



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

CANTERBURY



2nd November 2019

Junior School News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

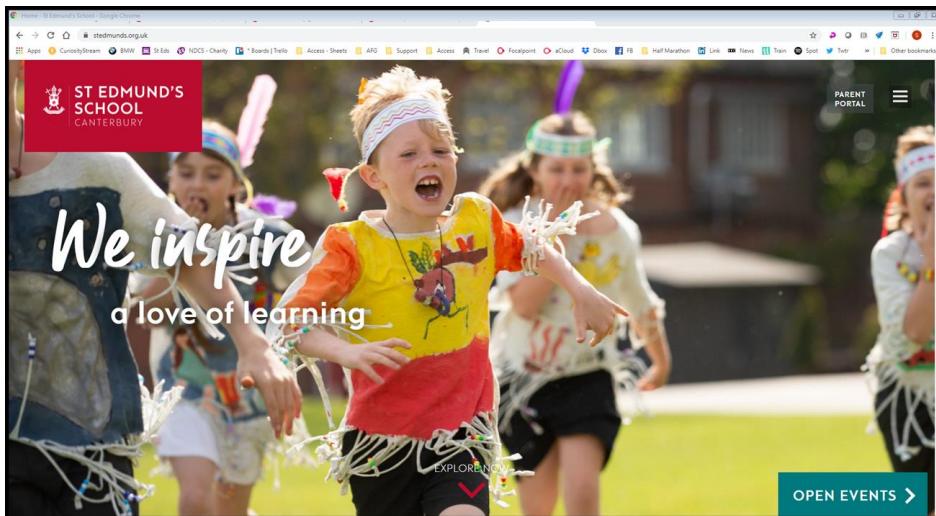
This week has certainly been a very busy first week back at school. In fact, half term seems little more than a distant memory! I do hope that you all had some lovely time away from school with your families. This week, the Junior School has been buzzing this week with everything from pumpkin soup making in Form 3 on Wednesday, to the launch of our new school website and even welcoming a class of local school pupils to join us for our Year 5 Experience Day on Friday. The Year 5 Experience Day was open to children who are currently in Year 5 at other local schools and who are considering St Edmund's for their secondary education from Year 7. This was the first time that we have run such an event, and we were delighted that it was oversubscribed. The children who attended came from 12 different local schools, and I think it would be fair to say that they all had a wonderful day. Every child gave us 10/10 as they left! Our Form 8 House Captains were absolutely fabulous role models, as were our two "Hospitality Hosts" Charlie Bond and Tom Blunt (F8) who have taken on that special role as part of the Seniorship programme. As well as ensuring that the children got to the right place at the right time, they also helped them to navigate their way around the multitude of menu choices at lunchtime before Charlie, Tom and Mr McKean took the children on a tour of the school site. A number of the House Captains also excelled themselves by welcoming the Form 5 pupils' parents back to school at the end of the afternoon.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to go to the Cathedral on Wednesday afternoon to bid farewell to Commodore Martin Atherton, the Receiver General who is leaving his role to take on a new post as Secretary to the Corporation of Trinity House, which is the General Lighthouse Authority for England and Wales, following three years at the Cathedral. Martin has worked closely with the school to support the needs of the choristers and I have enjoyed getting to know him and working with him. We all wish him every success in his new role and have encouraged him to keep in touch. Our Chairman of Governors Air Marshal Christopher Nickols will take up the role of Acting Receiver General from the start of November.

This week, it has been a joy for me to get into the classroom to teach some lessons. On Monday I taught a lesson to all of our Form 4 pupils about stereotyping. We considered how our own internal biases can make us assume the gender of a person from a description where no gender is given, and we discussed how these biases can turn into prejudice and discrimination. We identified groups of people who may experience discrimination based on age, gender, disability, religion and race, amongst others and discussed how St Edmund's places a great emphasis on treating all people fairly and without prejudice. Yesterday, Mrs Ward and I taught a lesson to the Year 5 Experience Day pupils which I also teach to our own pupils based on the work of the Philosopher Thomas Hobbes and asking the question "What makes Me Me?" We used the dilemma of "The Ship of Theseus" to underpin our work and I was impressed and delighted by the comments that the children made.



