



**John Ferneley College**

**Christmas Newsletter  
2019**



# A message from Mrs Hall

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It has been a wonderful term here at John Ferneley and as always, it is such a privilege to be part of this great community. The start of this academic year saw the launch of our new core values as a school: aspiration, resilience and community. It has been brilliant to see so many of our students demonstrating these values both in and out of the immediate curriculum and being rewarded for doing so. We will continue to celebrate these values and continue to build on this aspect of the work of the school of which so far, I am extremely proud.

As I walk around the school today, we are in fact in week 9 of this half term and although a long half term, I have to say that students are still very much focused and engaged in their learning. This is to the testament of them but also to their teachers. I am always extremely impressed by our wonderful staff team, both teaching and support staff, and their commitment to this school. As I wander in and out of classrooms, the atmospheres are that of awe, wonder and intrigue. You cannot gain a qualification or exam result in that but to me, are so very important.

Christmas is without a doubt my favourite time of the year. An opportunity to spend time with loved ones. This is exactly the message I will be giving to the young people who will be attending our annual Christmas service at St. Mary's on Friday. This Christmas is not necessarily about giving presents, but the gift of their time. The time spent in conversation with loved ones and relatives and also being present themselves. I am sure I speak on behalf of all of us as parents when I say that this has to be one of the greatest gifts you can receive during Christmas time.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the work we are doing here at JFC. I have been overwhelmed by the support from all stakeholders this term and would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Mrs Lara Hall  
**Head of School**

# Year 7 update

The year 7s have had a super first full term here at JFC. It has been a pleasure getting to know them through my own teaching of James Bond and Men In Black and through popping into lessons to see all the exciting activities they have been involved in. 'WOW Wednesday' ran for the first half term where any classrooms I popped into the teachers were able to nominate someone who had impressed them in that lesson, the teachers often found it difficult to choose just one or two which was lovely to see.

Over the second half term we focused on writing postcards to YR6 students to let them know what it is like to be at JFC and to alleviate any nerves they may have about heading up to 'big school'. There were some fantastic written responses; nine students won a hot chocolate with the head teacher for exceptional performance.

We replaced 'WOW Wednesday' during the second half term with the opportunity to 'WOW your tutor'. Through our assemblies we launched targets of joining an extra-curricular club and 'Do Good in December'; students were shown an advent calendar of a whole host of activities they could do to show kindness. Some of these have contributed to their ARC awards and we were incredibly impressed with the donations to our storehouse collection.

It was a pleasure to celebrate all their hard work in our Celebration Assembly on Monday where each tutor came up and delivered a speech on one boy and one girl who had impressed them during this half term. I also had the honour of awarding some Bronze medals to our girl's cross-country runners and have a huge pile of certificates to hand out to all students involved in sports teams.

Overall, I am thrilled with the year group, not only their progress in lessons but also what lovely young people they are. It is a pleasure to be their HOY and myself and Mrs Hanson look forward to welcoming them back in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all,

**Miss Meek**



# ARC Awards

The John Ferneley College 'ARC' awards were launched in September this year with the aim of recognising students' academic achievement, alongside other contributions to school life, the Mowbray Education Trust and the wider community. There are three levels of achievement Bronze, Silver and Gold. To achieve a ARC award, students will need to demonstrate sustained commitment to their work in school as well as engagement in various activities both within school and in the wider community.

In January we will be having our first ARC awards assemblies to hand out prizes and certificates to those students who have achieved their Bronze or Silver award. It has been great for tutors and me as Deputy Head teacher to read about some of the amazing things that students have been doing in and out of school. So far over 300 of our students have represented the school in different events, some students have passed dance and music exams, many have volunteered at local events including the remembrance day parade and one student has completed a triathlon.

All students have been given a booklet and it would be great if they could continue to complete their commitments and be rewarded for their amazing achievements.

Mr Drury

This term we have been working closely with the Storehouse Soup Kitchen. In October, Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students served a spicy pumpkin soup at the Storehouse Soup Kitchen using vegetables grown in the school garden and allotments. This was part of the RHS 'Big Souper' project.

We also created a Ferneley Soup which we sold to our staff for the school charity.



# Performance Ambassador update

In September, the GCSE Drama students visited Derby Theatre to see the fabulous 'One Man, Two Guvnors' which is an English adaption of 'Servant of Two Masters.' It was a hilarious play and the students had a fabulous time!



September saw our new Year 7s as well as Year 8 & 9 performing the first show of the year: Alice in Wonderland. This started as a transition project with rehearsals before the summer and primary students from all over the town were invited to participate.

The show was sold out for two nights and included a showcase of individual work in the second half with lots of new faces treading the boards.



