

newsletter



**St John Plessington
Catholic College**

a Specialist Humanities and Technology College

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Issue 18 January 2009 Learning Programme 3/4

w/c: 26th January 2009

SJP in Top 12 Nationally!!!!

**Jim Knight MP Minister of State for Schools and Learners,
praises SJP once again. Read his letter in full below.**



Rt Hon Jim Knight MP

Minister of State for Schools and Learners

Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
Tel: 020 7012 3451 cs@ministers.gov.uk

Headteacher
St John Plessington Catholic College
Old Chester Road
Bebington
Wirral
Merseyside
CH63 7LF

15 January 2009

Dear Headteacher

I am delighted to congratulate you and your school on the excellent performance you have demonstrated at Key Stage 4 in the 2008 Achievement and Attainment Tables published today.

The results for your school show that you are amongst the top performing schools this year based on sustained improvement in the proportion of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C GCSEs (and equivalent) including English and mathematics GCSEs, and also amongst the top performing schools based on the KS2-4 Contextual Value Added measure. This is an excellent achievement shared with only 12 other schools that have performed as well in both measures.

Nationally, schools have made great strides since 1997. Secondary school results are at their highest levels, with substantial progress made in the number of pupils getting five or more good GCSEs (A* - C), including English and maths. The long-term trend is one of sustained improvement and the continuing improvement in results is testament to the dedication of our teachers and hard work of pupils.

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your pupils, staff and governors for their hard work and success, and I send my best wishes for sustained improvement in the year ahead.

I am sending a copy of this letter to your local Member of Parliament.

Jim Knight MP



department for
children, schools and families

Well Done Everyone!!

The Government's annual school results summary was published online last week and made available to schools. The figures continue to show the 'amazing climb to the top at the College', as the local press have reported this week. In 2005, the College recorded a commendable 61% of our pupils securing 5 GCSEs at A*-C. That figure rose in 2008 to a fabulous 84%. This figure places the College in the top 2% of schools nationally for its value-added score, the measure the Government uses to describe the progress pupils make while at a school.

Even more dramatically, English results at the College place that subject in the top 1% for progress against all schools nationally. Minister of State for Schools, Jim Knight, wrote to the school last Wednesday, sharing his congratulations and informing us that the school's performance was "an excellent achievement shared with only 12 other schools that have performed as well in both measures".

To be recognised by the Government as being among the most effective schools in the country is a great honour and I am pleased to be able to pay tribute to the staff, parents and pupils at the College. It's all down to brilliant teamwork and lots of effort.

Well done to all!

Tom Quinn
Head Teacher

Praise indeed!

Top marks for Wirral schools

A WIRRAL school is among the top 50 in the country on a Government league table measuring achievement in GCSEs and A-levels.

The figures continue to show the amazing climb to the top at St John Plessington in Bebington. Two years ago, the school recorded 51% of its pupils securing five good GCSEs. That figure rose to 84% last year. This figure places the college in the top 2% of schools nationally for its value-added score, which the Government uses to describe progress pupils make while at a school. Even more dramatically, English results at the school place that subject in the top 1% for progress against all schools nationally.

Wirral Globe 21st January 2009

The Wirral Globe and the Liverpool Daily Post were both quick off the mark in congratulating the College. See today's front page for news of more congratulations from the Minister of State, Jim Knight.

LFC Football Tournament



The year 8 team were the latest SJP team to be invited to the Liverpool Football Club academy tournament. The boys took part in a total of three matches against teams from around the North West region. In their opening game the boys started brightly and were showing the confidence needed to compete at this level. After controlling possession, the boys eventually took the lead from a well worked set piece. A superb delivery into the penalty area was converted by an excellent header by Cy Longstaff. Once in front they never looked back and managed to seal the game with a second goal from Lewis Doyle.

