

The final Newsletter of the academic year is one that serves to tie up loose ends whilst offering a brief look forward to the new year. There are many people who warrant thanks, a final goodbye is extended to our year 6 pupils along with a few closing notes. At St James the Great it is not quite that straightforward as up until the final day of term our school continues to be a hive of activity. With our superb concert nights under our belt many thanks are extended to years 4 and 5 for once again rising to the occasion; I can report that numerous very positive comments were received about the 'presence' of all the children on the stage. Well done to all – pupils and staff.

LEAVERS' MASS

The final week then got off to a wonderful start at the Leavers' Mass at St Bartholomew's with year 6 rising to this occasion to provide a very fitting final service. Fr John O'Toole very kindly acted as Celebrant and delivered a memorable homily drawing on his knowledge of our Year 6's during their time in year 3 when he was in St Andrew's parish. I cannot commend this year group more for the many talents they have shown.

CHARTER MARK

As we have chosen a surveillance visit to secure a further three year's accreditation rather than just a monitoring visit, Tuesday saw us under close scrutiny again by Jo Strong, our appointed Assessor. Whilst a little less intense than the initial validation process, her good working knowledge of our school saw her maximise her visit time. I must extend thanks to our Charter Mark staff team of Claire Murphy, Tammy Lawlor, Mary Berkeley-Agyepong, Tammy Scott Cree and Terry Cefai on achieving an excellent result. The process was well supported by a number of other staff who were interviewed and by Fr Richard Winder from Norbury who, along with Edwin Abreo and Elaine Williamson from the Governing Body, Bridie Willis and Les Parry from the Friends Association, gave up their time to be interviewed by Mrs Strong. The Assessor spoke very highly of the wide range of involvement of so many people in the school and indicated that she would be recommending revalidation for a further 3 years, confirming an improvement in compliance with Charter Mark standards with a further recommendation that two best practice recognitions be added in the areas of involvement/School Council and Ethnic Minority Achievement. Well done to all for providing an excellent end of term boost.

CROYDON SPORTS

A special mention to our Girls' team who gained overall second place in the whole of Croydon in this competition, our highest place ever. Well done to all team members and thanks to Mrs Berkeley-Agyepong for her work with our team.

FINAL ASSEMBLY – FRIDAY 22ND JULY AT 9.45 AM

Our final assembly tomorrow will be an extended assembly and will include a number of musical items to enable our musicians to perform. All welcome.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS

A final thank you to all year 6 members for the many valuable contributions they have made to St James the Great during their time with us. Their final assembly today was excellent. Traditionally a number of individual prizes are awarded and this proved incredibly difficult this year due to the wide range of contributions all year 6 members have made to the life of our school. Thanks also to year 6 parents and to all the helpers who made a very enjoyable year 6 Barbecue possible.

Special recognition, however, is made to:-

Sean Lopeman who receives Mrs Bell's Music cup in recognition of his work as a Choir member.
Craig Elliott and Catherine Campbell who received Mrs Reed's Sportsmanship Trophy for team leadership in sport and perseverance in sport respectively.

Book prizes were awarded to: Samuel Abreo for a mature attitude to all aspects of school life

Jack Bashford for cheerfulness and reliability
Jessica Quagraine for consistent hard work
Kelly Spillane for consistent hard work

We are very grateful for the large number of book donations to the school received from year 6, which now have book plates entered in recognition of their time with us. We wish the year group every blessing for the future.

I am pleased to confirm that all of the year 6 children have confirmed secondary school places as follows:-

The London Oratory

Samuel Abreo
James Sheehan
Andrew Stewart

St Joseph's College

Gerald Appau-Bonsu
Shaquille Barrett
Jack Bashford
Charlie Bryant
Matthew Csepregi
Glen D'Araujo
Owen Flannery
Ryan Goldsmith
Jordan James
Sean Lopeman
Thomas McManamon
Connor Parry
Nathan Perkins
Joshua Street
Conor Willis

Trinity

Livio Modarresi
Paul Vassallo

The John Fisher School

Shane Beck
Conor Doyle
Jamie Hickey
Daniel Jimenez
Ryan Pollock
Charles Prince
Dominic Simpson
Martin Vella

St Philomena's

Cassiopeia Berkeley-Agyepong
Helen Brooker
Michaela Byrne
Catherine Campbell
Kimberly D'Gama
Melissa Edgerton
Jessica Fownes
Kerry Gumley
Albertina Marfo-Mensah
Shannen Parfitt
Lucy Rogers
Danielle St Croix
Caitlin Turner

Thomas More

Catherine Onoselase

La Retraite

Raven Monfries

Coloma Convent

Lauren Da Silva
Rachel Desa
Ciara Jones
Ellen Lands
Arianna Lucia
Jessica Quagraine

Bishop Thomas Grant

Kyriacos Banitsiotis
Julia Darko-Adjei
Emilio Lobo
Kelly Spillane

Wilsons

Craig Elliott
Sergio Ohene-Djan

Norbury Manor Girls

Patsy Dixon

St Mary's

Jonathan Holmes

TEAM POINTS

Well done to St Patrick's, our Green Team, on gaining the double by being this year's Sports Day winners and team point winners. The team point results are as follows:-

1st: Green (5,523)

2nd: Yellow (5,475)

3rd: Blue (5,426)

4th: Red (4,640)

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

I would record the school's appreciation to the Friends Association for funding the installation of the two awnings that have been provided for the Nursery and the end of the Junior block. I am confident these will prove to be very beneficial.

ENVIRONMENTAL AREA

Work has begun on this area, again part-funded by the Friends Association, and we look forward to seeing the end results on our return in September.

TOKENS

Parents may be interested to note that we were able to redeem a total of 34,000 Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers, which has provided a significant amount of PE equipment for the school; were able to add a further 20,000 vouchers to the 24,000 banked last year in the Tesco's Computers for Schools scheme, which enabled us to acquire a range of digital cameras and a photo printer. Box Tops for Schools raised a total of £84.00, and as a result of our entries into the Persil Hands On Art Competition we were able to redeem a final total of 55,000 Persil stars which again has impacted significantly on our level of art resources. We are very grateful for receipt of all tokens for these promotions which I understand are to be repeated next year so we are happy to receive any tokens you may still have.

A FINAL THANK YOU

A big thank you from all the staff for your continued help and support in all that goes on at St James the Great. We wish everyone an enjoyable break and "a happy holiday".

School re-opens on Tuesday 6th September 2005 for Years 1 – 6, Wednesday 7th September for Reception pupils. Nursery pupil start dates have been advised separately.

NEXT TERM

We are looking to a coach replacement, a mini bus upgrade and the result of our assessment for recognition under the International Schools Award programme. Watch this space.

MILK ORDERS

"Last Call". Please have these in as they are overdue for supply to start next term.

DINNER TOKENS

"Last Chance" to purchase at £1.30 each.

