

Issue No. 2

Week Beginning 15 September 2008
Learning Programme Unit 1/2

BEST RESULTS IN THE COUNTRY!

OUR SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS GO TO:

THEME FOR THE WEEK:

Justice for All

Jesus, we hear you calling!

Jesus, we hear you calling!
Calling out in the hearts of the needy and poor.
Calling out in the victims of war and violence.
Calling out in the hurt of the sick and dying.
Calling out in the sadness of the lonely and afraid.
Help us now to answer your call! Responding with generosity and compassion.
Responding with peace and friendship. Responding with healing and comfort.
Responding with openness and courage. Jesus, we hear you calling!
Amen

Reflection:

*God loves each one of us.
Don't forget it.
Show his love to others too.*

Mass

Fr Nick will celebrate Mass in College Chapel on Wednesday 17th September at 12.50pm. All are welcome.



Michael Banner (13MW last year). The Examining Board, Edexcel, have reported that Michael achieved one of the highest overall marks in the country in A2 Applied ICT (Double Award). He is amongst the top ten out of 1047 candidates. Well done Michael!



Sophie Mitchell (13TL). Edexcel have also reported that Sophie achieved one of the highest overall marks in the country for AS GCE Fine Art. She is amongst the top ten out of 6535 candidates. Well done Sophie!

FURTHER CONGRATULATIONS GO TO...

Hannah Caldwell (11BH), and Patricia Simmons (13TL). Both students gained 100% in their Religious Education exams this summer: Hannah in her GCSE exam and Patricia in **both** her AS Level Philosophy and Ethics exams. Well done Hannah and Patricia—what an achievement!



Hannah Caldwell, 11BH



Patricia Simmons, 13TL

OPEN EVENING 25 SEPTEMBER 2008

Parents are reminded that the College will close to all pupils at 1.30 p.m. on the above date to accommodate Open Evening arrangements. See page 2 for advert.



OPEN DAYS

18th September 9.30am - 12noon / 2nd October 9.30am - 12noon

OPEN EVENING

25th September 6pm - 8pm

St John Plessington Catholic College

a Specialist Humanities and Technology College

Here's what Ofsted say about us

- This year 82% of our Year 11 pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C
- Boys and Girls joins us from around 40 Primary Schools each year.
- We know all of our pupils well and report to parents 10 times a year.
- Our purpose-built campus provides for the very best in 21st century learning.
- All of our classrooms are equipped with the latest in multi-media technology.
- Our unique virtual learning environment allows pupils to work anywhere and anytime.
- "Students benefit from ... an excellent curriculum that meets their needs and aspirations."
- "Exemplary and rigorous assessment ensures all students know how well they are doing."
- "I am happy in the knowledge that my child's education is in the best possible hands."
- "Students get on very well with each other and with staff. Behaviour is exemplary."
- "Relationships throughout are very positive; students show respect and consideration for others."
- "In this school, it is both acceptable and expected to do your best." (Ofsted)

The 2008/2009 Open Evening Head Teacher talk is scheduled for 6.15 and 7.15 pm on Thursday 25th September 2008. Feel free to call Mr Simon Rylance on 0151 645 5049 to arrange a visit or take a look at our virtual tour of the College at www.stjohnplessington.com.

"This is an outstanding school in which exceptional things happen."

Old Chester Road, Bebington, Wirral CH63 7LF Tel: 0151 645 5049 Fax: 0151 643 1516

OFSTED



We welcome applications from all parents seeking a Christian education for their child.

A word from our new College Chaplain.....



I would like to introduce myself to the wider College Community. I am Rev. Gerard Boyle, the new Chaplain. It is wonderful to belong to such an exciting community of people. The last few days here in College have been very hectic, as I, along with our new Year 7, Sixth Form pupils and new members of staff, have begun to settle into the daily routine of life at SJP. I am looking forward to all of the challenges ahead.

The cornerstone of all that we do in our College community has its foundation in our College motto, "Always faithful to Christ". This is what I passionately believe makes our College community truly outstanding.

To be Chaplain of this community is an exciting and challenging role; to be able to share in another person's faith journey is a great privilege. As Chaplain I am here to serve the whole of our College community, pupils, staff and parents, and I can always be contacted via the College office.

SJP is a place where the dreams of our young people can be achieved. As we grow older it is easy for us to lose our optimism and vision. We can become cynical and forget our dreams. We need to walk alongside our young people, learn from them and challenge them to lead the way. We need them. We need their youthfulness, their energy, and their joy.

