



Fred's Prayer for the Week

Heavenly father,
 We pray that all wars will stop and the guns will go silent,
 brother will not fight brother and sister will not turn on sister.
 Give us the wisdom to live together as one family,
 that our eyes are opened to the evil suffering that war causes.
 Let us unite under one banner, one community
 and one true faith.
 Help us to learn from our mistakes and move forward in our
 faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless - Fred (Chaplain)



Message from the Headteacher

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
 We will remember them.'*

The "Ode of Remembrance" is an ode taken from Laurence Binyon's poem, "For the Fallen", which was first published in The Times in September 1914.

delighted to have raised over £1,000 with some monies still to be collected. If your son hasn't paid his £2, please do send it in as soon as possible - it is for an excellent cause.

On Tuesday our entire school community came together to stop what we normally do and give time to remember the sacrifices that have been made. As well as marking the day within school, Neil Fernandes and William Ndubueze from Year 8 laid a wreath at the Bexleyheath War memorial. As we mark the centenary of the First World War it is crucial that we do not forget the horrendous reality of recent history.

From January 2015, we will unfortunately have to raise the price of hot food from the canteen. This will be first increase for approaching three years and will amount to 5%. The cost of a hot meal will increase to £1.90 and a desert to 75p the Free School Allowance will go up accordingly to £2.65. The canteen staff work extremely hard to provide fresh and nutritious food for staff and students alike. All food is prepared and cooked here on site daily and I do recommend their meals. Even with this necessary increase, I believe the school canteen provides excellent value for money.

Yesterday we had a non-uniform day to support Heart4More Foundation which was set up by the inspirational Tobi Alabi. Tony came into school last week to talk to students about his experience and to motivate our young men to achieve their best. We were



Mr N Fisher



Year 7 Spelling Bee

On Wednesday 15th of October Year 7's had their first annual spelling bee. I was asked by our librarian Mrs Brackstone and also nominated by my form 7B to participate as a contestant and represent my form. In each form there were five students participating. The afternoon of the spelling bee all the contestants were excited

and looking forward to the competition with some anxiousness.

Before the spelling bee was about to begin we had a couple of minutes to talk amongst our class peers to discuss how we would work as a team and support each other, whilst other forms were still arriving. All of the participants encouraged each other as some of my peers felt anxious. Some of my peers asked me how I felt. I told them

I was slightly nervous and had butterflies in my stomach. However I was ready to take on the challenge just like everyone else.

As we begun the competition everyone got excited trying to compete with each other. Tensions were raised as everyone wanted to win.

Unfortunately, only one student could win and this was done by Joshua Safo from 7C.

But I was delighted to win second place and made my form proud. This was a great competition and would like to do something like this again.

I would also like to thank Mrs Brackstone for asking me to be part of the competition.

Tarundeep Singh Neta, 7B

LUNCH MENU FOR WEEK COMMENCING

17th November 2014

Breakfast: 7.45am - 8.15am

Hot Snacks, Filled Rolls & Baguettes served daily

MONDAY

Chicken Chasseur with Parmentier Potatoes
✓ Tuna and Sweetcorn Bake

TUESDAY

Chicken Chow Mein (Beansprouts, Celery, Mushrooms and Soy Sauce)
✓ Thai Fish Curry

WEDNESDAY

Jerk Chicken, Rice and Peas and Salad
✓ Spaghetti Milanaise
(Tomato, Ham and Mushroom)

THURSDAY

French Lamb Stew
✓ Cheesy Leek with Cous Cous and Salad

FRIDAY

✓ Fish & Chips



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St Columba's Catholic Boys' School

Halcot Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 7QB

Inspection dates 23-24 September 2014

Overall effectiveness	Previous inspection:	Not previously inspected as an academy
	This inspection:	Good 2
Leadership and management	Good	2
Behaviour and safety of pupils	Outstanding	1
Quality of teaching	Good	2
Achievement of pupils	Good	2

Summary of key findings for parents and pupils

This is a good school.

- Most boys make good progress from average starting points. They achieve examination results in Year 11 similar to those in other schools in most subjects. GCSE results in English, mathematics and science are above average and improving steadily.
- The headteacher, leaders and governors are passionate about raising aspirations across the school. They are determined that every boy is supported to reach his full potential. They are regularly seen around the school and build positive relationships with staff and students.
- Teaching across the school is good. Effective management of teachers' performance and focused professional development opportunities help teachers improve.
- Boys take great pride in their school. They behave exceptionally well and have very positive attitudes towards their learning. They are respectful and courteous towards visitors, staff and each other.
- Attendance is very high because boys enjoy being at school. They value the support they are given which helps them to achieve well. They expect a lot of themselves and work hard to reach their goals.
- Boys are kept extremely safe. Bullying incidents are uncommon. School leaders and governors ensure that safeguarding of students is of a high standard.

