



# ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Be it known...*

15th February 2019

## Dear Parents & Carers

I was pleased on Saturday to represent SJP & Mid Essex Secondary Headteachers at the SOLE demonstration in opposition to proposed library closures across the county. In addition to the organiser, Mr Abbott - a SJP member of staff, the school was represented by many students, parents and staff. At the end of the march our Head Boy Matthew addressed supporters, speaking eloquently about the important role libraries play in the education of young people.

In Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Scout fears her teacher plans to limit her opportunities to read. She confides in her father Atticus, who eases Scout's fears. Scout later reflects, *'Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing.'* For Scout, reading is her lifeblood. All who work in education know that reading is the key to the curriculum; the gateway to learning; and that those who read, succeed.

The consultation closes on February 20th. I again include my recent letter, and urge all in our community to offer a few moments' support to a vital cause for all involved in education.

Yesterday afternoon Year 13 students presented their extended projects following months of independent study. The EPQ affords students freedom and licence to study a topic of their personal interest. They are assigned a supervisor to guide their research, but the project must be directed by the student alone. It is fantastic preparation for undergraduate study, and each year we are inspired by the range of topics students explore.

A party of Year 11 students embarks on a week's skiing in Italy this evening. The school is blessed with many members of staff committed to enriching students' experiences in a variety of ways, including visits to musicals; Chelsea FC; Geography Field visits and foreign language experiences; and GCSE & A Level conferences; last Friday students attended Science Live, hearing a range of world renowned specialists in the field, including Professor Robert Winston.

I know that those enjoying a week on the slopes will return with many fond and lasting memories. As with all who organise such enriching experiences, we thank Mrs Watson, Mr Folkard, Mr Ashton-Tyler, Miss Hyman & Mr Keylock for their dedication.

I wish all in our community a restful break. We look forward to welcoming the students back to school upon our return.

Thomas Coen, Headteacher.

SJP is a proud Teacher Training Partnership School to Billericay Education Consortium and West Essex Teacher Training School Alliance. Please contact us if you are interested in a career in teaching and/or work experience.

Information events are offered at:

**Colchester Town Hall:** 28.03.19 4.30-7.30

**Bromfords School:** 19.02.19 (half term) 10.00 -13.00; 05.03.19 08.00-16.00; 18.03.19 08.00-16.00; 10.04.19 (Easter break)

### 28.02.19: Year 9 Consultation evening

**21.03.19 4.00p.m.-7.00 p.m. Canon Roche Hall, Billericay: *Get into Teaching: Catholic Education*, a recruitment evening for all interested in teaching in Brentwood Diocese Catholic schools.**

**06.04.19 - *Moving Into Catholic Education* a Saturday networking event and free lunch in Brentwood for teachers working in any non-Catholic school.** <http://tiny.cc/catholicteaching> (email [agnusdei@stbons.org](mailto:agnusdei@stbons.org))

The PTA Afternoon Tea Dance is tomorrow. We thank Miss Cook & Mrs West for organising what promises to be a lovely afternoon.

**Following recent press reports, Governors assure parents & carers that no MAT decision involving SJP will be taken without proper process, involving consultation with all parties.**

## Celebrations & Successes

Congratulations to our Year 7 Netball squad for reaching the 'Elite 8' of the Essex Cup.



SJP PE Department @SJPpe · 9h  
Through to the 'Elite 8' of the Netball Essex Cup 🏆👏👏👏



*Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing.'*

*...to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school.*

