

St Margaret's School Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Issue 70 21st June 2010

Thank you so much to EVERYONE who helped at our Summer Fête and Open Morning. A particular 'thank you' to so many parents on the PSA who helped to organise not only refreshments but also stalls and amusements. Pillow fights on the greasy pole certainly provided squeaks, giggles and general excitement!

Our musical buskers provided high-class delight and atmosphere. My thanks, as always to all those pupils and staff. It was a pleasure to end with a quality performance at our midday concert, which also included some LAMDA recitals (of Verse Speaking). There will be further such performances, along with a repeat of *Cats* at our Performing Arts Evening, this Thursday. To our great delight, Saturday morning ended (by popular request) with what we all know as 'The Daisy Dance' from *Daisy Pulls it Off*. I hope that all students and parents went on their ways to the rest of the weekend singularly energised!

Sports Day – with a picnic lunch in the middle, so that the Senior School could applaud the Prep's achievements and, likewise, the Prep could see some of the Senior Events – was also a great success and hugely enjoyable, assisted by the ideal weather conditions. DO feel that you can pass on your own and your child(ren)'s feelings about the event's new format, to school – via email, the contact book/homework diary, or simply in conversation. We are currently working on next year's calendar and try to adapt to the feedback we receive. Miss Robert's commentary in the morning was a triumph, as ever.

I mentioned on Saturday how pleased we were with our entries in the *Good Schools' Guide* following their recent visit. I think it will be 'live' very soon and I think you will feel very proud of the school, too. It is good to have visitors who are so impressed by everything St Margaret's offers.

The *Good Schools' Guide* refers to our simply superb outdoor activities provision. This weekend, another large contingent of St Margaret's went off to the moors for their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze practice expedition. Our students are so very fortunate, not only living in Devon, but also with teachers who give so willingly of their time and encouragement. Thank you Mrs Clarke and Miss Roberts!

Mrs Clarke and Miss Roberts lost no time in enlisting our new Head of Prep, Mr Richard Raistrick, as a checkpoint for expeditions. I hope that Prep parents were able to meet and chat to Mr Raistrick on Saturday. He will also be visiting this Thursday, when the Prep move up to their classes for next year, and welcome new entrants for their 'Induction Day'. Meanwhile, we anticipate 'The Nightingale', the Prep production at the end of the following week! I look forward to seeing you there.

With best wishes
Sheila Cooper
Headmistress



'enjoying excellence'



Sports Day, 16th June

On Wednesday the 16th June, the Prep and the Senior School's Sports Day took place at Exeter Arena.

The Prep went to the Arena in the morning to start the day of at 10 am. Some of the 6th Form came to help. Year 3 and 4 started the sprints. Dolly in Year 3 won the first race successfully, closely followed by the other contestants.

Then the 800m race began successfully, Eliška in year 5 and Orla in Year 6 dashed into the lead then the others followed determinedly to do their house proud.

It was followed by the long jump. Year 6 shot forward and each contestant had three goes to get the furthest to win. Henny Knott won the long jump. It was Year 5s turn now. Eliška, Izzy, Phoebe and I had our turn to try and win. Eliška was amazing she won the long jump with a whopping 3.55 metres.

Curie came first and won the cup, closely followed by Pankhurst then Nightingale and finally Bronte. Everybody tried their best in all the races, but Curie tried even harder to win.

Jessica Flanagan (Year 5)



Sports Report

What a busy week in the PE department! Monday saw Year 9 and 10 house tennis where Bronte took the victory.

Tuesday saw QECC come and play rounders against the Year 7 and 8s. The year 7s had a good game but couldn't match QECCs batting, losing by 2 rounders.

Wednesday, of course, was Sports Day. We had a fantastic day, luckily the weather was on our side, and we had a few pink faces on Thursday to prove it. The overall winners were Curie with an impressive 451 points with Bronte trailing in second place with 400. As always at St Margarets, House events are met with much enthusiasm and excitement. The girls created a lovely atmosphere and were appreciative of some quality performances. Arguably the best race of the afternoon was the Year 9 800m race. It was a closely fought race between Holly King and Zoe Sing. For both laps they were neck and neck, both looking very determined. Holly just managed to find a bit of extra strength at the end to take first place. It was incredibly close and fantastic to watch. Again, we saw two outstanding performances in the hurdle races. Holly King and Olivia Howes won their races in style, both demonstrating effective technique. Shannon Darke was recorded as the quickest athlete of the afternoon, achieving 14.14 secs in the 100m, Closely flowed by Millie Knott who won the Year 8 100m race in 14.61.

House events are not only about exceptional performances but everyone in the house contributing to the best of their ability and earning points for the house. Possibly one of the nicest things about St Margarets girls is their support for each other, the cheering doesn't stop until everyone is over the finish line. The atmosphere was only heightened by the support AND participation of our parents; congratulations to Mr Chamberlain who won the parents race - speed obviously runs in the family!

