



Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There are some weeks when as a Head you can't help but be overwhelmed by the sheer talent that you get to observe when working with your pupils. This week has been one of those weeks! We started with Upper School Sports' Day last Saturday, where I was extremely touched by the camaraderie shown by children who participated with such enthusiasm, stepped into any gaps and competed in extra events when asked to ensure that their House had the best possible chance of winning the Cup. The atmosphere was wonderful, and it was fantastic to see how many of the children chose to run in the optional 1200m – 67! In amongst the wonderful team spirit, there were also some fantastic individual performances, with a number of school records being broken. You can read all about that later in my newsletter.

On Monday it was the dress rehearsal of the Form 3 Pirate Chapel performance, which is always performed to the Pre Prep. They were a very encouraging audience, and the children were extremely excited about performing to the rest of the Junior School and the Form 3 parents on Tuesday. In fact, the performance was so well received, that Mr O'Connor asked the children if they would mind doing a further encore – this time performing to all of the Senior School during their chapel time on Wednesday. It turns out that the Pirate Chapel had become something of a talking point because when I met Curtis Stigers after his opening night performance as part of the St Edmund's Festival, he asked me if I was the singing pirate, and when I admitted I was, he pretended to be a pirate in our photo as a present for the Form 3s – what a thoroughly lovely man!



Friday, Monday and Tuesday saw the heats for the Junior School Music Festival, with 156 entries for 25 classes, there was a great deal of interest. Over the first 3 days, around 4 acts per class were selected to go through to the Semi-Finals. Those 4 acts then performed again on Thursday for our adjudicator Professor Grenville Hancox MBE. Another thoroughly lovely man, he gave a sensitive and thoughtful adjudication for every class before declaring the first and second placed performers, with the performer who gained first place going through into the Winners' Concert on Thursday afternoon. I was absolutely blown away by the talent in the room, and unbelievably proud of the Junior School children who all played phenomenally well. Grenville himself told me that he was extremely impressed by the standard of what the children are doing. He summed up by remarking how much better a place he believed the world would be if all children were given the chance to participate in making music the way that our children are.



Talking of phenomenal performances, Thursday night was then topped off by the Pupil Cabaret which was performed as part of the Festival. The number of Junior School acts had increased this year, and I am extremely proud to say that the Junior School children were totally un-phased by the superb talent of the Senior School pupils, and actually more than held their own. I was blown away by just how good the evening was – it was easy to forget that everyone who performed was aged 18 or under, with Cora Regan-Mears (F4) the youngest at 9 years old!

Today, the 47 children who are members of Upper and Lower Junior School Choirs and the Musical Theatre group were all given the opportunity to participate in a Gospel Singing Workshop with Louise Marshall. This culminated in a breath taking performance at 2.15pm in the Chapel, where some of the Junior School children performed the most fabulous solos.

Don't forget that there are lots more opportunities for you to see the amazing talents of our children during the festival. The Junior School Production will be performed as part of the 'Fairy Tales' event on Saturday at 6pm in the Theatre, 3 Junior School children will be performing as part of the performance of 'Passion' on Monday night with Esme O'Connor, Alex Castle and the Tippett Quartet, and lots of the Junior School children as well as Senior School pupils and several staff will be performing in 'Abba-Dabba-Doo' on Tuesday. There are also a number of other opportunities to see the talents of the Senior School pupils – whether it is visiting the Art and Design Exhibition, or going to the 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party' or seeing the opening acts for 'Open Water' on Saturday night, not to mention the amazing professional acts, the painting workshop, the MCC Cricket match, the salsa class and the cookery demo! I must also not forget to mention the Pre Prep Art Exhibition. I feel exhausted just writing about it all and I hope to see you there.

Next week we have more exciting sporting events, with the Lower and Upper School Swimming Galas and the Junior School Triathlon. I simply can't wait!

Another important date for your diary is the reminder that Junior School Speeches and Prize Giving will be at 7pm on Thursday 4th July at the Colyer-Fergusson Hall at the University of Kent. Please let Mrs King know if you intend to come back to school for refreshments in the Festival marquee afterwards. We need an idea of numbers for catering purposes.

Junior School Sport

It was sport as usual throughout the week as we continued our swimming lessons during PE in preparation for next week's Triathlon and the Lower and Upper School Swimming Galas, which will complete a busy sporting year in the Junior School. All children are getting at least an hour's swim each week, where they are taught basic water safety and a full range of strokes in our fantastic heated pool.

