

NEWS SHEET

No. 312

Friday 16th July 2010

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.jfk.herts.sch.uk

Parents Association Calendar of Events: http://calendar.yahoo.co.uk/pta_jfk

Dear Parents and Carers,

This newsletter marks the final few days of an active and successful school year. When we reflect upon the many events and the outstanding achievements it is no wonder that students and staff finish term on a very positive note. Examinations, leavers' liturgies, Year 11 and Sixth Form summer balls, work experience, athletics competitions, fun run and sports day, pastoral days, educational visits and curriculum enrichment week, to name but a few, have kept us very busy. We are blessed to belong to a school where so much is possible. Thank you to staff and to everyone who has played their part in contributing to the varied extracurricular programme.

This week we celebrated the students' many sporting achievements at our Sports Awards Evening. Highlights of the year include the tremendous success of the Year 11 Rugby League team who were South East Regional finalists and our athletics teams, whose performances ensured that we were crowned overall District champions for the fourth consecutive year. These and all the other fabulous achievements are a credit not only to the students but also to the staff.

At our Key Stage 3 Presentation Afternoon on Tuesday we celebrated the breadth of our student achievements in style. Our Year 9 students showcased their skills and talents as they entertained us with dance, music and song. Mrs Margaret Steed, Chair of Governors, was our esteemed guest of honour. She gave an inspirational talk and encouraged students to step forward with confidence and determination to meet the challenges that will come their way.

The end of the summer term automatically completes a cycle. It brings conclusion to the academic programme but sadly it also means that we must say goodbye to a number of colleagues. Mr Lowor (Science) leaves us to take up the post of Subject Leader at another school, Miss Godfrey (Learning Mentor), Miss Rudling (Teaching Assistant) and Mr Gavin (Inclusion Manager) are all pursuing career development opportunities, Mrs Tunley (Music) is taking a short career break in order to spend more time with her baby daughter and Mrs Merchant begins her maternity leave. I pay tribute to these valued colleagues for their hard work and dedication and thank them for their contribution to our school.

We also bid a fond farewell to five colleagues who retire at the end of the term, having served the school for a total of 141 years. Mr Halley (Deputy Headteacher) retires after 27 years of distinguished service to our school. He is a true professional who is extremely hardworking, very approachable and who brings a sense of calm to all situations. His contribution as Deputy Headteacher has been outstanding and his modesty hides a formidable intellect. Mr Evans (Subject Leader for Technology) retires after a magnificent 40 years service here at JFK. He personifies everything that is great about our school. He is an inspirational teacher who enthuses students and staff alike. Mrs Messenger (Senior Lab Technician) enters retirement after 30 years of continuous service here at our school. Her dedication in that time has been unquestionable. Her superb personal skills and qualities ensured that despite the frequent pressure on resources, the science department always ran smoothly. Mrs Sims (Pastoral Leader) has given 27 years loyal service and leaves us with a reputation not only as a great teacher but as an excellent Year Head and Pastoral Leader. She not only has that great ability to see the best in everyone but also has the gift to bring this to the fore. Mr Clarke (Bursar) retires after a career of 17 years at JFK. Mr Clarke is extremely conscientious and his attention to detail ensures that the books always balance – not the easiest task when we consider all that has been involved in managing the budget for the new building alongside the annual school budget. All of these colleagues have worked tirelessly for the benefit of the students; they are highly respected and will be a great loss to our school. I know that you would wish to join with me in wishing them well.

The quality of teaching and learning, the search for excellence as an integral part of the spiritual quest and the holistic development of our students, remain of paramount importance to me. The energy and commitment of staff at JFK is second to none and the part they play in challenging, channelling and nurturing the enthusiasms of the students cannot be underestimated and I thank them for that. This is what allows us to remain as one of the very best Catholic Schools. I have every confidence that this momentum will be continued by the outstanding new staff we have recruited and the internal appointments we have made. Our success is down to team work at all levels.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank governors, members of the Parents Association, students, parents and carers for all your hard work and support during this year. I wish you a happy and relaxing summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Jenkins
Headteacher

WEEK TWO (RED)

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| Monday 19 th July | ➤ Creative & Media Exhibition in 'D' Block – Drama Studio 6.00pm – 8.00pm |
| Tuesday 20 th July | ➤ French Exchange Students return to Beaune |
| Wednesday 21 st July | ➤ End of Term – Registration 1.20pm |

AUTUMN TERM 2010

Please find below the arrangements for the first week of the autumn term. You will see that only Year 7 students will be in school on Friday 3rd September, with the rest of the school, including Years 12 & 13, starting back on Monday 6th September.

