



ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

TWICKENHAM

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Friday 9 November 2018



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 13 November
Thursday 15 November
Friday 16 November

Year 9 Parents' Meetings from 4.30pm
Year 11 to University of Sussex
Year 13 Historians to Tudor Conference
A Level Chemistry Live

Monday 19 November
Wednesday 21 November
Thursday 22 November

ISA Swimming Gala
Year 10 Parent Teacher Meetings from 4.30pm
A Level and GCSE Drama Soirée

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Good afternoon

Welcome back from the half term; I do hope you and your families had an enjoyable break. As you will read in this newsletter, the break has included some wonderful trips for the girls, including the expedition to St Issey, language trips to Paris and Madrid, and a theatre trip. My thanks go to the staff who made these opportunities available for the girls.

The girls have shown their appreciation of the recent changes made in the library and it is hoped that this space will now be an even more attractive and productive one, in which to read and study quietly. Over the next term we will be considering more changes to the library and the girls are already giving their views on this, which we welcome. Another instance of the way pupil voice is heard here at St Catherine's was the School Council meeting this week. This was a very good occasion, which demonstrated the girls' thoughtful ideas and their interest in participating positively in their school, and I look forward to discussing the points raised with the Head Girls.

And lastly, at our Remembrance Service today, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War 1. Staff and girls made this a special occasion and in their prayers, beautiful singing and respectful silence joined together to show our respect for those brave men and women who have gone before us, and our thanks for the peace and freedom we enjoy.

With kind regards,
Mrs McPherson

ST ISSEY TRIP

On Sunday 21st October, 50 Year 7 and 8 pupils met at Paddington Station to travel down to St Issey in Cornwall for a fun-filled week of activities. We were met at Bodmin Parkway Station by Pip, Ross, Eamon and Danny, who piled us into minibuses and took us to Manor House, an 18th century farmhouse which we would be staying in for the duration of our visit.

In the morning, after all eating breakfast together, we split into two groups. The two activities of the day were a beautiful coastal walk, and bodyboarding and surfing. To warm up before the surfing and paddle boarding lessons, we got into our wetsuits and played some games on the beach that involved moving like lizards, gorillas, and tigers. We probably looked a bit silly but it got us all ready to get into the sea and catch some waves! That evening we played some field games before heading back to the Manor House for a briefing on our rock climbing activity for the next day.

Tuesday was just as enjoyable; every single one of us rock climbed up the side of a cliff, and then we rewarded ourselves with a trip to St Ives, and sampled some of the local treats! Wednesday involved getting completely soaked, as we played netball in kayaks and went stand up paddleboarding. Many of us felt like this was not very aptly named, since we spent far more time falling off the paddleboard whilst trying to play 'Heads, shoulders, knees, and jump' than standing up on it! After drying off, we spent the evening having a guided tour of the Blue Reef Aquarium, where we saw everything from clown fish to Daphne, the octopus!

On our final full day, we all jumped onto bicycles and cycled five miles on the Camel Trail to Padstow. Whilst there, we took the time to do some souvenir shopping and try some crab fishing - not very successfully!

A fun week was had by all, and we were definitely ready for a good rest when we got back! Everyone tried their best at all the activities, with some girls really surprising themselves with what they were capable of. There was lots of laughter and many new friendships were formed, as well as old ones built on: what a great start to the half term holiday!

Miss Collett



MODERN LANGUAGES TRIPS

MADRID

This half-term Years 10-13 went to Madrid to experience the Spanish culture. We had a great time touring the city and visiting local markets amongst many other things. We enjoyed being taught Flamenco dancing before watching a show and were inquisitive whilst touring the bullring. We loved exploring Spanish shops and eating lots of Churros y Chocolate. Many thanks to the girls for their positive attitude and willingness to try new food and experiences!



PARIS TRIP

A group of girls visited Paris over the half term holiday.



They visited the Tuilleries Gardens, Sacre Coeur, the Eiffel Tower, Disneyland and the Hard Rock Café.



