



Dear Parents,

Two weeks without a full newsletter – my apologies. As we enter the busiest period of the school year, there is a lot for us to report! Last week, I hope you enjoyed my write up of the Michaelmas Concert which was a really successful event – great to be back in the Colyer-Fergusson Hall after a two year absence. Last weekend, I was up at the Independent Schools' Show in Battersea representing St Edmund's with our marketing team and two pupil ambassadors. They did a tremendous job discussing our school with prospective families and, unusually, representatives of the Canadian Embassy!

GUILDHALL SUCCESS

We have just heard the fantastic news that Thomas Young, M5 Music Scholar, has just been accepted by the Junior Guildhall in London after a successful audition today. Pupils, parents and staff will remember his fine performance on the clarinet last week at the Michaelmas Concert where he delighted audiences with his playing of the first movement of Saint-Saens' Sonata for Clarinet. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of Thomas.





BEAUTY & THE BEAST

Pre-production week was a great success and although it was hugely demanding for the cast and crew, we now have a really exciting show on our hands. As always, I am immensely grateful to Mark Sell, Howard Sykes, Tam Walker-Reid, Ian Swatman, Lisa-Jayne Gordon, Jayden Lewis and Cath Lenoir Knowles for their extraordinary efforts. They have given our young cast the opportunity to be part of something incredibly special. However, as we go into performance week, I wanted to mention a few unsung heroes. The Stagecrew this year have done a phenomenal job working behind the scenes (literally) to pull this extremely complex show together. So a special mention to Cameron Crouch, Tony Annett-Baker, Annabel Ogston- Lemmons, Charlie Emson and Hani Lynch who are doing an absolutely brilliant job.

See you there!



SPORTS NEWS

Mrs Millard reports from pitchside...

HOCKEY...

"Last week saw the 1st XI girls play Kent College in their final league game of the season. With many pupils busy with Beauty and the Beast too, it was a feat in itself to be able to put out a full team. The girls were determined to produce a performance to be proud of and the 0-5 score line did not reflect the possession and excellent passing game that St Edmund's played. Goals were simply not easy to come by, and although there were opportunities, the strong KC defence, and a lack of finishing power on this occasion led to the defeat. So much improvement this term gives much to celebrate however, and the team will go forward with positivity into training for the remainder of term and next season.



The 2nd XI, unfortunately without Aimee Rose their trusty goal keeper, played a really exciting match. A 1-3 loss but with plenty of accurate passing, solid defence and communication.

The U15's were the stars of the week, beating Dover College 5-2. Goals from Alexia, Sofie, Matilda and two from Robyn, brought the game to a happy conclusion."



FOOTBALL...

"A strong Dover College A team beat our U15 B's convincingly in a competitive match on Tuesday. It was a good opportunity for the B team to challenge their skills. The U15 A team entertained Kent College in closely fought cup match. Without their star striker, the boys still took the lead 2-0 in the first half but were unable to hold on after the break, making some basic errors and conceding 3 goals. Final score 2-3.

In the 1st XI rematch at Dover College, both teams struggled on a sticky pitch. St Edmund's were first to score with a fine strike from outside the area by Orlando Barton Hodges. With passing football proving difficult, the game became a physical encounter with both teams holding nothing back. Home advantage proved telling in this close encounter and even though Caspar Barton Hodges had an excellent second half in goal, St Edmund's lost a tight game 1-3.

Finally, congratulations to Lizzie in L5, who has been playing for the Kent School's U14 girls' football team and contributed to a fantastic 4-0 win over Sussex Schools in the ESFA competition last weekend."

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

My thanks to the The Reverend Joy Atkins, Mr Payne for producing such a wonderful service of Remembrance.

It was a poignant, though provoking service richly enhanced by some beautiful singing from the Chapel Choir and the wreath laying ceremony which was performed by the Colour Guard of the CCF. I also extend my gratitude to Captain Jones and Colour Sergeant French.

