



## right2read



### Message from the Head Teacher

Tomorrow is our Open Day – our annual celebration of everything that's excellent about our school community. Families come to see if we are the right school for their children and every year our visitors are very impressed by our facilities and more importantly, our students.

Over the next two weeks we have a series of Open Mornings where more visitors will see for themselves how good this school is during a normal school day.

We have a regular programme of Corpus Christi partner schools coming to share our wonderful science facilities and this week it was great to have the students from St Peter Chanel experiencing a lesson with Mr Davies. Some photographs from their time with us can be seen on page 4.

Yesterday was an important day for our building project as the foundations were laid ready for the extension of the St Ambrose Suite and ICT facilities. The number of concrete mixers gave us a few logistical challenges which the school coped well with.

The inconvenience we are facing now will be worth it when we can support and the offer 'St Columba's Experience' to more students.

So early in the year it might seem a little strange to talk about GCSE examination preparation but it's crucial that we support our students to achieve their best. Our Examinations Advice booklet for 2017/18 has just been published on our website <https://goo.gl/4R63ai> and next Wednesday we have our GCSE Examination Success Evening for parents and students in Yr 11 at 7:00pm. Please do come along with your son, we want him to maximise his chances of success!



Mr Fisher

**Yr 7 FAIRPLAY HOUSE WEEKEND**  
*a few places remaining!*  
**13-15 October**  
**£139**  
**all inclusive!**  
**Payment on Parent Pay only**  
 Mr J Woodcock

### Fred's Prayer for the Week

Body and Soul, I am waiting quietly for God.  
 God is my strong foundation, and in God I feel safe.  
 I know he can hear me, he is with me always,  
 now and for forever.  
 I will continue to sing to you,  
 O God, and keep my promises. Amen

God bless, Fred (Chaplain)



Foundations dug out...



Foundations full of concrete!

# OPEN DAY

Open mornings throughout October  
check website for details



**Saturday 7th October**  
**9:30am - 12:30pm**

Head Teacher talks at  
10.30 and 11:30am



Halcot Ave, Bexleyheath DA6 7QB  
[www.st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk](http://www.st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk)

01322 553236

@stcolumbasCBS



D

## Monday

Spanish Chicken and Paprika Potatoes

Vegetable Paella

Seasonal Vegetables

Banana Cake served with Custard

N

## Tuesday

Roast Chicken served with Roast Sweet Potato  
and Yorkshire Pudding

Quorn chilli served with Potato Wedges

Seasonal Vegetables

Jam Sponge served with Custard

E

## Wednesday

Traditional Oven Baked Chicken Casserole  
served with potatoes

Lamb Rogan Josh served with Rice

Chick Pea Dhal

Seasonal Vegetables

M

Raspberry and White Chocolate muffin served  
with Chocolate Sauce



## Thursday

Meatballs and Spaghetti with Garlic Bread

Spicy Bean Burger served with Potato Wedges

Seasonal Vegetables

Italian Lemon Cake

## Friday

Fish and Chips

Barbecue Chicken  
served with Spicy Wedges

Ariabatta Pasta Bake or Cheese Omellete

Baked Beans

Strawberry Smoothie

*Available Daily*

A wide selection of  
Hot Snacks, Rolls and Sandwiches

**WEEK COMMENCING 09.10.17**

## Poetry Please!



Mrs Fish-Halvorsen, tutor for Form 7B was delighted last week when Tyler brought in an acrostic poem he had written. This was unprompted and reflects how he feels about his new school. On pages 6 and 7 of this edition of *Weekly News* we have some Yr 7 students giving their thoughts on their first few weeks here.

They seem to agree with Tyler, although maybe not quite as colourfully!

Close Spiritual family,  
Obviously the best in all departments,  
Lovely and nice teachers,  
Un-missable, huge library,  
Most technical and futuristic Science lab,  
Best lunches ever,  
Above ordinary teaching standards,  
But in the end, its the best school  
ever!  
By Tyler, James, Bailey, Starigorth

# St Peter Chanel Yr6 Science Taster Session



Mr Davies in full flight!

