

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the term draws to a close, I would like to thank you for all your support this term. Welcoming parents into school for sports events, concerts, drama productions, book sharing, parents' evenings and our beautiful Easter Service has been a real pleasure.

The Easter Service was a real highlight of this week along with successful results in the Swimming Galas. However, congratulations must go to Rosie in Year 9 who has qualified for the regional final of Translation Bee which will take place on Wednesday 5 June in Peterborough – excellent work Rosie. You may have seen on social media this week that Jack Black has been championing the positive impact on literacy and vocabulary that turning on the subtitles on your TV has. Why not give it a go!

I want to take this opportunity to share with you some staffing updates. After 40 years of service Mr Palmer, teacher of Mathematics, has taken the decision to retire. A true ambassador for the school with many priceless memories which he is always willing to share. He will be greatly missed, however fortunately we don't have to say goodbye for another term yet! Mrs Jelly has also decided to retire at the end of this academic year, she has given 18 years of excellent teaching, originally as a Games and Geography teacher and most recently ICT. She will be sorely missed. Miss Musa, teacher of English, Drama and Media Studies, has decided to begin a new chapter and will leave us at the end of the academic year. Miss Musa is an excellent teacher who has done a wonderful job at launching GCSE Media as well as inspiring our English students. We wish them all the very best for their future plans.

With this in mind, we have recruited Miss Wanda Gérard, a very experienced senior school specialist teacher of Mathematics, and Mrs Charlotte Pickaver, an experienced Key Stage 2 teacher, Numeracy Co-ordinator and Forest School leader. We look forward to welcoming them both to our team from September.

As you know, Mr Tapscott is currently Head of Sport and Head of Geography. In order to continue to develop the success of the geography department, one of our top choices for GCSE next year, Mr Tapscott has taken the decision to step down from the Head of Sport role at the end of this academic year. He will continue to be fully involved with the teaching of Games but will also be able to offer additional opportunities to our avid Geographers! I am, therefore, delighted to share that we have appointed Mr Mike Thurbon, a very experienced Head of Physical Education and Sport, who will join us in September. Mr Rawlings has been an excellent addition to the Games staff this year and we are delighted that he has secured a place to begin his teacher training. Hence from September Mr Thomas Collins-Clarke will join us as a Sports Graduate and continue the wonderful work that Mr Rawlings has been doing.

We are also recruiting a part-time Art Technician, so please do look at the vacancies section on our website if this could be of interest to you or someone you know.

We have been busy raising money for various charities, the Eco club has raised £61.10 selling daffodils and Year 4 sold their Loom Bands during lunch today and raised £55.59. The grand total of £116.69 will be donated to Mary's Meals, a charity that works with schools in Africa offering free school meals to children to encourage them to attend school. Thank you for your kind donations for non-school uniform day which raised £213.32 for Comic Relief and the donations of food for our local food bank.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the pupils who received certificates this week, both in the end of term assembly and our community assembly. A diverse range of talents were rightly celebrated.

May I wish you all a very peaceful and enjoyable Easter holiday.

With all best wishes,
Mrs McCullough

Notices and Reminders

Trinity Term Begins Tuesday 9th April.

Co-curricular activities, Prep and Aftercare will commence on the first day back.

Save the date

Friday 26th April 5.30-7.30pm Years 9-11 pupils' BBQ hosted by FOLS (more details to follow).