On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019 our KS3 and KS4 VOX groups performed at the Melton Light switch on. They were amazing and it was great to see so many students performing.

Leicester College visited our Year 10 students in December to perform a TIE performance called 'The C Word' based around the theme of consent, grooming, county lines and peer pressure.

The performance was fantastic and of a professional standard. Year 10 were very impressed by the performance and we are very proud of how they conducted themselves during the performance and asked some brilliant question.



On January 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 our performing arts department are showcasing 13: The Musical. Our wonderful cast have been working hard rehearsing all term and we can't wait for you to see the show!

Tickets are still available, please contact: [LMitcham@johnferneley.org](mailto:LMitcham@johnferneley.org)



# STEM

Science Technology Engineering Maths

Students from Year 8 and 9 visited TeenTech in Leicester which helps young people understand the opportunities in the science, technology and engineering industries, no matter what their gender or social background. It was an exciting, hands on day led by industry with challenges and experiments helping them understand the wide range of opportunities in Science, Technology, Construction and Engineering.

TEENTECH®



Year 7 participated in the STEM Big Assembly which is an online interactive webinar. The assembly was all about engineering and the different roles within engineering and the theme was about diversity. Students heard first-hand from apprentices across the UK who have overcome diversity challenges to land the dream apprenticeship that they are currently doing and then had the opportunity to ask questions live through the chat facility.



Year 10 and 11 students enjoyed a day at Mars Petcare in Melton Mowbray hosted by the factory manager. They had a full factory tour and were then met members from the planning, logistics, quality, production and development departments. They then were split into teams and competed in a 'Dragons Den' competition to design a new product that had to meet cost, quality, nutrition, market, aesthetic, environmental and profit targets and present their proposal to members of the Mars management team. The winners were then rewarded with chocolates for their efforts. This was a great opportunity for students to see the many and varied careers inside a manufacturing organisation and have some fun at the same time.

# Enrichment update

A group of year 11 students went to the Leicester Outdoor Pursuit Centre as part of their Sport Studies Course. Over the 2 days the group participated in a range of outdoor activities including a high ropes course, canoeing and team building activities. The group learnt about the different types of safety equipment and develop a number of skills such as team work, decision making, problem solving and communication skills.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November the geography department took 130 students to Hunstanton in Norfolk. This was part of their Component 3 Applied Fieldwork exam which makes up 30% of their GCSE.

Students were investigating the methods of qualitative data and concepts of sustainable communities. Students first visited Old Hunstanton where they explored the sand dunes investigating dune stabilisation and the cliffs where they could see physical evidence of erosion. They also carried out bi-polar surveys and annotated field sketches.

Next students were taken to New Hunstanton where they continued with their bi-polar surveys and annotated field sketches but they also experimented with sampling strategies when they were conducting their questionnaires.

Finally we enjoyed a good helping of hot chocolate and cakes but of course you can't go to the seaside without eating some fish and chips!



To celebrate the introduction of German to the John Ferneley curriculum, this December the Year 7s were treated to a trip to the Birmingham Christmas Markets. The largest outside of Germany and Austria, students sampled some typical German food (probably too many sweets) and experienced the atmosphere of an authentic Weihnachtsmarkt.



Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September was the European Day of Languages, where diversity, culture and, of course, languages are celebrated. John Ferneley was brightly decorated with foreign greetings to highlight the multitude of languages spoken in Europe and the rest of the world. The MFL team organised a host of activities including lessons in other foreign languages such as Russian, a treasure hunt to match teachers to which other languages they speak (there were quite a few!), a MFL quiz and a guest speaker, who shared the exciting experiences and opportunities learning languages gave to her. We look forward to celebrating with our other MET schools next year!

As part of our first 'Drop Down Day' this year, the English team had the pleasure of hosting Asian singer, 'K Zie' on a Discrimination, British Values & Mental Health themed school tour. The morning began with a performance from 'K Zie' and fellow singer 'Enelic', followed by a presentation on mental health and bullying, discrimination and a discussion around the fundamental British Values. The main message was to empower students to make the right choices and to have the confidence to speak up about their state of mind, something that we believe is important to promote mental health awareness as a college.

Students later had a Q&A session followed by showcasing some of their very own talent with willing students taking to the stage themselves. Our very own Miss Pedder was the overall hit with her version of 'No Scrubs'. This exciting event was followed by an autograph session and the chance to get snaps with the up and coming artists.

It was lovely to see a buzz around the college; the auditorium came alive during the performances - students were dancing and getting in to the spirit of the day. Many commented on how much they enjoyed the experience and felt that it was an exciting way to talk about serious issues affecting young people today.



## Upcoming trips:

- New York - February 2020
- Marbella - April 2020



## Extra-curricular clubs





# Mr J's Sports Round-Up

During this half term we have held an Interform football competition which is where each tutor group play each other to win the competition.