Cricket continues for both boys and girls, but it was the Under 11 girls' cricket team that once again deserve praise for their 2nd win of the season against Junior King's. They have now completed an unbeaten first season.

Next week sees the finale of our competitive 'in house' events with the Triathlon starting at 9.15am on Tuesday, the Lower School Swimming Gala at 10.15am on Wednesday, and Upper School Swimming Gala at 2pm on Wednesday. Please come along and support the children while they compete in these sporting events. It promises to be a fantastic way to finish a great sporting school year.

Forms 6-8 Celebrate National School Sports' Week

To celebrate National School Sports' Week pupils from Y6 to Y8 took part in a mini sports' festival on Wednesday. The children participated in a range of alternative activities including an obstacle course, tug of war, dodge ball and ultimate Frisbee. The afternoon encouraged pupils to be active, work as a team and participate in fun and friendly competition. Thanks go to Mrs Relf, Mrs Lea, Mr Penn and Mr Buckingham for giving the children a great opportunity.



Success in the Junior Mathematical Challenge 2019

The results are in for the UK Mathematics Trust, Junior Mathematical Challenge 2019. Patrick Sutton (F8), once again, took the top prize gaining Best in School, Best in Year and Gold certificates. Just one point behind was Henry Goodwin (F7), picking up Best in Year and Gold certificates. The following pupils achieved gold, silver or bronze certificates.

Anthony Oyella-Barnard (F8) Silver	Thomas Pennington-Arnold (F8) Bronze	Luke Robinson (F7) Bronze
Archie Carlin (F8) Silver	Orla Wanstall (F8) Bronze	William Bradley (F7) Bronze
Jasper Smallwood (F8) Silver	Fabian Crooks (F7) Gold	Emily Jackson (F7) Bronze
Thomas Margrett (F8) Silver	Leo Watters (F7) Gold	Marcus Crossman (F7) Bronze
Sunip Gurung (F8) Bronze	Michael Nkereuwem (F7) Silver	George Sutton (F6) Bronze
Jens Chappell (F8) Bronze	Jonathan Harris-Harding (F7) Bronze	
Theo Bawtree (F8) Bronze	Samuel Berry (F7) Bronze	

Well done to everyone who took part.

Becket House Epic Cycle Challenge

10 hours and over 1000 miles completed! At 7:30 am, on Tuesday morning, the wheels began to roll on Becket House's 'Epic' cycle challenge. The purpose of the event was to emulate the Pilgrims Hospices' cycle ride which covered a 125 mile route around the areas of Kent which they support.

Children, teachers and parents donated their money, time and effort to create an event fit for the St Edmund's hall of fame. A special thanks to the parents who were accosted at the school gates and jumped on the bikes for an extensive period of time - we truly appreciated it!

As the school day began and with the sun over the top of their gazebos, groups of children from Becket House began to descend onto the bikes. From Form 3 to Form 8, all children peddled hard as 80's and 90s rock music filled the air! At break and lunch time, all children were able to show their support, and it was inspiring to see how many wanted to be involved. Smiles and laughter radiated from the front of the school and we couldn't have been more proud of the children's achievements. A huge thanks must also go out to ex-Becket pupils and Senior School staff who also came over to keep the wheels moving on our event.

With an initial target of 125 miles per bike, Becket House staff believed it was going to be tough to finish within the time limit. However, the target was demolished by lunchtime and a new collective target of a 1000 miles overall was set. As the day drew to a close, uncertainty remained. A quick add up revealed that we reached a whopping 1025 miles! Flabbergasted, a cheer bellowed from all, and a flurry of high fives and fist pumps ensued. We had made it.

Currently, our Just Giving page has reached our £500 target. An 'epic' effort raised an 'epic' amount for an 'epic' charity. However, can we do more? That total has been reached from only 17 donations! The Pilgrims Hospices have helped so many who are so close to so many of us. If you haven't donated yet, there is still time! We will keep the just giving page open until the end of term so please donate if you can. Don't feel that you have to match the larger amounts which have been donated – even donating £1 will help. The fundraising site can be found at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/beckethousecyclechallenge>.

I would like to say a big particular thanks to Mr Pellett who organised the loan of all of the bikes from the University of Kent gym and set them up at school, to Mrs Vafidis who masterminded the logistics, and got people moving, to Miss Harding who was full of enthusiasm and simply did whatever was needed, and to Mrs Burden who baked 10 full size cakes the night before to sell to help raise additional funds. Obviously, I also can't possibly forget the children, staff and parents who helped to chalk up all of those miles on the bike clocks. They have all helped to make this event something of which the St Edmund's community can be truly proud. We will announce the final total including the bucket collection and the proceeds from the stall in next week's newsletter



OCEAN COMMOTION & TROUBLE AT SEA

Lower School Pirate Chapel 2019

Three cheers for the Green Dragon Pirate Crew of 2019. What an adventure they had! Demonstrating some impressive Pirate lingo, songs and action, our Form 3 Pirates managed to pass sharks, a fiercely thundering Pirate King, the smelliest Bosun ever (pretending to have risen to the state of a Captain) and even the frightful crocodile to find and save their best friend Pete P. Well done to everyone involved, including Forms 4 & 5, Dr Margrett and Chaplain Bennett for their energetic and most impressive performances!

Ultimately, I will of course have to make all of them walk the plank!

Hahahahaarrrgh!

Pirate Thyssen



Jasper's Rugby Success

Congratulations go to Jasper Smallwood (F8) who has been selected for the Kent U14 Rugby Squad. Well done Jasper!

Will's Team are Crowned National Champions

Congratulations also go to Will Hosking (F8) whose Roller Hockey team Herne Bay United were crowned National U15 champions last week. This qualifies them to play in the U15 European club tournament in October against 15 other teams. We look forward to hearing how they get on.



Upper School Sports Day

Last Saturday it was the turn of Upper School to have their Sports Day. We were very lucky to be blessed with fantastic weather, great support from staff and parents, and of course brilliant participation from the children of the Upper School.

After a 6 weeks of teaching the disciplines, and the heats which took place prior to the day to assist with the allocation of House places, the Thursday morning was set aside for the majority of the Throwing events, leaving Saturday morning free for the runs and jumps.

With music pumping, a fresh voice on the microphone, courtesy of our Teaching Assistant Miss Harding, and 'Old Timers', Mr Southey as Starter and Mr Hooley as Race Statistician, the staff ably supported the excited and nervous competitors, who competed in a series of 57 events!

The Junior School PE Department put a great deal of effort into trying to encourage 100% participation in their many events and fixtures, and this year was no exception with 67 pupils choosing to take part in the open 1200m event. Each child who participated earned one point for their House as long as they jogged the whole distance. Our hard core runners were encouraged to go for gold, with Zoe Rogers (F8) and Henry Goodwin (F7) putting in powerful winning performances.

Records fell over the 2 days, with Adelina Harte taking the Form 6 school Vortex throw, Henry Goodwin the Form 7 Boys' 200m, Jasper Smallwood the Form 8 200m and Holly Allom the F7 Girls' 200m and Long Jump Records.

There were many great all round performances but it was Holly Allom and Dali Tabony who shared the Victrix Ludorum trophy and Henry Goodwin and Jasper Smallwood who shared the Victor Ludorum. Roper House won the House cup.

Thanks once again must go to Mrs Relf for masterminding the run up to and the 2 days of events, and to Mr Penn and Mr Buckingham for all of their support as well as the other PE staff and class teachers who all played their parts. In addition, I would like to that Parents' Association for their support with refreshments, my husband for stepping into the breach when we were one time keeper down, and to the children for their enthusiasm, determination and support of the JS PE Department. It was such a lovely atmosphere. Next year, I think we should end the event with a BBQ!



Junior School Music Festival

Winners of the Classes were as follows:

Beginners (any Instrument): Rohan Lowe (F4)
Beginners (piano): Dylan Shearer (F6)
Piano Elementary: Mael Staehler (Dragonflies)
Piano Intermediate: George Gannon (F6)
Piano Advanced: Ami Watters (F5)
Woodwind Elementary: George Gannon (F6)
Woodwind Intermediate: Rhyd Lowe (F6)
Woodwind Advanced: Oliver Tesic (F7)
Strings Elementary: Charlie Alexander (F7)
Strings Intermediate: Ami Watters (F5)
Strings Advanced: Yasar Zhao (F3)
Brass Elementary: Alexander Robinson (F4)
Brass Intermediate: Luca Routh (F5)
Brass Advanced: Jonathan Harris Harding (F7)
Percussion: Fabian Crooks (F7)
Singing, Classical, Forms 3-5: Frederick Gourdie (F5)
Singing, Classical, Forms 6-8: Fergus McKie (F8)
Singing, Folk Unaccompanied, Forms 3-5: Matthew Williams (F5)
Singing, Folk Unaccompanied, Forms 6-8: James Hodgkinson (F7)
Singing, Pop: Maisie Wright (F7)
Musical Theatre, Forms 3-5: Cora Regan-Mears ((F4)
Musical Theatre, Forms 6-8: George Gannon (F6)
Ensembles, Classical Singing: Patrick Poninski (F6), Ruaraidh Aitken (F6) & Rohan Lowe (F4)
Ensembles, Popular Singing: Theo Bawtree (F8) & Rhyd Lowe (F6)
Ensembles, Classical Orchestral: Fergus McKie (F8), Mark Lower (F8), James Hodgkinson (F7) & Harry Barker (F6)



Exciting Performing Arts News!

