



ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL WINDSOR CASTLE



Newsletter

Spring 2016

Welcome to the first edition of this new style of St George's termly newsletter. I very much hope that you will enjoy reading about the many activities in which the children have been involved and also of their achievements over this Lent term. It has certainly been a very successful term in so many areas of school life and the pictures speak volumes for the children's enthusiasm for and commitment to their school.

One of the key events of the term was, of course, the Integrated Inspection undertaken by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (the regulatory body which oversees standards in Independent Schools) and I was delighted that the Inspectors reported that so many areas of the school were EXCELLENT. The report

is a fitting accolade to the hard work and endeavours of the whole school community and it provides a firm foundation on which we continue to build and develop for future generations of 'Georgians'.

Other particular highlights of the term saw our musicians take part in workshops at Rugby School and Wellington College; our sports teams competed in matches and tournaments at home and at local prep schools, as well as at Bradfield and Wellington Colleges. Our swimmers have enjoyed success in various competitions and galas, our fencers competed in a regional competition at Wellington and the cross country teams did well at the St Piran's and St Neot's meetings. Our drama students enjoyed considerable success in LAMDA exams,

achieving 22 Distinctions and 10 Merits; quite a remarkable achievement!

So, at the end of such a busy and successful term, my sincere thanks are due to all those staff who have organised such a tremendous array of activities, trips, special events and concerts and especially to all the pupils for their outstanding achievements and for all that they have contributed to the success of the term.

Happy reading!

Chris McDade
Head Master



'The quality of pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent.' (ISI Inspection 2016)

School Events

Star Gazing Evening

This year's Star Gazing evening was a great success; we could not have asked for better weather. Clear skies and mild temperatures were perfect for viewing the planet Jupiter and its moons Ganymede and Europa. Members of the Maidenhead Astronomical Society treated us to incredible views of the craters on the Moon. A big 'thank you' for everyone's support.

Mr Foran.



UK Intermediate Maths Challenge

On 4th February six pupils from Years 7 and 8 joined over 200 000 others from across the UK to take part in the challenge. They all performed well, but James Radford and Finn Thomas both scored highly enough to be awarded a Gold Certificate and Dan Ormond a Silver Certificate. Nationally only the top 6% of pupils were awarded a gold certificate and 13% a silver certificate. Well done to all those who took part, and in particular to James who, as one of the highest scorers, was invited to participate in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad and to Finn, who has gone on to the Kangaroo round. We await the results with interest.

Mr Rumbell

Art, Computing and DT Open Evenings

This term the Art, Design Technology and Computing Departments were open for two evenings to showcase work carried out by pupils in Years 3-6. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to share their son's or daughter's achievements and some left carrying fabulously large bridges, many of which have been tested to support 100 cans of beans!



Miss Squire

Ancient Greek Day

Both Year 3 classes thoroughly enjoyed their Ancient Greek Day. They took part in a variety of practical activities, such as wax tablet making, oil lamp making, medicine bags and soap carvings. These were intertwined with stories from Ancient Greece and role play, and at the end of the day, a Greek feast!



Cheese Tasting

In Week 6, Year 4 had a cheese tasting day for our French lesson. We were given a plate, crackers and a sheet we had to fill in. On the sheet we had to say in French whether we liked the cheese and which one we enjoyed the most. I tried all the different cheeses. My favourite was the blue, smelly one! In French this is known as le fromage bleu. The cheese tasting lesson was GREAT and I had loads of fun tasting all the different kinds!

Tilly Ward (ACC)

French Theatre Company Visit

On 21st March, Y5 and Y6 had the pleasure of seeing a French play "Parlez-vous Français?" performed by French and English actors. Ben, an English boy, is on a ski trip with his school in France, but unfortunately he has an accident on the first day and his teacher takes him to the hospital. Ben's French is limited, which makes his visit to the hospital quite difficult when his teacher has to leave for another emergency! By the end, Ben knows a lot more French, and so did the Y5 and Y6!



