



**ST EDMUND'S
SCHOOL**
CANTERBURY



28th September 2019

Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

You may be aware that I have been away for the past two days at the Independent Association of Prep Schools' annual Heads' Conference in London. It was my first time at the event, and although it was somewhat daunting initially to walk into a conference room with around 500 other Head Teachers, many of whom know each other well, it has been a thought provoking time and a time to make some great new friendships as well as to get to know the Heads of some of the schools local to us a little better. Our sessions included grappling with the question of how best to support the mental health of prep school children and considering how we can harness the power of artificial intelligence to help all children to thrive – all important issues to think about in our rapidly changing world.

On Thursday evening I also had the delight of attending the IAPS Annual Conference Service at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. It was particularly notable how many Choir Schools' Association Heads were present for the service. The singing was wonderful and it was a stunning setting. Several of the Heads of non choir schools commented on how special it was, and it made me reflect that a beautiful choral Evensong is something that I experience almost every week at the Mother Church of the Worldwide Anglican Communion, and what a privilege it is to be present.

Thank you to all those of you who lent your children to us to help at Open Morning this morning. I really believe that our children are the best possible ambassadors for us, and my thoughts were certainly echoed by our visitors this morning. They make me so proud!

Next week, it is the Junior School Harvest Festival on Tuesday 1st October at 8.40 am in the School Chapel. Once again we are asking for donations of food and household items which will be donated to our local homeless charities. Mrs King has already sent a list of urgently needed goods to parents and guardians. Donations can be brought in on Monday 30th September. Please leave them with Mrs Swatman or Mrs Thyssen in Form 3. Children can also bring their donations in to school on the day and add them to our Chapel Harvest Display during the service. We will also be holding a Harvest Market on Tuesday 1st October after school in the Lower School playground where all fresh produce collected for the Harvest Chapel will be sold in aid of Porchlight (our local homeless charity). Please support this worthwhile event if you are able to do so.

Due to me being out of school this week, this week's newsletter is a little lighter on content than usual as I have not been about to witness events across the school. However, I will aim to make up for it next week! In other news, the Form 7 children have been away at the Kingswood Activity Centre in Ashford on their residential trip from Wednesday to Friday this week. We look forward to telling you all about it in next week's newsletter.

A Second Plea for Parent Reps

I wrote in the newsletter last week asking for volunteers to be parent reps in all year groups. So far, sadly, Mrs King has only been contacted by two interested parents. The idea is that I am looking for one or two parents in each class who are happy to take on the role of 'class rep'. The main remit for the class rep is to set up a contact list for each class with a communication group using either email or text so that new parents can find it easier to integrate into a year group, and hopefully the odd 'meet up' for a drink between the parents in a year group, or 'play date' for the children in a class can be arranged. Parent reps can also act as the spokespeople for the parents within their year group if there are any questions or worries so that they can be addressed as soon as possible. Please consider being a parent rep – we only need one in each class and I know that they will be of huge benefit to our school community. Mrs King will be very happy to take your name if you are willing to put yourself forward.

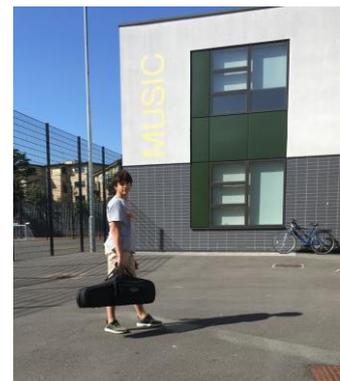


Rhyd and Fred Perform in Bristol

Rhyd Lowe (F7) and Frederick Butler (F8) were proud to be invited to sing Pergolesi's 'Stabat Mater' as part of a concert at St George's Church in Bristol last weekend. I have seen some film taken from rehearsal and the boys sounded fantastic. Many congratulations to them both.

Oliver Accepted into the National Youth Jazz Orchestra

We were thrilled to hear recently that Oliver Tesic (F8) has been accepted into the National Youth Jazz Orchestra for saxophone. Here is a photo of him going to his first rehearsal. We look forward to hearing what he will be getting up to! Well done, Oliver!



Stanley, Will and George make the U13 District Squad

Another fantastic piece of news this week was the fact that Stanley Allom (F8), Will Knoupe (F8) and George Wager (F8) have all been selected for the Canterbury & St Augustine's U13 District Football Squad. It is super to have St Edmund's represented in the district tournaments and we will report on their progress during the season.

Junior School Sport

It was another successful match day on Wednesday for our 7 Junior School sports' teams this week. With both Under 13A and B Football and Hockey teams playing away at Dover College, all 4 teams returned with comfortable wins even though we were missing the Form 7 pupils who were all away at the Kingswood Activity Centre on their residential trip.

The girls' hockey teams played well in both of their matches, returning with 4-2 and 2-0 wins, whilst the boys had comfortable wins, 4-2 and 6-0, played in windy conditions but on superb surfaces which allowed for technically excellent play.

The Under 11 boys' A Team drew an entertaining home game 5-5 against St Lawrence College and the C team winning 3-1. Mr Penn informs me that the B team finished as team of the week after an excellent 3-0 win, with Monty White, goalkeeper, stopping any chances that St Lawrence College could put in a goal.

