

## **Parent Governor Vacancies**

Since there were only two nominations the two Governor vacancies were filled by David Wright and Pete Vickers who will serve for a term of four years. I look forward to working with them both.

## **UKYP**



The UK Youth Parliament holds elections every year for MYPs (Members of the Youth Parliament) to be elected. We usually hold an internal school election to see who we want to be our candidate from Beckets. This year, four pupils have put their names forward - Laura Luong and Harriet Fallon from year 9, Daniel Moore from year 10 and Sally Jones from year 11. They all spoke in year group assemblies last week, about why pupils should vote for them. I was impressed with how articulate and thoughtful their ideas were. Ballot papers went out to forms and the successful candidate was Daniel Moore. As the winning pupil, Daniel will now become a candidate for the UKYP for Wakefield.

Katie Fallon

## **Drama**

Pupils from all year groups are feverishly preparing this years' school production of Oliver! From Food Glorious Food to Pick a Pocket or Two the last few weeks has seen over 50 of Beckets own singing, dancing and acting their way through the wonderful world of Oliver Twist.

Blocking for Act 1 is almost complete and work on Act 2 about to begin. Soloists are being put through their paces and even some of the staff are 'Oom-Pah-Pahing' their way into the musical.

Costumes have be pinned and sewn and the set designed and painted.

This year will hopefully see a brand new and exciting type of staging (thanks to the design of Mr. Rooney). We are well on the way to creating a Becketts 'must see' and we hope that many of you will show your support when tickets go on sale in January.

Lorna Good



## **Year Seven are fully 'Booked up'!**

“Booked Up gives every year 7 child in England their choice of a free book from a list of specially selected titles. The aim of Booked Up is to inspire excitement about reading and discovering new books and authors. We hope your child enjoys their Booked Up book and that it encourages them to continue reading. In addition to the books, we are now offering every year 7 student the opportunity to attend the Reading Group after school every Thursday 3-4pm in the library. We read, enjoy and most importantly talk about their favourite books. It is heart warming to hear students talking about plots and characters they love. They do this with so much zeal and excitement that it inspires me to read their recommendations” Nazia Nazir

## **The TRANSPORT Issue**

I am very grateful to all the people who have signed the petition and drummed up support for this important issue. Either directly or indirectly this will affect us all. It will affect the make up of our school communities. Communities which are essential and precious.

## **An Open Meeting where Cabinet members have been invited will take place at Becketts on 6<sup>th</sup> December**

If you haven't already done so I would urge you to write to your local councillor. A suggested model letter is below.

**Model letter**

Councillor (name can be found on Council website)  
Wakefield Council  
Town Hall  
Wood Street  
Wakefield  
WF1 2HQ

Your address

Date

**The proposal to remove of free denominational transport**

Dear

I am very concerned about the Council Cabinet proposal to remove free bus passes for Catholic families.

Whilst these bus passes are discretionary they have been in place since the 1944 Education Act was passed and have been provided to support Catholic families who choose to send their child to Catholic schools but have to travel a significant distance to do so.

Catholic families are entitled to want to send their children to a Catholic school without hindrance.

Catholic education is a precious thing and adds to the rich diversity of provision in Wakefield as well as delivering high quality provision to Wakefield's children. It is a privilege that the Catholic community pays for already. It provides a distinctive and a unique dimension in state education.

The impact on my family will be (state financial implication if appropriate)

This proposal poses another potential threat in an increasingly secular society to the position of faith-based education as well as putting an extra financial burden on already hard-pressed families.

Please reply to this letter outlining your stance on the matter and whether I can count on your support.

Yours sincerely,

**Open and public meeting to discuss the Cabinet proposal to remove free bus passes for Catholic families Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at St Thomas a Becket Catholic High School.**

Dear parent/carer/parishioner,

Further to all the recent correspondence and noting that the LA have made a 'u turn' on the format of consultation we would like to invite you to a public meeting on **6<sup>th</sup> December 2010 between 7pm and 8pm** in the main hall.

The Cabinet members responsible for the proposal have been invited.

Feedback received so far would suggest that the Cabinet believe that the consultation only involves those affected families and, as such, is a decision for Cabinet only.

If you have a concern about the impact this proposal will have on hard pressed families and if you share a passion for preserving and protecting Catholic education in the district then we urge you to attend and make your voice heard. **We know that a strong turnout can affect the course of this proposal.**

Thank you for what you may have already done so far.

We have the support of Councillors David Hopkins, Richard Molloy, Graham Jesty, Laurie Harrison and Anne-Marie Glover, former councillors Norman and Brian Hazell and Jon Trickett MP.

Please complete the reply slip below returning it to Colleen Parker at Becketts by **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** to enable us to plan for this event.

Alternatively you may email your reply to [cparker@st-thomasabecket.wakefield.sch.uk](mailto:cparker@st-thomasabecket.wakefield.sch.uk) or telephone her on 01924 303545.

Fr Tim Swinglehurst

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**Open and public meeting to discuss the Cabinet proposal to remove free bus passes for Catholic families Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at St Thomas a Becket Catholic High School.**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at the meeting

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ phone contact \_\_\_\_\_

**Advance notice and reminders**

**Transport Consultation deadline 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**Form period Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November to look at progress towards targets**

**Interim Report (1) to parents – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 7-8pm Open Meeting to Discuss Council proposal to remove free bus passes for Catholic families at Becketts**

**Christmas Dinner 14<sup>th</sup> December – no other meals will be served on this day. Details to follow**

**Advent Service 15<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm**

**Early closure 1.10pm - 16<sup>th</sup> December**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rooney', with a horizontal line underneath.

John Rooney Headteacher