



6th September 2019

Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2019-20 academic year! It has been wonderful to welcome the children back this week. The school suddenly feels like a school again when it is filled with chatter and laughter! Although we have only been back for a couple of days, there are still lots of things that have happened! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Heads' Drinks on the Terrace last night. It was a lovely evening and it was super to see so many people there.

Yesterday, during the first Chapel service of the year, the Chaplain reflected on how every single member of our school community makes St Edmund's the school we are and that we all have our own distinct part to play. That built nicely on the theme of my first Head's line when I talked about how the start of the year marks the beginning of another exciting adventure with many new opportunities.



It is always a particular excitement on the first day of the year to welcome our new pupils and to watch fledgling friendships begin to develop. This has been particularly true in Upper School where in Form 7 we move from two classes into three. I have also really enjoyed seeing the Dragonflies class who I met last summer term grow their wings and fly as they moved into Form 3 this week. They have been so enthusiastic about everything, and I have been really impressed by how confident they have been to chat with me and how welcoming they have been to their new classmate.





Goodbye to our Form 8 Choristers

Although school broke up on Friday 5th July, our Choristers were still in residence at Choir House until Sunday 14th July. During this time they participated in what is known as “Boarder Choir”, where they continued to sing at Cathedral services and were rewarded by going out on a few trips. The photo at the top of this week’s newsletter shows them scaling the O2 in Greenwich! Other trips included Go Ape, Legoland/Thorpe Park, swimming at Tides, a visit to Percy Meacham's caves and a power boat ride in Dover. Thanks to Mrs Norton and Mrs Burden for helping out on activities and to Mr & Mrs Stones, Mr Southey and Matron for all of their love and care for the children at all times.

On Sunday 14th July the Form 8 Choristers bade farewell to the Cathedral having sung there for the final time on the day which has become known as “Sob Sunday”. It was an extremely emotional day as Choir House had been their home since they joined as Probationer Choristers in Form 4. We wish Mark Lower, Christopher Bufford, Theo Bawtree and Fergus McKie all the best for Senior School life. They will be sorely missed in Choir House, but we know that they will enjoy all of the extra free time they will gain now they are not singing in the choir! I think that the photos opposite perfectly encapsulate their journey!



Hello to our new Probationers

This week, we were also delighted to welcome our new Form 4 Probationer Choristers into Choir House and also into school. The Probationers, affectionately known as “Probs” have settled in extremely well over the past few days. They have told me enthusiastically about how they are enjoying their new lives at Choir House, and I know it will seem like a blink of an eye before I will be writing about them again when they experience their very own “Sob Sunday”.



Success at the Kent County Agricultural Show

St Edmund's Junior School were delighted once again, to be invited by the Poultry Club to submit pieces of artwork at the Kent County Show, Detling which was held earlier this year in July. The Kent County Agricultural Society held its first Show in 1923 and was put on hold during the Second World War. This special 90th anniversary Show was marked with a display of the Society's history which could be seen around the Showground. In celebration of the event, the trade stalls and marquees were all decorated to an impressive standard. The Poultry Club Marquee in which our school proudly presented the children's masterpieces was a colourful feast to the eyes. The artwork displayed alongside beautifully presented pens of rare breed chickens, ducks, geese and even turkeys was superb. Clearly the judges thought so too and St Edmund's won overall first prize in the Kent County Trade Stand award category: Best Society Award. The category was kindly sponsored by Geering's Print.

Individual Class winners included:

Collage: Alice Yeomans Attwood (F4)

Art using natural fruits and seeds: Yasar Zhao (F4)

Creative Cockerel using recycled materials: Amy Waters (F6)

Button Art: Daniel Rose (F6)

Do take a minute to go and look at the display outside the Form 5 classrooms – it really is fantastic. My sincere thanks go to Mrs Burden for taking all of the children's work over to Detling right at the end of term and putting it all up on display for us.



An Apology to Mr Hooley

The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that Mr Hooley does not appear on the staff list in the printed calendar for this term. This is an administration error, and I feel extremely bad that Mr Hooley is not recognised during his 40th year teaching at the school. He is still very much a part of our staff team, although he has reduced his hours, so please do not fear. If and when he does decide to leave, it will be with a great deal of fanfare, we won't just remove his name from our staff list!



Masha's Stupendous Achievement

We were extremely proud to celebrate with Masha Polglase-Korosteleva (F8) during Head's Line today. Masha managed the amazing feat of achieving a Grade 9 in her GCSE Russian this summer, aged 11. Four academic years before children usually sit their GCSE examinations.



Joseph's Fantastic Fundraising

I was very impressed to hear about Joseph Gormley's (F7) selfless gesture at his birthday party just before the summer break. For his 11th Birthday, Joseph requested charity donations instead of presents, and raised £60 for Dr Barnardos. The donations were in memory of his great grandfather, John George de Trafford who was admitted in 1929 due to the Great Depression aged 11. Well done Joseph!



