



Our Faith



The joy of Easter was very much the focus of our prayer and liturgy as we returned from the Easter break. Our school bell takes inspiration from the 'Born For This' production we took part in before Easter, and at our times to pray we are reminded that "Now we are free: the cross is now a sign of hope: new life for all who would believe, living again, here among us now, the Christ, Our King, Our Lord". Mr Shelton and Mr Williams delivered assemblies focused around our faith in Jesus as the Christ. Mr Shelton referred to the post-resurrection miracle of Jesus walking on water and calming the sea in terms of exploring our faith. Mr Williams focused on the infamous story of doubting Thomas. Thomas insisted on proof of Jesus' resurrection and wanted to see the holes and scars as evidence. Jesus' divine state still bore the marks of his suffering, but it no longer hurt. This is our indication of the joy that awaits us in heaven where the pain and suffering of this world will not hurt anymore. Easter is a time when we are invited to embrace that good news. We can leave the mistakes and pains of our past wrongdoings or wasted opportunities and enjoy a fresh start and new life in the joy that Christ's resurrection provides. We are invited to let the world see his joy, his hope and so his peace.

- Human Dignity
- Common Good
- Solidarity
- Subsidiarity
- Participation
- Stewardship
- Preferential Option for the Poor

The fourth Sunday of Easter is always Good Shepherd Sunday when we are encouraged to consider Christ as the ultimate good shepherd but also celebrate the many Good Shepherds who have and do guide us. We pray especially for vocations during this week. Our school prayer puts it "Guide us to fulfil your plan for each of us". Knowing that we need the wisdom of Good Shepherds to properly fulfil God's plan, we will be celebrating all of the different vocations and the teachers who work so hard to care for God's flock. Regarding caring for others, we will shortly be sending off our cheques to our Lenten charities following our charity events where families generously gave so much to those that have so little. A big thank you to everybody who contributed. In this season of exams, our particular Catholic Pupil Profile values are being **Learned** and **Wise**. We pray that is especially true of our oldest pupils about to take exams.



Faith is Our Foundation

Peer Mentors

Mrs McNamara

Well done to Our Peer Mentors who have received their distinctive black ties (see the picture on the first page). Our Peer Mentors meet every Thursday morning supported by Mrs McNamara, Mrs Fealy and Mr Steimann. They are great leaders and role models to our younger pupils and help build confidence and develop resilience and character. Each week they discuss a range of topics and provide many of our younger pupils the opportunity to seek advice and guidance regarding a range of topics. The Peer Mentors program is truly a shining example of leadership and support within our school community. Their commitment to guiding and inspiring younger pupils is truly commendable. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to making our school community a better place for all.

THE ONE ABOUT REVISING TO MUSIC

@inner_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk

WHY THIS STUDY

Many students do their homework and revision whilst listening to music. Many of these students will swear that listening to their favourite songs helps them study. But does it actually help or hinder learning? And interestingly, does it matter what type of music you listen to whilst revising?

To answer this question, researchers assigned students of a range of ages to one of four groups; the first revised in silence, the second revised whilst listening to music with lyrics they liked (which included songs from One Direction and Katy Perry), the third group revised to music with lyrics they did not like (which comprised of very heavy thrash metal bands), and the fourth group revised listening to music that did not have lyrics.

The participants then took a test on the passages they had been revising, rating how distracting their environment had been, as well as writing down their predictions for how well they thought they had done.

THE MAIN FINDINGS

1 Students who revised in **quiet environments performed over 60% better** in an exam than their peers who revised listening to music that had lyrics.

2 Students who revised whilst **listening to music without lyrics did better** than those who had revised to music with lyrics.

3 It made no difference if students revised listening to songs they liked or didn't like. Both led to a **reduction in their subsequent test performance**.



4 Students who revised in **silence rated their environment as less distracting** and accurately predicted that this would lead to better performances in subsequent tests.

Ref: Perham and Currie, 2014, Applied Cognitive Psychology
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KS3 Debate

Mr Mallon, Associate Assistant Headteacher

We had an enlightening experience at St Paul's Girls School during the Catholic School's KS3 debate recently which, focussed on the world's most inspirational leader. Orla D captivated the audience with her compelling argument, advocating for Nye Bevan as her choice. His profound impact on healthcare and social welfare resonated deeply.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Matilda W, Zoe C, and Sophia H for their invaluable support throughout the event. We look forward to more engaging opportunities where our pupils can showcase their talents and intellect.



Attendance



W/B	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
15/04	95%	93.1%	94.9%	92.8%	94.3%	91.3%	90.6%
08/04	93.6%	93.2%	94%	92.6%	93%	91.1%	84.6%

Learned

Fish & Quiz, Charity Night

Mrs Lakin

Coinciding with our pupil's wonderful generosity and efforts during charity week, the staff at St. Peter's participated in a charity quiz night. This was a hugely successful event, where staff, along with friends and family, competed in teams against each other, whilst enjoying fish and chips from a local chip shop. The evening raised an impressive £620, which will further support money raised by the pupils for the Lenten charities.



