the fact that we were helping people from all over the country, who had all come together for a common purpose. This gave us all the strength and confidence to carry on through the retreat and better ourselves as well as the confidence to share our life story, goals and our faith.

Saturday saw the theme of 'Reconciliation' become the next part of our already touching retreat. One of the group leaders, Chris, shared his life story in a presentation and told us all of the trouble that he had experienced with his parents' breakdown and his father's consequential problems. This was an amazingly moving experience for everyone and it showed the courage and confidence that only God can give to someone to handle this situation. The moral of the story was that we should be forgiving- just as God is- and just as Chris was with his father.

That evening, all of the groups collected for a service of reconciliation where we were told the story of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Following the example of our Lord, all the members of each group took the time to wash the hands of one another to wash away the stresses, troubles and sins of that person and to show that they were being reconciled not only physically, but spiritually too.

Our final phase started after this reconciliation service. As we moved onto the 'Good News' theme, it was apparent that so many had bonded together so brilliantly and that friends had been made, faith had been discovered and reinstated and people had a reason to smile. This made the final phase the most emotional part of our weekend and resulted in tears and hugs.



Each person was given a book of affirmation, a book that was full of praise and positive comments about themselves from others in their group and from the retreat. It is true to say that each book was filled with the amazing positive energy that each person so obviously took away with them from Kintbury. It was most definitely the start of many new friendships- whether they are for a reason,

a season or a lifetime - all so obviously the work of God.

The retreat ended with a mass of celebration and all College groups were tasked with presenting what the retreat had meant to them and how and why they were going to take this away with them.

After our final, high-spirited yet sad farewells, we boarded the College minibus and departed St. Cassian's with our books, memories and smiles for a six hour trip back to College - via Stratford-upon-Avon!

