



ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Be it known...

31ST JANUARY 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Tuesday's Options evening helped inform students' choices as they consider their Key Stage 4 curriculum preferences, and our Year 9 parents' evening on February 13th will provide opportunity for further conversation with teachers. We enjoy positive partnerships with parents and carers, and always enjoy the opportunity to strengthen this aspect of the school's success.

This week has seen the feasts of the Saints for whom our main three buildings are named, with St Angela Merici celebrated on Sunday 27th January, St Thomas Aquinas on Monday 28th, and St John Bosco on Thursday 31st.

St Angela Merici founded the Company of Ursula, serving the Church through the education of girls, a legacy that continues in the many Catholic schools named for her. St Thomas Aquinas was a Dominican friar, Catholic priest and Doctor of the Church, an influential philosopher and theologian. St John Bosco, a Catholic priest, writer and educator, devoted his life to the education of vulnerable children. All three are an example to all involved in Catholic education.

The Feast of St Anne Line, who sheltered Catholic priests during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, and for whom our sixth form block was named and blessed by Bishop Alan on the Feast of St Francis, is celebrated on 27th February.

Last night I joined Miss Grant and students to attend the Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration at the Civic Centre, Year 12 Bridie & Erin contributing to the readings. Marked annually on the anniversary of the Auschwitz-Birkenau liberation, this 75th year is a significant milestone as the commemorations become increasingly poignant with the diminishing number of survivors alive each year to bear witness. We must all ensure their lessons never fade.

Testifying to how genocides throughout history have systematically fractured societies in order to marginalise certain groups, this year's theme - Stand Together - echoed St Paul's letter to the Corinthians in last Sunday's Second Reading, **'make up the differences between you and be united again in your belief and practice.'** St Paul further compels the Corinthians to, **'not preach philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.'**

Humankind too often dwells upon that which divides us: temporal concerns of nationality, geography, heritage, race and earthly identity - concerns that will bear no weight in the next life, as they ought not to in this. St Paul calls us to see the truth of our common humanity as children made in the image of God. During assemblies this week I explained that whilst we can philosophise over scripture, St Paul calls us to see the one most real and simple truth of Christ's service and Passion: the light in which He bathed a people that had lived in darkness - the light of his greatest commandment, **Love one another as I have loved you.**

It was lovely to welcome guests from Our Lady Immaculate, St Pius X and Columbus College to the opening performance of Oliver yesterday afternoon. Students have rehearsed throughout the autumn and winter, supported by Mrs Adams, Mrs Watkins, Mrs Daly and Miss Grant. Attendance is strongly encouraged for what I am sure will as ever be an enjoyable evening and a fantastic showcase of our students' gifts.

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.



Friday 31st January

Saturday 1st February 7pm

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society's Annual Charity Ball is at The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge, Saturday 7th March from 7pm to midnight. £55 per person, including drinks reception and three course dinner with entertainment. Tables of 12 make it the perfect opportunity for a fantastic evening with friends, family or colleagues whilst raising vital funds for our work supporting children's emotional health and wellbeing.

Contact Julie 01268 784544/
07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MASS

FRIDAY 19TH JUNE 7.00 P.M.

ACTIVITIES SATURDAY 20TH

OFFERS OF SUPPORT TO MISS COOK

rco@sjp.essex.sch.uk



HOUSE POINTS

AUGUSTINIANS	5950
BENEDICTINES	5449
CARMELITES	6071
DOMINICANS	5383
FRANCISCANS	6561
SERVITES	7247

The Full Governing Body has voted in favour of the motion that St. John Payne Catholic School will engage in discussion with the Diocese of Brentwood and members of the proposed Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) to influence the final structure and determine whether in the view of the Full Governing Body it is in the best interests of the school to join the MAT. Governors



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

