

St John Plessington Catholic College

a Specialist Humanities and Technology College

Newsletter



Thanksgiving

The end of the school year is only days away. If we look back over the past year there will be lots of things for which we will be thankful. We might have made new friends, tried new activities, developed our skills and deepened our knowledge. We might have taken part in an event, as a performer or athlete, that we enjoyed. We might also have some regrets, but we can take something positive from them – they will have taught us something.

Lord, thank you for this school year. Thank you for the people we have been with and the things we have shared together. We ask you to bless all those who are leaving our College community and pray that we will never forget the part they have played in our lives. Be with us throughout the summer break, helping us to enjoy ourselves and to remain safe. We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen

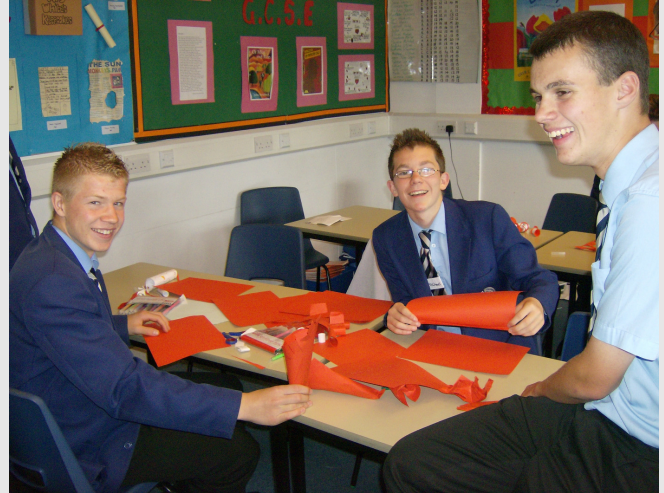
SJP Pilgrimage to Lourdes

After months of fundraising, meetings and a training afternoon, SJP's Lourdes group is ready for its pilgrimage to Lourdes. 15 pupils from Year 12, along with Mr. Woods and Alison Benson will be travelling to Lourdes with many other pilgrims from Shrewsbury Diocese. Once in Lourdes, they will work with the sick and infirm, assisting them around the town and taking them to services and Masses.

The pilgrimage will be a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and have fun, as well as spending time reflecting.

We wish them a happy and safe pilgrimage.

DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS



On Friday July 6th year 10 Pupils enjoyed an "Enterprise" activity day in school. With the keyword being "Teamwork", the Pupils were set many challenges against the clock and against each other!

Aspiring models for theme parks and environmentally friendly housing estates were produced, and Pupils also had to trade manufactured goods for economic tokens, although they couldn't keep them!

Following a course that gained a nationally recognized qualification, not only did the students and staff have an enterprising day, they also gained some recognition for their involvement and teamwork.

How many Karen Brady and Alan Sugar leaders of the future do we have in our year 10 "Enterprise Team"? Time will tell.

Last Day Arrangements

Please note that the College closes for all pupils at 12.00 on Friday 20 July 2007. Brunch will be available from 11.00 onwards, in place of the usual lunch arrangements. It will not, unfortunately, be possible to guarantee the regular bus services for the day. Friday is a non-uniform day. Pupils are asked to bring in £1, as a donation towards helping some of the sick and infirm to visit Lourdes.

Year 8 Science Challenge Day 19th June 2007

On a sunny June day, Miss Cope and Ms. Philips took a group of Year 8 Pupils to the Discovery Learning Centre in Noctorum to take part in a Science and Technology Challenge Day.

There was some trepidation when we arrived and the Pupils were faced with working in small teams with Pupils from other schools! However, our pupils very quickly settled into the tasks and demonstrated very clearly that there is no "i" in team.



Sam and Ellie share a Eureka moment when their self-righting buoy floats the right way up and flashes!!

The challenges were varied. In one room they had to make a self-righting buoy that would only flash when it was upright (this one had me stumped for a while!!), then make a robot that would follow a painted line in the next room! Whilst upstairs, the teams had to make a solar-powered vehicle, then a paper roller coaster that a marble had to travel through in the slowest possible time without stopping. Tricky!!



We even had a visit from the Mayor!!

All I can say is our Pupils were absolutely fabulous ambassadors for the College. They were polite and enthusiastic throughout the day and had the extra excitement of being one of the winning teams. Well done Louis Allen-Galloway and Liam Adlen!!



The exemplary Pupils were:

Liam Adlen, Louis Allen-Galloway, Stefan Bilek, Sian Bilko, Liam Brothers, Kurtis Darling, Connor Fields, Sam Browne, Declan Evans, Megan Gallagher, Karl Moss and Ellie Ruddy. Well done to you all for making a great day fabulous!!

A2 Psychology Trip to Chester Zoo

Twenty Sixth Form Psychology Students, who are currently studying Animal Behaviour as part of their A2 course, went with Mr. Wilmshurst on an enrichment visit to Chester Zoo last week. They spent much of the day observing the behaviours of a variety of animals and were treated to an extremely interesting and informative hour-long lecture on animal behaviour by one of the zoo's education team.

Of particular interest to the students were the chimpanzees whose apparently bizarre behaviour can often be attributed to the influence of a single dominant male in the group.



Did you know that the Chimpanzee is one of the only animals that can recognise itself in a mirror?

Did you know that a Mandrill yawns to threaten other males?

Did you know that a Peacock's tail serves no other purpose than to attract a female?

Did you know that bees perform a dance to inform the other bees where the best flowers for food are? Students have been learning that there are evolutionary and biological explanations for behaviours such as these and that understanding the behaviours of non-human animals can perhaps help us to understand our own. After all, humans *are* animals!

Choir at The Royal Albert Hall

Last weekend 30 students went down to London for a weekend of music. The ultimate aim was to perform with 1000 other singers and the English National Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. During the three day trip the students also went to see 2 musicals; 'Wicked' which told the story of the 'Wizard of Oz' from the witches point of view and 'Chicago'. They also went sightseeing around London and ate at Planet Hollywood and the Hard Rock Café.

Most of the performers got sponsorship for them to sing at the Albert Hall with the money going towards Miss Stott's imminent Africa trip. To find out what Miss Stott is doing whilst she is out in Africa check out her blog at <http://acc-io.livejournal.com> where she aims to update it every couple of days adding pictures and accounts of what she is doing. Save up your questions so that you can check them out with her in September.



Specialist School Evening Classes for Adults – Autumn Term 07

Want to improve your employment chances?
Keen to help your child with their exams?
Interested in broadening your horizons and meeting new people?
Or simply up for a new challenge?

From September, we will offer a selection of adult evening classes run by SJP staff for SJP parents. Our status as a Specialist School for Technology and Humanities means that we are able to provide these courses free of charge, with only minimal costs required for those wishing to take exams. So, from September, the College will be open on Tuesday evenings between 5pm and 7pm to parents who want to follow in their childrens' footsteps.

The classes will be run in a friendly and informal manner, taking advantage of our state of the art technology, again the result of our Specialism. The courses will also be closely linked to our new 'Virtual Learning Environment' which means that your tutor will only ever be a mouse click away should you need support or assistance during the week.

If you feel inspired to take up the challenge, please return the reply slip below to the College reception at start of the new school year. Please feel free to contact Miss Youds with any further enquiries.

I would be interested in:

ALAN ☐ (six week course in Adult
Literacy &
Numeracy – ☐ equivalent to one GCSE).

GCSE English ☐ (one year course)

Hotel & Catering ☐ (*****)

'How to sell on ebay' ☐

Tell us if there are other areas of interest for you, so that we can think about future courses.

I am interested in studying

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Name:

Telephone contact no.

Email address:

Pupil contact:

Lancaster University – 2 to 5 July 2007

Last week, I attended Aim Higher Inspire Summer School at Lancaster University. After a bumpy start, with the coach being delayed, I finally arrived at Lancaster University in the afternoon. I was first a bit nervous as I didn't know anyone but got to know everyone really quickly and the student ambassadors were lovely.

As soon as I arrived we were straight into activities about student life at University and getting to know everyone else. Activities finished at 10pm by which time everyone was ready for bed.

On Tuesday, I woke up bright and early and activities started at 9.15 am. I had talks on passport to HE scheme offered at Lancaster, to name an example. In the afternoon, I had the option to do a sport. Sport choices included swimming in which I got involved in as well as aero ball, a film choice and the climbing wall.

Wednesday brought more activities including time management and motivation. On Wednesday night the black and white ball was held, everyone got dressed up in black and white and looked lovely. At the ball, there was a disco and karaoke with some songs from the student ambassadors and students. It was great fun and was enjoyed by all.

The last day was sad as everyone left and said their goodbyes. Each group researched an area on university and presented it to the summer school. At the end, everyone received certificates and talked about their fantastic experiences. I thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt a lot about university even though it was very tiring!

Cricket Report

St John Plessington U15 vs. Mosslands

On Tuesday the U15 played against Mosslands U15's. We batted first and scored 78 runs for the loss of 8 wickets. Luke Camden batted well and scored 30 runs. He was well supported by Tom Belton who hit the first ball he faced for six.

We then bowled and Mosslands could only manage 29 runs all out. Andrew Powell took two catches. Luke Camden and Jobin John bowled very well. Well done to the boys on a well deserved victory.

Changes to PE Kit

There are some minor changes to the PE kit for September. All boys, on renewal of kit, will now be wearing a navy polo shirt for indoor lessons and a new football top for outdoor lessons. The rugby top is optional. Girls will all wear light blue polo tops and should have a navy sweatshirt for outdoor lessons. A school tracksuit is also available to purchase and no other items will be acceptable to wear in lessons. Therefore, we strongly recommend all pupils have this to wear during the cold weather.

House Point Corner

	Weekly total as at 6/7/07					Overall Total To date
	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	
Bernadette	6	33	4	19	26	3098
Bosco	6	39	0	1	25	2767
Hume	7	6	0	15	20	2836
Kolbe	4	33	2	16	23	3093
Romero	2	11	1	10	26	2803
Teresa	7	25	1	14	21	3035

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