



Well done to all the acts that took part in this year's SJP's Got Talent. Congratulations to Courtney Thomas, this year's winner!!



## Kintbury Experience

On Thursday evening last week, eleven of our Year 12 students returned tired but "buzzing" about the time they had spent together at the St Cassian Centre in Kintbury, West Berkshire.

Anyone who has stayed at St Cassian's Centre seems to know instinctively what is implied by the 'Kintbury Experience'. For each individual it has a different meaning, but all who have been to Kintbury would agree that the time spent there has touched them deeply.

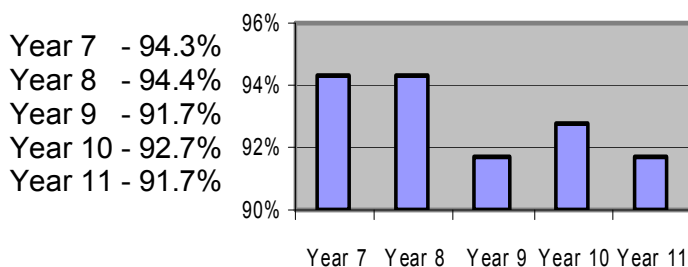
Our students, along with other young people from schools and colleges from different areas of the country who took part in the Kintbury Experience, participated in both small and large group work. This can prove to be a whole life-enhancing experience, reaching out as they do to the spiritual, emotional, and physical dimensions of a young person's life. In the words of one of our students, "Kintbury is beautiful ... being there has given me a sense of inner peace and real happiness. Kintbury is a place where it's OK to be yourself."

At Kintbury there isn't a television or Playstation or newspapers but as our students found out they did find sincere friendliness, and discover the ideal environment for reflection and finding God in prayer and community living.



## Attendance

Attendance figures up to **11.02.2011**



## Dr Vardy Visit



Last Monday, 25 Religious Studies AS and A2 students descended on Manchester University to hear Dr Peter Vardy. Dr Vardy is a British academic, philosopher, theologian and author and it was a great opportunity to hear him speak. Peter Vardy is fantastic! He was energetic, engaging and funny and his lectures were very intense. Dr Vardy moved about and got the audience involved.



We also had the opportunity to hear Bob Bowie, who gave a lecture on medical ethics; this gave the students an insight into how a lecture is conducted in university and it certainly opened their eyes. After lunch the students were given an opportunity to get directly involved when the floor opened up to debate the motion, 'Assisted suicide should be legalised in the UK.' Schools from across the country shared their views and our very own Nellie Fakudze shared her views on the topic. It was a great opportunity and one that was invaluable to our students.

### **GCSE Examinations, March 2011**

Students who are taking GCSE exams in March are urged to read the booklet 'March 2011 GCSE Examinations, Information for Parents & Pupils'. This can be accessed via the College website as follows:  
[www.stjohnplessington.com](http://www.stjohnplessington.com)  
 Information - Exam Results -  
 Select 'March 2011 Examinations - Information'  
 Hard copies of the booklet are also available from the Reception Desk. Queries regarding exams should be directed to Helen Ruscoe, Examinations Officer.

## RE Competition



Celebrate your local environment competition!

Design a postcard, using several images in any medium that show what is important about the place where you live. The images should include something of the religious and environmental life of the area, e.g. gardens, faith festivals, places of worship, other buildings, distinctive landscape as well as groups of people and any special activities that go on locally.

The images can be several versions of one subject (e.g. the natural world) or a medley of subjects, arranged either as separate pictures or as collage.

To go with your images, you must find at least one quotation from a faith text (either a sacred book or a writing by someone famous belonging to a faith) that you think complements your design. This could either be incorporated into the design, or written out to go on the back of the postcard.

You should also write a separate paragraph which explains how your design reflects what you want to celebrate about where you live and tells the viewer something about the geography of the area and its spiritual life.

Open to all years. Closing date 28th of March. See Miss McKenna in RE 2 for more details.

## Work Experience 2011



A reminder to all Year 10 and Year 12 pupils that the details of where they are completing their work experience in the Summer Term need to be returned to college as soon as possible. Both the employer and parents/carers need to sign these forms.

Thank you.

## Library News



Our Accelerated Readers are racing towards the half term finish line!

With competition for the prizes very high, we now have nearly two hundred pupils in Years 7 and 8 that have actively been taking quizzes and scoring a substantial amount of points by passing the Reading Practice quizzes.

