

# St Margaret's School Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Issue 67 24th May 2010

Our hostages have been released! At first, listening to the memories at Friday's Upper Sixth's Final Assembly, we did not notice the absence of Mrs Hutchings, Mrs Frost and Mr Bergin. Then the remainder of the Upper Sixth finally arrived, in camouflage, waving weapons and making fearsome accusations of many members of staff. What could placate the Upper Sixth?

Fortunately, their demand was one we could agree to (reluctantly, conscious of the risks to their health), with the acquiescence (again, reluctant) of the Prep. Yes, they could be first in the queue for the lunch (our monthly 'chips'). Visibly, the three hostages relaxed. As the bonds were loosed, colour returned to their faces. There was even time for one final hymn.

Another aspect of our assemblies is the chance they give to support and celebrate talent. Today's Music Assembly was pure delight, listening together, on such a beautiful morning, to five gifted soloists (musicians in Years 8-10). The quiet appreciation and warmth from the students listening showed why St Margaret's is such a strong community. Our thanks to all the performers.

Whilst the four most senior years (Year 10s now take GCSE modules, chiefly in Science) have continued taking public exams, the spotlight on music-making and outdoor activities has moved to younger years. The Prep's concert was a great delight, with so many pupils putting in impressive solo and ensemble performances. Violin Club continues to grow apace! Many congratulations to them all and my thanks to Mrs Lowles and Mrs Maby for their inspiration and dedication. Good luck to Prep pupils for their exams this week.

The Pre-Prep very much enjoyed their visit to Mrs Batchelor's garden, nicely supplementing their learning at school. Year 1s new chrysalides will soon open up with greater beauty! We are currently sending out publicity for Holiday Club in the summer and extracts from comments made after the Easter Holiday Club can be found later in the newsletter. Trips feature in the Club, too.

Year 9 has been out on a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh walk this weekend. After some excited St Margaret's dawn (5.30 am) choruses, I suspect that many homes fell quiet quite early on Saturday evening.

The second half of term will also have its highlights (Open Morning, about which a letter will follow shortly and the Summer Fête, Sportsday and Prize-Giving) after Key Stage 3 exams have finished. I hope that no volcanic ash interrupts anyone's holiday plans and that this weekend's weather may last throughout the half-term, giving you all a well-deserved refreshing Whitsun break.

With best wishes  
Sheila Cooper  
Headmistress

## Year 10 Geography Residential to Wales

The Geography group recently visited Cardiff and the Brecon Beacons to study glaciation and urban redevelopment. The morning started with a boat trip of Cardiff Bay, followed by an interactive planning exercise in the Cardiff Bay Port Authority conference centre. The girls then explored the Mermaid Quay, surveying the Welsh Assembly, National Theatre and other new buildings; concluding the day with a dip in the international swimming pool at the Sports Village. After an overnight stay at Llyn-y-Celin youth hostel, a Geologist from the Brecon National Park accompanied the group into the Brecons. The impact of 'off roading' and tourist pressure was discussed at the Visitor Centre, under the guidance of the Geo park staff. The weather and the girls were both brilliant, which made it a very enjoyable trip. Mrs Di Forbes



'enjoying excellence'



## Comenius

Joanna McClune and Adele Searle joined the Comenius co ordination meeting in Hungary from 29th April to 2nd of May 2010

Teachers from Belgium, Denmark, England and Hungary gathered in the delightful and historical town of Kecskemet, just south of Budapest, for a three day conference.

We were immediately struck by the beauty of this country, the glorious weather and the generous hospitality of Hungarian people. The conference took place at the Piarist Grammar School, where we were treated like royalty.

The teachers made their own way to Kecskemet and assembled for the first time on Friday the 30th of April. On arrival at the school we were stunned by the grandeur of the building and were greeted warmly by the Headmaster. We were given a tour of the school, before starting our first session in the library reading room.

The first point on the agenda was reviewing year one of the Comenius project. We were unanimous in agreeing that this has been a successful year, and that we have created an exciting e-magazine, that is continuously evolving. All teachers were pleased to see that a considerable number of students have been involved with the project in all five schools. The second point on the agenda was to plan for the second year of the project. This meeting was interspersed with regular intakes of coffee, chocolate and cake.

