

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been an incredibly busy week at SJT with over half the school taking part in the sponsored walk in recognition of the establishment of Sir John Talbot's School. Now in its 468th year it is one of the oldest schools in the country. Sir John Talbot, born in 1386 at Blakemere, was twice governor of Ireland. He fought in the Hundred Years War and was immortalised by Shakespeare in 'Henry IV' as the "Scourge of France", and is also thought to have fought against the legendary Joan of Arc. He was the first Earl of Shrewsbury, and was killed in the last battle at Castillon near Bordeaux in 1453 (allegedly with his younger son). At his request his heart was brought back to Whitchurch and buried under the porch of the parish church, St Alkmund's. In 1548, a descendant, another John Talbot, left £200 to found a school in Whitchurch which would be free from church control and become our present school.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening saw nearly 400 from the community and surrounding areas viewing Sir John Talbot's School and its facilities. Mr O'Toole, Headteacher gave a compelling talk to prospective parents and carers followed by tours of the school to take part in departmental activities and experiments. Thank you to all who attended the Open Evening and made it such a resounding success.

House Competitions

New House Captains were elected this week and the first house competition launched. Students have been asked to create a project which commemorates the end of World War I and we look forward to seeing the finished results

Colomendy

A group of 90 excited Year 7 students assembled in the hall on Friday afternoon ready to depart for a weekend of team building and adventure at Colomendy, Pictures will be shared in next week's bulletin.

DofE

A large number of students have signed up for our very successful and established Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme run by Mrs Morcumb, Head of DofE. Next weekend our Silver DofE students take on the Snowdon Challenge.

Miss Webb, Head of Key Stage 3 and Mrs Apperley, Head of Key Stage 4

Open Evening

Open Evening saw nearly 400 local people viewing the Sir John Talbot's School facilities. Mr O'Toole gave a compelling talk to prospective parents and carers followed by tours around to experience learning come alive, with departmental experiments and displays.

Thank you to all staff and students who helped during the evening and made it a resounding success.



Willow Workshop

Students have been busy preparing for the Blackberry Fair this week as they have been learning about willow and putting together these tremendous pieces of art.



The Blackberry Fair takes place on Saturday 6th October in Whitchurch. The fair, in its tenth year, is a community event with workshops, music, acts, stalls, local traders and plenty to do for all the family. Thank you to Mrs Clarke, Art Subject Lead and Sarah Gallagher-Hayes from Twig Twisters for her help and expertise.



Trust News

The Grove School, based in Market Drayton, is looking to join the Marches Academy Trust on 1st December 2018. There will be an open meeting at the Grove School on Tuesday 2nd October at 6pm to discuss the school joining the Trust, and all are welcome to attend to have any questions answered.

5 a-side Football at Thomas Adams School

Our Year 7 Boys' Football Team made a very good start to the season as they made the short trip to Thomas Adams School in Wem for a North Shropshire tournament. The boys made the semi-final and lost to Lakelands school. In their group matches they beat Grove School and hosts Thomas Adams. The eventual winners were the Marches School who the boys lost to narrowly in their group match. Well done to the boys for an impressive first outing and good luck for the remainder of the season.



Year 9 Girls Rugby

Our Year 9 girls attended a rugby session at Oswestry RUFC this week and learnt skills that will prepare them for their forthcoming tournament. They enjoyed themselves immensely and now look forward to playing in the tournament against the Marches School, Oswestry School and Corbet School next week. We wish the girls good luck.



Sponsored Walk

Key Stage 3 students 9 took part in the annual Founders Day walk, which celebrates the day the school was founded in September in 1550. Students took part in a six-mile walk around local farmland by courtesy of Mr and Mrs Taylor of Lea Hall Farm, Ash who we are very grateful to for supporting the school in this way. Well done to everyone who took part and for raising funds towards school equipment. All sponsor money should be handed to reception by Monday 1st October.



Reminders

Term Dates 2018 – 2019

Autumn Term 2018

Tuesday 4th September to Friday 21st December

Half term: Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November

PD Day: Friday 26th October

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January to Friday 12th April

Half term: Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February

PD Days: Friday 15th February, Monday 25th February

Summer Term 2019

Monday 29th April to Friday 19th July

Half term: Monday 27th to Friday 31st May

PD Day: Monday 22nd July

Term dates for the academic year 2019 – 2020 can be found online [here](http://www.sirjohntalbots.co.uk).

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