



# ST. CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

TWICKENHAM

## SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Friday 28 June 2019

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Monday 1 July</b>	<b>Senior Sports Day</b>
<b>Wednesday 3 July</b>	<b>Outing to Thorpe Park</b>
<b>Thursday 4 July</b>	<b>Senior Prize Giving 7.30pm</b>
	<b>Senior girls go home at 2.05pm</b>
<b>Friday 5 July</b>	<b>End of Term 12.30pm</b>

### AUTUMN TERM

Term starts on Wednesday 4 September 2019

Parents are warmly invited to our Senior Sports Day –Monday 1 July 2019  
8.30am-1.15pm (at St Mary's University) 2.00pm-3.45pm (at school)

### FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

Senior School girls deserve commendation for their cheerfulness and energy since, as term draws to a close – with a strange combination of unexpectedly wet days and now rather warm ones – they have maintained excellent commitment to the many events on the calendar.

These include the very well-acted *Wyrd Sisters* at The Exchange, a delightful Summer Concert which showed an impressive range of talent in what was Mr Jacobs' last music event at the School, and a wonderful Dance Soiree. In each of these it was easy to see the girls' pleasure in performing and their readiness to enthusiastically support their friends.

The Year 10 girls have also enjoyed their Sixth Form Experience this week. They enjoyed a range of topics and also the chance to spend some time together, as a year group. I gather that the Brighton trip has fired imaginations regarding another trip in the future, to include some relaxing by the beach.

Now we just have Sports Day to come which, if recent competitions and medals won are anything to go by, will be a great event. I also look forward to seeing you at Prize Giving and wish you a very happy summer,  
Mrs McPherson

## Science students get to heart of the matter

This week, Year 8 students carried out their first dissection. After learning about the circulatory system and the structure of the heart in a series of lessons, students had the opportunity to have a hands on experience with the organ itself. In small groups, students carefully examined lamb's hearts. They looked particularly at its adaptations and explored the pathway of blood through the structure of the heart itself. Ms Iqbal who led the class reported that "There was a real atmosphere of enthusiasm, curiosity and learning in the lab. It was great to see the students working well together and supporting each other in their learning. A number of students were surprised by how different the heart looked compared with their expectations, emphasising the value of such practical science.

Already the students are asking the science department for their next dissection!



## TRIP TO BLETCHLEY PARK

"When will we use this in real life....?" is a question sometimes asked of teachers. Well, a group of year 8 and 9 pupils found out how mathematical skills, problem solving, engineering and a knowledge of different languages helped to shorten World War II when they visited Bletchley Park recently.

The girls enjoyed a tour of the site (in spite of the persistent drizzle), visiting the various huts where the famous code breakers like Alan Turing, supported by many other brilliant minds and talented linguists, worked in total secrecy during the war. Everyone had to sign the Official Secrets Act and were not allowed to discuss their work with anyone outside the hut they worked in. As well as decoding messages they were able to send false information to the Germans. The success of the D-Day landings that have recently been celebrated was attributed partly to messages from Bletchley tricking Germany into thinking we were going to invade in two different places. The girls particularly enjoyed the coding workshop. They had a demonstration of a real Enigma machine and had to crack several different codes and ciphers to work out the name of the spy!

*Mrs Edmunds*

## WYRD SISTERS

On Tuesday 18th June, Year 9 and 10 Drama students performed an exciting production of Terry Pratchett's 'Wyrd Sisters'. Loosely based on 'Macbeth', and adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs, the story revolves around three witches (opinionated Granny Weatherwax, down-to-earth Nanny Ogg and the younger, very naive Magrat Garlick) and their quest to avenge the wrongful death of the old king, restore the rightful (well, ish) heir to the throne and, most importantly, carry on not paying their taxes to the evil duke. The cast performed admirably, really bringing out the quick-witted comedy of the piece, and ensuring that the audience had a hilarious time. The cast and crew worked extremely hard, putting the whole show together in just under a month. They battled water shortages and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions (whoever said that Macbeth was cursed?) to put on a professional and impressive show. Mrs Gillies and Miss Collett had a wonderful time putting the production together and would like to thoroughly thank all the cast and crew for their commitment, energy and talent. It was very exciting to perform in a professional working theatre, and the audience were, quite rightly, left spellbound!