It is not yet an outstanding school because:

- Most boys make good or better progress but there is still some variability across subjects, for example design and technology and modern foreign languages.
- Not all teachers provide high-quality marking and feedback to ensure that boys know how to improve and make better progress.
- Achievement targets, set by teachers and leaders, are not always based on accurate information. Targets are sometimes not challenging enough. This slows the pace of improvement.

Extra-Curricular Programme 2014-15

Activity	Dept	Audience	Day	Time	Staff	Location
Basketball Team Training	PE	Year 7	Tuesday		HMN	
	PE	Year 8	Tuesday		HMN	
	PE	Year 9	Thursday		HMN	
	PE	Year 10	Monday Thursday		HMN	
	PE	Year 11	Monday Thursday		HMN	
GCSE Revision Sessions	PE	Year 11	Monday		RDY	
Rugby Training	PE	Years 9,10,11	Tuesday		FUY	
	PE	Years 7,8	Thursday		FUY	
Interhouse Competitions (Rotation)	PE	Years 7,8,9,10	Wednesday		HMN	
Football Team Training	PE	Years 8,9	Wednesday		AJN DSN	
Rowing Club	PE	All Years	Wednesday		DHK	
Fitness / Rowing Club	PE	All Years	Friday		REE	
Badminton	PE	All Years	Friday		RDY	
Art Club	Art	Years 7,8,9	Wednesday		CMN DAR	
	Art	Years 10,11	Thursday		DAR	

Extra-Curricular Programme 2014-15

Activity	Dept	Audience	Day	Time	Staff	Location
KS3 Club	Design Technology	Year 7 Year 8 Year 9	Wednesday	2.30-3.30	Yr11 Mentors NCS lead	DT2
KS4 Sessions	Design Technology	Year 10 Year 11	Wednesday	2.30-4.00	LBY NCS CBE	All Workshops

Please note: Workshops will be open Tuesday and Thursdays for Year 11 pupils on request by invitation

Guitar Club	Music	All abilities welcome	Tuesday	2.30-3.30	ADR	MU1 MU2
GCSE ensembles	Music	Year 10 / 11 timetabled	Tuesday	2.30-3.30	DSY AAD	MU2 Practice Rooms
Urban Music Workshops	Music	First come, first served	Wednesday	2.30-3.30	AAD ArtsTrain	MU1
GCSE ensembles	Music	Year 10 / 11 timetabled	Thursday	2.30-3.30	DSY AAD	MU2 Practice Rooms
Music Boosters	Music	Targeted groups	Selected dates: Monday or Thursday	2.30-3.30	AAD	MU1
Singing and Keyboard	Music	All abilities welcome	Thursday	2.30-3.30	Ollie Jerreat	MU1

Drama Club	Drama	All students	Wednesday	2.45-3.45	GDE	Theatre
	Drama	All students	Tuesday	2.30	GDE	ENS
Additional Rehearsal	Drama	All students	Wednesday	2.45-3.45	GDE	Theatre

ECDL Provision	Computing	Year 11	Wednesday	2.30-4.00	LWS	IT 1
Computing Club	Computing	Years 7,8,9	Thursday	2.30-4.00	LWS	IT 1

Extra-Curricular Programme 2014-15

Activity	Dept	Audience	Day	Time	Staff	Location
School Report Journalist Club	English	Years 7,8	Thursday	2.30-3.30	LGN	EN7
Debating Society	English	Years 9,10,11	Tuesday	2.30-3.30	NFN	EN4
GCSE English Targeted intervention	English	Year 11	Wednesday	2.30-3.30	ACN CKY LGN NFN	EN7
Home Learning Support (A maths specialist is available every day to support you with your home learning)	Maths	All years	Monday	2.30-3.00	Please refer to the maths department noticeboard for daily locations	
	Maths	All years	Tuesday	2.30-3.00		
	Maths	All years	Wednesday	2.30-3.00		
	Maths	All years	Thursday	2.30-3.00		
	Maths	All years	Friday	2.30-3.00		
Year 11 Targeted Learning	Maths	Specific Year 11 students (by invitation only)	Tuesday	2.30-3.30	All Staff	Maths Dept Please refer to the maths noticeboard for daily locations
Rubik's Club (Learn to solve a Rubik's cube plus other Rubik's equipment)	Maths	Years 7,8	Friday	2.30-3.30	Mrs Turner	MA1
Maths Club (Enriching maths activities)	Maths	Year 7	Wednesday	2.30-3.30	Mrs Turner	MA1
RE Homework Club	RE	Years 7,8,9	Tuesday	2.30-3.15	SSE, JFE, DSY	RE 1
Film Club	RE	Years 7,8,9,10	Thursday	2.30-4.30	SSE	IT 1
Targeted GCSE boosters (6wk revolving programme)	RE	Years 10,11	Thursday	2.30-3.15	JFE SSE	IT 1

