



24th January 2020

Junior School News

As final weeks of January set in, the Junior School continues to be full of warmth and light, in contrast to the dim murk outside.

On Friday afternoon I went for a walk to see what pupils were up to. In the Upper School Geography class 7C were estimating the impact falling rain on surfaces. On the playground I found Mr Southey teaching hockey dribbling skills to the boys in Form 3 and 4. I then headed down to the Drama department where, surprisingly, Drama set 8B were acting out a '30 second murders' and (less surprisingly) the quality of acting was sublime.

Here is a little more action from this week....

Cake Sale for World Wildlife Foundation

On Friday 24th of January we had an amazing cake sale. We raised over £200. The cakes were absolutely amazing and everyone had fun. It was in honour of the horrible fires in Australian that are killing so many species. With the money that we give them lots of animals are being taken to safe protective place. Just in under five minutes the cake stands were crowded as people went in for more. The treats looked amazing, thank you so much for donating these cakes that you made. The staff worked really hard and the people serving us were lovely. Thank you so much everyone for your tasty treats. This cake sale was truly amazing and thoughtful.

Abigail Beale, Form 8





Diploma Successes

This week Mr Comfort and I marked Diplomas completed by Toral Patel and Henry Goodwin (Form 8).

Henry Goodwin – *Henry's Diploma project explores imaginary and complex numbers. He examined the complex history of the development of integers, rational numbers and many more through an in-depth study spanning from Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece to the 18th Century and the mathematician Leonhard Euler.*

This was an extensively researched and detailed project and, by the time I arrived at the concluding section entitled 'The Most Beautiful Theorem in Mathematics', I was certainly in need of a cup of tea and a refresher course on Pythagoras! Mr Comfort

Toral Patel – *Toral gave a confident and slick presentation about Judo, a martial arts sport that originated in Japan and involves lifting and throwing opponents onto their backs. Toral has been learning Judo since age 6 and has progressed to top Ku level at her local club in Ashford.*

The presentation featured a section on the many benefits of Judo and other martial arts: learning respect, building character and developing social and problem building skills as well as health and physical benefits. Well done Toral. Mrs Bensberg

Learning Walks

Mr Comfort (Director of Studies) has completed the first week of a fortnight of 'learning walks' which involve visiting classes in order to explore teaching and learning. His report is below:

What struck me most was the creativity on offer across the curriculum and across every year group. Some examples are below:

- Form 8 were designing ergonomic handles for pizza cutters and toothbrushes using Plasticine to mould ideas before heading into the workshop to create their products
- Chocolate chip cookies were baked (including gluten free) where students were independently baking and tinkering with the recipes
- Poetry about God was written and read aloud to the class- well done **Emily Press!**
- Form 3 were designing and creating elements of totem poles and dream catchers as part of their Native American study
- English lessons saw a 'Preposition cube' used to develop ideas and differentiated 'Macbeth' resources were used to help students engage with Shakespeare
- Spanish monsters were being created and ideas delivered to the class
- ICT was used in Geography to research and create quizzes about Kenya
- In Maths, experiments using salt and sugar were being designed to explore the rate of dissolving
- 'IF' functions were being created in spreadsheets in an ICT lesson

The list could go on as there were examples of this type of imaginative learning in every single lesson observed without exception.

Long may it continue!



Form 8 Religious Studies

Mrs Wakefield's Religious Studies class (8A) is studying the Muslim world, looking in depth at the Arabic language and the Koran.

In today's lesson pupils learnt about Arabic calligraphy and it's special role in artistry since words (not pictures of animals or people) are the only way to show praise to God. The class created their own artwork using Arabic calligraphy.

Special commendations to **Leo Roath, Sam Berry, Charlie Emson, Masha Polgase-Korosteleva, Fabian Crooks, Emmie Jackson, Arthur Underwood and Leo Watters** for their beautiful plates, featured below and in the Newsletter header.



Library Lessons

The Junior School Library continues to go from strength to strength and the Accelerated Reader programme is flourishing.

Recently I have visited library lessons for Form 4 and Form 7. In Form 4, **Eliana Rogers-Bricout** showed me how to get out a library book, using the 'old fashioned' card and stamp system some of us remember from pre-digital times! This clever system gives children from Form 3 upwards complete freedom to independently return and borrow library books.

Today class English 7C began fortnightly AR library lessons with Mrs Elford. When I visited the class, **Fraser Bennett** was avidly reading a book about very small horses.





Pix Challenge Reminder

Back in November we wrote about an exciting opportunity for Forms 3 to 6. In order for pupils to participate, permission must be granted by a legal guardian. The competition will run during the school day however, the semi-final and final will be held on a Saturday that will be supervised by Miss Barnes. Please see our initial article below:

Having announced the Open Coding Competition for pupils in Forms 7 and 8 in a previous newsletter, an exciting opportunity has arisen for pupils in F3 to F6 to participate in their very own coding competition!

The competition is international, involving other countries such as Nigeria and India. Pupils will complete challenges in a block programming environment very similar to "Scratch", a language which all St Edmund's pupils have already learned to code in.

The biggest benefits for pupils entering the competition are; the development of problem solving skills in a competitive environment which will aid in the development of their individual resilience, and greater exposure to the sorts of skills that will be required in the future. We are especially excited at the prospect of getting through to the final to win one of the fantastic prizes which include tablets, programmable robots and books.

We invite parents of Form 3 to Form 6 to review the information attached along with the Newsletter and to provide parental consent for your child to take part, and/or contact us with any questions. Consent should be submitted before **22nd February 2020** to allow us time to complete the administrative tasks. You can contact Miss Barnes direct via email seb@stedmunds.org.uk.