Final Fundraising Total for 2018-19

I am extremely pleased to announce our final fundraising total from the 2018-19 academic year. Junior School pupils, staff and parents raised an incredible £8103.82 in total. An astonishing achievement. Thank you to everyone who donated money or participated in an event. We are very grateful.

LAMDA Lessons at St Edmund's

Our visiting LAMDA teacher Mrs Taylor will be offering lessons on Mondays again this year. Every single one of her candidates who took LAMDA examinations in the Summer examination series this year gained a distinction – a phenomenal achievement! If you would be interested in your child taking LAMDA lessons this year, please let Mrs King know and she will pass on your details to Mrs Taylor so that she can get into contact with you.

My School Portal

Hopefully you will have received Mr O'Connor's letter earlier this week about My School Portal, our new information platform for parents, staff and pupils. We will provide more information about MSP at the Junior School Parent Information Evening on Monday 9th September, but you can log into MSP using the link: <https://stedmunds.myschoolportal.co.uk>

To gain access to your My School Portal account, please use the email address that received this email and your SchoolPost password or you can request a new password here: <https://stedmunds.myschoolportal.co.uk/request-password>.



New Staff

This term we welcome two new member of staff, Ms Samantha Barnes, as Head of Junior School ICT and Mr Toby Rupp as our Residential Tutor in School House. In addition, a number of existing staff take on new roles in Junior School. Mr Joe Pellett has taken on the role of Head of Upper School, Mr Charles Bodle has taken on the role of Head of Junior School History, Miss Tilly Glinn has become a Form 7 Form Tutor and Mrs Karen Elford our librarian will be teaching some Form 4 RS. I wish them all every happiness in their new roles. We are extremely happy to welcome them. In addition, a number of Senior School staff will also be teaching in Upper School this year:

Mrs Anna Heavens is teaching some Latin in F7 & 8
Mrs Jo O' Sullivan is introducing Spanish and teaching some DT in F 7 & 8
Mr John Kincaid is teaching F7 & 8 Geography
Mrs Bronwen Wakefield is teaching F7 & 8 RS and F7 English
Mr Dan Dawson is teaching F8 English
Mrs Dominique Micheloud is teaching F8 French
Mr David Gonsalves is teaching F8 History

It is lovely to welcome them. We look forward to them sharing their love of their subjects with Junior School children as well as Senior School children!

Junior School Parent Information Evening

Don't forget that we are holding our Junior School Parent Information Evening at 7pm on Monday 9th September in the Chapel, and we would be delighted to see you there.

New Flexi-Boarding Opportunities at School House

I am enclosing a brochure in the same email as this Newsletter which outlines some new flexi-boarding opportunities for day pupils in Forms 6, 7 & 8 at School House. I really enjoy my time when I visit School House, it is such a warm and friendly environment, and both of my children have enjoyed flexi-boarding there. We are holding an Open House Event next Friday, 13th September at 4.30pm after the Playground tea for any parents or guardians who are interested in visiting School House to see the cosy community for themselves.

Have a lovely weekend. I am sure that I will see some of you at the Cathedral tomorrow for Chorister Making.

Best wishes,

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Dr Emma Margrett
Head of Junior School



Looking Ahead

Chorister Making, Saturday 7th September, Canterbury Cathedral, 3.15pm Come and see our choristers being formally admitted to the Cathedral Foundation by the Dean during Evensong.

Junior School Parent Information Evening, Monday 9th September, Chapel, 7pm

This is an opportunity for parents to learn a little more about developments in the Junior School this coming year, to gain an overview of My School Portal and to have an opportunity to meet members of the Junior School teaching staff.

HPV Vaccinations for boys and girls in Form 8, Tuesday 10th September

Junior School Individual Photos, Thursday 12th September, please let Mrs King know if you would like any siblings to have a photograph together, including those in Pre Prep or Senior School.

Parents' Association Playground Tea, Friday 13th September, 4pm in the Junior School Playground Come and meet other St Edmund's Families at this informal event in the Junior School Playground.

'Open House' at School House, Friday 13th September, 4.30pm Come and visit School House and see our fantastic Junior Boarding facilities for yourself.

Congratulations to:

Rupert Gregory for gaining his ABM certificate for Grade 1 Piano

Alexander Robinson for gaining his 10, 15 and 25 metre swimming certificates over the summer.

Second hand uniform

Mrs Exley and Mrs King would be most grateful if any parents have second hand Pre Prep and Junior School second hand uniform they are willing to sell please. Items can either be sold on your behalf or donated for charity. Thank you.

Pick-up times:

Wed 11th Sept	Football	Wellesley House	U11 A,B,C	Away	4.45pm
Wed 11th Sept	Football	Wellesley House	U13 A,B,C	Away	4.45pm
Wed 11th Sept	Hockey	Wellesley House	U11 A	Home	3.45pm
Fri 13th Sept	Football	King's Rochester	U11 A,B,C,D	Home	4pm

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