8AA were the winners of the girls interform football for the second year running and 8JT were the winners of the boys Year 8 interform competition.

9KS were the winners of the Year 9 interform competition.



Year 11 Netball Team



U15 Rugby Team



Year 11 Basketball Team



We have had a great term for football. Our Year 8 boys won the league and got through to the National Cup 4<sup>th</sup> round and the Year 10 boys clinched their league with a 3-0 win over Belvoir.



Year 8 Basketball Team

# Library blog

On 9<sup>th</sup> October, Jo Sennitt from Creative Learning Services came into John Ferneley College to lead Creative Writing Workshops for a group of Year 9 students selected by their English Teachers. Her main aim was to encourage students to immerse themselves into storytelling and develop their own creative writing skills. Jo brought in various props and weird photographs as inspiration to generate lots of interest and amazing story ideas. She encouraged our students to incorporate their senses into their work, organic, kinaesthetic, and synaesthesia senses.

Feedback from our year 9 students was really positive, many found the session to be inspiring, offering great tips and advice on how to develop their own story ideas. Noah said, "I really enjoyed the workshop, I like writing, and this gave me the opportunity to express myself and use my amazing imagination".

This term saw the launch of the new Creative Writing Club at John Ferneley College. Each Monday after school, students from years 7, 8 and 9 met in the library to develop their writing talent. The aim was to encourage students to write about things that interest and inspire them as well as exploring new genres and ideas that they may not have thought to use before through various activities. Students thoroughly enjoyed these sessions.

This term we also launched our exciting new blog <http://johnferneleywriters.edublogs.org/> to allow students to publish their work and set new competitions. Our latest additions to the blog will be launched this week and the students are really excited to see some of their work published. Students have worked well together and been very supportive of each other. I am very proud to publish their hard work this term and we hope you enjoy reading the stories over the Christmas Holidays.

In addition to these developments, we also launched the new Reading Club which meets each Tuesday after school in the Library. Here students meet to share and discuss books selected as a group with the hope that students get access to books they previously may have ignored and widen their reading experience.

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November, a group of nine Year 9 students visited The Grove Primary School to read to all year groups, starting with reception to Year 6. Our Year 9 students picked the books they wanted to read and shared their reading experiences with their chosen class. It was a great experience for all involved, the Year 9s enjoyed reading, increasing their confidence, and the primary children had the treat of a visit from the older students. We hope the experience will inspire them and encourage them to read. The group of Year 9's can't wait to do this again.



On 29<sup>th</sup> October we invited Jo Sennitt into John Ferneley College to hold Book Talking sessions for all our Year 7 students. Jo read extracts from a wide variety of books ranging from chilling tales, thrillers, horror stories, romance, friendship and humour. Jo inspired students to choose a book to read for pleasure and to try a different genre from their normal choice of book.

Our students were fantastic, listening enthralled to the stories. One student, Haille said she liked the sound of all the books Jo read out in her session and they were books she wouldn't normally read. Another Year 7 student, Megan said she really enjoyed the presentation and she is now interested in trying a new book. Feedback from one of our English teachers, "The students really enjoyed it, the kids came back buzzing and thinking about the books they would like to read in the future".

All the books Jo talked about are stocked in the library. We had queues of students after the Book Talking waiting to take the books out on loan. Popular ones were "13 Hours" by Narinder Dhama, a tense thriller and "My Embarrassing Dad's gone viral" by Ben Davis, a hilarious comedy story about filming Dad's antics for YouTube.

On 26<sup>th</sup> November a group of Year 7 students went on a library trip to the Creative Learning Services Library in Glenfield. The aim of the trip was to encourage a passion for reading for pleasure by introducing our students to a wealth of different genres of books, to broaden their horizons and to increase their confidence. They were tasked in finding and choosing a range of books to bring back to stock our school library. The staff at CLS welcomed our students and at the end of the visit said they had been delightful.

# Futures

JFC held an apprenticeship evening for Year 9, 10 & 11 to gain advice from a fantastic range of providers which include Police, Army, MARS, Heart of England training, ASK apprenticeships, MBC, Ragdale Hall and RPC Superfos. Also, the local colleges including Brooksby, Loughborough, Grantham and Leicester. The providers were able to give information on the types of apprenticeships and courses/ careers pathways that they offered for the students to improve their knowledge on the next steps and possible futures careers. We had a great turn-out and all students and parents that attended complimented the providers on the knowledge and information that they received.

I would like to thank Miss Shotton for all the help with organising the careers events in school.