New Website



We have been extremely excited to launch our new website this week. It has been a huge collaborative process involving staff from right across the school over a long period of time. We hope you like it too and would be very interested to hear your thoughts.

New Lighting Rig in the Theatre

Another exciting development this week has been the installation of a fabulous new lighting rig in the Theatre. This is a very significant investment which was funded by a former pupil of the school. Thanks to his extraordinary generosity we have replaced all of the old stage lights, some of which dated back to the 1940s, with a brand new remote operated LED Lighting, and state of the art stage management system. Not only will this greatly enhance the possibilities for future school productions, but it will also use significantly less power than its old-fashioned predecessor. Our Junior School pupils are incredibly fortunate to have access to such amazing facilities, and I can only apologise to parents for any increase in 'home performances' as the children get even more inspired to perform!

Auditions for the Junior School Production Take Place

Friday saw the auditions for the Junior School Production take place at lunchtime and after school. Yet again the Drama Department have been overwhelmed by the sheer number of children who have put themselves forward to be considered for a part in Alan Ayckbourn's "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations". I know they will be facing some difficult decisions over the weekend as they deliberate about who to cast. Please tell your children that we are extremely proud of them for putting themselves forward, regardless of whether they make it into the final production. If they are not successful this time they should not be disheartened, the Lower School Children will all be involved in the Christmas Nativity and all of the children will be involved in House Drama next term.

Arthur Excels in French Photography Competition

Arthur Underwood (F7) has recently been awarded a special prize by the “Globalist” magazine following their recent French photography competition. Arthur’s photo “Le Chaos des couverts” was awarded a voucher and the title of “Most Imaginative Submission”. Arthur’s description, which had to be submitted in French, is below, and his photo can be seen to the right. We wish Arthur many congratulations!



Confusion métallique

C'est une photo d'une 'confusion métallique' sur la table à manger, prise le week-end dernier. J'ai décidé d'utiliser le désordre des couverts en métal pour illustrer la folie de la vie. J'ai pris cette photo au coucher du soleil pour avoir la bonne teinte; puis j'ai utilisé Photoshop pour convertir ma photo en noir et blanc. J'espère que vous aimerez ma photo 'confusion métallique'.

Form 3 Tickle Their Tastebuds!



This week in DT Form 3 continued to develop their understanding of the principles behind a healthy diet through a consideration of where food comes from by making and tasting pumpkin soup ahead of Halloween. They made two batches of soup and flavoured one with ginger, Coconut and mixed spices, and the other with orange juice, apple, lime and chilli. I was so impressed when I took part in their soup tasting session because all of the children ate their soup willingly, even though some of them were unused to the sensation of eating the spicy one, before giving each soup a mark out of 10. They even made some fresh wholemeal spelt bread to accompany the soup, and the children were able to add a garnish of pumpkin seeds and sunflower seeds if they wanted to do so. The children evaluated each soup according to taste, appearance, texture and smell then wrote their own recipes making sure that all commands started with an imperative verb!

School House Get Creative

It wasn't just Form 3 who got creative with pumpkins this week. Last night the children in School House including Kaden, Colour Sgt and Mrs French's son, spent some time carving their very own Halloween pumpkins. It was the first time that some of them had had a go at carving. Once we had finished, we put battery powered candles inside to light them up. Everyone was very pleased with the end results!



Chorister Appearance on Meridian News

If you were watching the evening news on Monday 14th October, you may well have noticed some familiar faces. Meridian ran a feature all about this year's chorister voice trials and explained all about the life that our choristers are lucky enough to lead. Central to the film were appearances from Dr David Flood, the Master of the Choristers, and our very own Percy Meacham (FX), Frederick Butler (F8), Freddie Gourdie (F6) and Rhyd Lowe (F7). If you missed the news article you can catch up with it at <https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2019-10-14/canterbury-cathedral-s-quest-for-choir-talent/>. There is also an interview being broadcast on Radio Kent next week. Voice Trials take place on Saturday 9th November, and any remaining potential probationer choristers who have not already visited St Edmund's will be having taster days at school in the next week.



