

Newsletter



PATTISON
COLLEGE

28/10/2016

ISSUE 5

Dear Parents

Where has this first half term gone! Thank you as ever for your support. Do have had a lovely half term and look forward to seeing you again on Monday 31 October.

As I say in every newsletter, parents should never hesitate to contact us should they have any concerns or good news they would like to share with us.

E McConnell

Prize Giving

What a lovely evening! Congratulations all round are in order, whether it be for the performers, the prize winners, Miss Monique, Mrs Sewell or you as parents, for having such talented children and thanks to William for making it so special.

For parents new to Pattisons, I hope you can see why it really does matter that all the children attend such events. It is not just the choir that depends on teamwork but singing and choral speaking as well where pupils work as a class.

The same will be true for our Christmas celebration on 14 December so do please keep that date free.

As you now know, our Prize Giving is an opportunity to celebrate the good work that has been going on in classes. I certainly felt very proud to see the confidence with which each child played their part and I hope you did too.

Mrs Hanks will be busy next emailing the photos Miss Jessica at the event of the children who received awards. These pictures are a standard 5x7" should you wish to frame them.

One particularly enjoyable aspect of Prize Giving for staff, is to catch up with last year's Year 11 and to hear how they are getting on. I thought they looked lovely and was pleased to hear that they are all settled on their new courses and are making friends. Mrs Matthews of course was greatly missed.

You will gather from Prize Giving that children are encouraged to take part in a wide range of extracurricular activities, especially so in the senior school. This makes the splendid GCSE results Year 11 achieved even more pleasing, as they organised their time so that many of the class could involve themselves fully in school life, whether as part of the Chamber or Senior Choir and take part in school productions and charity events, whilst taking great pride in representing the school. They were also particularly good school mentors, working with younger children. Four of them, Head Girl Katie, Abbie, Evadney & Olivia, gave up three weeks of their school holiday to take part in The Challenge, the National Citizen Service and Deputy Head Girl, Grace P spent two weeks in Nepal working with children. All useful experience for life and of course their CVs.

I did not get the opportunity to speak all Year 11s but, after 5 or more years at Pattisons, they are all part of "the Pattisons Family" and I hope they realise we are here for them now and in the future.



Staff News

Sadly **Mrs Matthews** is still in hospital and so in the short term I will be taking most of her classes.

Mrs Rippon is due to go into hospital and she has kindly arranged that a very experienced teacher of French, **Mrs Jessett**, will be covering her Senior School classes. Unfortunately she is not able to take Year 5 and 6 French and so for the time being, Mr Thompson will arrange other lessons for them.

I am sure you will join with me in wishing both members of staff a speedy recovery and welcoming Mrs Jessett to Pattisons.

Cash 4 Clothes

The PTA look forward to receiving your black bags filled with jumble on Tuesday morning, enabling them to raise still more funds for your children.

Class changes

There will be no Street Dance on Monday lunchtime and Mr Simon is unavailable.

There will also be no Junior Drama club on Thursday 10 November as Miss Monique is attending the Shakespeare for Schools workshop at that Belgrade Theatre.

USB Flash Drives

A reminder that, as per the Child Protection E-Safety letter given to pupils and signed by parents and the email sent on 13 September. All pupils from Year 5 upwards must have a USB memory stick available to purchase from school to be used solely for school work.

Having had maintenance carried out on our server, it has become apparent that some pupils have introduced spyware/viruses and malware to the system. **It is now our policy that all USB flash drives used on our equipment are purchased through school (at a cost of just £5) and are used exclusively on the school network.** As yet the majority of pupils have still to purchase them.

Whilst we do have a back-up system, it is of vital importance that pupils take responsibility for backing up their own work, especially those in Years 10 and 11, which must be available electronically for examination boards. Should there be a malfunction or theft for example, any back-up stored on site is likely to be lost or unrecoverable which is just one reason why we have introduced our policy of pupils using a flash drive purchased through school, solely for their school work.



Poppies

Poppies and other Poppy Appeal memorabilia, for example lapel pins, wrist bands etc, are still on sale. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile charity.