Please visit the Chapel at any time and call in to see me whenever you have chance. I look forward to getting to know you all.

"Do not let people disregard you because you are young but be an example, in the way you speak and behave and in your love and your faith."

1 Timothy 4:12

Rev Gerard Boyle, **College Chaplain**

SIXTH FORM NEWS



Welcome back to Year 12 and 13 and a particular welcome to the five new Year 12 students who have joined us from other schools.

The year has begun with a 2-day Induction Programme for Year 12, where all aspects of Sixth Form life were covered and involved a trail around College to find out key information and facts.

A particular thanks goes out to Mark Casey and Beth McLean in Year 12 who were excellent role models to the rest of the College by helping a new Year 7 pupil who was unsure when to get off the school bus. They exited the bus with the boy and walked him home. His Mother contacted College to say "Thank you".

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE SIXTH FORM

'It's so good to be back at SJP in the Sixth Form. We have a lot more freedom and I feel more responsible. It was good to see new and old friends return to College. I'm really looking forward to studying my A' levels.'

Jasmine Wallace

'The Sixth Form College is a massive jump from GCSE. The courses are really challenging. I'm excited for what the year will bring. It's so good to be back.'

Graeme Daulby

'My first impressions of Sixth Form are really positive; teachers treat you like an adult and I have a timetable with study periods! We have more places to study than we did in Year 11 which is always good.'

Kayleigh Hamill

'I have found my first day hard to get used to but all the students have made me feel welcome. All the staff have also been really helpful.'

Niall Brady, joining us from Ireland

'SJP is a relaxed, friendly and a well organised environment. There are excellent computer facilities for Sixth Formers and my teachers are very helpful and supportive. I am very pleased I decided to come to SJP Sixth Form.'

Holly Chrishop from South Wirral school



PUPIL FOCUS:

REMEMBER YOUR JUMPER—FULL WINTER UNIFORM NOW.

Year 7 First Impressions

We almost can't believe that it has been a whole week since Year 7 were welcomed into our College community. It has been a very busy few days with many challenges for all our 11 year olds, but they have shown us they are prepared for, and up to the challenge. Our first impressions of Year 7 are that they are a very sensible, cooperative group of young people, who are keen and eager to learn. Already, Year 7 are making a good impression on staff. Their form and subject tutors, and teaching assistants are equally impressed. Mrs Singleton, Assistant Head Teacher for KS3 said, 'The way Year 7 have rallied round and cooperated during this week has been fantastic. I'm looking forward to working with Year 7 during the year ahead.'

So what were our new Year 7 pupils' first impressions of SJP? Here is what they had to say:

Vincent McCulloch 7JB: *"I've made a lot of friends. It's been cool!"*

Jessica Beech 7JB: *"This school is amazing."*

Emily Marriott 7OR: *'My first impression is a really good one because all the teachers are really nice, kind and helpful. All the lessons are exciting and interesting'.*

Peter McArdle 7MT: *"Great looking school."*

Andrew Smith 7MT: *"School is really good as teachers really help you."*

James Taylor 7VP: *"I am made up I am in this school."*

Nathan McEwan 7VP: *"I was very excited when I first joined SJP. I was a little nervous. My form tutor is Mrs. Sadler and on the first day she made me feel lots more comfortable."*



CATS TESTING

Well done to all the new Year 7 who sat their CATs tests in the College Hall this week!

SCHOOLS BUILDING FUND 'HELPING YOUR CHILD'

Attached to this week's SJP News is a letter from the Bishop of Shrewsbury inviting all parents to contribute to the 'Schools Building Fund'. Catholic Schools have to find 10% of the costs involved in building and maintenance works. As a result the Fund was introduced by the Diocese as a means of inviting parents to make an annual donation to help with the costs.

If you wish to make a donation you may do so either by completing Standing Order Form A or by sending Direct Donations Form B and your contribution in an envelope direct to the College.

Forms are attached to this Newsletter.

Your donations are very much appreciated. Thank you for your support.

VLE and SAM Learning

We are now in the process of issuing pupils with a common password for VLE /SAM/College network.

This means that pupils will use just one username and password which will make it easier to remember!

EARN HOUSEPOINTS!

You can gain them for:

Good work
Good attendance
Good citizenship

SJP Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2008



It was our second pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Shrewsbury Diocese and over 1300 people journeyed by coach, boat and train to mark the 150th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady to St. Bernadette. 18 young people from Year 12 and 13 volunteered a week of their summer holidays to care for the sick and infirm, and to take some time out of their normal routine to spend in prayer, reflection... and a little socialising.