The Canterbury Festival Bursary Competition Finalists' Concert



The Canterbury Festival Bursary Competition is a prestigious competition for outstanding young musicians living or studying in Kent, it takes place during the weeks of the Canterbury Festival. There are 2 categories, Junior, ages 12-14 and Senior, ages 15-18. In both categories 5 musicians are selected by audition to play at the competition each October. The senior competition has a prize of £2,000 for the winner who will also be an Ambassador for the year, leading workshops and other activities promoting Music and the Arts.

Auditions took place in June and we were delighted to hear that Jonathan Harris-Harding (F8), playing trumpet and his sister, Olivia (U5) on violin were among those selected to showcase Kent talent. I hear that they both gave wonderful performances.

Chorister Trip to the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Marlowe

On Wednesday 30th October the Choristers from the XVI visited the Marlowe Theatre to see the Philharmonia Orchestra. They played Sibelius Lemminkäinen's Return, Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 1 and Tchaikovsky Swan Lake (excerpts). As you can see, the boys had fantastic seats and greatly enjoyed scrutinising the musicians' performances.





Junior School ICT is ahead of the Curve!

A recent article in the TES (https://www.tes.com/news/how-teach-ai-and-machine-learning?fbclid=IwAR1HeeZdhxX12E_cqK3_SEpE2FdDHbDx16FtnjB1jS5cdLupOVn-ZcYEJ) 8) discusses why schools should be teaching about Artificial Intelligence and machine learning. Form 8 have been doing exactly that when they have been working recently to learn about Alan Turing's "Turing Test" (or "Imitation Game" as I believe it was called in his paper in the 1950s). All classes in Form 8 have conducted their own Turing Test where they asked questions to two subjects and tried to see if they can tell which responses were answered by a machine and which ones were answered by human. They discussed what sort of questions could be asked and how these might be answered by AI. For example, members of each group established that a computer may answer a question concerning thoughts and feelings with a logical response. An example of this, a question that was asked "What do you think of Roald Dahl?" and they considered how they could make a machine response sound like it came from a human.

In addition, a discussion on data collection and how machines use this data has been taking place in Form 7, who have been working on creating databases recently. As part of their work, they touched on AI when looking at Ada Lovelace. They also discussed an article entitled "Amazon scraps secret AI recruiting tool that showed bias against women" that can be found here <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-amazon-com-jobs-automation-insight/amazon-scaps-secret-ai-recruiting-tool-that-showed-bias-against-women-idUSKCN1MK08G> in order to consider how gender bias can enter into people's thoughts about computing and careers in computing.

Exciting ICT Competition Opportunity for pupils in F3-6

Having announced the Open Coding Competition for pupils in Forms 7 & 8 in my last 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 to the email which you have received the newsletter on to provide parental consent for your child to take part, and/or contact us with any questions or queries. 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 to submit your consent and/or ask questions or raise queries.

Lower School Introduce 'Superstar Spellers' Initiative

In Lower school one of the prep activities for every pupil is learning a set of spellings each week. Many pupils work hard to learn how to spell their words and achieve excellent results in the weekly tests. We would like to formally recognise and share this achievement by awarding a certificate of excellence to those pupils who achieve FULL MARKS in all spelling tests each half term. I look forward to awarding the first set of certificates at the end of this term. Lower School teachers have explained the competition to the children and will begin looking at the results from NEXT WEEK for this half term.

