



ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Be it known...

15th March 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

Year 8 Retreats concluded this week. I include a selection of photos on the following page.

Students achieved great success at yesterday's Y7 & 8 County Athletics Finals - further detail provided in Celebrations & Successes, with team photos below. Yesterday also saw girls in Years 9 - 12 attend a presentation by STEMettes, an organisation encouraging girls and young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and maths. Students were enthused at the many exciting opportunities available to them in an ever growing field.

On Monday Year 7 students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation following a Liturgical Service with Mr Keylock and Mrs Adams, who explained the significance of this Holy Sacrament, brought to us by Fr Mark, Fr Pius & Fr Stephen.

Last Sunday's Gospel, shared in assemblies and Form time, saw Christ tempted by the devil in the wilderness. Students were encouraged to reflect upon temptation, upon the all consuming illusion of want over need. Commerce promotes a sense of inadequacy in consumers, fuelling the status anxiety that sees us yearn for the newer phone, the more luxurious car, the once in a lifetime holiday; feeding panic that has coined a new acronym: FOMO (Fear of Missing Out).

Challenged by the devil to turn stone to bread, Christ replied, '*Man does not live on bread alone.*' In our age of plenty and 'All mod Cons', we can easily feel adrift when faced with the most minor inconvenience - '*First World Problems*'. Our lives are enriched and enhanced by so much: our homes and gardens; our leisure activities and friendships; our devices, holidays, possessions and interests; our offspring. Rewarding as these are, we cannot live on these alone. The life that Christ promised we would enjoy to the full is complete only with God's graces and blessings.

Next Thursday's Y12 consultation evening offers parents and carers opportunity to discuss their children's progress with teachers. Each year as Year 12 near the end of their penultimate year with us, we are impressed at their growing maturity in assuming ownership of their learning as they prepare for the next stage of their lives. This is the great pleasure and privilege of teaching - working with parents and carers, and walking alongside young people as they grow.

During these conversations parents and carers often ask us how they can support their children's learning. Asking what was the best question they asked that day - be it of a teacher, a friend, a text book or the internet - and what still remains unanswered, can be a great start.

With this in mind, I am pleased to end by sharing a question put to me by Year 8 Jonathan at the end of assembly this week. Understanding Christ's virgin birth, Jonathan queried how Mary remained a virgin despite Gospel references to Jesus' brothers and sisters.

We provided answers with insights from Mrs Brennan, Mrs Adams, and Fr Pius. They explained that the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek words for brother also mean kinsman, cousin, or friend. A key detail is Jesus' committing care of his mother to John, his friend (John 19:26-27). This would have been unthinkable were Jesus to have had biological brothers. Fr Pius shared an article available via <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/jesus-had-brothers>

Questioning is the source of our faith, and of all pedagogy and knowledge. Without questions, without enquiry, without doubt, we stagnate. It is through questioning and doubt that faith, understanding, perception and wisdom flourish. To quote Fr Pius and teachers everywhere, '*Never hesitate to ask!*'

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: 18.03.19 08.00-16.00; 10.04.19 (Easter break)

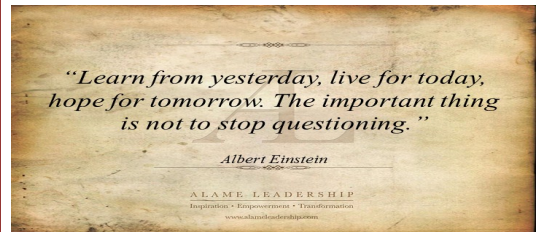
21.03: Y12 Consultation evening

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)

Today is the deadline for applications for the position of Parent Governor.

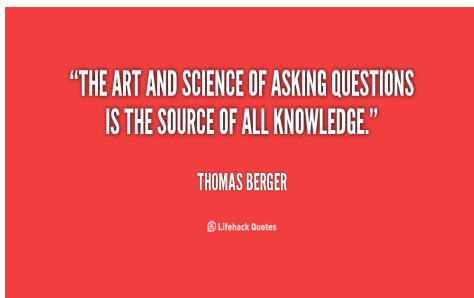
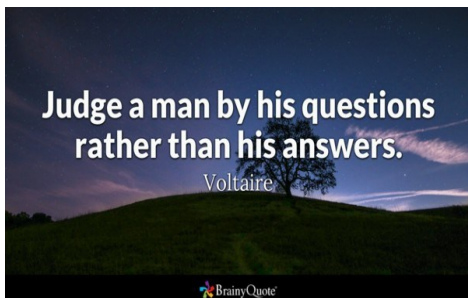
Governors assure parents & carers that no MAT decision involving SJP will be taken without consultation with all parties.



Celebrations & Successes

We enjoyed great success at yesterday's County Indoor Athletics Finals. Against very strong competition, Year 7 boys are County winners; Year 7 girls are Bronze medalists; Year 8 boys gained 4th place; and Year 8 girls are Silver medalists.

As pleasing as the success is students' sportsmanship and dedication both throughout the competition and during months of preparation - the SJP spirit at its best - well done to all! We thank Mrs Peach and her team for continuing to drive sport to sustained success.



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





