

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents

This is the final newsletter of the Spring Term (although it has felt like winter for the most part). The Easter holidays has always been a crucial time for the pupils in Years 11 and 13 to prepare for the May/June final GCSE and A level examinations. I do hope that pupils in those year groups make efficient use of the time that the Easter break affords and prepare diligently for their finals by attempting past papers and producing practice essays – the best way to revise!

Please note that we will be holding our final assembly at 4.00pm on the last day of term, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March, and school will finish at the normal time of 4.50pm.

### **English News**

On Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, students from Years 7 and 8 tuned in to a BBC live lesson exploring the phenomenon of Fake News. They learned what constitutes fake and misleading news, why it is damaging and how to spot it. The programme encouraged all students to be critical and to ask questions validating news and its sources, particularly on social media.

This week we launched our Easter short story competition for years 7 to 10. Students have been asked to write a story of no more than 1000 words based around Easter themes such as change, renewal, redemption and sacrifice. Even though the themes have been suggested by the season, the story does not have to have a religious message and can be written in any genre. Entries must be in by Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April and the best efforts (in the view of the judges) will win prizes.

### **Admin staff**

I am delighted to say that Mrs Emma Foskett has now taken up her new role as Director of Admissions and Marketing. Mrs Cat Tansley has joined us as my PA so please direct any calls and e-mails to her [ctansley@stfelix.co.uk](mailto:ctansley@stfelix.co.uk) This week we also said goodbye to Miss Melissa Bridgman, our Registrar, who has been with us for 14 years. We presented her with a gift and flowers during Senior Chapel on Thursday where she said goodbye to the community with great optimism for the future albeit with a heavy heart – she remains a close friend of the school. Mrs Deryn Colville is acting as interim Registrar until a permanent appointment is made later this year.

### **A new 'Parental Portal'**

Parents of students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 11 should have received an email this week inviting them to log in to our new parental portal which gives access to students' timetables and reports, parent contact information as well as several other features. Parents of students in Year 10, 12 and 13 will receive a similar email before the end of term. If you have not had an email please check your junk mail folder as the email is generated through iSAMS, our management system.

### **Mindfulness lessons for Years 7-9**

After the Easter break Years 7, 8 and 9, during curriculum time, will be participating in an eight week course on Mindfulness. The sessions will be run by Vanessa Murphy, a qualified psychotherapist, based in Norfolk and Suffolk. Mindfulness is an integrative, mind-body based training that will enable our pupils to be better equipped to manage the way they think and feel about their feelings, especially in stressful situations.

## **Science News**

The science department led two further outings for students from the senior department to Cambridge, for week two of the Cambridge Science Festival. On Tuesday evening at Jesus College, the students were captivated by a very interesting physics lecture on how to create the coolest objects in the universe using lasers. Our final visit to the festival was to Homerton College, where a very distinguished panel of experts, who included Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer for England and advisor to the government, and Professor Jane Dacre, President of the Royal College of Physicians, debated whether the science of genomics is the future of medicine and how this will impact on the NHS.

## **Geography News**

On Friday 16th March Sixth Form Geography students travelled to City Temple in the City of London for a revision conference. This was a valuable opportunity to pick up hints and tips for the forthcoming examinations. There was lots of advice and examples of students' work.

## **Modern Languages News**

On Monday 19th March 2018 14 pupils in Years 7 to 10 represented our school in French and Spanish at the 'Have Your Say' languages competition organized by the Association for Language Learning, hosted by Copleston High School in Ipswich. All pupils representing Saint Felix performed well and eight out of twelve, who competed against approximately 150 pupils from other Essex and Suffolk schools, advanced through to the grand final to be held in May 2018.

## **Year 11**

Yesterday the Year 11 students spent the day as Sixth Formers. They came in dressed in suits and business wear, and had taster sessions in the A level subjects they are considering next year. In the afternoon they had an enrichment session on communication skills. This was followed by the students having aspiration interviews with Governors and other prominent business people.

## **Sport**

The weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March, a number of pupils from the Prep and Senior department travelled to Crystal Palace National Sports Centre for the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships. The students had been invited to this event from their results at qualification rounds earlier in the academic year. Each of the students is required to complete a run and separate swim, with the distance covered dependent upon their age. On Saturday the girls competed, and ran in blizzard conditions which resulted in 63<sup>rd</sup> place and 8<sup>th</sup> place.

All of the students should be very proud of their results, and they were a credit to the school.

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March the Saint Felix Basketball squad played Copleston High School in Ipswich in the Suffolk schools finals. Copleston won by 58 to 25. I am proud of the tenacity and unstinting teamwork exhibited by the whole squad.

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March Saint Felix entertained Holbrook Academy in the Suffolk Schools Basketball Final. Despite the hard-work of our U11 boys Holbrook won by 30 to 24.

This week Saint Felix played Langley in three football matches across all the age groups. The U18 team played in an excellent fixture at Langley when going 4-0 down they fought back well with two second half goals. The U13 team won 3-0. The U15 team lost 4-1.

### **Sunk Garden**

We need 24 - 28 volunteers to commit to clearing a 4m section of the garden from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April through to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April or volunteers can be allocated for the time they have available. Each section should only take a day to clear but by offering four days the volunteers can hopefully fit it in around other commitments. The work will entail clearing, replanting, separation of plants and levelling of soil. Volunteers should bring gloves, spades, forks, hoes, rakes if they have. Full training will be given and light refreshments will be provided.

We are also in need of a bricklayer to remove the damaged coping and patch the retaining walls.

If you are able to volunteer for your time please contact Mrs Greenacre on [jgreenacre@stfelix.co.uk](mailto:jgreenacre@stfelix.co.uk)

### **Diary Dates:**

- **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April**  
School term begins
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**  
GCSE Drama Examination Performance – parents welcome
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April**  
Year 7 parents' meeting  
Poetry and Prosecco at South Cove church – parents welcome

Mr James Harrison  
Headmaster