TEAMBUILDING AND RETREAT

Team Building – 28 September

Having had a few weeks to settle in to the new term and find their feet within school, Year 7s were ready to face the fun and challenges of our Team Building Day. This activity is a great opportunity for Year 7s to have fun and get to know each other better, but it also gives pupils a chance to set a personal challenge and learn something more about themselves as well as their peers. Pupils take part in two main activities: the Challenge Course, where they have to navigate their team around an obstacle course, and a climbing challenge. In both activities they are learning about problem solving, teamwork, supporting and encouraging others. Pupils can work at a level they feel comfortable at – then challenge themselves to step out of their comfort zone and go one step further. Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed the day and their Form Tutors and I were both amazed and very proud of the level of co-operation, encouragement and leadership shown by so many in the Year. My thanks to all the Form Tutors, Mrs Gillies, Mrs Blackman, Mrs Macwilliam, Ms Johnston and Mrs Scutcher for their help on the day.



M Ryan—Pastoral Head of KS3

Year 11 Retreat – 26 September

Our retreat programme began earlier than usual this year with Year 11 going out to Aylesford Priory at the end of September. The day focused on their own gifts and choices and gave them an opportunity to reflect on their lives. The pupils enjoyed the day as is provided an opportunity to be together as a year group, enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the Priory as well as meet and ask questions of one of the Friars, which they really appreciated. Thanks to Mrs Pietrzyk and Mrs Collett who accompanied the trip.

M Ryan

SPORTS NEWS

Well done to the Year 7 and 8 St. Catherine's Swimming team who swam against The Mall on Wednesday 7th November. They won 158 to 140. Many students swam in different races to usual and they all were outstanding. Girl of Gala is A Holt for her excitement when she won her first ever race.

Mrs Macwilliam

GENERAL NOTICES

NUTS

Please remember that we are a NUT FREE school. A number of our pupils have a nut allergy.

ABSENCES

If your daughter is unwell, please phone the school office (020 8891 2898) by 8.30am at the latest or email info@stcatherineschool.co.uk

UNIFORM

We always have a considerable amount of unmarked uniform in our lost property store. Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly marked with your daughter's name.

MEDICINES

If your daughter needs to take medication during school hours, please send it in to the office in the original packaging together with a signed note giving details of the amount to be given and when it should be given.

PARKING

Please park responsibly in the surrounding streets, giving due consideration to our neighbours. Cars should not be parked on the zig-zag lines in Popes Grove after 8.00am as per the official notice. We have also had complaints from local residents that cars park on the corner of Popes Grove and Cross Deep. This is both illegal and also dangerous for pupils crossing the road.



Sunday 9 Dec
12pm to 3pm

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful half term break and are ready for the countdown towards the festive period.

We are gearing up for our Christmas Fair on 9 December from 12pm to 3pm . This is our biggest and most important fundraising event of the year, so your support is very much appreciated and needed!

FOSC stalls have now been allocated to each class and your Class Rep will be in touch with you to ask if you are able to help during the afternoon of the fair.

This year we are asking for all **Prep girls** to bring a bottle and fancy jar in on Mufti Day. **Senior girls** should bring in either selection boxes of best quality chocolate and sweets or donate a bottle.

If bottles of alcohol are donated these must be left at School Reception by parents.

The bottle tombola is our most profitable stall so your donations are very much needed and appreciated.

Mufti Day will be Friday 7 December

Raffle tickets will be sent home very soon, so please look out for them.

We have had some interesting prizes donated once again this year.

We are, however, still on the lookout for more donations.

Should you wish to donate a prize, please kindly contact Andrea Sheehan on sheehan.andrea@gmail.com



Our Fundraising Goal.....

FOSC are busy fundraising for the renew and refurbishment of the Prep and Senior Libraries.

We are urgently seeking more parents who will be willing to have a local estate agent board temporarily installed in their front garden/driveways. The estate agency donates £10 to the school for each board displayed and this money will be then be reinvested back into the school.



If you are interested in hosting a board for the 3 weeks leading up to the Christmas Fair and would like to be added to the list, please contact Y7 parent Denise Stewart at denise.stewart@bt.com as soon as possible.

We really appreciate your support and thank all those families who have already put their name on the list.

WANTED PRE-LOVED SOFT TOYS FOR THE FAIR



We will be having a soft toy stall once again at the fair this year and would appreciate any donation you feel you are able to give. All soft toys must be clean and in good condition.

Any toys should be brought into School Reception for Debbie Lebosquet's attention.

We thank you in advance for any contributions you are able to make.

Please remember our weekly Thursday cake stall has been relocated. You can now visit Debbie, Chrissie and Lisa in the Prep Playground at the back of the swimming pool building.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Best wishes,
Sarah Prain - FOSC Chair
07977572503
sarah.prain@yahoo.co.uk

