



## right2read



### Message from the Head Teacher

Welcome back to the last half-term of this Academic Year. I am very pleased to inform you that we are fully staffed for September. There is a National shortage of teachers so recruitment can often be a challenge. Not only are we fully staffed we are very blessed to have such excellent staff! As this summer term continues, there are a number of trips for students organised, and a good few have already taken place. There's a report on Tuesday's trip to the National Maritime Museum on page 2. On Monday, Yr7 & Yr 10 are going to the Tower of London on a History trip and the dedicated Science staff are taking Yr 8 and Yr 9 on a trip to Thorpe Park at the end of the month. I am very grateful to staff for their hard work with these trips, it's not always easy taking care of excited students outside the normal confines of school. It is usually made much easier here at St Columba's by our students impeccable behaviour.

As you know I am always keen to reflect on what we do, listen to people's opinions and implement change where necessary. I have recently been looking at the data recently published by Ofsted concerning "Parent View" responses. These are the responses sent by parents of children attending the school to the Ofsted questionnaire whenever a school is inspected. Their data set includes all Parent View responses for the previous year - (343,008 submissions). I was particularly interested in the responses to the twelve questions that were "Strongly Agree". I wanted to compare our Parent View responses to National data and also other Bexley schools. Looking at the National data our

responses were better for eight of the twelve questions. Eight Bexley Secondary schools were inspected during the year. When I compare the Bexley data our Parent View responses for Strongly Agree were the best for ten of the twelve questions. St Catherine's beat us on two questions but only by one or two percent. Within Bexley we had the highest response rate. Obviously it's great to celebrate our success.... But our Senior Leadership Team and Governing Board will review the data to see what we can do to be even better. The point of this is not just to feel pleased, it is so that our students get the best we can provide for them.

At school, GCSE examinations continue successfully thanks to the organisational skills of our Examination Officer Mrs Reddington. Our students appear to be calm and focussed and making the most of this opportunity to demonstrate what they can do. Please help them to be fully prepared and rested so that they can do their best - or better!

Yesterday was the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings which were commemorated in Northern France by Heads of state of the UK, France and the USA with much media coverage. Less widely trumpeted, but nonetheless sincere, were the thoughts here in school of staff and students. Head of RE Mr Shoebridge circulated the Memorial Prayer opposite for all form groups to say and these mysterious footprints have been appearing across school. More information can be found at <http://therebutnotthere.org.uk/>



Mr N Fisher

### D-Day Memorial Prayer

Almighty Creator God,

On this 75th anniversary of D-Day, let us remember the fallen heroes of yesterday, everything we see and everything we cannot see, exists because of you alone.

Peace comes from You, it all belongs to You.

Peace exists for Your Glory.

History is your story. Our task here today is not to fix the blame for the past, but to fix the course for the future.

Give to our government and military leaders the wisdom to lead us with humility, the courage to lead us with integrity, the compassion to lead us with generosity.

Help us, oh God, to remember that we are human beings, united not by race or religion or blood, but to our commitment to freedom and justice for all.

Help us to share, to serve, and to seek the common good of all. And whenever we face difficult days ahead, may we have a new birth of clarity in our aims, responsibility in our actions, humility in our approaches, and civility in our attitudes, even when we differ from one another.

May all people of good will, today, join together to work for a more just, a healthier, and a more prosperous world and a peaceful planet. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Archbishop Spencer



## Greenwich Visit

On Monday 4 June, the History Department took forty eight students from Yr 8 to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich to take part in a study day on the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The students took part in sessions where they were asked to curate their own collections of information on the effects of the trade. By using iPads to gather examples from the Galleries, they looked at original documents and objects and were challenged to ask questions about what we can learn from these sources. Overall they evaluated the impact that the trade had on all those that it touched. The day challenged us to look at this complex issue in new way.

Students themselves felt that they had learned a lot and described the session as "fantastic".