Touch typing

Since returning from the Christmas break, pupils in Form 3 to Form 5 have started touch typing as part of the Lent scheme of work in Computer Science and ICT. On first thoughts, touch typing may not seem like such a beneficial skill to develop however, looking at the research the benefits are many. Over time, pupils will notice an improvement in speed, accuracy, time it takes to complete typing tasks, health as it reduces the risk of RSI, and fatigue. Learning to type in such an efficient manner reduces the cognitive load on a pupil. When completing a task, knowing how to touch type means they are not having to think about where they are placing their hands on the keyboard, they are thinking about the task they have to complete, perhaps allowing them to complete the task to a better or greater standard. Using less cognitive load on a task reduces the risk of fatigue as a result of having to consider so many things at once.

It is, of course, also possible that pupils will be sitting exams on computers and typing at speed with great accuracy allows them to answer questions in greater depth and complete far more in the time given.

If you would like to support your child with this valuable skill, they can practice at home using <https://www.kidztype.com/tags/bbc-typing/>. This is a fun and interactive site. If you as a parent/guardian are looking to develop the skill, there are many free sites to choose from. It would be great to hear if this is something you have found useful to read.

Samantha Barnes

Head of Junior School ICT and Computer Science



Participation, Performance and Excellence in Junior School Sport

It was yet another week of full on JS sporting fixtures, 14 in total, with all girls in Form 5 to 8 playing and boys from Form 4 to 6, with 4 more boys hockey fixtures for F7/8 this coming Monday afternoon.

As the sporting adage reminds us, 'winning becomes a habit' and after the success of 2019, our Junior School Netball teams followed on from the hockey excellence of last term.

The Under 13a team won comfortably away to the strong St Lawrence College 18-7 combining both sporting intelligence and aggression in the appropriate quantities. The Under 11a team who improved so much as a hockey squad, quickly transferred their skills and understanding to the netball court eventually drawing 10-10 having lead 6-2 at half time it was at times unbelievable mature play from our young girls.

With the Under 11/10 boys playing Kings Rochester Friday afternoon, good wins also continued their sporting progress with 6 fixtures allowing 40 boys to play competitive sport. What a great sight with our all-weather pitch filled to brim and the netball courts below buzzing with skills sessions.

We have spent much of our sports scholar and gifted and talented sessions this year focusing on the role one plays within the team environment. It really has worked and reflected in the sporting development of our scholars but most importantly, has now begun to filter into the day to day sporting life of our JS pupils and teams, which is reflected in the results and participation numbers mentioned above. It takes time to develop a strong team ethos but for many years we, Mrs Relf, Mr Buckingham and myself have stuck to some simple rules:

- *Disciplined approach*
- *Fun delivery*
- *Technical base*
- *Respect for others and their varying abilities*
- *Humble in success and understanding defeat*
- *Being truthful to yourself and the team.*

The above values we have always believed underpin all of Junior School Sport and are skills that can be transferred through life.

The JS Sports Department

Participation, Performance and Excellence: Sport Montage





Finally, congratulations to **Daisy Baker, Jodi Hughes, Barnaby Gilham, Harry Hodgson, Freddie Post, Matthew Williams** for gaining their Bronze star certificates
Danny Shaw and Violet Vant for gaining their Silver star certificates
Eddie Florence for gaining his Platinum star certificate
Josh Coleman for gaining his 'second time around' Bronze star certificate
Leo Smith Harris and Edward Underwood for gaining their Certificates of Excellence
Joran Kearney, Harry Hodgson, Alice Yeomans-Attwood, Emma Sharp-Kinsey, Niamh Davis and Oliver Bradley for gaining their Toe by Toe Certificates of Achievement
Yasar Zhao for gaining his Grade 8 violin certificate (with distinction)
Henry Goodwin and Toral Patel for completing their diplomas.

Have a lovely weekend!

Anya Bensberg
Acting Head of Junior School

Next Week

The week ahead: **w/c 27th January 2020**

Monday 27th January	Scholarship Testing all week 09:00-12:30 PSHEE Session – Form 7 and 8 15:00 Hockey: Boys U13A v Sir Roger Manwood's (Home)
Tuesday 28th January	XVI sing at Consecration
Wednesday 29th January	F4 Trip to Roman Museum 14:00 Netball: Girls U13 A,B,C,D,E v Junior King's (Away) 14:00 – Netball: Girls U11 A,B,C v Junior King's (Home)
Thursday 30th January	
Friday 31st January	
Saturday 1st February	
Sunday 2nd February	

Pick-up times

Wed 29 th January	Netball	Junior King's	U13 A,B,C,D	Away	4.15pm
Wed 29 th January	Netball	Junior King's	U11 A,B,C	Home	3.45pm



Looking ahead

Girls' Night Out..... At the Musicals

Holy Cross Church
Goodnestone
Saturday February 1st
7.00pm

Catherine Futcher - Soprano

Sally MacLean - Soprano

Tim Frost - Piano

Songs from stage and screen

Retiring Collection



www.goodnestonemusic.com

Girls' Night Out... At the Musicals

On Saturday Feb 1st, St. Edmund's singing teacher Catherine Futcher will be singing in an informal FREE concert at Goodnestone Church.

Catherine and fellow soprano Sally present a varied programme of duets and solos from the musical theatre stage along with a few movie classics. Suitable for all ages, with something for everyone!

E Safety If parents have any concerns about their son or daughter's online security, they should immediately contact Ross Underwood, DSL & E-Safety Co-ordinator. He can either be called via the school office on 01227 475600 or emailed at rpu@stedmunds.org.uk.

Keep up to date with life at St Edmund's by looking online at:

[Website news for Pre-Prep, Junior and Senior Schools](#)

[The Head's Blog from Mr O'Connor](#)

[The Boarding Blog](#)

And don't forget you can also follow us in Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