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

Deputy Head Teachers
Dr.L.Fripps EdD, MA, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH
B.Woodcock B.Sc.(Hons), PGCE

School Business Manager
J.Hobbs



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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.





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 16th November 2014 - The Thirty Third 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

The Gospel for Sunday 16th November 2014 (Matthew 25:14-15.19-20): A Story about Talents

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness.'"

3 Reflect

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

It is encouraging to think of all the talents which friends and neighbours have and which I don't have. It is all part of the gifts of the Spirit, which Paul sees as making up the whole Body of Christ. Everyone has a special contribution to make. As for me, it is extraordinary that God created me with all my twists, defects, fears and failures and it is precisely because of those boils, sores, abscesses that God loves me, helps me and guides me to work out my salvation. And it is just possible that there may be friends who can think that God has given me talents which make a tiny contribution to the happiness and goodness of the world. In the longer version of this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus mentions a man with just one talent who hides it in the ground: the master calls him "wicked and lazy" and has him thrown out. Why is he so severely treated? This is surely someone who resolutely turns his (or her) back on the goodness she (or he) has received and refuses to work with it for the Lord's purposes or for anyone else's. Such a talent goes to waste and merely rusts and corrupts. If I know anyone like that, it is just worth asking whether, with infinite and patient kindness, I can help that person to release their talent and bring it to blossom.

Just think for a moment: what is your best talent? Is it a gift, skill or humour which brings joy and happiness to those around you? Are you like the man who buried his talent in the ground, or do you use this skill or gift or wisdom to bring joy to others?

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 16th November 2014



First Reading: *A Woman about the House*

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her; from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax; she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff; her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor; she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The gospel parable is about a man who is an astute administrator, and this first reading delicately pairs it with a woman who is a shrewd businesswoman, running her household and her cottage industry capably, wisely and generously in reverence for the Lord. The Bible is often felt to be unduly male-oriented (an accusation often made also against the Church), but this was the normal state of society in biblical times. Nevertheless, a succession of remarkable women appear in the pages of the Old Testament; they are real partners to their husbands, and they often provide the motive force in the pursuit of the fulfilment of God's promises. In the New Testament too, besides Mary and Jesus' female followers in the gospels, we see Jesus valuing women. Particularly the playful scenes between Jesus and the Samaritan woman and the Canaanite (or Syro-Phoenician) woman spring to mind. In Paul's letters and apostolate women play important roles, even leadership roles, working with Paul to establish his communities - women like Chloe, Phoebe, Junia. Indeed, the first convert to Christianity in Europe was a woman, Lydia.

What gifts do I have that (like the gifts of the woman in Proverbs) give praise to the Lord?

Second Reading: *A Thief in the Night*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Paul had obviously taught the new Christians at Thessalonika that Christ had conquered death, so that death had no more grasp on Christians. So they were puzzled that Christians nevertheless died. Paul explains in his letter to them that Christians who have died will be the first to rise up and join the returning Christ in his triumphant procession. Only after them will come those who are still alive. However, Paul's principal stress is on the unpredictability of the Day of the Lord, that final day when the Lord will set right all injustice. It makes little difference whether I imagine meeting the Lord on the great Day of the Final Judgement, or meeting with the Lord personally at my own death. I know that it is very unlikely that I will be ready ("if only I had just a little more time to prepare!" is my constant excuse) and that I will not be in a fit state to face the glorious, pure wonder of divine love. The Day will come as unexpectedly as a thief in the night or the pains of childbirth, with that same finality and inescapability.

How may I best prepare for the coming of the Day of the Lord?

“That final day when the Lord will set right all injustice.”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org