The teachers also did their bit and flexed their muscles in the tug-of-war. I think Mrs Cooper punched the air when she beat Mr Bergin's team!!!



Thank you to all the staff who helped run the day and especially to the Year 12 who did a superb job and basically ran the show.

So to Thursday.....2 great rounders games against QECC – this time the older girls. The Year 9s dominated all aspects of the game. Their batting skills were very effective – the majority of the team were able to direct their balls extremely well and gave QE lots of problem. Well done on your convincing victory Year 9s.

Year 10s also played very well, it took us a while to get in to our game, but by the second innings we were well warmed up. Natasha Howes fielded very well in the deep. Natasha Patient bowled very efficiently not giving any free half rounders away. Alice Roberts was a very safe pair of hands on 3rd playing her part in getting many batters out. Laura Harris at backstop demonstrated a really good throw to first base resulting many being stumped out. The girls managed to win by one rounder, a very good result for a slightly rusty Year 10 team!

And finally Friday was Year 7 and 8 house tennis. Curie won the Year 7 competition and Pankhurst won the Year 8s. Well done to everyone on a great week.

Gifted and Talented Mathematics Project

Mrs Adele Searle has been given the opportunity to join a project with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics and NRICH. She will work with a group of like-minded teachers to investigate the teaching of Mathematics to 'exceptionally able' students and will be attending a course in Cambridge at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences on Friday 16th July, in order to commence the project.

The aim is to support the development of able students at St Margaret's School and encourage them to enjoy their educational journey.

Angela Gould, the Programme Director for Building Motivation and Attainment in Mathematics, King's College, London has also asked Mrs Searle to be one of 6 teachers who will sit on a national advisory board.

Some of the resources produced by Mrs Searle were used recently at Exeter University for a teacher training event. St Margaret's School will receive Mathematics days and resources which are being devised to support Mathematics teaching and learning. It all looks very promising for developing attainment in Mathematics at St Margaret's!

Lower Sixth Plymouth Trip

On Friday 11th June, the Lower Sixth were given the opportunity to visit Plymouth University. Fresh out of public exams, the girls were keen to get a grasp of university life and see what the future holds in store for them. We began the morning in a university lecture theatre, where our guide told us about university life, showed us a DVD of the University of Plymouth, and began to tackle issues such as accommodation and student finance. We also met two university students, law student Lucy, and marine-biology student Cindy, who then took us on a campus tour of the university. This meant we got to see for ourselves the halls, the lecture theatres, seminar rooms and art block, and were shown the site where a new laboratory was to be built. Upon returning, our guide told us all about the UCAS system. This was incredibly beneficial to all of us and made applying a lot less scary! We were also divided into groups where we discussed our skills and achievements and looked at how we could apply them in a personal statement. After this, we were given access to one of the university's computer suites and began to look at the UCAS website, research courses and put together the beginnings of a personal statement, with help from our guides. After lunch, this sort of help continued and we had a chance to fire questions at Lucy and Cindy about university life, ranging from questions about applying, to making friends, to feeling homesick, to choosing a course. Overall, we returned far more confident about the future, with a clearer idea of what the next step is due to the beneficial advice from students in the setting of an actual university.

Calendar

Mon-21	13:45 - 15:45	House Rounders Competition - Yrs 7 & 8
Tue-22		Inter School Athletics
	09:00 - 15:45	Yr 7 Geography/History Visit - Dartmoor
	16:00 - 17:00	Soloists' Concert - PAC
	16:00 - 17:30	U14 + U15 Rounders vs Clyst Vale (A)
23/06/10 - 30/06/10		German Exchange - Hosting students from Stuttgart
Wed-23	12:00	D of E Gold (Lower 6th) - Assessed Expedition Wales - Leave
	09:00 - 16:00	Dawlish Warren Fieldwork - Yrs 5 & 6
24/06/10 - 27/06/10		D of E Gold (Lower 6th) - Assessed Expedition Wales
Thu-24		German Exchange - Hosting students from Stuttgart
		Induction Day
	16:00 - 17:00	U12 + U13 Rounders vs Clyst Vale (H)
	18:15 - 20:30	Inter Primary Schools Swimming Gala
	19:00 - 21:00	Performing Arts Evening - Yrs 7-10 - Main Hall
JUNE 28/06/10 - July 02/07/10		AB Exam Week
		Yr 11 Work Experience Week
Mon-28		Last GCSE Examination
	09:00 - 12:30	HPV Vaccination - Yr 8, 10 - 13 (Gym) - Final
	13:45 - 15:45	House Rounders Competition - Yrs 9 & 10
	18:30 - 20:00	HE Evening - PAC