



Principal's Newsletter
Issue 15 – February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the Principal's spring newsletter for parents and carers. It has been a very busy few months at the academy and there is lots to tell you about.

SIAMS Inspection

In November the academy was visited by an inspector appointed by our local diocese to assess the impact of our Christian ethos on our work as a school. This is a 5-yearly inspection that every Church school in the country is subject to. I am very pleased to reiterate that the academy was judged as Good in all areas. Some of the most pleasing aspects of the report are stated below but the full report can be found on our website. The key things we need to now focus on as a Church school are to work more closely with local churches, deepen understanding of Christianity in RE through use of the Bible and the values within it and to ensure collective worship is consistent across the academy every day.

- 'Staff go the extra mile on students' behalf so all students feel a sense of self-worth.'
- 'Relationships at all levels are a strength of the academy, so that students relate to staff and their peers in a positive way'.
- 'The commitment of all staff to meeting students' needs ensures the academy remains over-subscribed for year seven entry.'
- 'High value is placed on forgiveness, vocation, respect, positivity and service.'

Awards Evening

Our annual Awards Evening was again a spectacular event with our students' talent, energy and vocations on full show. We were very lucky to have Rebecca Adlington as our guest speaker and she was very inspiring though a Parkinson style interview with Ian James. A wide range of prizes for achievement and effort in subject areas were awarded, as well as some special prizes which truly reflect our academy values. These awards and their recipients are listed below; congratulations to all winners.

King Constantine Award – Sean Smith and Samuel Lloyd
Contributions to Academy Life – Awaad Faisal
Contributions to the Community – Bethany Wigley
Participation in the Wider Curriculum – Jessica Marshall
Thomas Burton Award – Owen Shakespeare
Samworth Cup, Student of the Year – Bethany Wigley
Keith Berry Outstanding Commitment to Drama Award – Lucie Kealy

Year 11 Exam Preparation

This has been a busy few months for our Year 11 students. All mock exams are now complete, and a results assembly was held last week to simulate the real results day in August. This was followed by a timely parents' evening which was very busy, and I would like to thank all parents who attended for their support. I am pleased to state that the students conducted themselves excellently and clearly took the whole process seriously. We are pleased with the mock results and look forward to supporting all students through their important final few months in mainstream education. The prom will be here before we know it!

Autumn Production – The Wizard of Oz

Our annual school musical production before Christmas was The Wizard of Oz. The show was highly stylised and extremely funny with some very talented students improvising one liners in some outstanding performances. Over 90 students took part and really showed themselves at their most brave, creative and fun, reminding us all of what Samworth Church Academy students are all about.



Attendance

In January we returned to the academy with renewed positivity; focusing on those students who struggle to maintain the good attendance that leads to great academic achievement. New initiatives include an Attendance Focus Group for students in years 9 and 10, a new Period 6 for years 7 and 8 looking at how great attendance can lead to a brighter future, and the relaunch of the Samworth Challenge Cup. The Cup sees our five schools go head to head in fun challenges while aiming to achieve the best attendance each week. Students and staff are loving the fun and competitive edge, hoping for 'bragging rights' over other schools. Please encourage your children to attend every day and get involved in academy life.

Key dates this half term

17 th February – 21 st February	Half Term
3 rd March	Year 8 Parents' Evening
5 th March	World Book Day
31 st March	Spring Rewards Event
2 nd April	Spring Reports Published to Parent Portal
3 rd April	Easter Service

Please refer to our calendar on the website for further dates.

And finally...

Thought for the half term – from Alex our Chaplain

Over this half term we have placed our focus on the value of forgiveness. This can be quite a difficult subject for many as it tends to bring to mind various times that we have been wronged or offended by the words or actions of others. However, it can also be quite a powerful time that enables us to deal with some stuff that has been unresolved, left dormant or simply brushed under the metaphorical carpet. A focus on forgiveness can even bring about reconciliation and healing to relationships that have been damaged.

A friend once told me that when dealing with things that need forgiveness we should "stop brushing them under the carpet, because eventually you will end up tripping over the lumps".

That means having the courage to face all of those things in our lives that need us to forgive or may even need us to ask others for forgiveness. The book of Ephesians puts it this way Ephesians 4:31-32

"Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. Don't yell at one another or curse each other or ever be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ."

Lisa McVeigh
Principal