

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

I have been pleased to see the boys get back into the swing of school with positivity and renewed vigour following the Christmas break. January is often a time when we reassess our lifestyles and make changes to our routines. Personally, I am determined to de-clutter my house and spent an evening sifting through my clothes to see which ones gave me "joy"... The resulting pile of "joyless" old shirts and coats will be given away to charity. When I met with the Year 11 boys on Monday evening I extolled the similar virtue of discarding old and fruitless habits and developing a new sense of purpose in this new year. For them, exams are only a short term away and they will need to stay focussed. All the boys have mock exams in the coming weeks to revise for.

I am pleased that boys' behaviour so far this year has been excellent. Movement on the corridors has been quiet and purposeful and there is an atmosphere conducive to learning in the classrooms.

I would like you all to take more interest in your sons' homework as quite a number of boys are not completing their tasks to a high enough standard. Homework enables the consolidation of the day's learning and, for the older boys, essay questions help to focus on the skills needed for exams.

Kind regards,

Alan By

Alan Bryant Head of School

WORDS OF THE DAY

Monday - Capitulate

Verb cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; yield. After seeing himself on the TV news, the escaped convict decided to **capitulate** to avoid being shot by a police officer. Greatly outnumbered, the soldiers had no alternative but to capitulate to their enemies. Those unwilling to **capitulate** to the new employer's demands will be promptly fired.

Tuesday – Estranged

Adjective no longer close or affectionate to someone; alienated or to remove; keep at a distance. The quarrel **estranged** the two friends for many years. Sadly, the necessity for traveling on frequent business trips has **estranged** him from his friends.

Wednesday – Implacable

Adjective used to describe (someone who has) strong opinions or feelings that are impossible to change: The government faces **implacable** opposition on the issue of Brexit. **Implacable**, with arms folded, and a stubborn pout, the toddler refused to eat her vegetables.

Thursday – Admonish

Verb warn or reprimand someone firmly; Warn strongly; put on guard. To reprimand a child who is behaving badly would be to **admonish** that child. The doctor was swift to **admonish** me for smoking. Instead of using the opportunity to **admonish** the persistently late student; she was not allowed to attend the Prom instead.

Thursday - Ironic

Adjective Something is ironic if the result is the opposite of what was intended; an **ironic** event is one at odds with what might have been expected. It is **ironic** how children want grow up and adults want to be young again! Isn't it **ironic** that the 98-year-old man won the lottery and died the next day.

KEY DATES IN THE SPRING TERM

MON 14-19 JAN - MOCK EXAMS

TUE 15TH JAN - 6-7 PM - ST GEORGE'S SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

WED 23RD & THU 24TH JAN - YII ST DOMINIC'S SIXTH FORM INTERVIEWS

THU 24TH JAN - 4.20-6.30 PM - Y11 PARENTS EVENING

MON 28TH JAN - Y9 DTP/MEN IMMUNISATIONS

TUE 29TH JAN - 4.30-5.30 PM – PARENTS' FORUM

THU 7TH FEB - 4.30-6.30 PM – Y8 PARENTS' EVENING

FRI 15TH FEB - YII ENGLISH TRIP TO SHAKESPEAR'S GLOBE THEATRE

18TH - 22ND FEB - HALF TERM



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Baptism of the Lord (Year C) Sunday 13th January 2019 A reading from the Gospel of Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

With this event begins the public ministry of Jesus. It might seem odd that Jesus needs to be baptised – he is the son of God, after all. Jesus gives no explanation of why he should be baptised, simply that it is proper that he should.

Throughout Advent we heard how John the Baptist paved the way for Jesus. His baptism was a symbol for what God would do for us through Jesus. Now, Jesus paves the way for us. He wants us to imitate him by being Baptised ourselves.

In Baptism we are wiped clean of our sin, and become members of the church, and as such it is the first step in our lives as disciples of Jesus. We follow him in all that he says and does and, ultimately, to his death on the cross and glorious resurrection.

Catholicism is fundamentally a sacramental religion. We believe that the sacraments (of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders) are the primary ways we receive God's grace and love.

God's grace is not limited to the sacraments – indeed he pours his grace upon us all the time and in many different ways; however, the Church teaches that when we celebrate the sacraments we can be certain of God's grace is bestowed upon us. The sacrament of Baptism is the key which unlocks all the other sacraments – it is the foundation of a sacramental life secure in the knowledge of God's arace.

