

### **Examinations and Ofsted**

It has been another very busy and productive time at St John's. The staff and students of our school have been extremely focussed in their preparations for both internal and external exams, and I know that pupils in the key external examination years have given their absolute best throughout this highly demanding season. I have every confidence that the students will gain the results they deserve when the August result days come around and will have achieved the grades they need to confidently undertake the next stage of their chosen pathway.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, two weeks prior to the half term holiday, we received the news that Ofsted – the government's school inspectorate team – were going to pay our school a one day visit on the very next day! Being a planned 'one day' Section 8 inspection, we were well aware that the Ofsted team weren't in a position to change the current 'Good' rating of our school, however it was important that we showcased the school at its absolute best so that the subsequent Ofsted report would reflect the excellent work that goes on at our school every day. I am delighted to say that the school was at its absolute best during the day of the inspection, with all students playing their part in creating an excellent first impression to the team of experienced inspectors.

The consequent report <http://www.stjohnscs.com/page/?title=Inspections&pid=10> really does read exceptionally well and comments such as 'Pupils are proud of their school', 'Everyone at the school works together to support the strong Catholic ethos which is the bedrock of the school' and 'Our school is a great community, it is like a family here, we have friends in every year' are truly uplifting to read. Well done to everyone who played their part – a fantastic team result!

Matt Barron *Headteacher*

### **Gymnastics Success!**

For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, St John's Gymnastics Squad won a place at the National Finals of the BSGA Team Floor and Vault competition in May to represent the South East Region. The event is held at the Fenton Manor Leisure Centre in Stoke-on-Trent, and accommodates a team from every Region of the United Kingdom in 3 categories across 2 age-groups. St John's represented the South East Region in the Under 14 Mixed and Under 19 Mixed categories, and experienced a host of success.

The Under 14 Mixed team achieved 6<sup>th</sup> place – an excellent achievement, for many of whom it was their first experience of a National event.

The Under 19 Mixed team achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place and won the Regional award as the combined scores for the Boys, Girls and Mixed teams from the South East exceeded those of every other Region. Lauren Campbell (Year 12) also ranked the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest female in the whole event.



The Gymnastics Squad will be displaying their skills to students from St John's Primary School in June, whilst also supporting the primary students in a "stay and play" session, where they will have the opportunity to try some gymnastics themselves.

Mrs L Weller *Associate Assistant Headteacher*

## BOOK LAUNCH

The 6<sup>th</sup> in the series of books on War Memorials in the Borough was launched at the school on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Over 60 distinguished guests attended the 90 minute function. Mr Murphy, Head of History, presented using a PowerPoint in conjunction with Joel Williams-Modeste, Year 12. Guests included Councillor Harold Craske, Mayor of Gravesham, Dr Bhargawa Vasudaven, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Mr David Rich, Institute of Education, Mrs Victoria Wallace, Director General, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Mr Andrew Robertshaw, author and TV Personality.

This particular volume focuses on the memorials in Northfleet, Rosherville, the Overcliffe and Perry Street. 300 biographies written by the students of the History Society are included in the 458 page book; A4 sized, softback and in full colour. The book also has a tribute to the late Mr Tony Larkin – a wonderful patron of St John's. Copies of the book are available from the school at £25 a copy.



Mr C Murphy *Head of History*

## VISIT OF HIROSHIMA HIGH SCHOOL

30 students and staff from Hiroshima High School, Japan, were guests of the school on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The visitors called on Councillor Harold Craske, Mayor of Gravesham. He gave a through tour of Council Offices at the Woodville Halls explaining the many symbols of office and how local government works.

From there the visitors came to St John's; here they entertained the Year 8 students with a thorough review of Japanese culture. They covered a wide variety of topics from food to fashion and music to sport giving a full demonstration of sumo wrestling!



Mr C Murphy *Head of History*

## Year 8

Term five has proven to be a very busy term for Year 8. Through their daily practice, they have shown resilience and determination as their KS3 journey nearly reaches its end.

Year 8 have now completed all of their end of year examinations. The year group worked extremely hard in the build up to these examinations to ensure they gave themselves the best possible start in their new teaching sets in Year 9. The Year 8 team wish them the best of luck and hope to see the students celebrate the excellent results they deserve.

Year 8 have also been preparing for the years ahead by choosing their option choices for Year 9. They are excited and looking forward to the wider curriculum that awaits them, showing a keen interest in the development of their future. The Year 8 team would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for your continued support with the option process to ensure the very best for our students.



Miss C Comiskey *Deputy Head of Year 8*

## Literary Legends

The English Department are seeking their next Literary Legend!

The opportunity to have your work judged alongside students and adults alike in the Gravesham area has once again opened up.

Gravesend Library are holding their Annual WRITING COMPETITION.

THIS YEAR INSPIRED AND IN HONOUR OF THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VOTES FOR Women and the end of WW1.