We, in the History Department believe that it is important to get out and learn about the events that shaped our world in a way that is not just reading from a text book. There will be other opportunities for the students to do this as they progress through the school, and if your interest has been piqued, the Maritime Museum has free entry, go along and have a look yourself. It is fascinating!

Mrs Loveday-Jones  
Head of History



Finn, Jake, Tyler and George anchored to the spot



Students have an end of session round up in the lecture theatre



Ieuan, Mark and Cameron discussing an artefact with Mr Egan



Fred and students deciding what the artefact is....



National Maritime staff demonstrating neck chains



Introduction to the object handling session



Romaro and Daniel - and mask



Mekhi, Joshua and Cameron banging on....

# ST COLUMBA'S SCIENCE FAIR

**Y7 TO Y9**

**EVENT BUT PARENTS ARE  
WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**DATE: 9TH JULY  
SCIENCE AREA**

**FIRST PRIZE:  
£100 IN GIFT  
VOUCHERS  
PER YEAR  
GROUP**

**WHEN:  
July 9th  
6pm to 7:30pm**

**WHERE:  
Science Area**



- ARE YOU THE NEXT ELON MUSK?
- DO YOU ENJOY DISCOVERING NEW THINGS RELATED TO SCIENCE?
- ARE YOU THE NEXT STEVE JOBS?

**See Mr Bhana for more details.**

## **West End Trip to see The Lion King**

The Drama Department will be running a trip to see the production of The Lion King on Wednesday 2 October 2019 at the great price of £35.50. The trip will be open to students currently in Yr 7 and Yr 8. We will travel by coach during the school day and return to school at approximately 6:30pm.

Places are limited so in order to secure a place, please return the letter, which has already gone home with students, and make the payment on Parent Pay as soon as possible.

Mr Warburton  
Head of Drama





# menu one

week commencing  
10.06.19



## Monday

Cottage Pie

Spicy Italian meatballs with spaghetti,  
garlic bread and salad

Veggie burgers with salad and potatoes  
Seasonal vegetables

Blueberry muffin

## Tuesday

Oriental Beef and broccoli stir-fry  
Stir-fried vegetables and rice

Veggie burgers with salad and potatoes  
Seasonal vegetables

## Wednesday

Iced sponge cake

Roast chicken, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and gravy

Vegetarian Lasagne

Veggie burgers with salad and potatoes  
Seasonal vegetables

Apple crumble

## Thursday

Mexican chilli with seasoned potato wedges

Chicken Fajitas with peppered rice

Five Bean Chilli with plain rice  
Seasonal vegetables

Chocolate muffin

  
**Mexican  
Day!**

## Friday

Traditional fish and chips

Chicken Korma with rice

BBQ chicken with potato wedges  
Seasonal vegetables

Chocolate croissants

A selection of sandwiches and baguettes are available and  
Breakfast Club open from 7:50am - 8:20am daily.

# Staying Safe in Bexley



Nationally, young people continue to face increasing challenges and risks within their local communities.

Whilst Bexley remains one of the safest boroughs in London, it is vital that as parents and carers you are informed of the potential signs that your child may be at risk.

## Such signs include, but are not limited to:

- Going missing for prolonged periods of time
- Coming home with cash and/or goods (for example designer trainers/clothing) that you have no knowledge of
- Being in possession of an additional/new mobile phone – especially old, 'non-smart' phones (known as 'Bricks' or 'Burners')
- Affiliation with new groups of friends that are unknown to you
- Sudden behaviour changes and excessive secrecy
- Packages delivered to your home address that are unexplained
- 'Looking after' possessions for friends, e.g. mobile phones, bank cards, items of clothing
- Unexplained bank account activity / transactions (your child's and your account)

There are a few suggested steps you can take as parents and carers to ensure your child remains safe, however, and these include:

1. Monitoring Social Media accounts and activity
2. Monitoring mobile phones – call logs / messages / photos
3. Ensuring you know where your child is and who they are with
4. Being vigilant with bank accounts
5. Knowing what is in your child's room

It is important to talk to your child, and the 5 activities mentioned can be completed with your child, not just imposed upon them - explain that this is in the interests of their safety.

