



From the Headteacher

What a wonderful term it has been! As ever the students of SPH have done us all proud; producing some fabulous work, throwing themselves into extra-curricular activities and community events, representing the school impeccably and bearing witness to the Catholic Christian faith of our school community. We are very blessed with what we have and we think in particular over the Christmas period about those who have far less.

Thank you to all those associated with our school community; particularly parents for their unwavering support and all those who have done that bit extra, helping out with exams, careers interviews and community events. We really couldn't do it without you.

"May God's love surround, God's grace abound, and heavenly peace, be all around."

We wish all the students, staff, governors and parents a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas. See you in 2016!

SPH wins National Prayer Competition for third time in succession!

Congratulations to Lucy Owen in Year 8 who won this year's competition. The panel of judges were in awe of the quality of Lucy's prayer; the finalists were judged by Archbishop of Liverpool, Bishop Malcolm Mahon. If you would like to read Lucy's prayer, it can be found on our website www.sphcs.co.uk/prayer.pdf

DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)

As a school (students and staff!), we are taking part in the initiative Drop Everything And Read. At pre-determined times on a fortnightly basis everyone literally stops what they are doing and reads their book for twenty minutes. This is an initiative designed to promote reading and improve students' literacy and if you are available at those times, join us by reading at home! (Sessions up to Easter are: 12 January, 27 January, 10 February, 2 March and 17 March.). Please remind your child to bring their reading book into school!

TakeOver Day:

Students from SPH effectively "took over" a range of workplace roles at the launch of this year's Children's Commission "TakeOver Challenge". James Holland in Year 13 worked with the Howard League for penal reform in London, Emma Hattersley Year 10 worked with WSCC on safeguarding matters, Sophie Brown took over the role of sixth form manager at TLA, Liam Ramsden and Louis Perkins, also in Year 10 took over the role of school librarian at TLA, Shane Fitzgibbon Year 10 took over the role of our school chaplain. All the students felt that they had spent a very worthwhile day gaining insight into the workplace.

Democracy at SPH

Students are increasingly engaging with democracy at a variety of levels. 13 members of SPH represented the school at the recent Arun Youth Council senior debates, taking part in challenging discussions on such topics as immigration and flood relief. Year 13 students Ray Baquiran and James Holland spent a day at the Foreign Office representing the Czech Republic for a Mock European Council, joining 30 schools from across the UK. Sibil Sabu and George Myers, elected members of the UK Youth Parliament have met Nick Gibb MP and Nick Herbert MP during their visits to our school and have had discussions with them about the Votes for 16 Campaign. Sixth form students of English were also keen to find out from Mr Gibb why Creative Writing will no longer be offered as an A Level subject. Sibil had also had the wonderful opportunity of spending a day at the House of Commons with the annual sitting of the Youth Parliament.

SPH Student live on BBC Parliament

Sibil Sabu, one of our Members of the UK Youth Parliament attended the annual sitting at the House of Commons on November 13th. Sibil, along with George Myers, both in Year 11, have led the school in selecting the most important issues for young people through "Make Your Mark". UKMYPs discussed the Living Wage, Mental Health and a Curriculum for Life. The session with The Rt Hon John Bercow MP was live on BBC Parliament.

Online Safety:

500 copies of "Digital Parenting" have been distributed to students in Years 7 to 10, with one copy going to each family. Hopefully you have received your copy by now, please let us know if this is not the case. An email about managing webcams with your child was circulated to help you to keep your child safe. In the run up to Christmas, with new mobile phones and tablet PCs being offered as gifts, the UK Internet Safety Centre has guidance for parents, especially to make sure your child doesn't inadvertently spend money on apps! See <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/news/new-devices-for-christmas->

Community

Members of the SPH Junior Leadership Team have been busy supporting Sustrans [Sustainable Travel] and SCRP [Sussex Rail Community Partnership] with the "Life is Lovely at 20mph" campaign. This will culminate in a major event at the Chichester Assembly Rooms on February 24th. Students are also working with local author and health campaigner Claire White, as she focuses on how to reduce sugar in our diets.

Our Eco Team have been busy improving the school environment with the help of school governor and Head of Year 8, Sarah Schaeffer, by beginning to plant a hedgerow on the school site. We are going to be planning a Saturday gardening morning to complete the hedge planting early in the New Year. We'll keep you all posted regarding the date! Letters continue to be exchanged between our students and our partners in Rwanda and Uganda, with JLT Global members running a stall selling hand-made goods from both countries to raise funds for our international work.

SPH Sixth Former is selected for US Space Camp!