The Year 8 Eton Science Trip

On 18th January Year 8 went to the Eton Science Museum to learn about endangered animals. We were given a sheet and the Curator told us to explore the museum and find different animals in each of four main categories: vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered and extinct. Then the Curator gave us 60 seconds to write down on sticky notes as many different reasons as we could why animals become endangered. We came up with lots, but the main ones were hunting by humans, natural disasters (famines, earthquakes etc) and increased numbers of predators. We got to hold a massive snakeskin that had been confiscated from a suitcase at Heathrow. We also got to hold a dead turtle that had also been confiscated at Heathrow. There were lots of other things that had been confiscated at the museum, which is open on Sundays. Then he rounded up the talk and we all said thank you to him. It was a great lesson so thank you very much to Mr Foran for taking us.

Finn Thomas, Year 8



Year 8 Theatre Trip

Year 8 went to see a performance of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' on Thursday 17th March. They have recently been studying the book and it enhanced their classwork. The play was brilliantly staged, using some clever lighting and movement. The boys thoroughly enjoyed it, especially seeing a real Labrador puppy on stage at the end!

Mrs Woodrow



Chemistry Spectacular

Year 6 visited Wellington College for their very popular 'Chemistry Spectacular'. There were lots of chemical reactions producing loud bangs and flashes of bright lights as we were taken on a journey through some of the important elements that make up our universe. A truly memorable afternoon!

Mr Foran



Wild Science

On 1st March a lady came to see Years 3, 4 and 5 and she brought some animals. First we saw the biggest millipede in the world. It has 400 legs and it grows 4 to 6 legs each time it grows a new bump. The second we saw was a scorpion. It didn't move much because it is nocturnal. You can do this cool trick if you put a purple light on it it turns GREEN. Next we saw the corn snake. Its mouth is so big it would be up to an 8-year old's elbow to their hand! Then came my favourite part – the rabbit. The lady brought it just for us to learn about mammals. I stroked it. I am good with furry animals but not creepy crawlies!

Willow Bartlam 4HD



Year 2 visit Florence Nightingale Museum

In Week 6 Year 2 visited the Florence Nightingale Museum at St Thomas' Hospital in London. After working really hard learning about famous people in history, it was the perfect end to our half term. At the museum we met Florence Nightingale herself! She told us all about her life and times during the Crimean War; it was fascinating. Afterwards we walked around the gardens of the hospital and listened to Big Ben tell us it was time to come back to school.

Mrs Amankwah / Miss Wilkinson



'Kings and Queens' Workshop

In Week 5 Year 1 were fully engaged in a 'Kings and Queens' workshop as part of their History topic. Neil from Ufton Court Educational Trust captured the children's interest with wonderful artefacts and visual resources. Both classes enjoyed dancing, dressing up and working in groups to extend their historical understanding.

Mrs Saunders



Pre-Prep Sponsored Skip



During the week of March 14th – 18th children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 participated in the 'Jump Rope For Heart' Sponsored Skip. During their lessons this term the children have been learning to skip and also learning about the job

of the heart in our bodies. On the day of their skip the children had to try and keep their heart rate raised for 30 minutes by skipping individually and on a large rope. They all did really well and we are still collecting in sponsorship money before we can announce the total raised for the British Heart Foundation.

World Book Day

The whole school rose to the occasion and dressed up as characters from books – nearly all of the staff joined in too and we had everything from Harry Potter, Mrs Twit to the Hungry Caterpillar. A huge effort was made by all.

Andrew Weale, the well-known children's author, told the Pre-Prep children how he became an author and held interactive workshops on 'Nora' and 'Spooky Spooky House'. The 'Once Upon a Bus' company brought a double decker bus and children from Nursery to Year 4 were greeted by giant bubbles and then taken on to the bus to experience several different stories. The younger children heard 'Room on the Broom' (Mr McDade had a cameo role!) and the older children started off in space on the top deck and then plunged down into the sea on the lower deck for 'Dear Greenpeace'.

Years 5-8 were treated to an afternoon of Shakespearean tales from the theatre company 'Shakespeare Live!'. They learnt about his life and works through a series of scenes from his well-known plays with swashbuckling sword fights and gory death scenes. Lots of the children got to be involved in the action on the stage too. It was a fabulous day of events!

Mrs Woodrow



Mobile Farm visits Nursery

On 18th March our Nursery children were excited when Basil and Crew visited, bringing with them a host of farmyard animals. There were geese, ducks, goats, lambs, chickens and two Shetland ponies. Everyone had a lovely time despite the really freezing weather!



