



Dear Parents,

Hard to believe that the end of term is nearly upon us. It has been a rich and demanding period with some tremendous achievements by our pupils academically and also in sport, music, drama and debating. I am extremely proud of the whole school community for the excellent attitude and determination demonstrated since September. The last week has been no exception and despite the inevitable December fatigue, our staff and pupils keep striving for success.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Over the last month I have been observing lessons across the Senior School. Sometimes as a Head, you can feel detached from the critical day to day work that goes on in the classroom. Therefore, it has been a pleasure to get out and about. Since October, I have seen over 30 lessons and have been extremely impressed by the conscientious and proactive attitude of our pupils and teachers. The pace and level of challenge in classes have been excellent and I have enjoyed many examples of innovative teaching practice by staff and collaborative learning among the pupils.



DEBATING SUCCESS

Dr Caiazza reports on our latest success in the English Speaking Union's Churchill Public Speaking competition...

"The first round of public speaking took place on Tuesday, the 30th of November, via Zoom with two teams of three U5 and M5 pupils taking part against Tonbridge school. Team A, consisting of Caitlin Hopkins (speaker), Max Visagie (chair) and Orla Wanstall (questioner) successfully made it through to the regional final in February. Caitlin's speech on the topic, 'The media controls how and what we think' was engaging and described as 'thought-provoking' by one of the judges who also commented on her ability to 'draw in the audience' with her pace, variation and humour. Team B, consisting of Betsy Thorne (speaking on the topic, 'Any book worth banning is a book worth reading'), Thomas Young (chair) and Henry Goodwin (questioner) all gained valuable speaking experience in their roles with the judges commenting on how pleased they were to see that 'oracy was very much alive' as evident in both teams' preparation, delivery and teamwork.

We wish the U5, Caitlin, Max and Orla, the very best of luck as they now prepare for the regional final at Tonbridge in February 2022." *MGC*

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

I want to take this opportunity to say a particular thank you to all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make BATB such a wonderful event. In particular, my sincere thanks go to Tam Walker-Reid, our extraordinary Stage Manager and Creative Director, who led the backstage crew brilliantly in preparation for the show and created 200 incredible costumes. Jayden Lewis and Cat Knowles-Lenoir also did a phenomenal job on lighting and set design respectively, working long hours to perfect a technically demanding show. We also benefitted greatly from the expertise of Stuart Gain on the lighting plot and Tobiah Almand and Lynda Nichol on Follow Spot. Tor Lorentzen and Ruby Coupe also provided superb support for the production (not least in the accurate dropping of eggs from a great height) and former pupils Ellie and Aimee Walker-Reid used their own considerable creative powers on set, hair and make-up.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST CONT'D

Outstanding help was provided in this respect by Sneha Shrestha, Elianna Webster, Ella Swatman, Rosie Peckett-Hill and Tilly Henderson. Finally, my thanks go to our indefatigable stage crew of Hani Lynch, Annabel Ogsten-Lemmens, Charlie Emson, Toby Annett-Baker, Oliver Stokes, and Cameron Crouch. As you can see from the list below, many others also contributed to making the production possible and I am extremely grateful to you all.



FIRST AID COURSE

Congratulations to the 19 St Edmund's School pupils who passed their First Aid course last weekend after three weeks of training. It is impressive that so many of our students chose to study this important option:

Zeph Hui	Lea Kreitlow	Helene Vogel
Luise Meyer	Pia Uffmann	Carolina Martinez
Sety Kalantari	Viktoria Stern	Claudia Serrano
Jennifer Chongbang	Cecilia Juvara	Carla Costi
Sage Stringer	Rose Klemm	
Jenny Flatt	Renata Kovacs	
Valerie Ng	Skye Jarrett	

SPORTS NEWS

Mrs Millard reports on a busy week.....

Indoor climbing has been a popular activity since introduced into the Senior Games curriculum a couple of years ago. There have been some impressive climbers amongst our pupils and this year proves no exception. Daniel Hibbin U6, Luise Meyer and Lea Kreitlow U5 have shown superb skill this term with Josh Proverbs Spry U6, Amelia Blampied-Lane, Kyla Sullivan, Peony Scott and Mia Vaughan U5 making huge steps forward in their strength and agility on the walls. We are fortunate to have the use of Chimera Climbing Centre in Wincheap, with a dedicated instructor for our group. The pupils have learnt much about bouldering, traversing the walls and different styles of grip.



SPORT CONT'D

“The Inter-House end of term sports bonanza began in earnest this week, with Basketball and Senior girl's hockey. Basketball was great fun as always with a huge range of pupils representing their houses. Congratulations to Warneford on their well-deserved victory. Mrs Florence was beside herself with joy! Watson were second, Wagner third and Baker in fourth place. Well done to all who took part for creating a competitive, inclusive and appropriate atmosphere.



CAROL SERVICE – WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

It is still our intention to go ahead with the Carol Service in the Cathedral on 15th December. Thank you to those who have confirmed their attendance already. Hopefully, COVID/Omicron will not disrupt the event. We will keep you posted.

ST NICHOLAS' DAY

On Monday morning our German boarders woke to find that St Nicholas had visited St Edmund's overnight! In Germany, to celebrate St Nicholas' Day, on the night of December 5th children clean and polish their boots and leave them outside the door before going to sleep. Next morning, they find their shoes filled with nuts, candy, and small gifts from St Nicholas. Our German boarders asked Miss Harding if St Nicholas comes to St Edmund's, and in-keeping with their home tradition, this year he did!



HEAD'S COMMENDATIONS

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	Work	Teacher
Filippa Dreier	French	Excellent result in recent test	Ms Judi-Sprinks
Kyle Ye	Music Technology	Outstanding work for mixing and producing coursework	Mr Underwood
Huw Gallagher	English	Exceptional English essay	Mrs Shearer
Marcus Crossman	Economics	Exceptional exam-style evaluation question	Ms Stanko
Callum Robison	Business	Well balanced essay on market share and economies of scale	Ms Stanko
Martha Lane	Geography	A thorough and perceptive account of factors affecting development	Ms Burton
Ava Goodman	Physics	Excellent model of an eco-house	Mrs Hummerstone
Lorenzo Henry	Physics	Excellent model of an eco-house	Mrs Hummerstone
Kyle Feng	Chemistry	Grade 9 on recent chemistry assessment	Dr Fernandez
Izabella Riches	Business Studies	Outstanding independent work	Ms Ward
Cameron McKenzie	French	Great test result and self study	Mr Geogiou
Brook Davis	Photography	Excellent work	Mr Hodge
Luise Meyer	PE	Skilful and agile indoor climbing	Mrs Millard
Bella Clague	Sports Science	Outstanding work	Mrs Millard
James Hodgkinson	Music	Excellent end of unit test	Dr Rowcroft
Henry Goodwin	Music	Excellent end of unit test	Dr Rowcroft

Congratulations on these achievements.



Edward O'Connor
 Head