## Have concerns?

If you are concerned that your child, or any young person, may be at risk then make contact with any of the following:

### Your child's school

Inform a member of staff and they will be able to support you.

### Contact the Police on 101

### Crimestoppers:

0800 555 111  
crimestoppers-uk.org

### Bexley Community Safety Team

Community.Safety@bexley.gov.uk

Sharon Gogag - 0203 045 3997  
Sharon.Gogag@bexley.gov.uk

Amy Radford - 07964 113137  
Amy.Radford@bexley.gov.uk

### Fearless

Young person with concerns?  
Concerned about a friend?

Fearless is a service that allows you to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously.

[www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org)

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

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

Day	Year Groups	BBC SCHOOL REPORT CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	Yr 7	Creating the News! Miss Cox	2:30 - 3:15pm	En6

Day	Year Groups	DEBATING CLUB	Time	Room
Thursday	KS3	Practice debating skills Miss Ransome	2:30 - 3:15pm	En4

Day	Year Groups	DRAMA CLUB	Time	Room
Wednesday	All year groups - just turn up!	Express yourself! Mr Warburton	2:30 - 3:15pm	Iona Theatre

Day	Year Groups	ENGLISH	Time	Room
Thursday	KS3	Writing Club Mr Dennis	2:30 - 3:15pm	En3

Day	Year Groups	HISTORY	Time	Room
Tuesday	Open to all GCSE History students	History Skills Master Class Mrs Loveday-Jones	2:30 - 3pm	Hi1

Day	Year Groups	COMPUTER SCIENCE	Time	Room
Thursday	KS4	Computer Science Club Mr Williams	2:30 - 3:30pm	CS1

Day	Year Groups	MUSIC CLUBS	Time	Room
Thursday	All years	Choir Boys     Mr Watson	2:30 - 3:05pm	Mu2
	Yr 7-8	Keyboard Club     Mr Watson	3:05 - 3:35pm	Mu3 / Keyboard Room

Friday	KS3	Keyboard Club     Mr Watson	2:30 - 3.15pm	Mu3 / Keyboard Room
	Yr 8-9	Music Tech Club	2:30 - 3:45pm	Mu1

Day	Year Groups	PE CLUBS
Tuesday	Yr 7, Yr 8, Yr 9	Rugby Training - Field <b>Mr Eldridge, Fred Umney</b> 2:45 - 3:45pm
Wednesday	All years	Basketball - Sports Hall <b>Mr Virgo</b> 2:45 - 3:45pm
Thursday	Yr 10	Football - <b>Mr Eldridge</b> 2:45 - 3:45pm
Friday	All years	Youth Club - Sports Hall <b>Mr Creighton</b> 2:45 - 3:45pm

Day	Year Groups	RE	Time	Room
Tuesday	All welcome	KS3 RE homework club <b>Mr Shoebridge</b>	2:30 - 3:30pm	RE1
Wednesday	New members welcome any time	Film Club <b>Mr Shoebridge</b> <b>Mr Egan</b>	2:30 - 3:40pm	RE1
	All welcome	Boy's Bible Club <b>Mr Olowofoyeku</b>	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE3
Thursday	Yr 9, Yr 10	KS4 GCSE Homework and Revision Club <b>Mr Shoebridge</b> <b>Mr Olowofoyeku</b>	2:30 - 3:15pm	RE1 RE3
	Yr 9 (from now until Christmas) Yr 8 Christmas to Easter	After School Enterprise Club (business and enterprise) <b>Mr Barry</b>	After School	RE2
Friday	Yr 11	GCSE Catch Up Sessions (Those who missed various topics in Y10 but not specifically targeted) <b>Mr Barry</b>	After School	RE2

Day	Year Groups	SCIENCE	Time	Room
Wednesday	Yr 7	Science Club <b>Miss Manning-Johnson</b>	2:45 - 3:45pm	SC7



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - Pentecost Sunday

**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 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (John 14:15-16. 23-26): The Paraclete**

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever. If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you."