After a twenty-four hour journey we arrived at our Hotel and after unpacking met for the Welcome Mass with the rest of the pilgrims – an amazing celebration which saw all pilgrims young, old, able bodied and infirm, coming together from all around the Diocese to prayer and share bread and wine together.

Our daily duties involved looking after our VIPs. These were pilgrims in the hospital or in hotels who needed help in reaching the services around Lourdes, after which we would take them shopping, or for a coffee or a look around the many religious places of Lourdes. Many pilgrims wanted to walk the 'Jubilee Way' – a trail following important sites in the life of St. Bernadette, to mark the 150th anniversary.

The Torchlight procession is always a highlight of Lourdes - the songs and prayers taking us around Rosary Square is a beautiful sight with thousands of pilgrims holding their candles and the sun setting over the Rosary Basilica.

Each evening we would meet for night prayer opposite the Grotto and share our thoughts and feelings about the day just gone, as well as praying for our VIPs, friends and family back home, or just anything else on our mind. Year 12s and 13s planned and led our prayers together - the deep religious meaning of Chocolate Kit Kats and Glo-Sticks was a first for us all!

By the end of the week we were all exhausted, but tired in a positive and rewarding way - through the humbling experience of serving others. Lourdes is a unique place – a place where faith is explicitly and wonderfully put into action, where the words of Christ ring true each and every day: *“Whatever you do for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do unto me”*

NUMERACY CORNER

6		2			5	Puzzle
	1			6		
		3	6		4	
4		1	5			
	2			5		
1			2		6	

6	3	2	1	4	5	Solution
5	1	4	3	6	2	
2	5	3	6	1	4	
4	6	1	5	2	3	
3	2	6	4	5	1	
1	4	5	2	3	6	

English Corner

For all the creative, imaginative writers out there this competition is right up your street!

The 'Ted Hughes Young Poets Award' is a poetry competition for pupils under 18. There are some amazing prizes (1st prize £100, runners up £50) The closing date is 19 September. It's free to enter so why not have a go! If you wish to enter or find out some more information please see the competition website at: www.theelmettrust.com or <http://freespace.virgin.net/sheila.mcanulty>

If you would like to show the English Department your work before sending it off then see Miss McGowan (English Room 7)

Literacy Corner

Word of the week

nostalgia

noun sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past.

DERIVATIVES **nostalgic** adjective **nostalgically** adverb.

ORIGIN: originally in the sense of acute homesickness: from Latin, from Greek *nostos* 'return home' + *algos* 'pain'.



Literacy quiz: Countdown Conundrums

Test your skills with the following 9 letter anagrams:

1. LOSTAGAIN
2. LOCALITIES
3. THROWPACK
4. NOUNDANCE
5. OXONSHAPE

Answers:

1. NOSTALGIA 2. OSCILLATE 3. PATCHWORK 4. ANNOUNCED 5. SAXOPHONE

CHANGES TO MERSEYTRAVEL BUSES

Merseytravel have completed an audit of the school buses and have authorised the following bus starting from September 08 –

MORNINGS

625 – 08.04am from Shrewsbury Rd to College - the operator is 'First'

625 – 08.09am from Shrewsbury Rd to College - the operator is 'First'

605 – 07.50am from Eastham to College - the operator is 'First'

659 – 07.52am from Woodchurch Estate to College – the operator is 'Happy Als'

AFTERNOONS

605 – 3.30pm from College to Eastham - the operator is 'Happy Al's'

631 – 3.25pm from College to Oxton Rd/ Charing Cross - the operator is 'First'

625 – 3.26pm from College to Shrewsbury Rd - the operator is 'First'

859 – 3.30pm from College to Woodchurch Estate - the operator is 'Happy Al's'

There will be NO second 625 or sweeper buses.

Pupils please remember to stay on the pavement when leaving school. Please avoid standing on the road as it gets very busy with traffic!

Eco Team 2008-2009

Ms Phillips, Dr Crawford and Mrs Carty would like to extend their thanks to the Eco team that supported the college in 2007-08. A new team has been assembled to lead the Eco initiatives for 2008-09. We had 91 pupils from Year 8, 9 and 10 who expressed an interest in carrying on this superb work. Thank you to all of those pupils and I hope that you will continue to support the team and apply again next year.