**National Schools Athletics Championships. Alexander Stadium Birmingham.  
19 June 2019**

Following the success of our ISA Athletics' performance, we were extremely proud to announce that the following six St Catherine's students were invited to represent London West at the National School's Championships in Birmingham on 19 June 2019. Our efforts supported our region, London West, in holding on to the championship title. The students below should be very proud of their performances at this prestigious event:

**Jessica** (Yr 10): achieved gold in 80m Hurdles (13.25 secs) and gold in relay

**Zoe** (Yr7): achieved gold in the Relay and 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 200m (29.85sec)

**Ellie** (Yr 9) achieved 4<sup>th</sup> place in the High Jump (1.40m)

**Tabitha** (Yr9): achieved 4<sup>th</sup> place in the High Jump (1.40m) (competing an age group up)

**Bella** (Yr9): achieved 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 1500m (5.16.73)

**Millie** (Yr 10): achieved 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Triple Jump (8.54m), having already set a record of 9.25m at the ISA Championships



## A BUSY TERM IN THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT



On Thursday 20th June, Year 8 travelled to the Black Country Museum in Dudley to learn more about the Industrial Revolution, which included the opportunity to explore a drift mine. Year 8 set off from St Catherine's at 6:30 am and looked forward to a three-hour journey, along with a stop halfway. The Black Country Living Museum is an open-air museum of rebuilt historic buildings, which are located in the centre of the Black Country. Most buildings were relocated from their original sites to form a base from where demonstrators portray life

spanning 300 years of history, with a focus on 1750-1950. This trip gave Year 8, a wonderful opportunity to see how it was to actually live during the Industrial Revolution and to see what they would have been capable of doing. Girls were often seen to be illiterate which meant they could not read or write and had to use displays to see which shop was which. For example, the chemist shop had 4 bottles in the window filled with different coloured liquids, red, blue, yellow and green that symbolised fire, water, sun and plants. If you could not read the shop sign, you could at least identify the chemist from the coloured bottles. Women were entitled to one-third of a man's wages according to the law, which is why most factories employed women but also children as they could be paid less. Children went to school for free until the age of 12 but most left at the age of 10 because their families were struggling. They were considered literate when they could read and write a line from the Bible. During our day, we explore different workshops to maximise our experience and one of the workshops was the Chemist. All of Year 8 were astonished to find out that more people went to the chemist than the doctor because they were free and they could not afford to visit the doctor! In the chemist's shop, you would have only needed to pay for the medicine (which was normally herbal) but in the Doctor's, you would have had to pay for the doctor's advice and the medicine as well. In the Hardware shop, we learnt about how women kept their homes clean from vermin and the use of traps to keep out cockroaches. The traps did not kill the cockroaches and so once they had been captured overnight, were usually thrown over the neighbour's fence. During Lunch, we were able to explore the village and go to shops that would sell items that you would have been able to buy in Victorian Times. We visited an old fashioned sweet shop, a bakery and a fish and chip shop. Our last stop was the mine, which was an amazing and memorable experience that we will never forget. In the mine, we heard about what it was like to work in the mines. Crawling through the darkness with a small torch we stopped to listen to the voice of Elijah (a recorded voice in the role of a worker in the mines). We were also able to experience what an explosion would have felt like through a stimulation. I can definitely say on behalf of Year 8 and the teachers that we all had a fantastic time!

*Written by Gursharon Johal*

### **Year 10 trip to the Old Garrett and Operating Theatre**

The whole experience was both educational and fun. The old surgery theatre had many fascinating features, including dried and preserved organs. We learnt many things about the development of surgery from our guide, as well as watching a surgical reconstruction from the 19th century.

After our talk about surgery we then split into two groups and were taken on a walking tour of Southwark. The focus of the walk was Public Health in the 19th century, and what it was like to work and live in the area. Overall, we had a fascinating and really enjoyable experience, which brought our recent study of the History of medicine to life.