All you have to do is create a piece of writing based on the theme of 'Courage' that is up to 1,000 words long and to have handed it to either Miss Williams or your English Teacher by the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2018.

If you have any questions feel free to discuss the competition with any of the English Department.

We look forward to seeing your wonderful creations, and hope to find another Literary Legend of St John's!

## Water Safety

Terry Smith, Royal National Lifeboat Institution Education Volunteer and fundraiser came to talk to Years 7, 8 and 9. He spoke about the history of the RNLI charity and the importance of being safe in and around water. This is especially important in Gravesend as we live close to the Thames. Mr Smith brought in different equipment used by the RNLI crews to show to the students.

Students donated to the charity and £238.96 was raised.



L Buckingham Pastoral Manager Year 9

### STAFF CHARITY CYCLE TO NORMANDY



The annual staff charity cycle to Normandy covering all 5 Landing Beaches and the 2 Airborne drop zones took place over the weekend of March 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Day 1 saw the intrepid group of 12 set off from the village of Troarn and finishing at Arromanches, a total of 50 miles. On the way the group passed the British and Canadian Landing Beaches and were welcomed on the way on their arrival at Coleville Montgomery. The group stayed at the Gold Beach Hotel which itself is situated adjacent to Gold Beach.

Day 2 had the group travel to St Mere Eglise where after a visit to the Airborne Museum they were welcomed to Ravenoville by local historian Dave Ashe. After a talk which included a visit to the legendary Marmion Farm the group set off for the American Cemetery at Coleville. The 40 miles was covered in a little over two and a half hours despite the headwind which made cycling difficult. Dave Ashe continued his talk on American Airborne soldiers buried in the cemetery who were killed in action at Ravenoville. After the talk it was onwards to Arromanches – a distance of 20 miles. Day 3 saw the group visit the historic centres of St Valery-en-Caux – site of the evacuation in June 1940 and the surrender of the 51<sup>st</sup> Highland Division in 1940 – and Dieppe where lunch was had at Le Troubadour; the seats where Winston Churchill, Samuel Beckett and Oscar Wilde sat when in residence in the seaside town were noted as was the various scenes of battle during the raid in World War 2.

Monies raised go to the Mayor's Charity Fund.

Mr C Murphy *Head of History*

### Sixth Form Sleep Out

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, a group of 20 sixth form students decided to take on a challenge of sleeping outside and experiencing what it means to be homeless. We did not know what to expect, but the recent snow and rain really made us realise how miserable it is to be sleeping rough. The House of Mercy is our local charity that has worked closely with St John's parish for 26 years. Having been inspired by those who already raise money for the charity, we wanted to play our part and give back to our community.

On the night, all the students prepared their sleeping space, laying on just cardboard and sleeping bags. It was a very long and cold night, but incomparable to those who experience it every single day. We were also lucky enough to hear a very inspiring story by a former homeless person, who was aided by the House of Mercy and was able to go to university as a result. Such testimonies are truly eye opening and reminded us that the homeless sleep out wasn't just an event to raise money, but awareness too. We wanted to say a massive thanks to all who took part, contributed to our fundraising and helped us to organise the event. A special thanks also goes to Divizia's who surprised us with the luxury of pizzas!

Mrs S Gibbons *Assistant Chaplain*

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Keeping up to date with Social media can be very difficult as it is such a fast-changing world.

Below are some articles that have good ideas on how to manage and keep up to date with all the changes.

#### Articles for Parent/Carers

- ❓ LSE: [Why the very idea of 'screen time' is muddled and misguided](#)
- ❓ Childnet: [A parents' guide to Fortnite: Battle Royale](#)
- ❓ Internet Matters:
  - o [My child wants to be a vlogger - is it safe?](#)
  - o [Parents guide to Roblox and how your kids can play it safely](#)
  - o [Live.ly App – What parents need to know about the live streaming app](#)
  - o [Yubo formerly Yellow social media app – what parents need to know](#)
  - o [Fortnite Battle Royal parents' guide to keep kids safe while gaming](#)
  - o [What is 'gaming addiction' and how can you prevent children from developing it?](#)

[My child is actively seeking followers to build a brand online, how can I keep them safe?](#)

#### Online safety: YouTube restricted mode

The UK Safer Internet Centre has blogged a parent's guide to YouTube restricted mode. It covers what restricted mode is, how it works, and how it can be implemented. Advice includes: giving children strategies to deal with unwanted content; exploring further settings, such as disabling the autoplay feature to ensure no unwanted videos automatically start playing; and enabling filtering systems.

**Source:** [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) **Date:** 10 May 2018

#### Update to Net Aware website and app

Net Aware, the NSPCC and O2 website and app providing information for parents or anyone working with children to stay up to date and keep children safe in today's digital world, has been updated with new reviews from parents and young people. Fourteen new sites, apps and games now feature on the website and app including Yubo, Sarahah, Discord and Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas. Net Aware provides online safety information and advice on privacy settings and other features, as well as recommended age guidance and risk ratings for inappropriate content.