House Competitions

House Music

The theme of this tremendously popular House event was 'Kings and Queens' and this year Mr Sean Farrell from Wellington College kindly consented to judge the competition. Revenge chose to sing Abba's 'Dancing Queen'; Rodney opted for Queen's 'We Are the Champions' accompanied by Oliver Prew (piano) and Corban Smith (drums); Victory opted for 'Hakuna Matata' from The Lion King; and Vindictive chose Queen's rousing 'Don't Stop Me Now'. Pupils enjoyed individual performances given by James Fearon (trumpet) and Giacomo Balaes (piano) for Revenge; Madeleine Warnes (flute) and Matthew Cunningham (cello) for Rodney; Zach Broad (piano) and Zach Roberts (piano) for Victory; and Nicholas Pearce (piano) and Jayden Gill (drums) for Rodney. Jayden was judged to have given the best individual performance, Victory was awarded the best song and Revenge achieved the best overall score.



Rowing

The Inter-House Rowing saw every pupil in Year 7 and 8 take part in a relay race, all gaining invaluable points for their respective teams. It became a two horse race between Revenge and Rodney - nothing could split them in the end and they shared the win.



Cross Country

All pupils who were fit on the last day of term competed in the Inter-House cross country event. This year the pupils were not only running to gain points for their Houses, but also raise money for Sports Relief. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were awarded to girls and boys in each year group in our final assembly. There were several new school records with Thomas Day and Freya Wilcox breaking the U10 records and Lottie Dewar the U11 girls' record. The final places were Revenge (1st), Vindictive (2nd), Rodney (3rd) and Victory (4th). Well done to every pupil who completed the course; now don't forget to collect in the sponsorship money in aid of Sport Relief!



Dodge-Mania!



Seemingly the most eagerly awaited House event of the year, Inter-House Dodgeball did not disappoint this term! All the children in Years 3 – 8 took part in the contest as they ducked,

dodged and dived for their Houses. Revenge won in Year 3 & 4, Vindictive in Year 5 & 6 and Rodney in Year 7 & 8. With one win and as runner-up twice, Rodney came out on top. A big 'well done' to all our pupils for competing with so much effort and sportsmanship.

Hockey

This term has seen the first Annual Inter-House Mixed Hockey matches take place. Everyone has been working hard this term to develop their skills in preparation for the event and this was clear to see in each tournament. The final results were quite close with Vindictive coming first with 14 points, and Revenge and Rodney in joint second place with 13 points. Congratulations to all those who took part and especially to Vindictive as the overall winners.

Boarding

Chorister Surplicing

Congratulations to Laurie, Nicholas and James, on being surpliced on March 6th. This is when a probationer graduates to full chorister status, is awarded his white surplice to wear over his cassock and is given a school chorister tie. Family and friends all enjoyed the celebration that followed.



Fire Station Visit

The boarders had fun trying on uniforms and riding on the fire engine! A big thank you to Slough Blue Watch for being so kind and hospitable!



Mexican Night

Fabulous Fiesta Mexicana: Mariachi Music, Margaritas and munchies - Nachos, Guacamole and Salsa. And don't forget the Conga!



Easter Egg Decoration

Our boarding boys and girls had a cracking time taking part in the Easter activities!



Pancake Night



Flipping good fun on Shrove Tuesday! The boarders enjoyed making and eating their pancakes!

Boarders DIY

The term kicked off with a 'build it for boarding challenge'. The task was to build three Ikea units for the common room. The boys worked in dorm teams and their hard work has paid off, as the common room has not only come together but the boys have a real sense of pride for having done it themselves!



Bugs Life

Boarders got to taste toasted scorpion, handle hissing cockroaches, meet giant millipedes and stroke a thorny stick insect on Bug Night. A professional entomologist entertained and educated us for over an hour on a night of wonder, delight and developing courage!



Music & Drama

Prep Schools' Orchestral Day at Rugby School

11 of our young instrumentalists clambered onto the minibus early on the morning of 25 January and travelled to Rugby School, to join with children from five other schools. The day started with a full orchestral rehearsal, sight-reading three hard pieces; despite not having seen them before, they didn't sound too bad at all!

The children then dispersed for 'sectionals' with different instrumental teachers, and worked in detail on their pieces for the remainder of the morning. The children from St George's Windsor and Christ Church Oxford were lucky enough to have a guided tour of the chapels, and play the grand chapel organ! The afternoon then commenced with a little more detailed work on their pieces, before coming back together for a full orchestral rehearsal, and what a change from the morning's first rehearsal! After a surprise hot dog and drink, the children then performed a concert of The Can Can, the Radetzky March and Finlandia.