*Eleanor 10S*

## WEALD AND DOWNLAND MUSEUM



In April, Year 7 went to the Weald and Downland Living Museum to see what it was like to live in the Medieval and Tudor times. We had the opportunity to see what the houses were like and go inside them. We also did two workshops which included farming where we learned about what Medieval farming was like and what they had to do, medicines where we learned how they made their medicines and what they would use and more. When we were discovering the different housing, we passed lots of different animals and it was interesting to think how they lived with them around. Overall, it was a really fun day and we really enjoyed it.

*Freya Himes, 7C*

## GLOBE THEATRE TRIP

On Wednesday 12th June, our year 7 cohort attended The Globe Theatre, to exhibit the Shakespearean theatre first hand. Currently, they are studying a unit entitled 'Introduction to Shakespeare' in their classes, so it seemed like a perfect opportunity to expose our students to the setting in which Shakespeare's plays were initially performed.

The day involved a tour of The Globe, which was informative and engaging; students sat in the theatre gallery and were given a plethora of facts about the historical building. This was then followed by an interactive workshop, whereby our students exercised their drama skills on excerpts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The St Catherine's girls worked with The Globe staff to explore performance methods in its original Elizabeth setting.

Overall, the day was a great success and the smiles on their faces following the workshop were a real indicator of the fun had by all!



## DANCE SOIREE

On Monday 24th June, we hosted a Dance Soirée in the main hall. This event was a showcase of some of the exercises and routines that our students have been working on over the year, in extra-curricular Dance Club. In addition, some of the girls displayed solos, duets and trios, including a piece which was performed and recorded as part of a GCSE PE assessment. Their performances offered a spectrum of dance disciplines, such as hip-hop, jazz, commercial, lyrical, contemporary, irish dance and classical ballet.

As well as this, there was a collection on the night for a charity called Meninadança. This charity work with girls in Brazil who have been exposed to child sexual exploitation and abuse. Their premise is to use dance as a means of recovery for these young women to overcome their hardships, by providing them with a safe space to help boost their confidence and integrate them back into the community. Thanks to the kind donations of friends and family, we raised £94.94.



*Miss Holgate-Smith*

## WATER ROCKET CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June, The Science Club went to the National Physics Laboratory (NPL) to attend the Annual Water Rocket Challenge. 34 schools were competing from across the UK including one from Spain and one from Wales. The NPL team checked our rockets and launchers to see if they were safe and flight-worthy. We were then given free hats, water bottles, Science Posters and ear plugs as protection from the sound of exploding rockets!

The Worlds biggest water Rocket, built by the NPL staff was on display and we were lucky enough to see it take off. We saw many schools fire amazing rockets that they had designed.

We were given a bay to ourselves from where we put up our banner and launched our rockets. The team had raised the money for the banner and our T-shirts by running two cake sales at school. The team also designed and tie-dyed the T-shirts.

There were a number of tents that you could visit to try various engineering challenges when we weren't firing rockets.

There were 2 main categories of competition: Duration of Flight. ie how long your rocket stayed in the air; and Distance with Accuracy. There were other minor competitions as well such as Best T-Shirts, best Banner and the unbroken Egg Challenge where you fire a water rocket containing a raw egg in its shell into the air and try to land the egg safely without breaking it.

At the end of the day, when all the firing had stopped and the results had been processed, the awards ceremony took place inside a large tent as the rain was pouring down outside.

We were delighted to receive a certificate for successfully landing our rocket without breaking our egg.

We were then even more thrilled and excited when the judges announce that we had come first in one of the main categories and had won the "Duration of Flight" Trophy.

We headed home tired, wet and happy!



*Mr Blake*

## SIXTH FORM

### Year 10 "Into the Sixth Form" Experience

This week, Year 10 have had the wonderful experience of being Sixth Formers. They were allowed to come to school in their own clothes, sign out at lunchtime and use the Common Room - all very important privileges which mark the difference between the Sixth Form experience and that of the rest of the school.