This term the team will be carrying out an environmental audit to look at the progress made since 2005 when the audit was first completed. We will then finalise our application for the green flag award, the highest Eco award available. SJP will be continuing with paper recycling and our 360 energy saving project and we look forward to sharing some new projects with the community this year.

SJP 'protecting the environment for future generations'

House System

We have a new sense of belonging at SJP; every member of our College community now belongs to a House.

The House System will run from the start of the new term, with 8 prominent Catholics named as our Patrons:- John Bosco (JB) , Basil Hume (BH) , Oscar Romero (OR) , Mother Teresa (MT), Maximilian Kolbe (MK) , St Bernadette (SB), St Vincent de Paul (VP) and St Therese of Liseux (TL) .

Each House will be made up of pupils from all Years 7-13, together with teaching and support staff. There will be House assemblies each term where we will all meet, as well as many events throughout the year. These will include competitions and fund raising events. Pupils have the opportunity to be rewarded both individually and as a House with various prizes .

Everything can count – classwork, homework, attendance, PE activitiesthe list is endless !

Everyone can make a difference to their Houses Points. Be involved and try your best !

Support Centre Lunch Club

Some of you will have received a pass giving you access to the lunch club in the Support Centre during your lunch time. This is somewhere you can come to do coursework or homework – especially where you have use of a computer and some extra help if you need it. There is also the option to come and play games with your friends and get to know new people. For the first week it will be open to Year 7 only and then for everyone else who has a pass. You can find us along the corridor beside the dining hall. Do come!

PFOP Meeting

Please note that the next PFOP Meeting is to take place on Tuesday 16 September at 7 pm.

ATTENDANCE

As we start our new College year, we have a fresh start in many ways - including Attendance. Quite simply, the more you are in, the better you will do! Don't forget that good attendance and punctuality also mean House points and help to earn you a place on the end-of-year rewards trip. Keep an eye on SJP Live and SJP News to check how your form and year group are doing during the year. Being here (and being on time) are the keys to success and getting the most from life at SJP - take full part!

'Welcome back' from ICT

By now, all pupils will have met their ICT teachers and been introduced to the project that they will be studying this year in ICT.

If you would like to learn more about the courses that we deliver in ICT then please visit the VLE on the College website: www.stjohnplessington.com. This will help you to understand what your child will be studying in their ICT lessons.

This week your child will receive the code of conduct for the ICT suite. We would be very grateful if this could be signed and returned to their ICT teacher.

We have various clubs that are held after College in the ICT department so that your child can take up a hobby or spend some more time on their class work or complete their homework. Details are given below.

6th Form and Key Stage 4 drop in:

Wednesday 3:20 – 4:30 in IT1

Homework Club

Thursday 3:20 – 4:30 in IT1

Gaming Club

Thursday 3:20 – 4:30 in IT4

WELCOME

A warm welcome to new staff who have joined SJP. They are:

Ms Patricia Barnes	-	Maths Teacher
Rev Gerard Boyle	-	School Chaplain
Ms Janice Carter	-	Music Teacher
Ms Samantha Chesters	-	Teaching Assistant
Mr Kevin Cooper	-	Design & Technology
Mrs Jeanette Cotgrave	-	Teaching Assistant
Mrs Anya Dixon	-	Headteacher's PA
Ms Victoria Ferrie	-	Teaching Assistant
Ms Elizabeth Francis	-	Head of History
Ms Sinead Heraghty	-	Head of Performance—Drama
Ms Emma Hughes	-	Design & Technology
Mrs Heather Moore	-	Science Teacher
Ms Anne Morgan	-	Maths Intervention Strategist
Ms Jennifer Pritchard	-	P.E. Teacher
Mrs Helen Ruscoe	-	Examinations Officer
Ms Tamar Smith	-	Science Teacher
Mrs Vanessa Thompson	-	Head of Design & Technology



‘THE PROFESSIONALS’

Sunday 7th September commemorated Merchant Navy Day and SJP Brass were asked to perform a short church service at the Captain Walker Memorial at the Pier Head, Liverpool.

The rain stayed away but it was very windy and constantly blew the music stands over. Because of the renovations in progress at the Pier Head, one of the pupils remarked, “It’s like playing in a building site.” The Band received an appearance fee of £200 for their valiant efforts.

This fee starts off the fund to send the band and choir on a performing tour of Germany next year.

To all of SJP Brass who took part: Well Done! Watch out for the Band CD this Christmas.