Upcoming Charity and Awareness Raising Initiatives This Term

National Wear Blue Day, Friday 8th November

We have decided to mark Anti-Bullying Week this year with a number of awareness raising initiatives. Firstly, we will be offering the children the opportunity to come into school in their own blue clothes on Friday 8th November, to raise awareness of Anti-Bullying Week as part of National Wear Blue Day. We are not asking for a donation for them to do this, but rather flagging up to them the fact that we feel that it is important to recognise that Bullying is not accepted at St Ed's. During Anti-Bullying Week, which is the week commencing 11th November, we will have activities in Form Time on Wednesday morning, and we will be holding a few competitions – more details to follow. Finally, on 21st November, we will be announcing competition winners in Chapel and holding an assembly run by the children where they will tell the school community what they have learnt.

Children In Need, Friday 15th November

As Children in Need clashes with the day of our Michaelmas Concert this year, we will be unable to have many events taking place during the school day. However, as a nod to this important fundraiser Junior School pupils will be allowed to come to school wearing official Children in Need ears, a wristbands or pin bages.

St Edmund's Christmas Fair, Friday 13th December

The St Edmund's Parents' Association have been busy starting their organisations for the Christmas Fair. This year, they will be asking parents to provide items for a hamper which each year group will put together to place into the overall raffle. Details of what is needed for the hampers will be shared shortly with your year group reps. In addition, we will be holding a home clothes day where the children will be offered the opportunity to come into school in their own clothes in exchange for either a donation for the infamous "Chocolate Bed" or for a donation of brown paper to use for the Family Christmas Present stall. The date for the Home Clothes Day will be shared with parents in next week's newsletter. This year, we are asking for donations of brown paper only and no other Christmas wrapping paper to ensure that we are more eco-friendly. In addition, the Parents' Association will be providing a list of chocolate which can be used for the chocolate bed as it cannot contain nuts. Sadly, a number of the donations we received last year were unable to be used because they had nuts in.

Robyn Fundraises for Aspire

If you had intended to donate to Robyn Davis' (F7) Channel Swim fundraising attempt which I wrote about in my last newsletter, you may have noticed that the link to the fundraising page didn't work. It is not too late, and you can find it at: <http://justgiving.com/fundraising/clare-kingsmill-davis-2019-channel-swim-46012> Robyn is doing the challenge with her mum Clare, and this is the fundraising page for them both.

Form 4 Study Hundertwasser

In Art, Form 4 have been studying the life and works of Friedensreich Hundertwasser. One of Hundertwasser's art forms is architecture and building design. The children have looked at a variety of examples of his work. First they created beautiful pen and ink drawings in the style of Hundertwasser and then they joined a variety of shapes and sizes of boxes and used brightly coloured paints to create model buildings. They have produced some fantastic works!



Exciting News about Pre Prep

I am pleased to announce that the Pre-Prep has some new opening hours. Starting from Tuesday 7th January 2020 the Pre-Prep will be open from 7.30am-6.00pm every day of term. There will also be a holiday club, with the same hours, to cover all holidays except for one week at Christmas, one week at Easter and Bank holidays. All children in the Pre-Prep can access this extended provision. The holiday club will be run by well-qualified and experienced school staff and based in the Pre-Prep, although we will be able to use the wider school facilities. There will be lots of fun activities including sports, arts and crafts, dressing up, games, outdoor learning, etc. Activities will be planned carefully taking into account the children's ages and interests. If you are interested or know anyone who may be interested please email the Head of Pre-Prep Julia Exley jepe@stedmunds.org.uk

We are just about to advertise for a Breakfast Club and Supper Club leader for Junior School, and so I hope to also have some exciting news about extended before and after school care in Junior School shortly. We intend for Breakfast Club to run from 7.30am and for Supper Club to run until 6.15pm.

A "Thank You" from Tilli Perry (F8)



Thank you to everyone who sponsored me to do the 5K Glitter Run, tied to my sister, Caitlin, in a three-legged race to raise money for the Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Canterbury. Thanks to the teachers and parents who sponsored me, I was able to beat my target of £200 and raised £665! Together with Caitlin, we raised over £1,500 for the MS Centre. The MS Centre is really important to us because our Mum has MS and the therapy Centre helps her to keep walking as long as she can and provides treatments for people with multiple sclerosis. Thank you.