We kicked off with a trip to the University of Sussex, followed by time spent shopping in the Laines. At the university, the girls had a campus tour, and they also participated in some workshops run by student ambassadors. These workshops really encouraged the girls to consider what kind of university and course they would like, for example learning about the difference between campus and town universities. After all that concentration, the girls really enjoyed having the chance to enjoy the sunshine and the shops of the Laines - a particular favourite was a sweetshop which sold 400 types of sweets!

On Wednesday, the girls had a day of sample lessons so they could experience having lessons in smaller classes with more opportunities for interaction with the teachers, and they were then shown some exciting careers software. This was followed by a frank question and answer session about Sixth Form life with Mrs McPherson, Miss Bellerby and two of our leavers.

On Thursday, the girls had a session with Young Enterprise where they participated in the Learn to Earn challenge. This involves the girls drafting their dream lifestyle and then hearing about the costs of this, and then matching this up with typical salaries in the jobs they are interested in. This task was fun, and really gave the girls the impetus to work hard and reach for the sky. They also enjoyed a Relationship and Sex Education talk.

All in all, this was a fantastic week, and I very much look forward to getting to know the girls even better throughout Year 11 and then welcoming them to the Sixth Form!

*Miss Bellerby*

# FOSC

Friends Of St Catherine's

Dear Parents,

Roll up, roll up! Thank you to everyone who did indeed roll up last Sunday to turn our event into an a-FAIR to remember. The school field was transformed into a bustling summer celebration showcasing energetic performances by HotHouse, Bollywood Bounce, and Funakoshi Shotokan Karate. Families were bouncing on the bouncy castle, bopping along to the DJ, shopping the Y6 STRIDE stalls, and enjoying the grilled sausages and refreshing PIMMS. What a sight to see.

Heartfelt thanks go out to all the St. Catherine's families who helped set up, show up, and close out our fair. Special thanks to Andrea Sheehan, Paul Carless, The Watkins Family, and The Prain Family for organizing the raffle, bar, BBQ and grill to perfection. Emma Turetta did a wonderful job recruiting our local vendors, and the teachers ran the Bottle and Jar Tombolas perfectly. The support of Mrs. McPherson, Miss Wallace, Mrs Marsh, Joao and the school support staff, helped set the stage for a wonderful fair.

With Thanks, FOSC chair Lelia West and FOSC Vice Chairs Sarah Prain & Andrea Sheehan



## FOSC Summer Fair Fast Facts

- Come one, come all: the Summer Fair raised just over £4,400 and had 285 paying guests. Extra foot traffic dropped in thanks to the 40 families who hosted a Milestone & Collis Estate Agent Board, which helped raise £400 for our school.
- FOSC Bar & Grill was a delicious success: over 200 hot dogs and 125 hamburgers were served, and over 20 litres of PIMMS and 70 bottles of beer were served for a grand total of £1624.00 raised for our school. Cheers!
- Bottles and Jars a plenty: over 200 bottles of wine and 73 fancy jars were donated for Tombolas, raising £632.00
- Winner, winner, winner: hopeful raffle ticket buyers bought 1,587 tickets to raise £1,587. Lucky winners claimed over 30 prizes, with the Tang Family in Y1 winning the top prize of AirPods.

## Reminders and Requests

The final cake sale of the year is set for 4 July. Please contact your Class Rep if you'd like to contribute your time or baking skills. Looking ahead to the 2019-2020 school year, we will be asking year groups to sign up for dates of their choice to ensure everyone who wishes to participate has a chance.

Ready, steady, go! KS2/Seniors Sports Day is on 1 July at St. Mary's from 10-12 and returning to school for the cheerleading contest at 3.00pm. Between the hours of 1.00pm-3.00pm the FOSC Bar & Grill will be up and running—please grab your blankets and come on down to have lunch on the field. Don't forget to wear your daughter's house colour, a hat, and some sun cream.

The final FOSC committee meeting of the school year will be held on Tuesday 2 July at 7.30pm in the Lodge Classroom, all are welcome.





# FOSC

Friends Of St  
Catherine's

## Summer Fair Smiles