Science enthusiast Alex Towler from the St Philip Howard Catholic High School is carving her own flight path, as another Chichester area resident sets off for simulated astronaut training in the US next February. Following a gruelling application process, Alex has been selected for a Space Camp and Aviation Challenge at the US Space and Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, where she will join 16 to 18 year old students from as many as 53 different countries.

Whilst at the Space Camp Alex will participate in real-life astronaut training, learning from scientists, former astronauts and engineers. She will have the opportunity to participate in a realistic shuttle mission, she will experience what it's like to walk on the moon and how it feels to tumble in a space capsule.

Alex, who is currently aiming to study Chemistry at university, is determined to find a career in a STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths] environment. Alex also plans to gain her private pilot's licence. Being inspired by Professor Brian Cox "Wonders of the Solar System", who knows, Alex may follow Tim Peake into space one day!

Sporting Highlights

It's been a fantastic term in PE with record levels of participation and new clubs starting. Netball has had huge participation on a Thursday, resulting in external coaches being drafted in to keep the standard of coaching high. This high level of competition resulted in our Year 10 team winning the area league which is a fantastic achievement. Rugby has been excelling this autumn in all years with the Year 7s alone having a record 35 students at the majority of training sessions, come rain or shine! Due to this participation, SPH will be entering 3 teams into the area leagues after Christmas. Year 10s narrowly missed winning the 10's area tournament in a thrilling game with FCC. However, with such a strong start to the year they will be looking to perform well in the league that starts in the New Year. Football always proves popular and this year has been no exception. Outstanding team of the term must be the Year 11s who currently stand top of the table and the Year 7s are showing huge promise and will be looking to challenge in the local area league after some extremely strong training sessions. Girls' football is also on the rise with numbers swelling, let's hope we see them winning some games next year!

Gymnastics club has been added to the extracurricular timetable with some amazing skills on show. Special mention must go to Yasmin and Saffron Taylor who have shown outstanding attitude at all times, benefitting the progress of their own skills. Under Mr Stewart's enthusiastic guidance, Basketball is becoming increasingly popular and he has managed to secure two Worthing Thunder coaches to help with the training sessions. There have been many wins in the local area leagues and tournaments, let's hope these can be built on in the County Cups. Special mention must go to Philippe Newton Young and Ryan Darwin who continue to tour the UK following their sporting dreams in both Trampoline and Table Tennis respectively, winning numerous national medals. We are proud to be following the boys on their journey.

Sixth Form Taster Day

On Friday 15th January 2016 all our Year 11 students will attend school as a Sixth Former for the day. The aim of this day is to provide them with an experience of post 16 education and the options specifically available to them at SPH. Each Year 11 student will choose five to six 'taster subject sessions' from a range of options, in order for them to assess their suitability and interest in the courses we offer. Please remind your son or daughter to make their timetable selections on line by 8 January!

Volunteer Readers and Scribes

Thank you to the many parents, governors and friends of SPH who come in to support students with their exams. It makes a big difference to their chances of success, both now and in the future.

We warmly welcome volunteer reader-scribes to become part of a bank of helpers for our exams in January, May and June 2016 (a DBS check will be required). Please contact Barbara Grunwell tel. 01243 552055 or email bgrunwell@sphcs.co.uk for more details if you are interested. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Enterprising Women

On November 18, a group of Year 10 girls attended the Enterprising Women Conference at Chichester University. The aim of the event was to raise the aspirations and motivation of young girls by working with a variety of women business professionals haring about their 'journeys' from school to the positions they hold today.

Our Very Talented Artists

Congratulations to Declan McGreal (Year 13) who designed this year's stunning SPH Christmas card which is sent out to over 450 members of the SPH community!



In early December, SPH was chosen by MP Nick Herbert to design his Christmas card. On 11 December he visited the school to judge artwork from a wonderful selection created by our students. He finally chose a beautiful watercolour painting of Arundel Castle by Hannah Farrant in Year 13.

Christmas Concert

What a cracking performance it was last night from all our students in the Performing Arts extravaganza! A real feast of Christmas delights. More details to following in the New Year but a big thank you to all our incredible performers who took part and our wonderful staff who prepared them so well. They all deserve a rest over Christmas!



2016-17 Term and Inset Dates attached

Please note the long weekend of 25-28 November 2016. This might offer those families who find difficulty in taking a holiday at the usual times, an opportunity to get a cheaper break away together.

FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

4 January – Start of Spring Term
11-15 January – Sixth form mock exams
14 January – 5pm Y8 Parents' Evening
15 January – Y11 Sixth Form Taster Day
21 January – Y9 Options Evening
28 January – Y9 photographs

10 February – Ash Wednesday
15-19 February – Half term
25 February – 5pm Y9 Parents' Evening
3 March – Y11 Revision Evening
7-11 March – Y10 Work Experience
17 March – Y10 Parents' Evening

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas