



ST PETER'S
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
AIDED SCHOOL

14th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Newsletter February 2020

I hope that you enjoy our latest newsletter that shares some of the highlights from this half-term.

Upcoming Key Dates

School returns after half term on Monday 24th February
The final day of the spring term is Friday 27th March
School returns after the Easter break on Tuesday 14th April
May Bank Holiday is on a Friday this year – 8th May

Bugsy Malone

This year's drama, dance and music performance featured many students on stage performing as actors and musicians as well as teams behind the scenes ensuring the show ran smoothly and with high quality technical contributions. It was a feast of fun and teamwork and enjoyed by all audiences.

The students' high level of performance was a result of months of dedication. All of the students involved have worked very hard, overcoming challenges and have developed a disciplined approach both to performance and organisation of a busy life. I am in no doubt that these areas will support them all in their future learning and life chances.



My Twist on a Tale

Well done to all the students who entered the Pearson 'My Twist on a Tale' competition. A particular well done to Samantha for winning the Key Stage 4 category nationwide and Lottie who won the South West category. Both students worked hard to think of original concepts and to produce highly

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creative and engaging stories which proved to be very insightful tales. Both students will now have their work published and will support the school, along with the rest of the creative writing group, to engage students in high quality literature. Please see attached stories.

Music Students

Some of our Music students were nominated for their consistently excellent effort to attend Afternoon Tea with the Headteacher. Some of their comments are listed below:

Music Students

What Works Well

Personality of teacher keeps us motivated

Doesn't allow us to give up

Fun attitude of teacher

SO ENCOURAGING FOR EVERY STUDENT TO DO THEIR BEST

Gives feedback

Always helping in class

Helps the whole class continue with practical whilst supporting individuals

Lots of practical

Chance to create our own pieces

Focus on jazz, classical, modern helps us know more about different types of music

Passion for music helps students get involved

Topics are made interesting for everybody even if we're not looking forward to a topic

Group work is supported to share ideas

Trusts us to work independently

Community aspect of character compass helps us make new friends in music

Courage is a big feature of sharing in music

Choir has lots of rehearsals and we appreciate the effort this takes from music staff puts lots of effort into extra-curricular

There are lots of clubs so we can get involved in music

Opportunities to practice on instruments we don't have at home

We look forward to clubs, especially if we are having a bad day

Always wants students to do the best they can and take pride in their work

The approach to gese music is done really well

Sporting Success

U14 and U17 National Champions!

On the first weekend in February 70 students from across all year groups represented the school in the National under 14 and under 17 Indoor Ultimate Frisbee championships in Wolverhampton.

The students had a fantastic time and were very successful coming first and second in both the under 17 and under 14 division. This cements our place as the most successful junior team in the country. The students have been training hard for months both before and after school and it has certainly paid off.

We look forward to getting back to training for the outdoor nationals on Saturday 4th July. Well done to all students involved!



Football

Year 11 Footballers reach the Quarter Final of the National Cup

A massive congratulations to the year 11 football team on reaching the quarter final of the national cup. Over 700 schools entered this competition in September and the students had to successfully negotiate their way past seven rounds of opponents in order to reach the last 8. Their quarter final opponents were Hampton School from Richmond. An excellent achievement!



PE

We have had another busy and hugely successful sporting term.

Congratulations to all those students who have achieved personal or team success by dedicating themselves to training sessions both at lunchtime and afterschool.

Thank you to those who have worked hard in PE lessons and strive to be the best they can. A special mention to you to those who ask us that magic question in every lesson 'what can I do to help?'

Huge respect to those who have given up time to work alongside teachers to coach and inspire younger students – you have been fantastic role models.

On behalf of all of the PE staff may I wish you a happy, active and exciting half term – but don't forget to take time to rest and recuperate.

Jobs over half term:

Please don't forget to ensure that all clothes, shoes, trainers etc have your name clearly written in them so that we can return them to you if we find them in the changing rooms.

Please ensure that all fingernails are cut short. We have noticed an increasing trend by some students to grow their nails long. We are not allowed to let students take part in PE lessons if we consider that their nails pose a danger to either themselves or other students in the class.

Sport England Fund

St. Peter's has signed up to the Sport England Fund. In essence the fund is offering up to £3,350 per school to help engage some of the least engaged students from September 2020 until July 2021. It is aiming to harness the benefits that PE can have for all students and wider school outcomes.

While some youngsters have a great experience of PE and sport at school, others don't, and our research shows that can put them off being active for life. We look forward to developing even more relevant and exciting programmes to support students' engagement in sporting opportunities.



For all the information on this please go to : <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/children-and-young-people/secondary-teacher-training-programme/>

STEM update.

It has been another busy half term celebrating all things STEM.

Year 8's have been preparing for the regional finals of the Lego robotics challenge at Exeter College where they will be competing against several other local schools.

Year 8 & 9's attended the Go4SET launch event at Plymouth aquarium where they met their industry mentors from the Met. Office and Arcadis and planned their 10 week project to design an eco-hotel/school.

Year 9's and 10's have been working on their big bang competition entries for the South West fair at Westpoint in June.



Year 10 & 11 also are busy making final improvements to their National big bang competition entries as the finals at the NEC are just a few weeks away.



We're also delighted that four more students will now be attending the national event as they have been shortlisted for the finals of the Youth Industrial Strategy Competition. STEM club runs every lunchtime in S105 for year's 8 – 11

CCF

It is with great sadness that following the resignation of two members of CCF who are the cornerstone of the CCF we have had to close our CCF contingent. We are very grateful for their generous support over many years, providing students with terrific opportunities. We have been seeking to recruit a member of staff to become Contingent Commander over a number of years but not managed to do so. Following a number of discussions including senior national figures closure has been forced upon us. We are continuing to look into alternative possibilities and when we have more definite information we will communicate this. Possibilities being discussed are opportunities to join other cadet contingents and alternative outdoor adventure type clubs.

Holocaust Memorial Conference

On Wednesday 29th January, 12 members of Year 9 travelled to the University of Exeter for their annual Holocaust Memorial Conference. There they heard a fascinating keynote speech from Derek Niemann, the grandson of an SS officer, who warned of the dangers of anti-Semitism and other prejudices. He spoke of how he discovered his grandfather was a member of the SS, and explained how finding out he was related to a high-ranking Nazi changed his life. Later, Lydia Souter and Isabelle Mutton (two PhD students from the University) led an informative seminar on the design of Holocaust Memorials, with students designing their own memorial to the victims of the Holocaust.



Safe Travel to and from School

We have received a report from a member of the public that some of our students have sometimes been walking in front of vehicles, including bicycles, including when lights indicate it is not safe to cross the road. In addition, if you are a cyclist please do:

- Cycle with a high vis garment
- Cycle without earphones in
- Cycle wearing a helmet
- Cycle at a speed that is safe to yourself, pedestrians and other traffic
- Cycle carefully when crossing driveways and garage entrances

Young Carers Awareness Day

The Young Carers Awareness Day took place on the 30th January this year. This day raises awareness of the challenges face by young carers and campaigns for greater support for them.

If you would like to find out more about the Devon Young Carers, please visit:

<https://www.westbank.org.uk/pages/category/young-carers>

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week took place from the 3-9th February. If you would like to view the Mental Health Foundation's Guide for Parents and Carers please click on the link below:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/make-it-count-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement of students and staff. I wish you all a wonderful half-term and hope that you will be able to rest and relax away from the demands of school life.



Phil Randall
Headteacher