Junior School Sport

The first half of the Michaelmas Term was full of sporting success for our teams in the Junior School and the PE Department continued to strive for their goal of every single child playing competitive fixtures of a weekly basis. This is difficult to achieve due to the availability of fixtures but something that they try to achieve in as many weeks as possible.

That said, it has been a quiet week back as half term holidays varied amongst our local opposition. However, we have got straight back into our 4-weekly rota during PE lessons with basketball and handball high on the agenda this week.

The boys continue to build on the success of their recent Under 13/12 cup victory and they have every thing to play for in the coming weeks being League Leaders. The Under 13/12 girls' hockey team who are also unbeaten so far had a break from hockey this week and took the opportunity to have an early netball session. Mrs Relf tells me that all looks good for the New Year.

It was left to Under 11A girls' hockey team to play a school match this week and they came away from Wellesley House with a 0-0 draw played now on the unusual surface of...grass!!

The long standing early morning 'Wake Up and Shake Up' fitness club had a bumper crowd this week – see opposite - and I am told that a basketball fitness session was enhanced with Mr Penn's 1980's playlist, and improved by the sports hall's acoustic qualities. I find this hard to believe, but there you are – the children keep turning up for that early 7.45am start, so they must be doing something right!

We move back to a full fixture card with 12 fixtures next week and the 2nd cross country event of the year which will offer a chance for some of our Form 3 athletes to experience competitive running for the first time.



A Full Complement of Marlowe Captains!

You may remember that I was unable to publish a photo of all of the Marlowe Captains due to a couple being absent. We have now managed to get them all into one place together to get that elusive photo! Here they are with their Head of House, Mrs Bradley.

House Captains: Jack Hodgson & Masha Polglase-Korosteleva
Sports Captains: Will Kroupe & Emily Press
Deputy House Captain: James Hodgkinson
Deputy Sports Captain: Maisie Wright



Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes



Dr Emma Margrett
Head of Junior School

Looking Ahead

Friday 8th November, Wear Blue Day Pupils are invited to "Wear blue and help #stopbullying" by coming into school wearing blue on 8th November. There is no financial donation needed for this as it is an awareness raising initiative ahead of Anti-Bullying Week the following week.

Thursday 28th November—Saturday 30th November, Chicago Tickets for the Senior School production of Chicago are on sale at £10 each or tables still available on the Thursday evening performance at £75 for four including 2 bottles of prosecco. Please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-edmunds-school-canterbury

Sunday 8th December, 2.30pm, School Big Band and 'Hullabaloo' St Edmund's Festival presents The St Edmund's School Big Band with special guests' Hullabaloo' for an afternoon of Swing, Big Band, Rock 'n' Roll, Jive and a touch of Christmas! Tickets £12/£8 are available will be available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-edmunds-school-canterbury

Friday 13th December The St Edmund's Christmas Fair The St Edmund's Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 13th December. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the Fair after the end of the school day, choristers will be given the chance to attend before they leave school for Evensong. More information to follow.

Congratulations to:

Autumn Goodey, Eddie Florence, Rupert Gregory, Ben Holcroft, Penny Beck-Evans, Alice Yeomans-Attwood, for gaining their Bronze star certificates.

Joshua Coleman for gaining his Silver star certificate.

Will Surridge for winning the U12 Manager's Award at Bapchild Cricket Club

Josie Weed for achieving her 1000m Rainbow Swimming Award – an amazing achievement for a pupil in F3!

Pick-up times:

Wed 6th Nov	Football	Junior King's	Metherell Cup U11A		5.30pm
Wed 6th Nov	Football	Junior King's	U11 B,C,D	Home	4pm
Wed 6th Nov	Football	Junior King's	U13 A,C	Away	4pm
Wed 6th Nov	Football	Junior King's	U13 B,D	Home	4.30pm
Wed 6th Nov	Cross Country	Spring Grove		Away	Approx 4pm
Wed 6th Nov	Hockey	Duke of York's	U13 A,B,C,D	Home	4pm
Fri 8th Nov	Football	Junior King's	U11 A	Home	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