



Dear Parents,

Recent Events:

Sister Genevieve from Chigwell Convent has written to thank the school for £600 donated after the school carol service which will be used for missionary work abroad. We also received a letter of appreciation from Barnardo's "to say a huge thank you for the wonderful performance your choir and readers gave at the Westminster Cathedral ... (in which) we raised over £40,000 which will be spent very wisely on our vital child care".

Oscar Whitely John and James Buckley have secured offers of places at New Hall School as has **William Thompson** at Felsted. Now that the entrance examination season has passed, I take this opportunity to compliment all of the boys concerned who have dealt with the season studiously – despite some quite nasty sickness bugs also intruding.

In pouring rain at Ashton, the Under 10s continued Loyola soccer success. Against Woodford Green Prep the As won 6-2 and the Bs scored 10! Meanwhile the Under 9s and 8 played with real spirit in their rugby matches against St Edmund's narrowly losing one game and drawing a second. Back to soccer, the Under 9s continued winning ways with two victories against Chigwell.

Confirmation of excellent results in the Boys' Competition of the Forest swimming gala has been received. Mr Bleasdale writes:

"3rd only to Bancroft's and Forest in the boys' competition. Some immense performances from the 4x25m freestyle relay team (including **Zach Garfield, Tomas Balnionis and Mark Oliver**) and **Mark Oliver** in the 25m freestyle individual , but most notably **Joe Garfield** setting Gala records in the 25m Butterfly and the Individual 100m medley. A bit like finishing behind USA and China at the Olympics! Full team: **Joe & Zach Garfield, Tomas Balnionis and Mark Oliver, Pasha Keray and James Buckley**".

I attended the annual conference for the Heads of Catholic Independent Schools held this year just off the M40 turning for Oxford. The keynote speech by a Jesuit whom I know well – Fr Adrian Porter – focused on the ministry of headship. Is it a vocation or a job? Within the context of both Catholic and Jesuit (or Ignatian) understanding, it is certainly a mission. The key picture is that of Christ washing the feet of his apostles before the Last Supper – the leader becomes servant: the headteacher must personify the notion that any talents are used in order to serve the school community for the Greater Glory of God (A.M.D.G.) It's a powerful message which each Head must interpret individually. For myself, it is what partly lies behind the amount of time I choose to be in the classroom – and maybe the length of time I have spent here.

I am pleased to announce that our local Member of Parliament and one of the Deputy Speakers of the House of Commons, Mrs Eleanor Laing, will preside at the formal opening of our new science and art and craft classrooms on Friday March 10th.

February Events:

Week beginning Monday January 30th	Staff Appraisal– Week 1. I shall be employed during the week in observing classes as part of the official annual appraisal process.
Wednesday February 1st	Anticipation of Candlemas Day (feast of the Purification of Our Lady/the Presentation in the Temple) which actually falls on February 2 nd – forty days after Christmas Day. Fr Selvini will celebrate Mass at the later time of 1.30 p.m. aided and abetted by the class of Elements
Friday February 3rd	Under 10 A and B soccer v Brentwood 2.30 p.m.
Tuesday February 7th	Rudiments no badminton this morning Mr Nicholson and Mrs Payne attending meeting for local Heads and Special Needs Co-ordinators at Avon House School 5.30 p.m.
Wednesday February 8th	Staff phonics meeting - EYFS and Key Stage 1 7.45 a.m. Mass with Fr Page now led by Figures – Feast of St Josephine Bahkita, whom Figures has been studying in R.E. classes. St Josephine is connected closely with the migration of peoples – and politically her Feast falls at a significant time following recent events. This is an opportunity to come and pray for the plight of refugees in particular. Mass starts at 10.30 a.m. Rudiments are visiting Pizza Express in Loughton – and will prepare their own lunches!
Thursday February 9th	Under 9 Rugby v St Aubyn’s 2.30 p.m. Additional Staff Training – Twilight Session – on

	use of Classroom Monitor pupil tracking system from 3.30 – 5.00 p.m.
Friday February 10th	Under 10 and 11 rugby v St Aubyn's 2.30 p.m. Mr Nicholson and Mrs Rosario attending conference meeting in London General Subject (excluding English and maths) Reports issued from Reception 2 to Figures ¹ Half Term commences
Saturday February 18th	Publication of local 7+ and 11+ results.
Monday February 20th	Half Term ends School Anti Bullying Week commences
Tuesday February 21st	Haileybury Whole Day Under 11 Hockey Tournament Under 11 A soccer v Chigwell 2.00 p.m. Bancroft's Science fair – members of Rudiments attending
Wednesday February 22nd	Prep led Mass with Fr Selvini 10.30 a.m.
Thursday February 23rd	Mrs Anthony attending safeguarding training (prevention of child exploitation)
Friday February 24th	Under 11 and 10 rugby v St Edmund's Prep 2.30 p.m.
Saturday February 25th	The Loyola Schola is singing at a High Mass celebrated by the Cardinal in Westminster Cathedral at 12.30 p.m. at the commissioning of a new Jumbulance – a coach that is equipped to take handicapped pilgrims to the shrine of Our Lady in Lourdes, Southern France. It is a great privilege to be asked. The Mass is a public celebration so all Loyola parents are invited to

¹ Please note that in Reception 2, reports will be issued for boys who entered the class in September. Reports for the younger cohort who entered the class in January will be issued at the end of term in March.

	attend.
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Birthdays

A very happy birthday to **Bieant Bains, Thierno Diallo, Kyle Dole, Jake Patel and James Bidgood.**

With all good wishes.

P.G.M. Nicholson

