

This Week

Volume 17, Issue 1

5 September 2014

From the Principal:

Following an extremely busy summer of building work and the installation of a new infrastructure and telephone network, we are pleased to begin the new academic year by welcoming students to refurbished classrooms and a new Learning Resources Centre. It has been a positive start to the term with students commenting on the 'beautiful' redecorated classrooms and corridors in Macaulay building and the 'spacious and light' Learning Resources Centre.

As a result of the new IT implementation, we have experienced intermittent problems with emails, telephones and our website. We apologise if this has affected you and assure you that we are working with our IT provider and BT to ensure that these teething problems are resolved as quickly as possible. Please bear with us!

We would like to congratulate all of our Year 11 students on their GCSE results. Students worked extremely hard to achieve these results and should be very proud.

As you may be aware, many schools nationally have experienced a great deal of volatility in their results in this year and Sir Jonathan North is no exception: 70% of Year 11 students gained 5 or more GCSE A* – C grades in all subjects and 49% of students achieved 5A* - C passes including English and Maths; 95% achieved 5A* – G grades.

We were delighted to see so many students on Results Day when they collected their results and were pleased that they will now progress to the course of their choice at a local Further Education or Sixth Form College.

In assemblies this week, we have welcomed students in all year groups to the new academic year. They have been reminded of our expectations of them, particularly in relation to college dress, attitude and behaviour, organisation and homework. These are areas where support from parents is extremely valuable.

We look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Alison Merrills

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The greatest things you'll regret in life are the things you don't do.'

Hugh Jackman

COLLEGE CALENDAR

Term dates for 2014-2015 are available on the College website: www.sjncc.leicester.sch.uk

8 Sept	College Photographs
18 Sept	College Open Evening
24 Sept	Year 8 Geography Trip
25 Sept	Year 11 Transition Parents' Evening
29 Sept	Year 7 Teambuilding Trip

COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHS

Student Photographs will be taken on Monday 8 September.

As in previous years, we will be using a local firm of photographers, 'Professional School Portraits of Leicester.'

Parents will have an opportunity to order photographs later this term when they receive proof copies.

Sir Jonathan North Community College



Principal: Alison Merrills



Open Evening

Thursday 18 September 2014 5.30 - 7.30 pm

Presentations by the Principal at 5.45 pm and 6.15 pm

Graded as Outstanding overall by Ofsted in October 2013:

'This outstanding school enables its students to make rapid progress in their learning'

'The quality of teaching is outstanding across all subjects'

'The curriculum is very well suited to the needs and aspirations of students, who also benefit from a rich programme of out of school activities'

'Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding.'

GCSE 2014

SIR JONATHAN NORTH TOP ACHIEVERS

CONGRATULATIONS

Martha Lambert	8A*	2A	
Nabeela Caratela	8A*	1A	1B
Katarina Ilic	8A*	1A	1B
Ruby Kelman	8A*	1A	1B
Vibha Shaji	8A*	1A	1B
Katherine Hughes	7A*	3A	
Elsie Tata	7A*	2A	1B
Martha O'Brien	6A*	3A	1B
Emily Castleman	6A*	2A	1B
Gurpinder Nahal	3A*	6A	2B



Alison Merrills

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email then please hand in your name and e-mail address to a member of the office staff and this will be sent to you every Friday.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPELLING BEE

The Foreign Languages Team is delighted to announce that the winner of the National Final of the Foreign Languages Spelling Bee was Anika Goddard (now in 8.1). She worked extremely hard at learning to understand, say and spell 200 words in French, using the French alphabet.

The final took place in Cambridge at the Anglia Ruskin University and competition in this final round was extremely strong. Anika beat 35 finalists in a competition involving thousands of Y7 students across the country.

Congratulations to Anika and also a special mention to Neha Datta, who competed very strongly and only narrowly missed being a runner-up. Well done to you both.