In their second game the boys were up against a team from Lancaster. From the outset, it was the boys from SJP who were on top. Luke Watkins in goal was virtually a spectator as all the action was in the opposition penalty area. The opposing goalkeeper was in outstanding form and looked to be keeping a clean sheet until Daniel Kane found a way through with a low driven shot. This clearly dented the confidence of the Lancaster team and SJP added two late goals to make it 3-0.

The third and final game was a very tense one with both teams striving for a place in the next round. Although comfortable on the ball, the SJP boys were finding it difficult to find a way to goal. Late in the game Kane Wilson came off the bench and with virtually his first touch, he slotted the ball into the bottom corner. The rest of the team erupted with celebrations taking place on and off the pitch. The boys did very well to hold out and secure their place in the next round. Well done Boys!

Theme for the Week

26th January 2009 "STAND UP TO HATRED"

WEEKLY MASS Wednesday 12.50pm

All welcome!



Holocaust Memorial Day is founded on the understanding that we need to learn the lessons of the Holocaust in order to create a society that acknowledges and respects our differences and our shared humanity. Holocaust Memorial Day of course remembers the past, but it also reflects on the present, looking at more recent and current examples of genocide (such as the situation in Darfur), and it challenges us to look closer to home and to consider our own personal attitudes towards people who may experience prejudice and discrimination. This week we remember those who tried to keep their faith alive through the months and years of suffering, and those who lost their trust and faith in God through the horrors they faced.

Brilliant and creative God you make us in your image a perfect and amazing creation.

Heal the wounds of division and prejudice that turn your wonderful world into a place of hatred.

Help us to learn from the lessons of history, and to keep in check our own attitudes and prejudices.

Attendance

Year 7 attendance 91.7%
Year 8 attendance 93.0%
Year 9 attendance 91.5%
Year 10 attendance 90.0%
Year 11 attendance 93.7%

In the lead this week is Year 11.

Dates for your diary

Event	Date
USA Ski Trip	Thursday, 12th Feb—Friday, 20th Feb 2009
Half Term	Monday, 16th Feb—Friday, 20th Feb 2009

Netball News

Well done to the Year 9 and Year 10 netball teams who took on Woodchurch on Tues 13th January. Both teams played exceptionally well with the Year 10 team winning 16-6. The Year 9 team put up strong competition but just lost out in the second half, ending with an 11-7 result. There are some highlights of both games on SJP LIVE.

Year 9 squad: Charlotte Jones (TL), Charlotte Obermuller (TL), Lauren Dickson (TL), Jessica Partridge (TL), Kim Davies (JB), Emily Guttridge (JB) and Andrea McLaughlin (TL).

Player of the Match – Charlotte Obermuller

Year 10 squad: Megan Gallagher (MT), Katie Robinson (MT), Shannon Reid (OR), Rebecca Lunt (MT), Alex Collins (MT), Danielle Boughey (SB), Fay McCulloch (TL) and Olivia Webster (VP).

Player of the Match – Katie Robinson

Basketball News

Year 8 played in a tournament at St. Anselm's on Monday. They defeated St. Anselm's 19-14, drew with Caldry 16 all and beat Oldershaw 16-8.

It was a fine athletic performance, with Man of the Match going to the top scorer **Adam Kitchen**.

Well done to the team.

Eco News

SJP has been successful in a bid for £1393.60 to replace our current taps in the student and staff bathrooms with water efficient models. SJP are also supporting our local businesses by contracting them to supply and fit. This is another advance in the reduction of our carbon footprint.

SJP protecting our environment for future generations.

History Revision Sessions

GCSE History Revision Sessions for Year 11 will take place at the following times:

Day	Time	Room
Wed	12.30pm-13.20pm	History 2
Thurs	3.20pm-4.20pm	History 2

Reports On-Line

The College implemented a new reporting system during the Autumn term called 'Pupil Tracking' which provides half termly progress reports to parents. You will have received a letter giving you more information and your unique UPN (Unique Pupil Number) and software license key required to gain access. If you are experiencing difficulties with the system please contact the school office.

Literacy Corner

Word of the week

Quintessential /kwintɪsɛnsh'ɪ/

- ADJECTIVE representing the most perfect or typical example.
- DERIVATIVES **quintessentially** adverb.