Mr Pearson, Head of English said "I am delighted with the speed at which all classes in Years 7 and 8 are progressing. I am looking forward to presenting the winners with their trophies after half term."

He went on to say, "Some pupils who said they have never read are now flying, reading every week and making real progress."



It's really easy to search for books on Accelerated Reader. All you need to do is log in via the Pupil Portal on the College homepage (if you're not sure of your password please see Mrs Broom, the Librarian), click on: **Take A Reading Practice Quiz** then you can search for the book either by the **Title** or the **Author**.

At the end of this half term prizes of £10.00 will be awarded to the pupil in Year 7 and the pupil in Year 8 that has achieved:

- The highest number of hours using the programme.
- The most improved reading age.

## WORLD BOOK DAY MARCH 3 2011

World Book Day is fast approaching and we will be celebrating this wonderful day with a Fancy Dress Competition.

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 are invited to dress up as their favourite book character. This event will be held in the library during lunchtime on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March with prizes being awarded on the day!

## Language Corner



### Valentine's Day in France

It is said that the first modern Valentine's Day card was sent by a Frenchman. Supposedly, Charles the Duke of Orleans sent the first modern Valentine's Day card, along with poems and other love letters, to his wife from his cell in the Tower of London after being captured by the British. Here are some French phrases that you may like to use in your Valentine's cards!

To my darling [name] <i>(Replace [name] with a man's name)</i>	À mon [name] chéri <i>(Replace [name] with a man's name)</i>
To my darling [name] <i>(Replace [name] with a woman's name, starting with consonant)</i>	À ma [name] chérie <i>(Replace [name] with a woman's name, starting with consonant)</i>
To my darling [name] <i>(Replace [name] with a woman's name, starting with vowel or "H")</i>	À mon [name] chérie <i>(Replace [name] with a woman's name, starting with vowel or "H")</i>
Happy Valentine's Day	Bonne Saint Valentin
I love you	Je t'aime
I love you with all my heart	Je t'aime de tout mon cœur
I miss you	Tu me manques
Yours forever	À toi, pour toujours
Love and kisses	Tendres baisers

## Puzzle Corner

Words & Numbers ★ ★ ★ 15

The number 4 in...

Norwegian,		fire
Dutch,		vier
and English		four

but not in

French  quatre

have something in common.  
They all have the same number of letters as their name (4).

Can you find more numbers like this?

**Solution for last week**

14. Number Lines 2

This is a little easier than the previous puzzle. Put 6 in the centre. Then place 1 opposite 11/2 opposite 10, etc. To give totals of 18. In both puzzle the realisation that you should put the median number in the centre to maintain symmetry helps enormously. (You could also put 1 or 11 in the centre, since the remaining numbers can be paired off in these cases to give totals of 14 and 22).

## Weekly Theme - Poor in Spirit



The internet, e-mail, and all we understand by information technology has made access to information so easy. But with so much information

and knowledge at our fingertips are we really better persons?

Have we suddenly become wise as distinct from knowledgeable? Jesus tells us that a simple even uneducated person who lives faithfully by God's commandments can be wiser than the most educated of people.

We, of course, have plenty of wisdom to pass on to you once you get your feet on firm spiritual ground, but it's not popular wisdom, the fashionable wisdom of high-priced experts that will be out-of-date in a year or so. God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes. You don't find it lying around on the surface. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene. The experts of our day haven't a clue about what this eternal plan is. If they had, they wouldn't have killed the Master of the God-designed life on a cross. That's why we have this Scripture text:

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

*No one's ever seen or heard anything like this, Never so much as imagined anything quite like it— what God has arranged for those who love him.*

*But you've seen and heard it because God by his Spirit has brought it all out into the open before you.*

*The Spirit, not content to flit around on the surface, dives into the depths of God, and brings out what God planned all along. Whoever knows what you're thinking and planning except you yourself? The same with God—except that he not only knows what he's thinking, but he lets us in on it. God offers a full report on the gifts of life and salvation that he is giving us. We don't have to rely on the world's guesses and opinions. We didn't learn this by reading books or going to school; we learned it from God, who taught us person-to-person through Jesus, and we're passing it on to you in the same firsthand, personal way.*

**Father in Heaven, the loving plan of your wisdom took flesh in Jesus Christ, and changed humankind's history by his command of perfect love.**

**May we be inspired by the same wisdom to seek and do your will.**

**Amen**