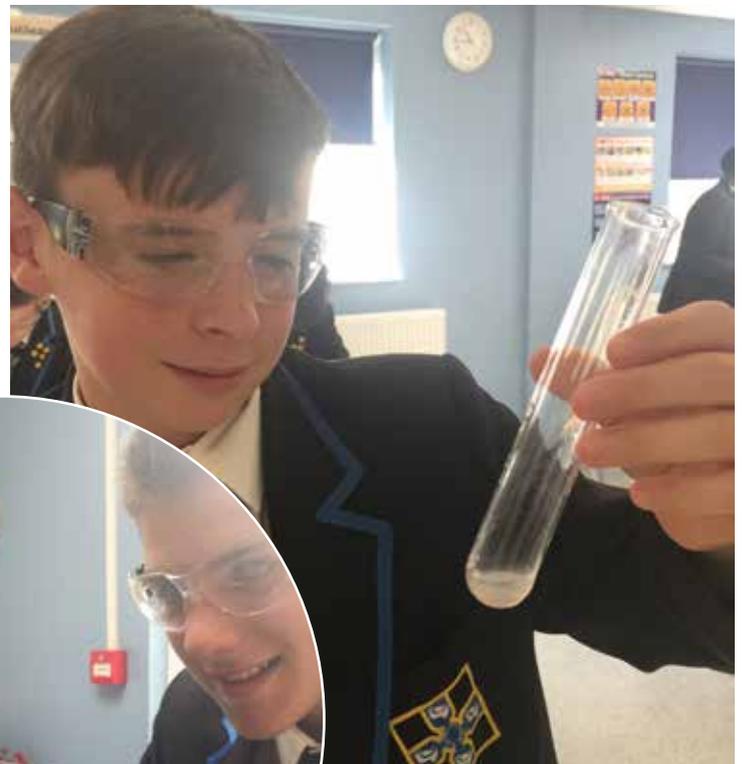


## Strawberry Science

In a recent lesson, Yr 9 students were tasked to extract DNA from strawberries. The students were challenged by the whole process and surprised by the end result. Many commented that they would not see strawberries in the same light ever again. Some students were a bit more drastic and stated they would never eat a strawberry again!

And here I am, thinking in science, we should encourage and not discourage... Despite the challenges to boys' tastes, students were totally engaged and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Mr Bhana  
Head of Science



# My first week at St Columba's has been....



*... very enjoyable meeting new people & developing skills in many subjects. I especially enjoy Music, PE & English – Tomi*



*... Spectacular! It's a big transition with big expectations. I have been becoming more independent as days go by – Tom*



*... Amazing! I have really enjoyed the past three weeks & enjoyed many of the subjects including Maths, Science and ICT– Joe*



*... Amazing! I have learned lots of stuff & all the teachers that I have are very kind. All the students are good role models – Mark*



# My first week at St Columba's has been....



... Great! My favourite subjects have been Maths, PE and Science. Bible Club & Youth Club have been fantastic.  
**BEST SCHOOL EVER!** – Prince



... excellent, most people are friendly and all the teachers are great.  
**I love this new school!** – Benjamin



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### PARENTS' EVENINGS

**YEAR 9**  
Thurs 22 February '18

**YEAR 11**  
Thurs 18 January '18

**YEAR 8**  
Thurs 8 March '18

**YEAR 10**  
Thurs 1 February '18

**YEAR 7**  
Thurs 22 March '18

## Your Bottles Please!

Can any parent donate one of these bottles for use in Chemistry. They are found in work places and sometimes thrown away. They must be: 16 litres to 20 litres capacity and Polycarbonate 7.

If in doubt please send to the Chemistry Department and we can check it!

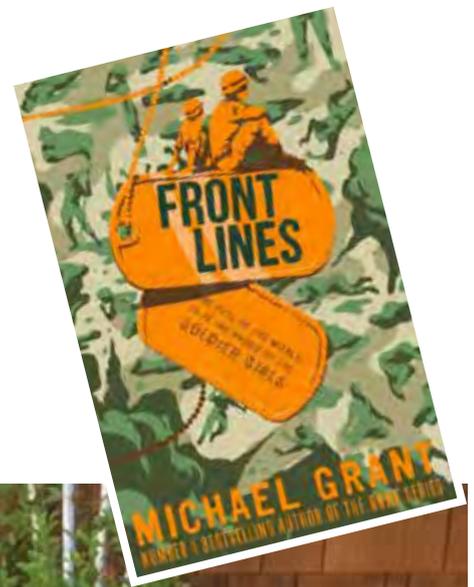
Many thanks!

Mr JWoodcock



# All the way from America!

On Wednesday 11 October, author Michael Grant comes to St Columba's! Bring your books in and get them signed!



