



St John Plessington Catholic College

Issue 9

Newsletter

w/c 10th November 2014



Spanish Exchange

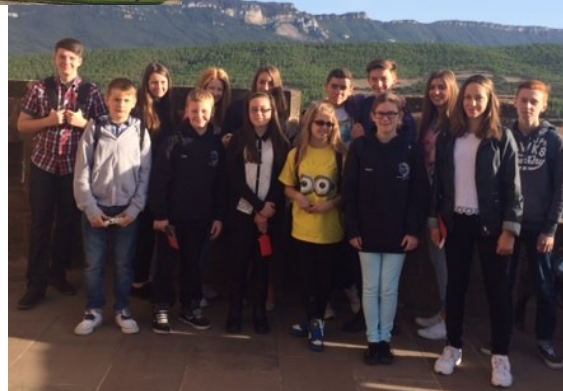
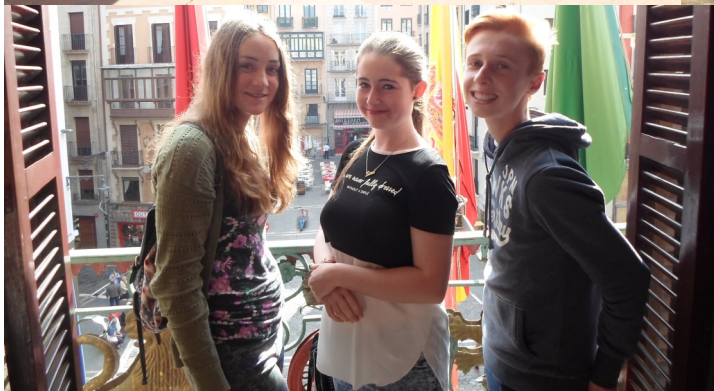
On Tuesday 21st October, 14 pupils flew out to Spain to meet their exchange partners and spend a week living with Spanish families from Santa Maria la Real Maristas Brothers School. Whilst in Pamplona they had the opportunity to get to know the historic city, which is famous for its San Fermín festival held in July, more commonly known as the "running of the bulls". Pupils got the chance to visit the famous Town Hall and were lucky to get to stand on the balcony and take a 'selfie' where the rocket is launched to signal the start of the festival - this is not something that every tourist gets to experience!

In addition to a number of interesting trips around the local area, including to the beautiful seaside town of San Sebastián, el monasterio de Leyre and the impressive La Foz de Lumbier canyon, pupils spent the evenings and weekend practising their Spanish with their exchange partners, sampling Spanish home life and experiencing a 'typical' Spanish weekend. All pupils commented on how well, and how much they were being fed by their Spanish 'mothers'!

On the final day, pupils had the opportunity to attend lessons with their exchange partners and experience what Spanish education and lessons are like. Everybody is very excited about their partners coming to stay with them for the return visit on 28th November, where they can show them around their local area and show them what typical British life is like!



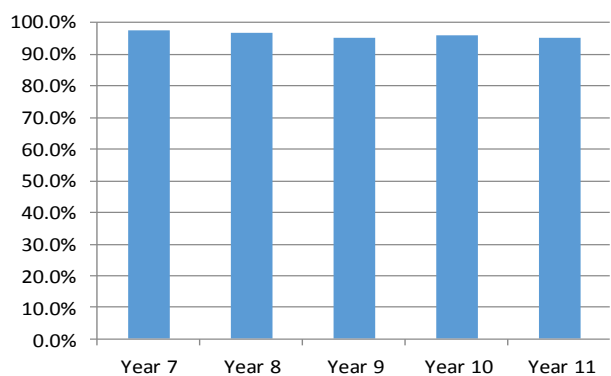
Spanish Exchange



Coming Up

- 12-Nov - King Lear Trip**
- 13-Nov - Phantom of the Opera Trip**
- 14-Nov - Warner Bros Studio Tour Harry Potter**
- 14-Nov - Review Day Yr 7 & Yr 10**
- 19-Nov - Radiotherapy Taster Day**
- 20-Nov - British Psychology Society Conference**
- 25-Nov - Design Your Future D&T Trip**

Attendance 01/09/14 - 17/10/14



Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
97.6%	96.6%	95.1%	96.1%	95.2%

Review Day Year 7 & Year 10

Friday 14th November 2014 is Review Day for Years 7 & 10.

Years 8, 9 & Sixth Form are to complete set work at home.
Year 11 are to come into College for normal time to complete a mock examination in Mathematics.

A trip to Ghana

During half term Mr Willis and Ms Veitch travelled out to our partner school, St Joseph's Catholic Boys School, in the town of Elmina in Ghana. The school has been open for nearly 100 years, first teaching lessons to local children in 1918, making it one of the oldest schools in the area.

Approximately 150 boys attend the school, paying 50 pesewas (or 10 pence) per week to cover the cost of books and supplies. Before the trip staff and pupils from SJP kindly donated a range of educational supplies and sports equipment which were taken over to the school. The boys at the school were particularly overjoyed with the donation of Liverpool football kits that they received. Seeing their faces light up made a significant impression on both visitors.