Around midday our hostess Lillian had arranged for us to be introduced to the Deputy Mayor at the town hall, followed by an interesting tour of the town centre. After lunch we took coffee in the Green Umbrella a local youth centre committed to green projects. On return to the library, the school was teeming with parents and school leavers, celebrating the last day. It was quite an awesome site to see students walking along a flower lined path singing and carrying bouquets of flowers.

The afternoon was spent writing the joint assessment for year 1. After some free time we assembled in the school refectory for dinner.

The second day began with a review of the previous day's work, followed by an assessment of the project objectives. This was followed by group work; drawing up common assessment criteria, and the writing of an article for the magazine.

Saturday afternoon we set off on an adventure into the Hungarian Pusztá, in Kiskunság National Park, Bugac. In a restaurant set on the plains, we were treated to a traditional Hungarian meal, with goulash soup and grilled meat. A short ride with a horse carriage took us to a farmstead, where we watched men in traditional clothing, cracking their whips, putting on a great show with their horses. An entertaining and enjoyable afternoon, full of traditional Hungarian culture.

The conference ended Saturday evening leaving the teachers full of energy, new experiences and ideas, to make year two both educational and entertaining for their students.

Joanna McClune



## Swimming

The Reception class are thoroughly enjoying going to St Luke's to have their swimming lessons. Their instructors are delighted with the progress they have been making. While the more confident swimmers are practising their strokes in the deep end, the beginners group are discovering they can swim unaided. This week four children, who were non-swimmers, managed to swim a width of the pool without putting their feet down. Well done everyone!



## Prep School Concert

On a lovely balmy afternoon, the Prep School's summer took place last Thursday in the school hall. Performances displayed the usual diversity and breadth of music going on in the department and ranged from the Prep School Orchestra and Choir, to two string ensembles and a wealth of duets and solos.



It is wonderful to see so many instruments represented, particularly the 'minority instruments' such as oboe, guitar and saxophone and such a pleasure to see the students take such obvious pride and enjoyment in their music-making. Increasing performance skills at this age is so beneficial to their all-round development and the audiences continue to be delighted and amazed by their poise and assurance. The responsibility that each individual has to take, whether performing a solo, duet or being part of or leading a larger ensemble, is such an important part of developing their confidence and musicianship.

The concert was a real pleasure for performers and audience alike and the girls are now looking forward to their production towards the end of term.

A huge thank you to Mrs Maby and to all the Visiting Music Teachers, who put in so much time and expertise to help make occasions such as this so successful. The current standard of music in the Prep School promises an exciting future!

Mrs Mary Lowles

## Ellie's Chickens

On Thursday, the Pre-Prep and Nursery classes had lots of cheeping noises coming from their classrooms! Eleanor Greatorex had brought her chickens into school for us to see. She brought in 3 bantam chickens and 2 chicks. She told us their names and explained to us how she looks after them and what they like to eat. We fed them spaghetti, which they loved. They had special chicken food in a pot. Ellie also brought in some of the eggs they had laid. She was able to tell us which chicken had laid which egg by looking at the shape and colour of the eggs.



Thank you Ellie. We have learned lots about chickens!



## Daisy's garden

On Wednesday we went on a trip to Thorverton. We went in the minibus to Daisy's garden. We had to go out of the city and into the countryside. It was raining a little bit when we got there but it soon stopped.

We went on a minibeast hunt. We found lots of insects. We saw a millipede, a centipede, woodlice, beetles, and a poisonous caterpillar. Some of us saw a Cabbage White Butterfly. We used a bug gun to suck them up so we could look at them in a jar. We let them all go at the end.



We looked at all the flowers. There were flowers everywhere when we really looked closely. There were lots and lots. We saw flowers that would turn into strawberries, apples and tomatoes. We drew pictures of our favourite ones. We could see all the different parts of them. Some had loads of petals.

Our favourite thing was pond dipping in the stream. We had to wear our wellies and use a net on a long pole. We found tadpoles, freshwater shrimps, caddis fly larva, pond skaters, watersnails and a water boatman. It was great fun.

Thank you to Daisy's mum for letting us go to her garden. We had a brilliant time!

By Years 1 and 2

## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

The sun was shining constantly for the Bronze D of E group as they set off for their first overnight camp and walk on Friday afternoon.

