



Message from the Headteacher

"Education is the genuine expression of social love".

Pope Francis - Annual Message to Educational Communities, April 2006

On Tuesday and Wednesday we had five Ofsted Inspectors in school for our Ofsted Inspection. They observed a large number of lessons, observed the students before school, at break times and after school and then met with students, staff and Governors. The Inspectors interviewed all of the Senior Leadership Team about every aspect of the school. Unfortunately we are not allowed to share their judgements with you until their report is published. However I can tell you that I remain one of the proudest Head Teachers in the country!

The Inspectors were extremely impressed by our students, the quality of teaching and the relationships between staff and students. They witnessed our vision in action.

I particularly want to thank all the parents who completed the online survey, the Governors and the Local Authority for all their support and all of the staff who are wonderful.

More importantly I want to thank all of the students who so impressed the Inspectors and in whom we should all be very proud.

Elsewhere in this issue, there is information about the Spectrum initiative the school is offering to students whose families are going through difficult times. If this might be useful, please do get in contact with Fred. Any communication will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Coming up next week on Saturday 4th October is our Open Day. This is when governors, staff and the many of our students show prospective students and their families around the school and the wonderful facilities here. We are justly proud of the school and hope to show it in its best light on the day, so please put the date in your diaries.

Overleaf is an article from Fred regarding the recent Year 7 retreat to Aylesford Priory and the numerous compliments the boys received for their behaviour.

Well done boys!

Mr N Fisher



Fred's Prayer for the Week

Protect us, O God, from excessive desire for money and possessions,
and help us to use rightly whatever you give into our keeping.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God bless - Fred (Chaplain)

LUNCH MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 29th SEPTEMBER

BREAKFAST: 7.45am to 8.15am

LUNCH

MONDAY

Sausage & Mash • Cod Florentine with Spinach & Mushroom in White Sauce

TUESDAY

African Beef Stew with Jollof Rice
Mixed Bean & Tomato Chilli with Rice and Salad

WEDNESDAY

Roast Chicken with Garlic Herb Potatoes
Baked Leek & Potato Gratin

THURSDAY

Barbecue Pork & Bean Sprouts
Vegetarian Stir Fry

FRIDAY

Fish & Chips

Hot Snacks, Filled Rolls & Baguettes Daily

Visit our website just scan our QR code here!



Year 7 Retreat Day to Aylesford Priory

On Friday 19 September saw the whole of Year 7 attend a retreat day at Aylesford Priory in Kent. We were blessed with the weather as the sun shone brightly for us. The students were excited as the thought of a day out of school visiting somewhere different.

They were issued with their booklets that had been designed by the RE department to cover key points in Key Stage 2 that they will be covering in class later on in the year. They were split into small groups so that we were not congested all at one point.

We visited the main shrine where they had to draw a picture of the altar area covering the main points. Then complete a list of the ceramics found on the altar and their meanings. Then visiting the rosary way, this is split into three sections The Joyful Mysteries (tells us of Jesus' birth), The Sorrowful Mysteries (tells us of Jesus' passion and death) and The Glorious Mysteries (focused on the Resurrection). Each mystery has five parts to it and the story is read out by the teacher and they take notes that they can later use in class. Then a visit to the Relic Chapel containing the remains of St Simon Stock also contained in the here is the chapel to the Carmelite Saints.

The students were as always very respectful when working in the chapel as other members of the public were using the chapel for private prayer. They moved around the chapel like church mice. When it came to lunch we all sat together as a year group to eat.

I had time to speak to some of our local priests who were on retreat there. Fr Pat Maloney who was a governor twenty years ago at the school commented on how well the boys were and how smart they looked, Fr John O'Donoghue said the same. The new prior Br Damien also said he was impressed with the behaviour of the students and their work efforts as they were focused on their task.

A big thank you to all the students and their behaviour and secondly to all staff that attended the trip and making it a great day out. Then to all those members of staff that had to cover lessons of those who were on the trip.

God bless - Fred
(Chaplain)

SPECTRUM

We are pleased to announce an addition to our School Student Support Programme called Spectrum.

When something significant happens in a family, the entire family is affected. Even though death, divorce or other loss issues appear to be only grown-up problems, they have a profound effect on the children who are touched by such experiences. If a parent dies or a divorce happens or a painful loss occurs, not only do the parents grieve, the children do also. Children may find it extremely difficult to verbalise their feelings of grief because of their age and inexperience.

We have some very sensitive, caring, and trained adults who have said "yes" to helping these students put their feelings into words, work through their grief, build a stronger sense of self-esteem, and begin to accept what has taken place in the family.

If your child is part of a single parent family, a step-family, has experienced the death of a loved family member, friend or sibling, or is struggling through a painful experience, this will be an opportunity for him to share with a special someone on the outside what is happening on the inside.

If you would like your child to take part in this support programme then please contact me via email on fuy@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk.

Fred
Chaplain
Spectrum Coordinator



Key Stage 3 National Curriculum – Mathematics

“Reasoning Mathematically”

The next aim of the new National Curriculum more Mathematics at Key Stage 3 is for pupils to “reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry, conjecturing relationships and generalisations, and developing an argument, justification or proof using mathematical language” (National Curriculum 2014)

What this means is that students should always be looking to make connections across the different topics in mathematics. No topic stands alone - a simple task such as finding the area of a rectangle includes number, algebra and geometry, but students often only think of it as ‘shape’. As mentioned

last week, it’s about different representations, such as numbers, graphs, symbols and diagrams. Reasoning also includes understanding proportions, and being able to express an amount increasing or decreasing in proportion to a different amount in algebra. For example, if I sponsor a boy £2 for every length he swims, then I could write a formula to express this - and then go on to work out the total amount for any number of lengths (or indeed, plot this on a graph).