We are continuing to enjoy our Votes for Schools platform, which is engaging our pupils in critical thinking, helping them to be aware of the world around them and elevating their oracy skills. Interesting responses were seen on a recent debate linked to April: Stress Awareness Month. We all feel stress at different points in our life and not all stress is bad, but too much stress can be a problem for us. Pupils had details shared with them about the differences between eustress and chronic stress and asked to vote on the topic "Would more play reduce stress?"

To commemorate British Science Week 8th-17th March we also engaged in the debate: 'Is AI-generated content too believable?' Our responses on this topic were shared with UKRI, the AI Council, The Alan Turing Institute, WIRED and the UK Safer Internet Centre. We are delighted that some views of our pupils were shared on the national platform on the debate regarding violence against shop workers – we are so proud of our pupil participation!

Why not ask your son/daughter how they voted on this half term's topics and why? You can let us know their thoughts or encourage them to reach out to info@votesforschools.com.



Votes for Schools

Mrs Shelton, Director of PSHE

Human Dignity

**Year 12, Girton College,
Cambridge**

**Mrs Przyrodzki, Careers
& Destination Lead**

On the 19th March, six of our Year 12 pupils took part in the Solihull, Birmingham and Coventry Oxbridge Network trip to Girton College, Cambridge. The aim of the trip was to enable the pupils to meet Girton staff and pupils, to experience a number of workshop type activities, to provide an opportunity to ask questions and familiarise themselves with the requirements for application in specific subjects. They also had a personal statement workshop with the College's admissions tutor. A tour around Girton and its facilities was given by pupil ambassadors and our pupils got to choose and attend a subject specific super-curricular talk. It was such a productive day, they learnt a lot about Oxbridge and the application process and even dispelled a few myths!



In March we hosted our annual St. Peter's Careers Convention. We housed 59 exhibitors from a range of local and national businesses, training providers, colleges and universities. Pupils and parents from Years 8-13 were invited to attend and it was a great success. The car park was full to bursting as pupils came to speak with professionals and experts in various fields. Apprenticeships were a key feature of the evening and there were a number of presentations discussing different career pathways. What made the evening even more special was the number of STP alumni that came back to host a stand – it was so lovely to see and hear how they have found their places in the wider community. Finally, a huge thank you to all who exhibited and gave our pupils such a valuable opportunity to think about the future.



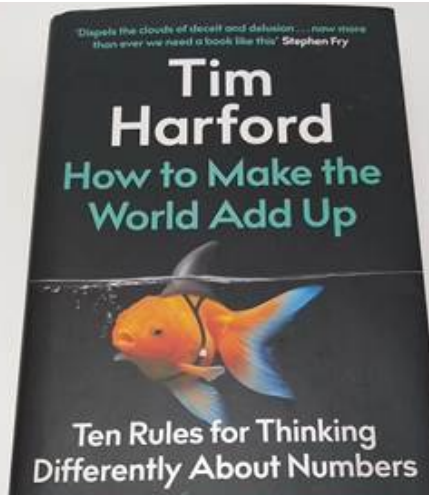
**Careers Convention
2024**

**Mrs Przyrodzki,
Careers & Destination
Lead**

Wise

What we are reading:

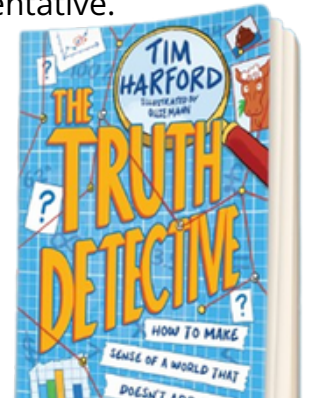
Mrs McNeil



This week, I finished reading 'How to Make the World Add Up: Ten Rules for Thinking Differently About Numbers' by Tim Harford. I was expecting a book about numbers, statistics, and economics but was pleasantly surprised to learn about art forgeries, academic research, psychology, medicine, and the stock market, along with the first use of the pie chart to represent data. The author chose interesting real-life scenarios to back up the points he was making.

I found 'Rule 5: Get the Back Story', particularly interesting as it delved into psychological studies and academic research, focusing on the difficulties replicating research papers and the prevalence of publication bias. I really recommend this chapter, in particular, to anyone studying social sciences as it was easy to follow and the content engaging.

Another good chapter was 'Rule 6: Ask Who is Missing', where the focus was on who the data is being collected about, and what better insights we would have if the samples were more representative.