Our Under 10/11 girls' hockey squad participated in fun day of coaching and friendly matches getting them ready for next week's match action against King's Rochester.

To finish off the matches this week, on Friday afternoon the Under 11A and B boys' teams played Dover College along with the Under 9 team, playing their second match of the season. Results will follow in next week's sport roundup.

After four weeks our Under 13A and B girls' Hockey teams and Under 13A and Under 11A boys' Football teams still remain unbeaten! We are extremely proud of the hard work, discipline, fun and active participation that our children have given to sport in general so far this term. It is clearly reaping benefits.



Junior School Staff Support Macmillan

Junior School staff invited Pre Prep and Senior School Staff to join us as we held our own Coffee Morning for Macmillan this morning as part of their "World's Biggest Coffee Morning" initiative. I am grateful to Mrs Crocombe, Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Wright for overseeing the venture. So far we have raised over £110 and the money is still coming in. Thank you to all the families who bought the left over cakes at the end of the day!





The East Kent Ploughing Match

Wednesday saw the celebration of the annual East Kent Ploughing match and Mr O'Connor, Mrs Bensberg and I went down to the St Edmund's tent at the Ploughing Match at lunchtime to welcome some of the passers-by and to see what the children were up to.

One of the most moving aspects of the event for me is when past pupils from St Edmund's stop by our tent to say "hello" and to recall their memories of their time at St Ed's. We had a truly wonderful encounter in this year's tent. At the beginning of the afternoon, a gentleman dropped in to tell us that he was an "old boy". His name was John Whitehead and he was 82 years old. He told me how he was Head Boy of the Junior School in around 1948-49. He recalled some fond memories of his time, telling us stories about what he had got up to as a pupil. If that wasn't rewarding enough by itself, we were shortly joined by another "old boy" David Knowles. He was immediately recognised by John, who informed him that they had had lockers next door to each other in Wagner House in the Senior School, and it transpired that they had been pretty good friends whilst they were at school. Strangely, although they have lived within a few miles of each other for many years, they had not seen each other since leaving St Edmund's. We quickly opened the prosecco to toast their reunion and left them chatting away to each other in the St Edmund's tent when we returned to school! I asked their permission to share their encounter with you all in this week's newsletter, and I have promised to send them both a copy and invite them back to school for a visit.

The Lower School have all worked hard on their unaided writing since returning from the Ploughing Match. The account below comes from Mael Staehler (F3). I have chosen it due to his super use of time connectives and the additional detail which he has put into some of his sentences.

We went to the Ploughing Match. First we saw some tractors ploughing, then we went to the dog race. Dexter won all the time, it was really, really funny. Next we went to the lunch tent and put our bags into it. Later, we went to look at the horses plough. It must have been hard work. Next we went back to the tent to have lunch. Then we watched birds of prey. One flew away, it had escaped the box. After that they let us into the arena. A falcon flew in between us. After that we went to the coach and drove back.

Chorister Fundraising Concert

Last night I went to the Autumn Concert put on by the Boughton Piano Trio in aid of the Canterbury Cathedral Choir tour to Prague. Unfortunately the event was not well attended, but the trio made up of Iva Fleischansová (our own Mrs Butler), Asako Anna Ginova and Nikolay Ginov gave the performance of their lives! It was incredible and I am grateful to them for giving up their time to support the boys' choir tour. Next time, do consider getting a ticket – you will not be disappointed.





Have a lovely weekend. Thank you again to everyone who helped at Open Morning.
Best wishes,

Dr Emma Margrett
Head of Junior School

Looking Ahead

Junior School Parent Consultations Initial parent consultations with your child's form teacher will take place during the week commencing 30th September, please book your appointment on My School Portal if you have not already done so.

Junior School Harvest Service Tuesday 1st October: 8.40-9.40am, Chapel. Once again we are asking for donations of food and household items which will be donated to our local homeless charities. Mrs King has already sent a list of urgently needed goods to parents and guardians. Donations can be brought in on Monday 30th September. Please leave them with Mrs Swatman or Mrs Thyssen in Form 3.

Harvest Market Tuesday 1st October after school in the Lower School playground. All fresh produce collected for the Harvest Chapel will be sold in aid of Porchlight (our local homeless charity).

Congratulations to:

Filip Powell, Oliver Poninski, Harry Hodgson, Xavier Gray, Eddie Florence, Ben Coleman, Riley Chidwick, Isla Anderson, Oliver Bradley, Olivia Wright, Gretal Meacham, Tabitha White, Peter Symon, James Sutton, Lucy Standen, Alexander Robinson, James Wood and Cora Regan Mears for gaining their Certificates of Excellence.

Josie Weed for gaining her ASA Bronze Swimming Challenge certificate.

Oliver Poninski for gaining his LAMDA certificate.

Pick-up times:

Wed 2nd Oct	Football	Bethany	U13 A & B	Away	5.30pm
Wed 2nd Oct	Football	Spring Grove Tournament	U11 A	Away	5.30pm
Wed 2nd Oct	Hockey	King's Rochester	U11 A & B	Home	4pm
Wed 2nd Oct	Hockey	King's Rochester	U13 A & B	Away	4.45pm
Fri 4th Oct	Football	Northbourne Park	U9	Away	4pm

E-Safety: If parents have any concerns about their son or daughter's online security, they should immediately contact Ross Underwood Director of 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