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| Friday 3 rd September | ➤ Year 7 Students only – induction day |
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WEEK ONE (GREEN)

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| Monday 6 th September | ➤ All year groups in school – including Year 12 & 13 |
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825 BUS SERVICE

The 825 school service will be **unable** to collect students at 1.25pm on Wednesday 21st July. It will operate to the normal schedule & will collect students, who are unable to make their own way home, at 3.30pm.

CREATIVE & MEDIA EXHIBITION

There will be a Creative & Media Exhibition on Monday 19th July in 'D' Block – Drama Studio from 6.00pm – 8.00pm. The exhibition will include both personal & Diploma work produced by the students. All are welcome.

'FUN RUN' 2010

A huge thank you to all who participated in Friday's 'Fun Run'; it was a great success. There were some fantastic costumes, ranging from robots, Mr Blobby, swimmers & scarecrows – to name only a few. The sun shone, as ordered, & the students were very grateful to Peter Spivey, who sponsored the water this year. Awards will be made before the end of term for elite runners, fancy dress, & most sponsorship raised. Please continue to collect sponsorship money & return to school as soon as possible. Many thanks to those who have already done so.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

After a fantastic sale on Monday 12th July at the New Year 7 Information Evening we are now short of kilts & have a waiting list. Please can you send in any unwanted kilts into Student Services – many thanks.

LIBRARY LOANS - URGENT REMINDER

All borrowed items had to be returned by last Friday 9th July. We still have a considerable amount of outstanding books/ DVDs. Please return all loans by Monday 19th July to avoid a fine. The library will start to fine late returns to keep in line with other partnership secondary schools in Dacorum. Fines are ten pence a day for each late item.

DACORUM VOLUNTEER POLICE CADET YOUTH GROUP

This group will be based in Dacorum & is open to young people between the ages of 14 & 18, who live or go to school in the Dacorum area. The Cadets will be a uniformed group & will take part in regular parades as part of the discipline. The group will be run by volunteers from both Police & civilian backgrounds &, whilst it has the full support of Hertfordshire Constabulary, will be run as an independent body from the Police. This opportunity may be of interest to young people who are not only looking at the Police service as a career but also have an interest in working within the community & desire to take part in community projects or events. Students who wish to apply should contact Mrs Stanley, Pastoral Leader, at school.

HIYA NOTICES

Sunday 18th July – Football on the moor & table tennis tournament at Parish Centre 7.00pm-9.30pm

Girls' Group Wed 21st July at St. Joseph's Hall from 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Paintball Saturday 24th July at Delta Force – Sign up for early bird discount - £12.50 gives you six games, pizza, 150 paintballs.

Email Venus venusgg@rcdow.org.uk. Mums and Dads are welcome to join the fun.

HIYA will break for the Summer holidays from 25th July – 29th August.

POLISH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

A meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th July at Dacorum Horizons, 160 Marlowes (The Old Post Office), Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1DQ, at 5.30pm, to try & answer questions that Poles within the community may have & to try to establish a Polish Association in Hemel Hempstead. For more information contact michal@cvsbeh.org.uk or telephone Amanda on 0757 860 1884.

ABSENCE LINE – AVAILABLE 24/7

If your son/daughter is going to be absent due to illness please telephone the school absence line on each day of absence on **01442 229140**. Students should bring a letter explaining their absence on their return to school.

MEDICAL / DENTAL APPOINTMENTS

We would also appreciate it if you would telephone this number if they are going to be late due to a medical / dental appointment. Please write a note in the Home School Record Book to clarify the reason for their being late. The same rule would also apply if they need to leave early for an appointment. Students, please remember you must **SIGN IN AND OUT IN STUDENT SERVICES**