It was superb to see and hear the enthusiasm and skill of our young instrumentalists as they relished every note and phrase of their music. They certainly came back as evangelists for orchestral playing. Well done to them all!



YEAR 4 Drama - The Head in the Sand

Both year 4 classes treated their families, friends and teachers to a highly enjoyable and informative production of Julia Donaldson's 'The Head in the Sand'. Set in Roman Britain, the play begins as a young boy digs up a bronze head from a Suffolk river. As he puzzles over it, the dramatic story of the Roman invasion of Britain unfolds in front of his eyes. Emperor Claudius, Queen Boudicca, Roman soldiers and British slave girls all play their part. With pathos, humour and sheer brilliance of performance, the children kept their audience engaged throughout the play. Well done year 4!



Windsor Festival Chamber Choir Concert

Earlier in the year, the Chamber Choir was asked whether they would like to perform in the Windsor Festival, supporting the Windsor First Schools' Project concerts on 17th and 18th March in St George's Chapel – and (of course) replied with a resounding yes! Marking the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, 300 children from seven schools sang a selection of music from the key moments in the life of our Monarch. The Chamber Choir helped swell the voices of the other children for most of the concert, but then took to the stage to perform the two-part 'Brother James' Air' and Gary Barlow's 'Sing'. As their voices soared to the fan vaults of the roof and beyond, one could see the look of wonder in the eyes of the young children listening; if Chamber Choir's role was to inspire, they certainly fulfilled their brief. Two really super concerts of which our children were proud to be a part!



An Evening of Aesop's Fables

To tie in with Year 3's history topic on Ancient Greece, the pupils have been working on dramatic versions of twelve of Aesop's Fables in their drama lessons this term. The fables all have a moral message and parents used to tell these stories to their children to teach them how to behave. However, this time, Year 3 performed them to their parents! Famous tales such as 'The Hare and the Tortoise' and 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf' were great fun. Less familiar tales also gave us some good advice, such as to be prepared in 'The Ant and the Grasshopper' and the benefits of working together in 'The Bundle of Sticks'. Year 3 certainly worked wonderfully together to create a fabulous evening's entertainment.



Prep Schools' Choral Day at Wellington College

Having been told to be at Wellington College ready with songs by Michael Jackson, our Chamber Choir set out on Thursday 27 February somewhat intrigued as to what a 'Prep Schools' Choral Day' envisaged!

Renowned conductor and livewire, Dom Peckham, started with a 10 minute silent warm up which took all 400 participants a little by surprise, but kept them totally engaged. The morning flew by with songs and singing exercises which explored technique, 4 part singing and body percussion! Several children from St George's were chosen to sing little sections of things, with Johnny Wales, Freya Willcox and Max Evans being chosen as soloists for the afternoon concert.

Much like the Rugby visit, we were treated to hot dogs (and chips) at the break and had a chance to meet children from the other schools, as well as Mr Farrell who had judged our house music competition before half-term.

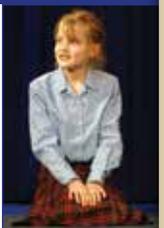
The afternoon concert attracted an audience of around 500 parents, and included an astonishing piece of music which involved Max singing a Swedish anthem whilst children around him sang notes, made bird noises, and impressions of wind and rain.

The Choir has come back with lots of techniques and helpful tips for singing which they have already spread to many other children in the school. A really superb day.



LAMDA Showcase

In advance of their drama exams, children had the opportunity to perform in an evening's showcase of their thespian pursuits! Each of the performers acquitted themselves wonderfully as they performed their individual monologues, from authors such as Lewis Carroll, Alan Ayckbourn and Kenneth Grahame. These were followed by duologues in which the children sparked off each other in some hilarious scenes. What was striking throughout the whole evening was the presence the children had on stage; they commanded their audience with an ease that suggested they felt quite at home treading the boards!



