



**ST EDMUND'S  
SCHOOL**  
CANTERBURY



**10<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

# Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for making me welcome as Acting Head of Junior School. Having experienced the Junior School community as a parent, it is great to have the opportunity to lead the school which transformed my son Zak's education a few years ago.

This week I have met many pupils in Years 3 to 8. They have been courteous, friendly and bubbly. In School Council today the pupils discussed how to make St Edmund's a greener and more carbon neutral school. Judging from Josie Weed and Thomas Hamilton-Woodthorpe's suggestion to introduce solar panels, they may well already have been advising the Bursar! I cannot wait to get into more classes and I will report back on this next week.

In Head's Line this week we discussed my favourite story by called 'The Wicked Worm'. It is humorous but the key message is about not hiding our worries, seeking help and working together to find solutions. I urged the children to talk to the people they trust about any worries or problems they may have. A problem shared is always a problem halved.

I have asked the other members of the new team to write a brief report on their first week at the Junior School.

Kelly French, Head of Pastoral Care

*"I have thoroughly enjoyed my first week in my new role. I have spent time being visible to the children during their breaks, watching them play, interact and socialise. Although I have spent 3 years as Houseparent in School House it has been great to be amongst all of the children, putting faces to names and getting to know them, and in turn, becoming a familiar and friendly face for them. To work in such an inspiring environment, within a supportive team and surrounded by such happy children, is very uplifting."*

Ross Comfort, Director of Studies

*The first week of the new year has been busy but thoroughly enjoyable in equal measure. This has been aided by the welcoming nature of our fantastic staff and lovely pupils. We have now scheduled our Heads of Department meeting next week, organised our wonderful Form 7 Experience days and the Scholarship process is in full swing. One other interesting activity was the beginnings of an assessment review, including a productive meeting with GL Assessment who run our educational testing programmes. We all appreciated the time that Form 6 parents took to attend the forum and we look forward to seeing many more of you over the coming weeks. In the interim, if you have any concerns or questions regarding the academic life of your son/daughter please do not hesitate to contact me.*



## Sport Round Up Michaelmas Term 2019

Of course it is 'the taking part that counts' and we, the Junior School PE Department, cater for this familiar British maxim on a yearly basis. With our comprehensive fixture card now complete for the Michaelmas Term, we can now look back on another term where over 150 children have played in school fixtures, every girl and boy from F5 to 8 playing in a team.

However, we do not generally gloat at our success but choose to be low key in our praise and promotion, giving well earned mention when it is truly deserved and our young sports people totally understand this to their credit.

Wins against Junior King's, Wellesley House, Dover College, Northbourne Park, Saint Lawrence College, Duke of York, King's Rochester, have been recorded at all levels and age groups this term.

Now to show off...

This has been perhaps been our most successful term in the last 15 years under the leadership and guidance of Mrs Relf, and here are the headlines to prove it:

- Under 13A Girls hockey team unbeaten in 12 matches with only one loss
- Under 11A Girls hockey team unbeaten in 13 matches with only one loss
- Under 13A Boys football team unbeaten in 10 matches, Molten League and Shapira Cup Winners
- Under 11A Boys football team unbeaten in 12 matches Molten League Runners Up with only one loss
- Sports Scholar Programme extended to Gifted and Talented, and invited pupils twice weekly
- 5 runners qualified for County Cross Country Finals after Christmas
- Every child from F3 to 8 given opportunity to take part in and understand a series of simple physical tests
- Wake Up and Shake Up fitness club flourishes in its 10th year
- 60 JS pupils sign up for Netherlands Easter Sports Tour and 50 prepare to ski in The Rocky Mountains

The above does not say it all but we are extremely proud of all of our children's physical efforts, and growing understanding of team work, success and failure. We stand by our philosophy of Discipline First, Fun Second but Participation before Excellence whilst catering for the needs of Excellence at every opportunity. Our JS PE office continues to buzz at break times as a pastoral hub with visitors from around the whole St Edmund's community, with ex JS pupils mixing with young. Although the choice of music at times does not meet everyone's taste, conversation is sporty, sometimes serious but on the whole, fun.

Thank you for your support and appreciation of our ongoing pursuit of sporting participation and excellence in JS sport and here is to another successful Lent Term to start the new sporting decade.

Mrs Relf, Mr Buckingham and Mr Penn.





## Now for the action...







## Christmas for the Choristers

The Choristers worked extremely hard singing in 15 services over the 10 days up to and including Christmas day, producing some outstanding performances and doing us proud.

As well as the 5 Christmas dinners they enjoyed, they also had lots of thoroughly deserved fun and treats. The boys enjoyed a trip to the panto, trampolining and climbing sessions, Christmas shopping at Bluewater and a visit to the Old Palace (the Archbishop of Canterbury's residence in the cathedral precincts) for a treasure hunt with him and his team.

Chorister families also enjoyed lunch together in Choir house on Christmas day. Well done to the XVI for all their hard work.



## George Gannon (7B) at the Winter Gardens

Over the Christmas break George Gannon performed at The Winter Gardens in Margate.

George was the solo soprano singing with The Kent Sinfonia to accompany screenings of the enchanting animations 'The Bear' and 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs.

It was a great experience, very Christmassy and he loved every minute of it.

Many congratulations, George!



I look forward to working with you all over the coming weeks.  
Best wishes,

Anya Bensberg  
Acting Head of Junior School



## Next Week

The week ahead: **w/c 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b>    |   |
| <b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>   | Hockey: Boys U14A, Boys U15A V Junior Inter-house Hockey (TBC)<br>Netball: Girls U14A V Junior Inter-house Netball (TBC)<br>Hockey: Kent College V Boys U14A  |
| <b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b> | Netball: Dover College Prep V Girls U11A (Away)<br>Team Trials – U13 Netball<br>Hockey: King's Rochester V Boys U11A<br>Hockey: Sutton Valence School V Boys U13A<br>Hockey: Boys U13A V Sutton Valence School<br>Hockey Sevens: King's Rochester V Boys U11A, Boys U11B, Boys U11C, Boys U11D (Away) |
| <b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January</b>  | Experience Day for Year 7 Entry   |
| <b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>    | Experience Day for Year 7 Entry   |
| <b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>  | Testing Morning for Year 7 Entry<br>Joint Evensong with Rochester (Rochester Cathedral)   |
| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b>    |   |

## Pick-up times

|                                 |         |                  |             |      |        |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------|-------------|------|--------|
| <b>Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | Netball | Dover College    | U11 A       | Away | 4.15pm |
| <b>Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | Hockey  | King's Rochester | U11 A       | Away | 4.30pm |
| <b>Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | Hockey  | Sutton Valence   | U13 A       | Away | 5.15pm |
| <b>Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | Hockey  | Sutton Valence   | U13 A       | Home | 4.00pm |
| <b>Weds 15<sup>th</sup> Jan</b> | Hockey  | King's Rochester | U11 A,B,C,D | Away | 4.30pm |