**Source:** [Net Aware website](#)

**Download the app** from [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#)

#### Childnet 'Connect with respect' Film Competition.

Childnet have launched their ninth film competition to encourage young people aged 7-18 to create a short film to educate their peers about staying safe online. This year's theme focuses on how young people can 'connect with respect' and work together to make a better place for children and young people.

Competition opens: 21st February

Competition closes: 11th June

Finalists notified 18th June.

Screening and finalist's event at the BFI 3rd July

I hope you all have a safe and restful half term, if you have concerns about your child, please contact their pastoral manager or Mrs Kelham.

Mrs O Kelham *DSL*

## Visit to the Ritz

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April a select number of Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils, who are hoping to pursue a career in the hospitality and catering industry, visited the world famous The Ritz Hotel. Pupils and staff were treated to a once in a life time ‘behind the scenes’ tour of The Ritz. The Rivoli Bar, Palm Court the home of ‘tea at the Ritz’ and Ritz Restaurant were all visited, as well as the Private Dining Rooms, with a standout favourite of the group being The William Kent Room. We then got to visit and explore The Royal Suite, a two level one bedroom palatial suite. Hearing of the current rate per night being £6000 we were all very pleased to boast that we were able to have stayed in the suite, albeit just for 15 minutes, although we could not make the most of the complimentary 24 hour butler service and use of the hotel’s private Rolls Royce and driver in that time! The most inspiring part of our day was our guided tour of the Ritz’s kitchen, spanning the whole basement of the hotel. The very best seasonal British produce was being crafted into Michelin-starred meals in front of our very eyes; lobsters from the South West of Scotland to delicate finger sandwiches for afternoon tea. Inspired by the finer things in life, the group finished their trip with a visit to the flagship Fortnum and Mason store. Students, and staff alike, all had an enriching and inspiring day; an experience all shall treasure.



Miss S Gosling Food *Technology Teacher*


## Selfie Kamcop Workshop

Pupils had the opportunity to use a Polaroid camera and present their outcomes in a personal and unique way. The pupils learned about the courses that UCA run so from a vocational aspect it was also beneficial. One pupil commented, “I think this workshop is really good, I’ve really enjoyed it and learned about photography courses that I might want to do in the future”.



Year 7 Gifted and Talented Maths students from St John’s won a landslide victory in a ‘friendly’ inter-school maths challenge with St Georges. We hosted the event and pupils performed outstandingly well in each of the five rounds. Congratulations to:

Patrick	Eva
Luke	Demilade
Christopher	Julia
Valentino	Sharon
Mateusz	
Gurmukh	
Sahib	



You can now report your child's absence through the student page on the school website or by following this link:

<http://www.stjohnscs.com/form/?pid=9&form=76>

Please ensure that you keep your contact details up to date so that we are able to contact you quickly in an emergency. You can update your details through the student page of the school website or by following this link:

<http://www.stjohnscs.com/form/?pid=9&form=17>

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### **KS4 and KS5 Summer Examinations**

As we have now entered the main examination season we wish all students every success in their revision and final examinations.

Each student has been issued with a personalised examination timetable prior to the Easter break and an overview calendar of all examinations can be accessed via the appropriate link below. You can also access the school's examination policies via the respective link at the bottom of this article.

Parents are encouraged to keep a copy of their child's examination timetable and to actively take an interest in their child's revision and examination experiences.

Thank you as ever for your support.

KS4 Examination Calendar: <http://www.stjohnscs.com/page/?title=Exams&pid=24>

KS5 Examination Calendar: <http://www.stjohnscs.com/page/?title=Exams&pid=24>

Examination Policies: <http://www.stjohnscs.com/page/?title=Exams&pid=24>



## Chaplain's Corner

As I write, we are over two thirds of the way through our Year7, 8 and 9 Retreat season. Our school retreats are a day out at a spiritually inspiring venue, with about 40 students per day, to retreat from the pace and noise of everyday life, to make space for God and to reflect on the important questions of life and consider where it is taking us. They have been wonderful days ... so far!

Our Year 9 Retreat days are provided by seminarians 'training' to be priests at St John's Seminary, near Guildford, where they live for six years. After some games to wake the students up after the coach journey, they began to develop the theme of the day which was the voices that bombard us from all directions, some good, some bad, that influence so many of our views and choices in life. But we need to discover our own voice, to become our own person, and learn to listen to the one quiet voice that enables us to become the true and best version of ourselves that we were created to be; to make quiet space for God's voice. The seminarians shared some of their own journeys and struggles and the day included a fascinating tour of the seminary including the library which wouldn't have looked out of place in Harry Potter!

We all need to make space for God in our busy lives. Many of the things that consume all our energies and assume 'life and death' importance at the time prove to be meaningless when we look back decades later (those of us that have decades to look back at!). Life is about relationship; love of God by whom we become our true self and love of each other.

Stay blessed

*Deacon Michael*

*Chaplain*