



GC Enterprise

Our post-16 students in the GC are busy again on work to learn about earning money and on budgeting for how they use their income. Christmas cards, along with other special focus cards will be available; Coffee@TheGC is scheduled once each half term (the next one will be on Thursday 14th December), and they've even updated their Enterprise logo shown here. Do please encourage your friends and colleagues to support the students' work on this and to come along and enjoy some refreshments and to relax in the very comfortable facilities of the GC.



Christmas Productions

Filming is now pretty much 'in the can' and rehearsals for the live production are underway, so you can be assured of yet another wonderful pair of events just before we break up for Christmas. The Odeon cinema have very generously agreed to host our premiere yet again for our secondary and GC film, so do note the date: Tuesday 12th December, 10am for a 10.30am start. The live performance for our nursery and primary pupils is also planned for Tuesday 12th December, in the school hall to start at 2pm.

Children Singing for Children

Along with the Christmas events, next week on Thursday 9th November we have our annual Choir performance in the Children Singing for Children concerts at St Mary's. This starts at 7pm and, if any tickets are left, you may get them from Henry's Menswear in the High Street.

The Student Council

We had another tremendous surge of interest from pupils and students in representing their peers on our Student Council, and following an exciting assembly when the announcements were made we now have all of our class reps in place and their work will commence very shortly! We had 54 nominations in total, and Sarah Palmer, who volunteers to lead this, put together a terrific range of media pieces on the school server for each class to review the possible candidates and make their choices. The 11 members of the council will have some important work ahead in the Spring term when they are the face of the school in meeting our visiting dignitaries, Oxfordshire's Lord Lieutenant, Tim Stevenson and our High Sherriff, Jane Cranston.

Christmas Bazaar & Student Disco

The annual Christmas Bazaar is set for Sunday 19th November, with an increased focus on activities for our families' children and siblings. There is also a Student Christmas Disco happening on the following Sunday, 26th November. Both events will be in the school hall. Look out for further information in diaries and on the Friends of Frank Wise Facebook page.

Supplementing the School Budget

Those of you who remember the newsletter from earlier this year, in May 2017, perhaps recall that I devoted it to issues around funding of schools and the impact on our own setting. With the very active support of our governors, we have been working hard to explore potential new income streams, looking into areas where we can increase school lettings, school-developed products that we may possibly be able to turn into digital versions and sell, and a more recent idea to consider partnerships with various businesses who might find being linked with a highly successful school a positive choice that they would wish to support.

All of these are taking a substantial amount of work, but I just wanted to let you know that we aim to make sure that this school continues to offer the very best education we can to your children and this will persist no matter what the obstacles may be.

Pool Refurbishment

Unexpectedly, we have found that a problem has arisen with the tiled floor of the pool, and we have had specialist companies in to advise on how we repair and refurbish the pool basin to make sure it is fit for the next decade or more.

It is a very important facility for the school itself, but is also very well used by the local community and a significant part of the wider use of our school's facilities. Ironically, the hire of the pool is a key part of any potential increase in school lettings income we may be able to generate, but of course the crucial priority for us is to make sure that it can be used by our pupils for the foreseeable future. As estimates of the costs for removing the tiled lining of the pool, rectifying the problem and then re-lining it are coming in at around £16,500, we may well be announcing an appeal to help us with this and we will of course welcome any support you may be able to give us on this with regard to getting the word out there - please watch this space!