I am delighted to announce that St Edmund's has been shortlisted for the Independent School of the Year Awards 2019 in the category of "Performing Arts". The judges will make their decision on the winner in October, but to be shortlisted is a tremendous achievement and a fitting tribute to the extraordinary work done by pupils and staff in music and drama across the 3-18 school. (Ed O'Connor)





Photos of the Junior School Pupils who performed in the Cabaret



Moving Up Afternoon for Dragonflies, Forms 3, 4 & 5

On Wednesday afternoon, the children from Dragonflies, and in Forms 3, 4 & 5 had a 'Moving Up Afternoon' when they got to spend the afternoon in their new classes with their new teachers. There was a great deal of excitement, and I think it has helped to cement the feeling of anticipation that next year will be a good one!



Staffing News

It is with sadness that I report that Mr Southey has decided to step down as Head of Junior School History from September. We will not be saying a complete goodbye because he will continue to teach a small amount of Games next year. I am grateful to him for the many years' of his time that he has given to the St Edmund's Junior School History Department. He will be greatly missed. I am reliably informed that next year will be his 40th year of teaching at St Ed's! A remarkable achievement.



I am however delighted to announce that our new Head of Junior School History from September is Charles Bodle. Charles already teaches History in the Senior School, and he will continue to teach in both the Junior and Senior Schools moving forward. I know he is very keen to get to know everyone and he has already been working with Mr Southey on a handover. I have also created a new role on my Senior Management Team from September, and I am extremely pleased that Joe Pellet will be my new Head of Upper School.



The Calendar states that Junior School End of Year Reports will be published on Monday 1st July. This is an error. It was intended that reports would be published during the week commencing 1st July but not on 1st July! All reports will be published by Friday 5th July at the latest.



Best wishes,



Dr Emma Margrett
Head of Junior School

Looking Ahead

St Edmund's Festival 26 June - 2 July

Tickets still available for many events: **Fairy Tales** (drama production), **Salsa Dancing** workshop, **Open Water** (acoustic folk-inspired music in the Marquee), **A Soulful Celebration** (a night of soul and big band music), **Passion** (music and drama to celebrate 'passion'). Tickets from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-edmunds-school-canterbury>





Looking Ahead Continued

Junior School Triathlon, Tuesday 2nd July 9.15am, The annual Junior School Triathlon will take place on Tuesday 2nd July. You will receive a separate email about the logistics for this and the swimming gala - look out for it! Parents are invited to watch.

Lower School and Upper School Swimming Galas, Wednesday 3rd July, The Lower School Swimming Gala will take place at 10.15am and the Upper School Swimming Gala at 2pm. Again, parents are most welcome to come and watch and support your children.

Junior School Speeches and Prize Giving, Thursday 4th July, Colyer-Fergusson Hall Don't forget that our annual Junior School Speeches and Prize Giving event will be at 7pm on Thursday 4th July. This year it is taking place at the Colyer-Fergusson Hall – don't come to the Theatre by mistake! We intend to have our reception in the marquee at school as usual after the ceremony. Please let Mrs King know if you intend to attend for catering purposes at yk@stedmunds.org.uk

Last Day of Term, Friday 5th July Don't forget that we break up for the Summer Holidays next Friday, 5th July. **The Junior School finishes at 3pm.** Late stay is available for those with siblings in the senior school and also pupils who use the St Edmund's transport (which is leaving at 3.45pm on Friday)

Congratulations to:

Riley Chidwick and Stella Rogers for gaining their Bronze Star certificates.

Georgio Erotokritou, Rohan Lowe, Oliver Bradley for gaining their Gold Star certificates.

Olivia Wright, Rohan Lowe, Harry Hodgson, Cora Regan-Mears, Setayesh Kalantari-Khandani and Xiomara Harper-Cox for gaining their Platinum Star certificates.

Tabatha White, James Sutton, James Wood for gaining their '2nd time around' Bronze Star certificates.

Dylan Shearer, Jessica Margrett, Abigail Beale for gaining their Certificates of Excellence.

Fergus McKie for passing his Common Entrance Examination.

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