THE **GONE** SERIES

NO ADULTS | NO RULES | NO ESCAPE

**GONE** MICHAEL GRANT

**HUNGER** MICHAEL GRANT

**LIES** MICHAEL GRANT

**PLAGUE** MICHAEL GRANT

**FEAR** MICHAEL GRANT

**LIGHT** MICHAEL GRANT

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME AUTUMN TERM

Day	Year Groups	ART CLUB	Time	Room
Wednesday	All welcome	Come and Create!	2:30 - 3:30pm	Ar2

Day	Year Groups	BBC SCHOOL REPORT CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	All welcome	Creating the News! Mr Dennis, Miss Cox	2:30 - 3:15pm	Ar2

Day	Year Groups	DEBATING CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	Yr9, Yr10	Practice debating skills Miss Ransome	2:30 - 3:15pm	En4

Day	Year Groups	ENGLISH CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	All welcome	Writing Club Ms Keevey	2:30 - 3:15pm	En3
Last Friday of month	G & T	Book Club	2:30 - 3:30pm	En3

Day	Year Groups	IT	Time	Room
Wednesday	KS4	Computer Science Club Mr Williams	2:30 - 3:30pm	IT1
Thursday	KS3	Computer Science Club Mr Williams	2:30 - 3:30pm	IT1

Day	Year Groups	MUSIC CLUBS	Time	Room
Wednesday	Yr7-10	Guitar Club Mr King	2:35 - 3:35pm	Music Office
	Yr7-8	Keyboard Club Mr Watson	2:35 - 3:35pm	Mu2
Thursday	All years	Choir Mr Watson	2:30 - 3pm	Mu1
	Yr7-9	Drum Club Mr Watson	3 - 4pm	All Practice Rooms
Friday	KS3	Music Tech Club Mr Watson &	2:35 - 4.30pm	Mu2
	All years book with Mr Watson	Band Practice Mr King	2:35 - 4.30pm	All Practice Rooms

## MATHS REVISION

Year 11 maths revision will be taking place every Tuesday after school in the maths department.

Students are invited to attend the sessions with their maths teacher as follows:

11M1 - Mr Jesuratnam

11M2 - Mr Williams

11M3 Higher - Mrs Teji

11M3 Foundation - Mrs Turner

11M4 - Mr Woodcock

Day	Year Groups	PE CLUBS
Monday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9	Indoor Tennis <b>Mr Creighton</b>
Tuesday	Yr7, Yr8, Yr9	Rugby Training – Field <b>Mr Donnelly Mr Eldrige Mr Martin</b> 2:30 - 3:30pm
Wednesday	All years	Indoor Rowing - Fitness Suite <b>Mr Eldrige</b> 2:30 - 3:30pm
Thursday	Yr7, Yr8	Softball / Rounders <b>Mr Eldrige</b>
Friday	All years	Youth Club – Sports Hall <b>Mr Donnelly / Sports Leaders</b>

Day	Year Groups	RE	Time	Room
Tuesday	All welcome	KS3 RE homework club <b>Mr Shoebridge</b>	2:30 - 3:30pm	RE1
	All welcome	GCSE catch up sessions <b>Mr Fernandes</b>	2:30 - 3:20pm	RE2
	All welcome	Boy's Bible Club <b>Mr Olowofoyeku</b>	2:30 - 3:20pm	RE3
Wednesday	New members welcome any time	RE Film Club <b>Mr Shoebridge</b>	2:30 - 4pm	RE1
Thursday	Yr 9, Yr10	RE homework/catch up club <b>Mr Olowofoyeku</b>	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE3

Day	Year Groups	STEM CLUB	Time	Room
Wednesday	All welcome	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths	2:35 - 3:00pm	Sc1



## Film Evenings 2017

Our next film evening will be on Wed 11th October when we will show the final part of a movie on St Padre Pio, the Capuchin friar who had such great spiritual gifts as mystical prayer, bilocation, reading souls and the stigmata. The film reveals the amazing details and events in his life as a boy and throughout his 50 years as a monk, the frequent attacks of the Devil and the persecution he suffered at the hands of people, including those in the Church. There will be a re-cap and it is not essential to have seen part one.

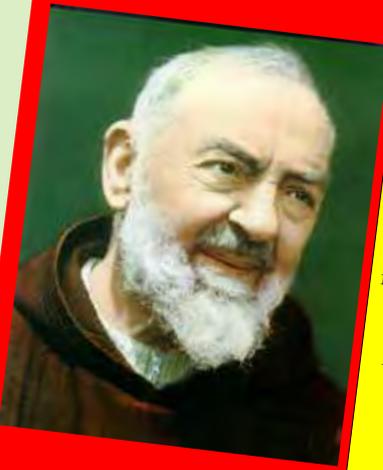
The film includes subtitles, will be shown in St John Fisher Bexley Church Hall, admission is free, light refreshments will be served, bar open, charity stall, and all are welcome.

Arrivals from 7 pm for 7:30 pm start.