Ninety three members of the St Edmund's community were killed in the First and Second World Wars and are remembered on our war memorials in Chapel.





ST EDMUND'S DAY

On 18th November, we celebrated the life of St Edmund of Abingdon and also the rich history of our school.



In our service, the Chaplain Reverend Joy Atkins talked about the life of St Edmund – his qualities of kindness, integrity and hard work and his commitment to education. I spoke about our history of the School and finished my address with the following paragraph...

“St Edmund’s is successful because those who work here and those who study here believe in its mission and our guiding values. Kindness to others. Excellence in Education. Social responsibility. These values give our school its staying power and resilience. We got through the COVID crisis together because we believed this school and the education it offer is worth fighting for. And now we find ourselves together today strangers to each other in some ways. But that belief in St Edmund’s School is the one thing that we all have in common. And the future is not written yet. That’s our job. Where the school goes next is down to us. Together we will define the next stage in the school’s history. I think that’s really exciting. And I think St Edmund would be proud.”

The service was followed by the odd School tradition of consuming doughnuts!



RUBIX CUBE CLUB

Last week saw the launch of the much-anticipated Rubix Cube Club. Assisted by Vlad Silvestrov in L5th, Ms Florence managed to get one side with a cross in the same colour. Ms Florence said 'This is progress for me! I just used to peel the stickers off back in the 80's! Vlad was very patient and he talked us through what we should all be looking for when trying to solve the cube. It was a great turnout, with pupils coming from all corners of the school, from every year group'. From absolute beginners like Mr Symaka and Jens Chappell who had never even held a rubix cube before today, to professional cubers like Jen Li M5th and Vlad, all enjoyed all that the rubix cube can deliver: highs, lows, fun, conversation and success to name a few! The Rubix Cube Club runs every Tuesday lunchtime and is open to all pupils and staff.



ACADEMIC STRETCH AND CHALLENGE

Please also note that for the Gifted and Talented in Mathematics (for all 5th form years), Dr Jones is running Saturday morning classes online at 9:30. Anyone interested in attending can email him for an invite at erj@stedmunds.org.uk.

Mrs Shearer has set up a seminar series for our Academic Scholars which will involve non-curricular talks from expert speakers! The schedule is evolving but currently we have the following sessions confirmed...

Week B	Topic
7 th December	Political Assassinations
18 th January	Transcendentalism and the Poetry of Robert Frost
1 st February	CAD Workshop
8 th March	The Return of Hunger
26 th April	From Concept to Shelf: The Journey of a Book.
10 th May	The Most Remarkable Formula in Mathematics
24 th May	The Role of Receptors in Health and Disease - Basic Pharmacology
28 th June	Off-site visit: possibly to Oxford or Cambridge



The following students have produced exceptional pieces of work over the last week and have been recommended for Head's Commendations by their teachers:

Pupil	Subject
Oseka Akande-Alasoka (L6)	Business Studies
Michael Nkereuwem (M5)	Economics
Ash Crooks (M5)	PSHEE
Milly Jay-Reeve (M5)	PSHEE
Betsy Thorne (M5)	PSHEE
Cameron McKenzie (M5)	MFL
Carolina Miltenyi-Martinez (U5)	MFL
Peony Scott (U5)	Geography
Henrik Kane (U6)	Geography
Esme O'Connor (U6)	English Literature
Blake Scammell (M5)	English Literature
Masha Polglase-Korosteleva (M5)	English Literature
Patrick Sutton (U5)	Physics
Sienna Cowell (L6)	Biology & Chemistry
Oli Marsh (U6)	Product Design
Olivia Jenkinson (L5)	Product Design
Vladislav Silvestrov (L5)	Product Design
Iona Lester (M5)	Sports Science
Isobel Kimber (U5)	Maths
Harry Lightbourne (U5)	Maths

Congratulations on these achievements.

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