



# ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Be it known...*

29th March 2019

## Dear Parents & Carers

On Wednesday we welcomed a party of visiting students and staff from Finland. The students shared their experiences of school life with a number of our Year 11 MFL students. Pleasingly, they were able to be greeted by two of our students who are themselves Finnish - a testament to SJP's wonderfully diverse community. We thank Faith, Caleb and all other students involved for ensuring such a warm welcome; and equally Mrs Vahonina for organising the visit.

This week Year 12 Geography students visited Stratford for a Changing Places Geography field visit; in P.E. Y11 students performed for their GCSE moderation assessments; whilst Y10 P.E. students attended a rock climbing centre.

In last Sunday's readings St Paul warned the Corinthians that despite their fathers' baptism, **'most of them failed to please God'**. We can easily believe ourselves righteous, justified, entitled; considering others wrong - far harder to turn the spotlight upon ourselves; to hold the mirror to our own gaze. Yet that is what our faith calls us to do, as in the parable of the man who must remove the plank from his own eye before removing the splinter from his brother's.

The vineyard owner in the Gospel despairs of the barren fig tree and would cut it down. His woodsman urges patience, assuring him that the next year it will bear fruit. Like the fig tree, we also need God's grace and patience.

This is the spirit of education, a profession in which we plant seeds and wait with patience and love for them to flourish year upon year in a rich and colourful harvest; each student bearing individual gifts and talents, each created in the image of Christ.

Next Friday is a non-uniform day in aid of CAFOD's Cyclone Idai Appeal. Students are encouraged to pay a donation of £2.00 via ParentPay. The dress code has been shared via Tutors & Heads of Year and with parents and carers. Lessons will run as normal for a full school day. All students will attend the Lent service.

GCSE exams begin next week with Art on Tuesday and Wednesday. We wish the students every success, and look forward to seeing the annual show. The standard of work amazes year upon year.

Thomas Coen, Headteacher.

## Celebrations & Successes

Congratulations to Y10 James, Katy-Jane, Amelia, Connor, Jessica, Jack, Hannah, Amelia, Alex, Nathan & Emma for achieving Bronze in the intermediate maths challenge; to Ben & Grace for Silver; Silver also for Y11 Elizabeth, Jennifer, Roan & Kieran; and finally Y11 Veronica Gold. A fantastic achievement by all!

Last weekend the site was extensively cleared of litter by professional groundsmen, and the recent fine weather has allowed students to use the fields during lunchtimes. We have impressed upon students the role they can all play in ensuring that on a daily basis the site be a pleasant environment. Reducing the amount of litter creates surroundings conducive to learning and progress.

We of course have an even wider responsibility than to our own community. We are all aware of programmes such as Blue Planet and the drive to recycle and reduce the use of single use plastic. On this note - we have recycling bins provided for plastic. A small effort can in time change our culture and make SJP, and the world, a better place. Staff will pick up litter as a habit when moving about the site. We need our students to do the same. Thank you in advance for your support.

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:

**Bromfords School:** 10.04.19 (Easter break)

**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))

**Little 2 Big Voices** is an interactive vocal workshop, that coaches 11-18yrs to sing ensemble, solo or as a small group for all styles of music on Mondays from 5.00-6.30pm at The Millennium Centre, Great Baddow. We sing in the community, raising money for charity. We have raised over £1700 in two years.

Cost £165 per term. Concessions available. The group is run by Singing Teacher Jane Parker. For more details see [www.little2bigvoices.com](http://www.little2bigvoices.com) 07952610223.



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



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