Our Lady's Film group is pleased to show

# St Padre Pio

Weds 27<sup>th</sup> Sept & 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017; 7 pm for 7.30 pm starts; 2-part movie – watch either or both parts (part 2 will feature a recap)



movie on the incredible life of Padre Pio, the Capuchin friar who had such great spiritual gifts as mystical prayer, bilocation, reading souls and the stigmata. Film reveals the amazing details and events in his life as a boy and throughout his 50 years as a monk, the frequent attacks of the Devil and the persecution he suffered at the hands of people, including those in the Church

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**ALL WELCOME**  
**SUB-TITLES**

St John Fisher Church Hall  
48 Thanet Road  
Bexley, DA5 1AP  
Tel: 01322-524813  
stfisher@stjohnsbexley.org.uk  
www.stjohnfisherbexley.org

Date	Arrivals	Film Starts	Film
Wed 11 Oct	7.00pm	7.30pm	<b>St Padre Pio (Part 2):</b> Movie on the famous stigmatic monk - will feature a recap of part 1.
Wed 15 Nov	7.00pm	7.30pm	<b>Saints John of the Cross and St John Vianney:</b> Movies on Spanish mystic and Carmelite reformer and "Cure d'ars" - the patron saint of parish priests.
Wed 6 Dec	7.00pm	7.30pm	<b>"Servant of God" Fr Solanus Casey:</b> Documentary on gentle American Capuchin friar and priest known during his lifetime as a wonderworker.

**St John Fisher Church Hall,**  
**48 Thanet Rd, Bexley DA5 1AP**  
**Tel: 01322 524813**  
[www.stjohnfisherbexley.org](http://www.stjohnfisherbexley.org)



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017 - The Twenty Seventh 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 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017 - True Justice (Matthew 21:33-43)**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance". So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see!" I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

**3** Reflect

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

*Jesus' understanding of the sovereignty of God brought him violent opposition from some of the Jewish leaders. Were they corrupt, or just closed to any new way of thinking, so closed that they could not see that Jesus was the promised Messiah? Anyway, Jesus used this story about the tenants of a vineyard to show that the religious authorities were not leading the people as they should. Everyone would immediately understand the image of the vineyard. The prophet Isaiah had used this image in a well-known poem eight centuries earlier to show that the vineyard of Israel refused to yield a good harvest to God, whatever care God lavished on it. God expected fairness of judgment from the people and all he found was a shriek of agony (the same word is used in Hebrew for 'fair-judgment' and for 'shriek' apart from one letter). What does this mean for us? Not that we have to follow every new idea. But it does mean that we must be open to the idea that we may be wrong, that our service of the Lord may be faulty, that people we find tiresome or unacceptable may have more good in them than we credited. God's ways are not our ways. Life may not be mapped out how we think, so we need to watch out for the bend in the road.*

**What is God asking of you?**

**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 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017



## First Reading: *The Song of the Vineyard*

### Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower; he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed; integrity, but only a cry of distress.

*A vineyard needs a lot of devoted care, pruning, manuring and tying back. In the rocky soil of Israel even more special care is needed, such as gathering the stones to form retaining walls to keep the soil from eroding, building a lookout tower against thieves and a vine-press for crushing the grapes. Then the right fruiting-vine has to be grafted onto the sturdy stock, as here the vinedresser grafts on fine grapes. Imagine his disappointment when all he gets for his pains is inedible wild grapes! After this haunting parable of Isaiah, the vineyard became a stock image of Israel, swathed in God's loving care, and all the dwellers in the rich vines of the hill-country of Israel would be aware that it was an image of the love lavished on his people. So when Israel goes into Exile, Psalm 80 laments, 'You brought a vine out of Egypt. Why have you broken down its fences? Every passer-by plucks its grapes. Wild beasts feed on it.' The prophets also, especially Ezekiel, used the image of the vineyard. Jesus' hearers would immediately recognise what he meant when he told his parable about a vineyard.*

**Why was the image of the vineyard so powerful for the people of Israel?**

## Second Reading: *Advice for the Community*

### Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

*This warm and affectionate little passage was probably originally the end of a letter from Paul to the community at Philippi, which he loved so well. It is a lovely conclusion to a letter. Paul encourages them in every way to be cheerful in the Lord, but especially to be grateful. If we really appreciate that the Lord is near, we cannot worry and the peace of God will rest upon us. Then also gratitude and thanksgiving will be our mode of thought, penetrating all our thoughts on every subject. The Greek word Paul uses for 'thanksgiving' is 'Eucharist', which is the name we use in the Church for the great prayer of thanksgiving, offered by Christ to the Father in the name of us all. It is the summing up of all prayer, petition, gratitude and admiration. No doubt Paul is thinking of it as the high point of all prayer.*

**How does St Paul encourage us to live and grow together as the Church community?**

“Be cheerful in the Lord.”

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

w: [www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)

e: [info@wednesdayword.org](mailto:info@wednesdayword.org)