During the trip our staff met with teachers at the school and taught the children English and Mathematics lessons. They also went on a tour of Elmina and heard the fascinating story of the Portuguese and Dutch settlers who came to the country to make their money in the gold trade. The trip was part of a partnership between SJP and St Joseph's which has been arranged by the charity Partner Ghana. Next year, 8 pupils from Year 12 will visit St Joseph's and convert the school's staff room into an ICT suite and a library. The project is being financed by our Sixth Form who have been fundraising since September to help purchase laptops, books and a projector. At the moment the school uses chalkboards so the benefits of providing them with laptops and a projector will be immeasurable.

The link teacher at the school, Mr Arthur, said "We are massively excited about this partnership. The teachers and the pupils are immensely grateful for everything the staff and pupils at SJP have done for us so far and we cannot wait to see what else will happen in the future."

We look forward to updating you in the future with the progress of this very exciting project. SJP prides itself on its consistent promotion of charitable causes and this, we think you will agree, is a very worthy cause.



Girls' Year 7 Football

The Year 7 Girls' Football Team debuted in the Safer Schools Partnership U13s 5 a-side football tournament. Their teamwork and determination were second to none and something that they should be very proud of. Throughout the tournament Tanya Birch and Charlotte Duncan managed to beat the defence and score fantastic goals. The team will further represent SJP in the Tranmere Rovers U13s Cup tournament; keep an eye out for them!



Creative Geographers!

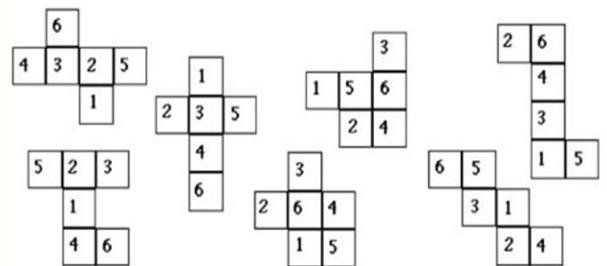
When the Geography department set a Year 7 Geography homework on contours we were astounded by what the pupils produced. We had volcanoes that exploded, expertly shaped papier mache designs, Lego constructions, wooden and Playdo models of all different shapes and sizes; we even had mountains of cake (literally!) complete with icing contour lines, trees, chocolate chip boulders and coconut grass - it was certainly the tastiest homework the teachers have ever marked!



Remembrance



Maths Corner



Crushed Dice
Only one of these nets will make a dice correctly. Which one?



Answer to last week's Maths Corner

Answer = 28 days



Having returned from our half term break we have entered the month of November, a period that is traditionally recognised as one for remembrance.

Of course we initially think of the great wars of the last century, especially in this year where we mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War, and all the soldiers who gave their lives in battle in defence of their nation. But this is also a period for remembering all those who have passed from the earthly life. In the Roman Catholic Church we begin the month with the feasts of All Saints and All Souls where we remember those who have gone before us, blazing a trail for us all to follow, as well as those loved ones who were close and important to us as individuals.

Throughout November we take time in our lives to remember those who have gone before and who have lead us to this stage in our existence and in our relationships with God. As a school community we will mark this period each Wednesday when we celebrate Mass in our College Chapel, when we will offer up prayer intentions for our deceased loved ones. Throughout the month of November our Remembrance Book will be on display in the College Atrium. It contains the names of the members of our families who we have loved who have died.

Weekly Theme - Our

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple He found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.

Making a whip of cords, He drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!'

His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to Him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.'

The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

After He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Values

Forgiveness
Honesty
Justice
Listening
Openness
Passion
Respect

When you think of Jesus, what picture comes to your mind?

Whatever picture of Jesus comes to your mind, my guess is that you probably see him either in some serene pose, perhaps as a shepherd caring for his flock or as a guide pointing the way for a man at the wheel of a ship, or in a moment of suffering such as how he was when he faced the cross.

We rarely imagine Jesus with a whip in one of his hands as he chases animals and people out of the temple, as he overturns tables where people are selling animals and converting money.

And yet, this is the way Jesus is portrayed in this week's Gospel. He is a man on a mission, and he will not stand for his Father's temple to be desecrated. He almost seems out of control, perhaps a little fierce. Here we glimpse a side of Jesus we don't see in other parts of the Gospels. Here we see him acting in an almost violent way. Here we see him doing what needs to be done. Here we see him cleansing the temple. Perhaps we don't want to know this Jesus after all. He seems a bit scary here, not necessarily someone that seems very safe. And yet we are seeing the true Jesus here, just as in other parts of the Bible. And we can learn much from him. Jesus is angry when he see wrong taking place. He calls us to remember our calling to be angered when we see it also. We are called to act.

Prayer

**Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love,
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord,
And where there's doubt, true faith in You
Amen**