Mrs Fisher and the MFL Team

END OF YEAR REWARD TRIP DRAYTON MANOR 2014

We had a fantastic end to the Summer Term in July, with over 500 students attending the annual reward trip to Drayton Manor Park.

This trip was offered as a reward for good attendance, punctuality and behaviour, and was a rather hot but fantastic day – especially seeing all of the year groups mixing together and having a great time.

We look forward to seeing even more students at our next reward event at the end of the Autumn Term!

Mrs Ram, Year 7 Team Leader

WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 7S

It's that time of year again when the Summer holidays come to an end and the new Year 7 students get butterflies in their tummies in anticipation of their first day! Here at Sir Jonathan North, we pride ourselves in trying to ensure that our students enjoy starting their new school as much as possible, and we do our best to make the transition as smooth and enjoyable as we can.

This started way back when the students were in Year 4 – where we had a week of taster sessions for Year 4 and Year 5 students, who came and enjoyed their first experience of lessons here. Many students attend our summer schools, and get the opportunity to visit the College along with their parents and carers at Open Evening.

It then becomes very real in Year 6. We love to get to know the students as much as possible before they arrive here and also like them to get to know us! We visit each primary school in June and not only speak with the students about what to expect and answer any worries or concerns, but also do a full handover with their teachers too. They then visit us for Transfer Day – which is an excellent day, full of fun activities – where the girls meet their tutor group and tutor for the first time. It is a day when they are all extremely nervous – but go home full of information and enthusiasm about their new school. Parents and carers also have the opportunity to meet their daughters' tutor that evening.

Then the big day arrives – and they have their first official day as a Year 7 student – which is their Induction Day. This year the students spent the day with their tutor and took part in treasure hunts and murder mystery activities to help to build their new teams and to get to know each other. Every Year 7 student also enjoyed a free school meal to welcome them to the College. The feedback was superb!

They have settled in incredibly well and we are already planning their next big event, which is the Year 7 Team Building trip in the beginning of October at the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre. This is always an action packed day of fun, which the girls thoroughly enjoy.

We hope that your daughter has enjoyed her first few days at Sir Jonathan North and has settled in well and we really look forward working with and supporting her through the next 5 years.



Mrs Ram, Year 7 Team Leader

“I’M A SCIENTIST... GET ME OUT OF HERE!”

In June of last year, we (7.9), were introduced to an interactive website called ‘I’m A Scientist, Get Me Out Of Here!’ This is an online service where children can get involved and chat with real time scientists who have made a living out of Science. Funded by Welcome Trust, it supplies the winner with £500 to put towards his/her research. It is an exciting opportunity for children, particularly in schools, as you can ask fundamental scientific questions, like “Why are we here?” and “What is at the centre of a black hole?” or you can go for the more simple approach, and ask their favourite colour, or if they are a One Direction fan!

- There were initially five scientists in our zone (The Neodymium Zone); Sakshi, Naomi, Mathew, Ian and Edward. Each scientist worked in a different field of science, ranging from the study of muscle function, to smashing particles together, to developing video games!
- Each scientist talked a bit about themselves in their profile, to pique the interests of the students.
- Students could then direct questions to the separate scientists in the “Ask” section of the site. The scientists would then answer the questions they could, and direct them to another scientist if they couldn’t!
- Those students who were booked in via their schools then had the opportunity to have a chat with them – which resulted in a quick-fire stream of questions aimed at poor Ian and Sakshi, which they had to work furiously to answer in just half an hour!

After the live chat with the scientists took place, the students could vote for the scientist they wanted to receive the £500. Seeing as the only scientists that turned up to our chat were Sakshi and Ian, and Sakshi had already been evicted, I think our whole class voted for Ian!

So, to conclude, ‘I’m A Scientist Get Me Out Of Here’ is a fun, interactive websites that students can both enjoy and learn from. I think it is a great experience for kids, and lots of Science teachers should take it up with their classes!

Martha Yeoman (was 7.9 now 8.9)