Sacraments are grounded in earthly, bodily actions: they are visible signs of invisible grace. In Baptism, we experience the pouring of water. The water is cleansing, but not just of earthly dirt; this earthly cleansing is the sign of a more significant,

spiritual, cleansing which is the washing away of our sins

In the Catholic Church, we understand that we live in the body, and that signs and actions are the way in which we communicate and understand the world around us. In the Church, ordinary actions are invested with supernatural meaning and beauty is regarded as an important way of bringing is closer to God.

Sacraments are not simply elaborate rituals, but are an actual intervention of God into our world. Sacraments offer us a glimpse of heaven. Sacraments transform the mundane into the divine. Sacraments bring God into our midst.

Jesus! my Lord, my God, my all!
How can I love Thee as I ought?
And how revere this wondrous gift
So far surpassing hope or thought?
Sweet Sacrament! we thee adore!
Oh, make us love thee more and more!

Had I but Mary's sinless heart
With which to love Thee, dearest King,
Oh, with whatever fervent praise,
Thy goodness, Jesus, would I sing!
Sweet Sacrament! we thee adore!
Oh, make us love thee more and more!

Thy Body, Soul and Godhead, all!
O mystery of love divine!
I cannot compass all I have,
For all Thou hast and art is mine!
Sweet Sacrament! we thee adore!
Oh, make us love thee more and more!

Sound, then, His praises higher still, And come, ye angels, to our aid; For this is God, the very God Who hath both men and angels made! Sweet Sacrament! we thee adore! Oh, make us love thee more and more!

Frederick William Faber C.O.





The Baptism of Christ (after Pietro Perugino) attributed to Sassoferrato (1609–1685) On display at the National Gallery, London, which is open daily, 10am-6pm. Entry is Free.

YEAR 9 MODEL ATOMS

These year 9 boys went above and beyond in creating their models of the atom: Gearoid created Moore fantastic model in which protons, neutrons and electrons could be easily removed and added create different atoms of different Amesh elements; Perera created a very clear and accurate



model which identifies the different electron shells and numbers of electrons in each shell - brilliant effort with lots of different skills applied; Rhys Flynn's model was voted the best in his class by his peers. Again he has created an accurate model and has put in the time and effort to prove that he really is a scientist in the making. His homemade stand really showcased his model well.

Well done all the students who took part and created great models. Miss Malone will be keeping the models on show in F11S until the end of the year.





CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

A huge thank you to all those who contributed towards our Christmas Hamper Appeal. 47 individual hampers and 6 large family hampers were made up from all the donations received, and these were distributed to local people in need at Christmas. Excess produce was delivered to the Cardinal Hume Centre in Westminster, who support the homeless.

Tutor group 9C merited particular congratulations as they brought in an incredible 55 items.

Thank you to all staff and students who supported this appeal, from feedback received we have "made people's day" at Christmas time.

EPRIASE CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW WINNER



Well done to all of the boys who have collected EPraise points last term. Pupils can receive EPraise points for things like: Excellent Work, Good Progress, Excellent Homework, Good Deeds, Work in the Community &c.

This year's Christmas Grand Prize Draw was £250 worth of Ticketmaster vouchers which the winner could spend with family or friends on attending an event of their choice. This may be a Concert, Sporting event, or such like.

We are pleased to announce that the Grand Prize Draw Winner was Lifran Gonsalves.

There are also individual winners in each year group who received a £20 amazon voucher and £10 voucher for the runner up.

Year 7:

Roland Irabor Piranavan Pirabakaran

Year 8:

Toni Serban Nivek Karunanithy

Year 9:

Karol Fusi Ngwa Anthonie Abdulkareem

Year 10:

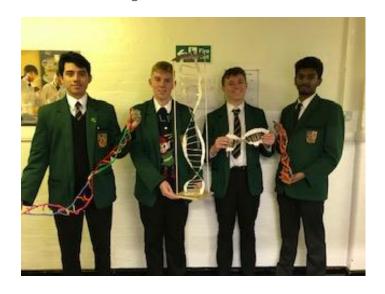
TBC

Year 11:

Rory O'Shaughnessy Wesley Barreto Dos Santos

TRIPPLE SCIENCE DNA STRUCTURE MODELS

These are photos taken at the end of last term showing Triple Science students from Ms Wards class with their amazing models of DNA structures:









MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLES

This term, Year 7 students have been exploring how William of Normandy maintained control of England after winning the Battle of Hastings. This was an extremely difficult task as there were 1,500,000 Anglo Saxons compared to just 10,000 Normans. William built Motte and Bailey castles to keep control and intimidate the locals!

Year 7 students created their own fantastic Motte and Bailey castles as part of a castle building competition. Sensing a way to win favour in the competition, some entrants produced edible castles, constructed of cake and icing.











