



## It's all about Teaching and Learning...

Over the past two weeks we have continued to enjoy our teaching and our learning in school. How do I know? Since joining the school in September, I have loved going on learning walks each day; essentially, these provide me with a snapshot of what is taking place in the classroom so that I can talk, hopefully with confidence, to the children about their learning when I see them on the playground or at the dining table. Whilst having a snapshot is great, it is important for me to be monitoring the quality of the provision your child is getting. As such, this week was my first formal observation week and consisted of me observing teaching and learning throughout the school with Mr Comfort and Mrs Sotillo from the Senior School. Teaching and Learning is at the heart of what we do as a school, and I am delighted that there are so many wonderful consistent strengths, two in particular being:

- Strong teacher subject knowledge
- Positive and meaningful relationships between children and teachers

These two strengths speak significantly of the hard work and dedication of my talented team, and I look forward to my second observation week towards the end of this term, so that I can put into place learning opportunities for us all to be the best we can be. In fact, this was at the heart of my staff meeting on Wednesday, when I spoke to the team about our vision for English and how we are going to be looking at, for example, spelling in school. I am delighted that Mr Pellett and Mr Shearer will be trialling our new spelling initiative in Form 6 imminently – watch this space, parents!

The wonderful thing about schools is that we are establishments built on the desire to learn and improve. At my Head's Line last week, I spoke to the children about their understanding of success. This was done, in part, due to the evaluation of our wellbeing assessments at the beginning of the year when the children returned from lockdown. It showed that they were confused by success as a concept. This was supported by my chats with the children on the playground and at lunchtime, when they were able to give me examples of successful people, but struggled to unpick the constituent parts leading to that success. At the Head's Line, I looked at success through the analogy of an iceberg:



Please do feel free to explore this further with your child. With the influence of social media, we can all sometimes fail to see that there is a lot of hard work, dedication, and so on to make people successful. If we apply this analogy to our school, I would like to add *support*. Over the past few months, you have all been incredibly supportive of me, my team, our school and our children. Your understanding of the 'bigger picture' is seen frequently in wonderful emails we get, so thank you. We all have the most wonderful joint task – to enable your child to be the best they can be. Thank you.

Whilst I'm on thanks, thank you for your feedback about lunches. I have a meeting next week with Holroyd Howe and they are committed to getting lunch right. The next step is for School Council to meet with chef Phil, so that he can go through options. They have already listened to initial feedback and have updated specific aspects of the current offer, but I look forward to our children having a voice in this area.

Lastly, please do take a look at the pictures on the next page of some of the new learning environments in school and of some of the wonderful work from our Form 4 children. Have a wonderful weekend.

*Mr De Silva*

Mr De Silva

Head of Junior School



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## Picture montage



## Congratulations!

### **Bronze star certificates**

Imogen F, Arabella N, Niyam P, Hamish A, Oscar DV, Benedict H, Sancy C, Ted P, Poppy H, Freddie G, Jason Y, Charlie F, Poppy H, Thomas A, Amelia W, Isabella P, Rohan L, Juliette M, Sonny M, Elizabeth O, Esme T, Kimberley S

### **Silver star certificates**

Thomas A, Isabella R, Josie W, Ben B, Violet V, Monty W, Luca L

### **Bronze and Silver star certificates**

Amy H and Autumn G

### **Bronze, Silver and Gold star certificates**

Josh C

### **Certificates of Excellence**

Omna A and Joseph G

### **Completing Librarian training**

Masha D

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available for entry into Years 7 and 9 and are awarded on merit to the highest achievers in competitive examinations and assessments. More information can be found here:

<https://www.stedmunds.org.uk/admissions/scholarships-bursaries-other-fee-remissions/>





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## Message from Mrs Barnes: eCadets

Firstly, we are so proud of our pupils, for a number of reasons which we'd like to share. We had a total of 32 applicants for the role of eCadet; a role which demands a basic understanding of IT, requires enough confidence to put yourself in front of your peers (and many of us will remember just how scary that is), and skills such as organisation. It was delightful to read applications that included reasons for wanting the role such as wanting to make their parents proud, a desire to help their class and for their own personal development.

We have officially welcomed the following Upper School eCadets:

- Meena, Setty, Fraser, Ed, Joseph, Drew, Maria and Xavier.

Our upper school eCadets then went on to completely own the process of recruitment for Lower School eCadets via Teams! All Lower School candidates were fantastic. Joining the team of Upper School eCadets, we welcome with big, open, eSafety arms:

- Maria, Imogen, Josie, Alexa, Alex and Jeremy

The pupils have already been discussing ideas on how we keep pupils, parents and staff updated, with a blog rating high on the list! We very much look forward to sharing our pupil-led eSafety journey with you.

## Message from Mrs Elford: Library books needed

Before the March lockdown, Upper School pupils took some books from the library to help support their reading when they were away from school. Whilst most of the books have been returned, there are still 90 books overdue. If your child is in Upper School, please could you speak to him/her about overdue library books.

Thank you.