

From the Headteacher

I hope you all had a very happy Easter; it already feels some time ago now! We've had a busy start to the summer term as you know. Final preparations for public examinations are well underway and last week we had our long-awaited Ofsted inspection. As you'd expect students, staff, governors and parents did us proud and our visitors were very impressed! Thank you to all those who responded to the survey sent out, for your positive messages of support, prayers and good wishes. The official report should be with us in the next two weeks and will be sent out to you. At this stage all we are officially allowed to say is that we are "delighted" with the outcome!

Attached to the Newsletter is an important letter about the developing academies agenda. Please do contribute and have your input into the consultation process.

In the weeks to come, do please remember in your prayers all those sitting their exams. Students have worked with great determination and focus and deserve every success. Regardless of the outcome we are very proud of all our students.

**God Bless
David Carter**

Sixth Form trip to Ancient Greece

In March 2016, 29 6th Form students studying Ancient History spent 5 days on a fieldtrip to Greece, led by Mr Collins and Mrs Mintram. We flew out to Athens and spent a couple of days visiting the main sites such as the Parthenon and the Theatre of Dionysos, where all the great Greek plays were first performed. We then embarked on a coach tour round Greece, stopping at Delphi; in ancient times at this site the oracle of Apollo would answer questions from worshippers. The next stop was Olympia; the site of the first Olympic Games and where the games were staged every four years for over one thousand years. The group then moved onto the ancient citadel of Mycenae, home to Agamemnon who led the Greek army at Troy. At Epidauros theatre some of the students tested out the perfect acoustics by performing a variety of songs! Returning to Athens, we visited the National Archaeological Museum, to see some of the amazing artefacts found at the sites on our tour.

We ended the trip with some last minute souvenir shopping before the flight home, having experienced what many of us felt had been the "best trip ever". Commenting on the recent Sixth Form trip to Athens, Tyler Van Zijl said "Athens was everything I had hoped it would be and more. It was an experience I will never forget – the visit put everything I had learned into perspective but it was also fun with time to relax and take it all in – a real highlight to the year."



James Holland, Year 13, reports from Parliament

On the 26th April I attended an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs, with the Office of the Children's Commissioner, at the Houses of Parliament. The panel included: Luciana Berger MP, Shadow Minister for Mental Health; Norman Lamb MP, Liberal Democrat's Health spokesperson; Jonny Benjamin, mental health campaigner and film maker and Sarah Brennan, CEO of the charity YoungMinds. Luciana thought that mental health needs to work with education in order to get the message to as many young people as possible. Throughout the debate there were opportunities for the young people present to contribute their opinions or questions for the panel. Luciana stressed the severe lack of funding for mental health, and in particular, children's mental health, as less than 10% of the mental health budget goes to young people. Jonny ended the discussion with the quote 'you can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf' and said that there needs to be focus on recovery, because it is possible, but only with the right help and funding. Overall, the afternoon was very enjoyable and highly informative about the direction young people's mental health needs to go in the future.

Fundraising Success for Natasha Bowles, Year 12

Congratulations to Year 12 student Natasha Bowles who has participated in two charity events, raising over £500 for Cancer Research. Natasha put her baking skills to good use and organised a cake sale which was a complete sell-out in the Sixth Form Centre. In a far more daring challenge, Natasha took to the skies and completed an exhilarating tandem sky-dive. Well done Natasha! Please continue to donate by visiting Natasha's just giving page www.justgiving.com/Natasha-Bowles

World Poetry Day

On 21 March we invited our students to take part in World Poetry Day. Poems could be created on any topic, and could be within artwork, filmed, voice-recorded or simply written! Prizes were offered to Key Stage 3 and 4 entrants and the winners were May Lewis in 10Ed and Alana Corbett in 7Ri – well done girls!

Rotary Poetry Competition Success

Year 7 student Oscar Mason achieved a very well-deserved third place in the age 12 to 15 category in the recent Chichester District Rotary Poetry Competition. Oscar's poem about the "Oceans of the World" was highly commended by the judge, prize-winning poet and author David Swann, who is a senior lecturer in English and Creative writing at Chichester University. This is the third year in a row that our young poets have been successful in this competition which attracts a growing number of entries every year. To read Oscar's prize-winning poem, please go to <http://www.chichesterrotaryclub.org/poetry-competition/>.

Year 9 Careers Information Day

On Monday June 29th we are running a day for our Year 9 students to learn about the world of work and how to prepare themselves for future employment. Part of our programme involves meeting and hearing from speakers employed in a range of sectors. If you are able to offer an hour or so of your time to speak to our young people about your role in the workplace, please contact Mrs Baker: abaker@sphcs.co.uk or Mrs Wallbridge: swallbridge@sphcs.co.uk.

Parents (and other friends!) Prayer Group

We launched our prayer group earlier this month, but if you would like to join to receive a monthly email of prayer intentions for SPH and the community, please email Clare at clong@sphcs.co.uk to be added to the mailing list.

Big Church Day Out

Any orders for tickets for Big Church Day Out to be placed through the school to obtain our special discount must be with Clare by 9th May. If you didn't get the letter via your child, please see the Chaplaincy page on the school website.

Reflecting in the Sussex Countryside

I had the immense pleasure of taking our Year 10 students out on their Days of Reflection this month, where we enjoyed the hospitality of the Sussex Heritage Centre in Warningcamp, and the input of David Beresford from the Catholic Bible School. Owing to those complicated timetables once students start their GCSE courses, we took them out in just two groups, giving a chance to mix with different people, and providing a new experience.

The day gave us all a chance to reflect on who Jesus is for us, through a mixture of dynamically presented Bible stories, activities, and time for reflection and prayer. Not only did our timing coincide perfectly with our visit from OFSTED, but also with the beautiful weather and we were able to make good use of the peaceful grounds in both our reflection and our break times.

All-in-all, it was a wonderful two days and a great blessing to spend some time away with our Year 10s during such an important time.

Dance House

Recently, 15 Year 10 GCSE dancers took part in Dance House, performing to a live audience at the Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis. They all performed a group dance called "Together" – which was choreographed by the dancers. A second piece, performed by 5 dancers, was based on an internal GCSE assessment linked to the professional work of 'Ghost Dances' by Christopher Bruce.

The dancers were exceptional, both on and off stage, and we are delighted to announce that they have been invited to take part in the Dance House 'Highlights Evening' at The Alexandra Theatre, Bognor Regis on Tuesday 17th May. Dance House organisers said *"We would like to invite St Philip Howard to be part of this evening not only because of the originality and creativity of your dance pieces, but also because both groups performed extremely well and, equally importantly, were respectful of other students and performers and a pleasure to have at the theatre."*



Forthcoming Dates for your Diary:

2 May – May Day Bank Holiday

6 May – Y8 girls' HPV jabs/Y11 meningitis

10 May – 7pm Academy consultation evening

19 May – 5pm Y7 Parents' Evening

30 May – 3 June – Half term

17-24 June – Internal exams (Y7-10)

27 June – 1 July – Y12 Work experience

29 June – Feast of Sts Peter and Paul

1 July – Inset - open to some exam groups, as requested by staff

5 July – Y6 Induction evening

6 July – Y6 Induction day

11 July – Y7 Presentation

12 July – Y8 Presentation

13 July – Y9 Presentation

14 July – Y10 Presentation

15 July – Sports day

18 July – Fundraising Day

22 July – 12:40 End of term