Reasoning mathematically also means looking for patterns in everything and using the rules of the pattern to predict further. Did you know that there are only certain numbers of petals in flowers and that these numbers of petals follow a mathematical pattern themselves?

We could use the pattern to find other numbers of petals in flowers. Reasoning can include looking to prove something is true, or finding an example to show that something is NOT always true – does an odd

number plus an odd number always equal an even number or is there an example we can find to dis-prove this? How could we write this problem in algebra to prove it one way or another without specific numbers and every possible pair we can think of?

Students also need to reason with data presented to them? Is a graph representative of what it is trying to show or has it been skewed somehow to show something different? This is far more common than you might think - and includes statistics presented as numbers as well as graphs, in newspapers, magazines, TV, the internet, etc.

Students must be able to reason mathematically, not only to follow the requirements of school and lessons, but to understand and really think about how numbers work in any part of life.

**Next week:
Solving Problems**

Mrs Turner – Head of Mathematics

Are your boys too old for their toys?

The mathematics department would be very appreciative of any Toy / model cars (for the study of ratio and scale) Geomag (for the study of 3D shapes and their properties).

If you have a look around at home and find either of these items (even just one toy car or one piece of Geomag), please could your son hand it in to the school office or direct to Mrs Turner.

Thank you



PE Extra-Curricular Programme 2014-15

Autumn / Spring Term

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| YEAR 7 | | Basketball team training HMN | Interhouse competitions (Rotation) HMN Rowing Club DHK | Rugby Training FUY | Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY |
| YEAR 8 | | Basketball team training HMN | Interhouse competitions (Rotation) HMN Football team training AJN/DSN Rowing Club DHK | Rugby Training FUY | Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY |
| YEAR 9 | | Rugby Training FUY | Interhouse competitions (Rotation) HMN Football team training AJN/DSN Rowing Club DHK | Basketball team training HMN | Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY |
| YEAR 10 | Basketball team training | Rugby Training FUY | Interhouse competitions (Rotation) HMN Rowing Club DHK | Basketball team training HMN | Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY |
| YEAR 11 | Basketball team training GCSE Revision session RDY | Rugby Training FUY | Rowing Club DHK | Basketball team training HMN | Fitness/Rowing Club REE Badminton RDY |

Head Teacher
N.Fisher MA, BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Deputy Head Teachers
Dr.L.Fripps EdD, MA, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH
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A Christian community where everyone has the right to be happy, be safe and achieve.

September 2014

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you that we will be using the SIMS Learning Gateway (SLG) again this year. SIMS is the Management Information software used by many schools and the SLG is a very useful tool that allows us to share information more readily with you as parents and carers of students at St Columba's Catholic Boys' School.

We will be increasing the amount of information that is given out via the SLG and you are advised to regularly check for new messages.

To access the SLG you will need a username and password. These were given to existing students last academic year and remain the same.

For new students starting with us this year, or for those who have forgotten the username or password, simply email slg@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk with your son's name and form class and a username and password will be emailed back to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Fisher', is written over a light blue horizontal line.



W THE WEDNESDAY WORD

The Parish Version

Encountering Christ
Prayerfully preparing for the
Sunday Mass and praying in
particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 28th September 2014 - The Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 28th September 2014 - **Doing the Will of the Father (Matthew 21:28-32)**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Matthew loves to tell parables of Jesus which contrast 'goodies' and 'baddies' like these two contrasting sons. Matthew's parables put everything in black-and-white terms with no shades of grey (wise and foolish wedding-attendants, sheep and goats, etc.). Luke uses a different kind of parable, in which the characters - just like ourselves - often do the right thing for the wrong reason. The sayings of Jesus were handed down by word of mouth for some years before being written down. Did the straightforward contrast in Matthew (it is odd that both change their minds without a reason) develop into Luke's parable of the Prodigal Son? Both times the 'goodie' son ends up bad, and the 'baddie' son ends up good, but in Luke's version both changes of mind are motivated, and there is great emphasis on the son's repentance and the father's overwhelming joy at getting him back. The lesson in Matthew's story is given also by Jesus' word in the Sermon on the Mount, 'It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in Heaven'. It is no use simply saying that Christ is our 'Lord'; we have to express it in our behaviour.

What meaning do you find in this parable for yourself and the relationship you have with the Father?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 28th September 2014



First Reading: *The Justice of God*

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The prophet Ezekiel was speaking in Babylon during the exile of the Jews there after the destruction of Jerusalem. Not surprisingly, the second generation of exiles was questioning why they should suffer for the failures of their forefathers. This was, however, a new phase in the development of morality among the people of Israel, for beforehand the sense of solidarity with family or clan had been so strong that it was assumed that punishment for the sins and failures of an individual would affect the whole clan or family. Now the individual is to be held responsible for his or her own sins only. Furthermore, the individual cannot simply rely on good deeds of the past, nor feel irremediably condemned for failures in the past. Conversion in both directions is possible: just as the good person can become evil, so the evil person can change direction. At the end the Lord promises a new heart and a new spirit, so that even the sinner can repent and live.

In what ways do you take responsibility for your own sins?

Second Reading: *God Emptied Himself in Christ*

Philippians 2:1-5

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

St Paul quotes an ancient Christian hymn celebrating the triumph of Christ (the hymn begins "His state was divine ..."): it describes his self-emptying and his exaltation and vindication by the Father. In the first half of the hymn Paul shows the warmth of his joy as a pastor in the fellowship of his young community at Philippi. He also gently chides them for their vanity, and the reason why he includes the hymn is to show that the path of humility is the way to exaltation.

How may we have the same mind as Christ Jesus?

“The path of humility is the way to exaltation.”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

