

newsletter



**St John Plessington
Catholic College**

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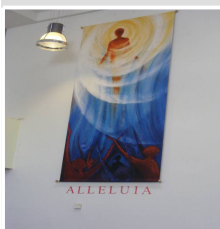
Issue 28

Learning Programme 5/2

w/c: 27th April 2009



The Easter Garden in the College Atrium.



Resurrection Banner displayed in the College Atrium.

Easter Alleluia!

Easter is all about **Alleluia!**

Flowers are bursting into bud and trees are starting to blossom. The weather is warmer—a hint that summer is around the corner. **Alleluia!** We can celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus **Alleluia!** This is the completion of the story; this is the fullness of our story **Alleluia!** We are an Alleluia people. We can neither contain our hope, nor bury our belief.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Easter and Jesus' Resurrection remind us that the story, our story, does not end in sin, shame suffering and death. In the words of St Augustine: "We are the Easter people **Alleluia!** is our song." Am I too fat or short? Have I got spots or wrinkles? I am looking older and there is more grey hair than there used to be.

Alleluia! God loves me no matter what. He thinks that I am fantastic just as I am.

You can find a short video extract of our Easter Services on our website.

SJP is Flying the Flag!



Staff and pupils at St John Plessington are celebrating after the College was awarded Green Flag status. SJP is the first secondary school in the area to achieve the highest possible national grading for ecological and sustainable development.

Headteacher Tom Quinn is delighted with the accolade and full of praise for all involved in the two-year effort to attain it: "**I would like to praise the skill and dedication of the many staff, pupils and governors who contributed so decisively to this award,**" he said. "**The College Eco-Council has been a credit to us all and has brought together people from all areas of the College community in a fabulous initiative. I am thrilled to be in a position to fly the Green Flag over the College. This is an important part of our College mission and one which I am proud to champion in the North West.**"

The Green Flag initiative at SJP was organised alongside the College's recent successful bid for Science College status.

SJP Football Update

Congratulations to the SJP U19 Football Team who reached the semi final of the Wirral cup this week. The boys played Mosslands at home and ran out 2-1 winners. Due to injuries the team included three year 11 pupils and they did not disappoint. Two early goals including one from John Skipsey (Yr11) allowed SJP to assert some control on the game. The boys showed great battling qualities against stiff opposition and despite conceding a goal in the second half, they hung on for the win. SJP will now face either Birkenhead 6th Form College or South Wirral in the semi-final.

Liverpool FC Academy Tournament

The date has now been set for the Year 8 semi final of this prestigious tournament. The boys from SJP will be returning to the Academy on May 13th to take on some of the toughest opposition in the North West. Good luck boys!

Theme for the Week

27th April 2009 "COMMUNICATIONS"

WEEKLY MASS Wednesday 12.50pm

All welcome!



There is little difference between communication with God and true direct and efficient communication with any human, except:

God has no physical voice - but sometimes God uses other people's physical voice to say physically what you fail to hear from inside when he talks in your heart.

God has neither email nor mobile phone.

God speaks and listens on a different frequency range than any mortal physical body or high technology is using to speak or communicate.

Drama Department Success

The Drama Department is delighted to report on the fantastic achievements of both our A/S and A/2 students in last week's practical exams who reached levels of performance close to professional standards and consequently attained a College record for the practical exam of 10 grade As; 3 grade Bs and 2 grade Cs.

Congratulations to all in the department for their mammoth task of running a complex and intricate operation of staging 4 groups in the Drama Studio and facilitating the whole process of the day so smoothly.



DT Options Letter

Just to inform you that over the next three weeks Year 8 students will begin the process of deciding which GCSE DT course they will follow in Year 9.

Further information will follow with next week's Newsletter.

Attendance

Year 7 attendance 92.6%
Year 8 attendance 93.0%
Year 9 attendance 92.6%
Year 10 attendance 91.8%
Year 11 attendance 94.1%

In the lead this week is Year 11.

Year 13 University Success

Many congratulations to our year 13 Drama students who have secured places on a number of drama courses. Abbie Randles has been accepted onto the Acting Course of the world famous and prestigious L.I.P.A. Performing Arts College in Liverpool.