**3** Reflect

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

*In Jesus' final speech to his disciples after the Last Supper he is preparing them for life after the Resurrection. He several times mentions a mysterious figure called the 'Paraclete'. 'Paraclete' is Greek for 'advocate', that is someone who is called to your side to help, to guide you through a tricky patch. In Hebrew teaching about the Last Judgement there would be an Accuser and an Advocate on either side. In the gospel, Jesus asks the Father to send this Advocate to his followers to be his own presence when Jesus is no longer there and to guide the Church into all truth. That is the inspiring situation which Jesus speaks of: the Church and every one of her members will continue through the power of the Spirit to grow in understanding of the mysteries of God, as a people over the centuries and as individuals over the years of life. Before the Spirit was given, even the disciples who had been with Jesus throughout his ministry failed to understand his real significance, and certainly lacked courage to proclaim it. The coming of the Paraclete was the booster-rocket which set off the Church on its course and keeps it on course. Now it is the duty and privilege of each of the members of the Church to fulfil the prophetic office of the Church, understanding more deeply and declaring more clearly the truth about Christ in the world.*

**What does the Holy Spirit teach? What difference does the Spirit's presence and teaching make in our lives?**

**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 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019



## First Reading: *The Birth of the Church*

### Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. "Surely," they said, "all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God."

*The ministry of Jesus starts with the coming of the Spirit at his Baptism. In the same way, the ministry of the Church begins with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. There can be no witness to Jesus or to his message, no spreading of the Kingship of God, without the Spirit of Jesus. Another lesson from this parallel between Jesus' Baptism and Pentecost is that the task of the Church and the life of the Church are the same as those of Jesus himself: to bring God's kingship to its fulfilment by pouring out healing, love and joy through the message of the risen Christ. The rushing wind and the tongues of fire are an allusion to the Old Testament when God's Spirit descends upon Moses and the elders of the people. So the message of Pentecost is the fulfilment of the Old Testament, breaking out beyond the borders of Judaism to include all peoples of the world. The union of all these peoples (all understanding one language in their own way) is a deliberate contrast with the Old Testament scene of the Tower of Babel, when the LORD split up all the peoples of the world (as symbolised by their inability to understand one another's languages). The list of unpronounceable peoples is itself a witness to the universality of the Church!*

*How does the Church show forth the Spirit at work in the world today?*

## Second Reading: *The Spirit of Christ in Me*

### Romans 8:8-17

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live. Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

*Paul's letter to the Romans is all about the process of salvation. What difference did the death and resurrection of Jesus actually make to me and my condition in the world? This passage is the climax: it plants the flag on the summit and leaves us to live a full Christian life in peace, tranquillity and hope. There have been three stages in this process of salvation. First came the work of Christ: Jesus' loving, obedient death on the Cross undid, washed away, healed the disobedience of Adam, that is, the disobedience of the whole human race (Romans 5:12-21). What is that to me? So, stage two: by Baptism I express my faith in Christ. By myself I am helpless and hopeless, so I put all my trust in Christ. In Baptism I am plunged into Christ, plunged into Christ's death, and emerge from the waters soaked and dripping with Christ's risen life (Romans 6:1-11). Stage three: permeated with, or vivified with, this risen life of Christ, I am adopted into the sonship of God and can cry out 'Abba, Father' with the voice of Jesus himself. The inheritance of Jesus as Son of God is now my inheritance too. So Pentecost is the celebration of the Spirit of Jesus alive and active in every Christian.*

*Where and in whom have you found the Spirit of Jesus "alive and active"?*

“Pentecost is the celebration of the Spirit of Jesus  
alive and active in every Christian.”

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)