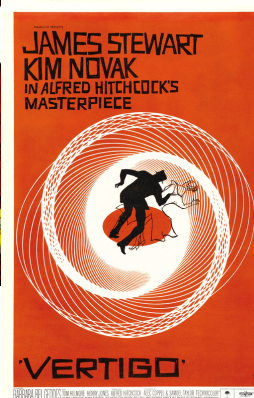
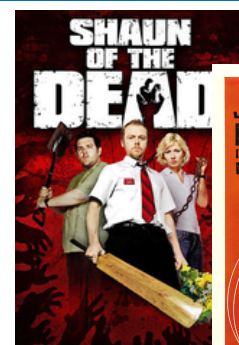
The book was written and published in 2020 so it has several mentions of Covid-19 which can feel a little dated now we know more, but this doesn't detract from how much I enjoyed the book. And the first pie chart? It was called a 'rose diagram' and created by Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War. The author has released another book recently called 'The Truth Detective: How to Make Sense of a World That Doesn't Add Up' which seems to have a lot of the same stories and conclusions but is aimed at secondary school pupils. It's getting good reviews so it's worth checking out!

Pupils studying Film Studies A-level at our school are delving deep into the art of cinematic analysis. In Year 12, pupils have honed their skills in dissecting various cinematic elements, from the intricate nuances of mise-en-scene to the profound impacts of editing. They've explored a wide spectrum of cinema, ranging from global perspectives to the captivating realm of documentary filmmaking. Currently, their focus lies on unravelling the complexities of ideologies and spectatorship within British and Hollywood films. As Year 13 pupils near the culmination of their course, they've completed their coursework, which entailed crafting either a short film or a screenplay. The quality of their creations this year is exceptional, a testament to their dedication and hard work.

Throughout the course, pupils have not only refined their analytical prowess but also delved deeper into the rich tapestry of cinematic storytelling. Film Studies continues to provide a platform for pupils to enhance their critical thinking skills while immersing themselves in the captivating world of cinema, offering a unique lens through which to engage with literature in a dynamic and compelling manner.

Subject Focus: Film Studies (A-Level)

**Mr Mallon, Associate
Assistant Headteacher**



Common Good

Catenian Public Speaking Competition

Mrs Przyrodzki, Careers & Destination Lead

We recently attended the annual Catenian Provincial Public Speaking Competition in March and hosted by Newman University. Year 12 pupils, Joe B and Christi U competed and did an excellent job of representing our school. The competition was an incredibly high level and was eventually won by Bishop Milner Catholic College Dudley. Our pupils received several comments from members of the audience who praised them both highly. Joe and Christi did St. Peter's proud and produced some impressive, enjoyable and highly articulate speeches.



For four days, we have hosted a Scholastic Book Fair at lunchtimes, giving the opportunity for pupils to browse a wide range of books and for parents to make purchases. Pupils enjoyed coming with their friends and seeing titles that they had been looking to read or discovering new authors who they may be interested in. Many of the books available were part of a series so will hopefully spark pupils to read on to find out what happens next. Some of my favourite quotes from hosting the book fair were "There are so many books here; I think it's going to get me into reading" and "I've spent my £10 I got for Eid here: if I'd had £100 I would have spent it all on these books".

I am pleased to say that we raised over £300, which means we get £25% of the sales value back to buy more books for our school. Happy reading!

Scholastic Book Fair

Mrs Ferry, Associate Assistant Headteacher



Faith is Our Foundation

Year 7 Book Club

**Mrs Ferry, Associate
Assistant
Headteacher**

Erin B in Year 11 has been running a weekly lunchtime book club for Year 7s, attended by up to 20 pupils. They have been reading 'The Blue Book of Nebo' by Manon Steffan Ros, which was the winner of the Carnegie award in 2023. Pupils have enjoyed the book and the discussions, including questions such as: "what do you think will happen next?" and "how has the writer created atmosphere in this part of the book?".

The book club is moving on this week to start reading 'The Inheritance Games' by Jennifer Lynn Barnes. This is a book that Erin has already read herself and comes highly recommended. It is a part of a series of novels so hopefully the pupils will want to read more. Thank you to Erin for all the effort she has put in running the club, especially as it is only a few weeks until her GCSE exams.



During a recent trip to the Crowne Plaza, our pupils were treated to an indulgent spread of expertly crafted cream teas, delectable cakes, and scrumptious sandwiches. The culinary experience offered a delightful array of flavours and textures, providing a perfect blend of sweet and savoury delights. Finley O'C, remarked, "This experience has significantly broadened my outlook on certain foods such as the shiddy salmon...the experience was impeccable." His reflection captures the essence of the outing, highlighting not only the culinary exploration but also the impeccable service and ambiance of the Crowne Plaza. This outing provided an enriching opportunity for our pupils to savour gourmet delicacies while creating lasting memories of a delightful culinary adventure.



**Cream Tea, Crowne
Plaza**

Mrs Morris-Walcott



SAVE THE DATE



St. Peter's Catholic School

50th Anniversary Celebration



Saturday

October

26

7.00 PM

THERE WILL BE SCHOOL TOURS
AVAILABLE DURING THE DAY

FORMAL INVITE TO FOLLOW