With the tents successfully put up, the teams settled down to sumptuous evening meals and a game of rounders before settling down for a good night's sleep! A beautiful sunrise enticed the teams to get up at the crack of dawn in order to prepare for their eight mile walk which lay ahead that day. All the teams displayed great navigational skills and managed to complete their walk to Moretonhampstead in good time. Having only completed day walks before this weekend, the group coped admirably with the added weight in their rucksacks, the heat and the greater distance they had to walk in two days. Well done, Year 9 - you were a pleasure to be out with.

Miss Jane Roberts



## Sports Report

### U12, U13, U15a and U15b Rounders.

Last week was a busy time for our rounders teams. St. Margaret's played Okehampton, after the U12 and U13 match was previously cancelled due to the typical English summer weather. Nonetheless the match was re-organised and St. Margaret's girls battled through the drizzle once more.

The U12 team won spectacularly with some big hitting from Izzy Grey and some fantastic bowling (as commented on by Okehampton's PE teacher) The final score was 11 rounders to St. Margarets and 7 to Okehampton.

The U15s also had some tough games to play, with the A team up against a very strong 'lefthander' who lost many of our balls accidentally over the neighbouring hedge! However the girls played very well with some lovely hits from Tasha Patient, great bowling from Hattie Collins and captained by Lena Wilding. The final score was 9-11 ½ to Okehampton. Well played Girls.

### Aegon Tennis

On Monday, 4 girls from Year 10 competed in their first Aegon tennis fixture versus Trinity School, Teignmouth. Maisy Mays and Natasha Patient worked hard against a talented pair and gained some valuable games but lost the set, whilst a nail biting tie break was required to separate the set which Becca Stacey and Amy Prideuax participated in, narrowly losing 7 – 6. Singles matches showed some highly competitive rallies with great shot placement, but again unfortunately all sets were narrowly lost. However the standard of play was high for early in the season and I have great hopes for the upcoming fixture versus Exeter School this week.

## Calendar

24/05/10 - 28/05/10

Tue-25

14:45 - 16:00

16:00 - 17:00

Thu-27

11:15 - 12:00

14:00 - 16:00

16:00 - 17:00

Fri-28

31/05/10 - 04/06/10

Prep School Exam week

U13 Rounders vs Bramdean (H)

U14VI + U15VI Tennis vs Exeter (H)

Yr 13 Study Leave - From 12 Noon

As & A2 Art examination deadline 4pm

Yr 13 Leaver's Gathering

Senior School Swimming Gala

D of E Bronze - In school training

Staff Day

Summer Half-term

## **Holiday Club**

***Holiday Club at St Margaret's is the best, Riley-Blue and Reuben love it!***

***The staff are deeply caring as well as being sensitive to the needs of a small person!***

***The staff are very caring and experienced. The kids get a variety of activities offered to them.***

***They loved the theme of under the sea and I love how the classroom was brightly decorated.***

***Jade has so much fun at holiday club. She can't wait until the holidays.***

***When Annabel knows it is holiday club she is extremely excited. She wishes it was holiday club everyday!***

***You know your child is in safe hands.***

# St Margaret's Summer Holiday Club

**Open:** Friday 9th July - Friday 30th July  
Monday 16th August - Wednesday 1st September



Holiday Club is full of lots of fun and exciting activities.  
Boys and Girls aged 3-8 welcome.

(You don't have to attend St Margaret's to join our Holiday Club)

| <b>Holiday Club</b> | <b>Timings</b> | <b>Cost per Session</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Early Birds         | 08:00 - 09:00  | £2                      |
| Holiday Club        | 09:00 - 16:30  | £25                     |
| Morning Session     | 09:00 - 12:45  | £13                     |
| Afternoon Session   | 12:45 - 16:30  | £13                     |
| Late Leavers        | 16:30 - 18:00  | £4.50                   |

For further information please call Melissa Malins on

Tel: 07891882998 or email: [mmalins@stmargarets-school.co.uk](mailto:mmalins@stmargarets-school.co.uk)

A wide range of exciting adventures including:  
Crealy Adventure Park  
A Trip to the Seaside  
Bumpers Back Yard  
Darts Farm  
Cinema  
and lots more.....



Join in with our fun activities.  
These include:

- Face Painting
- Cooking
- Fancy Dress
- Outdoor Art Work
- Computer Games
- Sports Fun
- Arts and Crafts
- Summer Party
- Bouncy Castle
- Ball Pool
- Padding Pool
- Dance
- Cheerleading

and lots, lots more....