During the month of December all year groups 7-11 have had either workshops or assemblies where they were given some expert advice on the local labour market where they have learnt about the jobs prospects and industry sectors within Leicestershire and the types of employers that were within Melton Mowbray. They have been surprised at the amount of small to medium sized businesses within Melton and also the amount of revenue that the top 5 employers generate each year. This information has highlighted the requirements and skills that will be needed in the futures and generates food for thought on their next steps after JFC. As well as the Labour Market Information (LMI), Year 9 students have been given advice on why a C.V is essential and the areas that need to be considered when applying for future employment and college courses.

We would like to thank Rebecca Leadbetter from DWP for her support in delivering this information which forms part of the Careers programme within JFC.



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

# Staff Challenge

This term, each week, SLT set a different challenge for the staff at John Ferneley College. We provided a title for the challenge but final details were only released on the week of the challenge. Students have really enjoyed watching the different challenges - and some of the staff have possibly taken it a little bit too seriously.

The overall winner of the staff challenge was 'You Can't Sit With Us!'

Week 1 - Hallowe'en Fright  
Apple bobbing competition



Week 2 - The MB Show-  
Stopper  
Bake off



Week 3 - Picture Perfect  
5 minute portrait challenge



Week 4 - Get Me Outta Here!  
Bush Tucker Trial



Week 5 - Slam Dunk Da Funk  
Basketball challenge



Week 6 - Not Sydney in 1876  
History and geography quiz



Week 7 - Su-Do Do Do  
Sudoku challenge



Week 8 - Jingle Bells  
Team Christmas picture for a  
Christmas card



# Achievement Update

Reminder: Year 11 January Mock Exams

Following the successful mock exams for English, Maths and Science, we will be running mock exams in all other subjects during the first week back after the Christmas holiday. The timetable is as follows:

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January AM - Option 2, Paper 1

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January PM - Option 4, Paper 1

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January AM - Option 1, Paper 1

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January PM - Option 2, Paper 2

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January AM - Option 1, Paper 2

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January PM - Option 3, Paper 1

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January AM - Option 4, Paper 2

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January PM - Option 3, Paper 2

The majority of students will have two exams each day. We appreciate that this will be quite demanding on students so we will be allowing them to leave school each day that week at the start of lunch in order for them to revise at home, as long as they have permission from a parent or carer. If you do not wish for your child to leave at lunch, they will be supervised by staff in school to complete appropriate revision.

In late February/early March it will be the second round of Maths, English and Science mocks. Following this there will be another round of MFL speaking mocks. The window for their real speaking exam is week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> April for two weeks.



This year we have relaunch our Grade 9 events for all Key Stage 3 students. We are offering these events in nearly every curriculum area, to give students the opportunity to extend their knowledge of these subjects beyond the school curriculum.

So far we have had our Science and English events and were lucky to have a guest speaker in for the Science who discussed Nuclear Physics with our budding scientists. In the January we will be hosting our Geography event again with another guest speaker in, closely followed by the history event on February.

# Attendance update

Another great term for attendance! We thank parents/carers for their continuing support of their children in attending college. Our figures are above national expectations. Attendance remains a strong feature of the college, we hope that this will continue into the next term. We are happy to work with any student who is struggling with attendance and offer any support or guidance where necessary.

We do hope you have a lovely Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you all back in January.

**The Attendance Team**

Please contact Mandy Mabbott for any support regarding attendance.



# Uniform expectations

## All students should wear:

Blazer with school logo  
Black trousers/black skirt of an appropriate length  
White shirt  
School tie  
Black shoes (defined as leather or leather effect and polishable)



## PE Kit:

Indoors: a red John Ferneley polo shirt, black cycling shorts or regular shorts, indoor trainers. Red or black socks.

Outdoors: as above with outdoor trainers or, as the weather gets colder, a black John Ferneley sweatshirt and black tracksuit/training bottoms.

# Save the Dates

Our 2019-20 calendar is available on our website, but, below are some save the dates:

- ★ Year 9 Options Evening - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- ★ Year 11 Countdown Launch - 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- ★ Year 11 Parents Evening - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020
  - ★ Year 10 Parents Evening - 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020
  - ★ Year 6 Welcome Meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020



# Parent Forum and Friends of Ferneley

**Parent Forum 6-7pm**

★ 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

★ 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

## **Friends of Ferneley**

This is an exciting opportunity to work as a group to raise funds for equipment and resources for John Ferneley. Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 6:00pm.**

# Leaving us..

Please join us in saying goodbye to the following staff:

- ★ Danny O'Brien
- ★ Anne-Maire Gresley-Jones
- ★ Hayley Spencer
- ★ Lloyd Pares
- ★ Ellie Wale
- ★ Harry Horsley

May we take this opportunity to wish them all the best of luck in the next chapter of their careers.



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