Emma Donnelly was accepted into Chester College to study Drama and Jodie Kinsella will be joining the Performing Arts Course at Bath University. Abbie, Emma and Jodie alongside their colleagues have been stalwarts of many acclaimed productions in SJP and their input will be greatly missed alongside their very talented colleagues on the Theatre Studies course.

Good luck to them all!

Year 9 SATS

Parents of pupils in Year 9 will be aware that the Government took the decision during October of this year to abolish SATs as a compulsory Year 9 assessment. This followed on from some tremendous confusion at the Government's marking agency last summer and came as something of a surprise to most of us in schools.

At SJP, it was also something of a disappointment as our results in recent years had been extremely positive. On the basis of our results in 2008, the Schools' Minister, Jim Knight, described the College as a "beacon school ... able to set the benchmark for others to follow." The Government has recognized that many high-performing schools like ours will continue to operate the National Tests in English, Maths and Science and have therefore produced examination papers for the current year, even if there is no longer a national SATs week as in the past. Pupils in Year 9 are currently preparing for these examinations which will take place over the summer term as follows: **Science 08/05; Maths 14/05; English 23/06**

Revision and preparation programmes are now in full flow and pupils have been using practice papers to help them get used to the style of the examination. Look out for notices from the departments about extra revision sessions and other ways in which you can become involved in working with your child as we approach these important exams.

Plant Sale

Plant Sale will be held on:

9th May 2009 between 10.00 and 12.00.

Late order forms will be accepted up until 1st May 2009.

Numeracy Corner

Number Race

Here are the first few square numbers:

1 4 9 16 25 36 49

Here are the first few Fibonacci numbers:

1 1 2 3 5 8 13

The square numbers are well in the lead. Do the Fibonacci numbers ever catch up?

Mathematics Revision

Date	Foundation Topic	Staff	Higher Topic	Staff
28.04.09	Reflections, Rotations, Translations and Enlargements.	MT in MA4	Increase and decrease by a given percentage. Share an amount in a given ratio.	JMG in MA2
05.05.09	Finding fractions and percentages of amounts.	LM in MA7	Solving Inequalities and represent solutions on a number line.	ACM in MA3
12.05.09	Solving equations and substituting into equations.	CH in MA6	Use Pythagoras' Theorem to find missing sides in a right angled triangle.	JCL in MA1
12.05.09	Adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. Share amounts in ratios.	JMG in MA2	Find volumes and surface areas of prisms. Expanding pairs of brackets and factorising.	MT in MA4

RE Revision Timetable

Revision lessons Year 10 Wednesday evenings

29th April – Sacraments of Initiation and Healing J3 (H Wilson)

6th May – The Liturgical Year J3 (L Holland)

13th May – The Ten Commandments and The Sermon on the Mount (Mother Teresa and Helder Camara) (D McCaughan)

Revision lessons Year 11 Tuesday evenings with Mrs Davidson in RE 4

28th April – Biblical / Christian teaching on the role of women C4

5th May – The UK as a Multi Ethnic Society C4

GCSE History Revision Timetable

Thursday 30th April 3.20-4.20 – Weimar Germany

Thursday 7th May 3.20-4.20 – Nazi Germany

Thursday 14th May 3.20 – 4.20 – Answering paper 2 essay questions

Thursday 21st May 3.20 – 4.20 – Answering paper 2 source questions

Literacy Corner

Word of the week

Procrastinate /pr ˈkræstɪnəɪt/

VERB delay or postpone action.

DERIVATIVES **procrastination** noun **procrastinator** noun.

ORIGIN Latin *procrastinare* 'defer till the morning'.

Literacy quiz:

Palindromes

A palindrome is a word that reads the same if it is turned back-to-front. So the names Bob, Eve, and Otto are all palindromes, as is the name of the pop group Abba.

Try to identify palindromic words from the following clues:

Example Part of the body **Answer** Eye

1. Midday
2. A young dog
3. Flat
4. A system for detecting aircraft, ships, etc.
5. In music, half a semibreve

Answers
1. Noon
2. Pup
3. Level
4. Radar
5. Minim