Sport

Netball

This has been another successful term for our netballers. They have achieved some excellent results in fixtures along with some pleasing successes in tournaments. The U10A were runners up at Bradfield College. They were undefeated throughout the afternoon, displaying excellent teamwork, but lost in the final to Cheam. The U11A won a tournament at Wellington College, beating Yateley Manor in the final. The girls displayed some high quality netball throughout the afternoon and thoroughly deserved to be crowned victors. The U8 Blue team were runners up in their first ever tournament at St Piran's. The girls have made incredible progress this term and only lost out on the gold medal by goal difference. The U11 girls should be extremely proud of their achievements, coming 9th out of 50 teams in the IAPS Regional Netball Qualifiers. The girls played with determination and drive throughout the day and worked fantastically as a team, sadly missing out on the Nationals by just one place.



Rugby

It has been a term to be proud of for the boys. The standard achieved has been tremendous and it is great to see so many boys giving it their best. Our U10A team remained unbeaten throughout the term! The U9 and U11 rugby teams took part in the annual Milbourne Lodge 7s tournament. Both teams acquitted themselves well and made steady progress through the tournament, with the U9 team narrowly missing out on winning the Plate Final. St George's also hosted the annual U10 Rugby tournament in March. This year ten Prep Schools entered the tournament with some making the journey to St George's from Essex and London. After winning the group, our Year 5 team progressed to the final where they beat Milbourne Lodge to retain the trophy for the second year running. It was a brilliant performance from a talented group of boys.



Rowing

Our rowing teams have been in action this term, competing in many events including Inter-House Rowing, a Sport Relief Row-a-thon and the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships (NJIRC).

In March six rowers travelled to Lee Valley Athletics Park to take part in the 10th annual National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships. Every rower achieved a personal best with the 'standout' result going to Camilla Pearce who finished 1st in her heat and an unbelievable 8th overall out of 298 competitors – an outstanding achievement!



Cross Country

St George's are producing some fine Cross-Country runners at the moment and the team has been on top form against local opposition. Our U10 and U11 teams entered a competition at St Piran's earlier in the term. Lottie Dewar, Caylan Vickers and Thomas Day were victorious in their races and Ben Dewar and Thomas Mallet also put in worthy runs. St Neot's annual Cross-Country Competition is a large tournament, with 11 teams in attendance and around 60 runners in each race. Thomas Day continued to astound everyone with his unbelievable performance and won the U11 boys race convincingly. Ben Dewar came 3rd in the U9 boys race and Dan Ormond came a very close 2nd in the U13 boys competition. St George's finished in fourth place overall – quite an achievement!



Swimming

Our Year 2 swimming gala took place on Wednesday 3rd February. It was a very exciting afternoon culminating in relay races with balls and rings; spectators were all treated to some hilarious moments! Further up the school our older swimmers enjoyed a successful term. On 9th February thirty-two swimmers from Years 3 to 6 went to St Piran's and competed in some extremely close races. The U8 and U11 teams won their competition and, after much deliberation, the St Piran's coach announced that it was a draw.

Setting off at 7.30am on 9th February, several of our swimmers in Years 5 - 8 attended IAPS trials at Guildford High School pool. They all swam their very best in a beautiful pool complete with electronic timing systems. We await news of the results to see if we have swimmers in the national finals at Crawley in May.

Coming up next term...

In addition to the weekly cricket and rounders fixtures, there are a host of other sporting events to look forward to, including the IAPS swimming finals, tennis fixtures, the IAPS National Fencing Competition at Millfield, a cricket trip to Lord's to watch England v Sri Lanka (Years 5-8), the London Prep School Athletics competition, Mini Olympics (Years 3-4) and, of course, Sports Day! (Please check the term diary for the appropriate date.)

A very big THANK YOU to all those parents, grandparents and friends who have come to watch our teams this term; your support continues to be a major factor in their success!

Mr Mitchell

Fencing

The school was represented in the South East Regionals Fencing Championships at Wellington College. Our fencers are making exceptional progress thanks to their effort and coaching from Mr Beardmore. Summer Masood, Louise Windsor, Jude Morgan-Dewar, Harry Frost, Ben Lewin and Jayden Gill should be tremendously proud of how well they fenced and many of them now look forward to the IAPS national tournament at Millfield in May.

Judo

Towards the end of term, some of our finest Judo players attended a Judo Competition at Pinewood. With some outstanding performances on the day, the following boys deservedly claimed prizes in their groups: Johnny Wales – 2nd; Zach Broad – 1st; Max Clemmow – 1st; Tom Dawson – 2nd.