The world of words: Robert Burns, the poet of Scotland

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?*

The 25th of January, Burns Night, is the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth. On this night people celebrate the life and poetry of the famous Scottish poet.

A focal point of the original Burns Night was of course the haggis, the quintessential Scottish dish:

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin'-race!*

Burns is also particularly remembered for his adaptations of old Scottish songs, such as:

*O, my Luve's like a red, red rose
That's newly sprung in June;
O, my Luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly play'd in tune.*

For more information about Robert Burns and what you can do to join in with the celebrations, visit:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/robertburns/>

Year 7 Parent Workshops

Tomorrow evening, **Tuesday 27th January**, the first of our workshops for parents of Year Seven pupils begins at 6.00pm. This week's classes include 'Your Child's Mathematical Journey'; 'What do the English levels really mean?'; 'Strategies for supporting reading and 'Using SAM Learning and the VLE'.

It is not too late to sign up for any of these sessions or indeed, ask for more information about our upcoming programme of events. If you would like to do either, please contact Mrs. Youds on: carolineyouds@plessington.wirral.sch.uk.

If you are keen to understand more about your child's learning, we hope to see you there.

Reminder.

Can we take this opportunity to remind Parents that the College opens for Pupils at 8.00 each Morning? **No Pupil should be on the premises before this time.** Pupils arriving at 8.00 are very welcome to make their way to the Dining Hall, where they will be able to purchase a range of breakfast items.

Pupils who prefer not to use the Dining Hall before school starts should remain on the Yard. The main building opens to Pupils at 8.35, when staff will begin to guide Pupils to their first lesson.

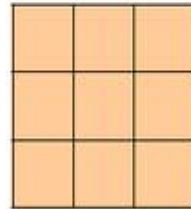
New Clubs for 2009

Year 7 Girls' Aerobics Club. Aerobics is a series of dance style moves which will help improve general fitness. Come along, have fun, work out and dance your way to fitness. This will be taking place every Thursday **from 3.30 to 4.15 pm in the Dance Studio.** You will need to bring a bottle of water and wear suitable gym clothing. If you would like to sign up for this please see Miss McGowan in English 7.

Year 7 English Club for everyone! This will be starting on the 30th of January and will be held in English 7. We will be creating stories, characters, adverts, poems and many other fantastic English-based tasks! Anyone is welcome to come along. This is an excellent opportunity to show off your creative and imaginative talents. Please see Miss McGowan for further information.

Numeracy Corner

Can you put the digits 1 to 9 in a square so that every row, column and diagonal add to 15?



ANSWER

Book Zone

Every month the SJP reading group will be reviewing and recommending a fantastic range of books. This month they have chosen:

Lord Loss
Darren Shan



LORD LOSS is the story of Grubbs Grady, a normal young boy whose life is changed completely after his family is killed by demons. From that day on he finds himself living in a magical mansion with his eccentric uncle. But what surprises await him there? And what will Grubbs discover about his family heritage? One thing is for sure his life will never be the same again.

This is a great book that will appeal to horror fans young and old alike. It is the first book in the **Demonata** series and is sure to have you captivated from page one.

To access more exciting book reviews check out www.readingmatters.co.uk

Joe Lyons and Jordan Brown 8MT

Year 9 Exam Week

Parents of Pupils in Year 9 will be aware that this week we begin a series of examinations in English, Mathematics and Science aimed at making sure that our youngsters' attainment levels in those core subjects are as high as they can possibly be by the end of Key Stage 3. You will no doubt recall that the College featured very prominently in local and national press as a result of the very high standards Year 9 reached last year. In fact, Minister of State for Schools, Jim Knight, singled out SJP as a '**beacon school setting the standard for others to follow**'. I am certain that our current Year 9 will do us equally proud and I look forward to hearing about the tremendous progress our Pupils are making in all three subjects. Good Luck!

Ian Walker
Deputy Head Teacher