

# St Margaret's School Newsletter

Issue 58 26th February

Dear Parents,

I hope that you have all enjoyed the half-term break. It is good to see the pupils looking rested, refreshed and in some cases – I'm convinced – taller! After our early pancakes races, Holiday Club provided any number activities for our younger children. During the half-term, our musicians performed for Dream-A-Way, celebrating their 'millionth pound raised'.

I am always very grateful to the staff of St Margaret's who do so much for your children. During the holiday revision classes continued: many thanks to Mrs Clark and to Mr Meeke! Mr Meeke also began the half-term taking girls interested in reading Theology to an Oxford Open Day.

Another particular, heart-felt thank-you is due to Miss Agg-Manning for taking over direction of not one (this is, after all, St Margaret's!) but three plays. The Upper Sixth's Brechtian production of 'Don't Cry Over Spilt milk' was utterly gripping. The weekend sees a complete contrast, with Year 11's performance of Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit. There are still tickets available!

As our Pre-Prep continues to grow, I am pleased to announce the appointment of another teacher, for Year 2 English, Mrs Christina Hayward, and to confirm to you the appointment of Mrs Michelle Jones as Reception Class Teacher. Further details are contained in a letter to the Pre-Prep parents.

It was very good to talk with parents at the Year 10 and Years 5 and 6 Consultation Evenings. We hope to send out another questionnaire to you all in the next month and do genuinely value your feedback. I hope very soon to be able to announce the new Head of Prep, plus some plans for (possibly) further improving its fabric.

Likewise, we very much appreciate your support. Senior School girls returned to a transformed Morford staircase and entrance area to Room 15, paid for by funds raised in the Uniform Shop, and work will be finished in the Easter Holidays. An especial thank-you is due Mrs Mannering and her team who all work so hard on our behalf.

Lots of fun from fund-raising (there always seems to be a lot of food involved!) should help to cheer the older girls on as they approach final stretch of study for public exams. I look forward to seeing you all at our Auction of Promises next week.

With very best wishes,

Sheila Cooper  
Headmistress

## A new picture of St Margaret's – painted by a St Margaret's student

On Wednesday, a new picture was added outside Mrs Clapp's office. Mrs Alexandra Berry painted it in the Sixth Form: she remembers how this helped develop her skills in showing perspective and that she enjoyed the way acrylic paints gave variation and shade to the foliage.

Mrs Berry is pictured with Mrs Cooper and former Deputy Head Mrs Yeo, who is now in charge of St Margaret's archives in a photo kindly taken by Mrs Shelley Mays (Mrs Berry's sister, who also attended St Margaret's)



'enjoying excellence'



## Pancake Activity Day

On the Thursday before half term, the Pre-Prep and Nursery classes celebrated Shrove Tuesday a few days early with a Pancake Activity Day. The children discovered the history behind Shrove Tuesday before embarking on a day where all lessons were based around the theme of pancakes. They created pancake faces, with the older children putting the faces they had made out of shapes onto pancake beanbags. Graphs were made, showing their favourite toppings, and all the children cooked and ate pancakes. There was great excitement at the end of the day when pancake races were held in the playground. The children enthusiastically cheered their friends and on finishing their races were presented with medals which they had made earlier. An exciting time was had by all!



## Netball in the Prep School

The Prep Department have enjoyed a very successful week on the Netball court. On Monday, two teams played The Maynard School - the A team drew 4-4 and the B team won 12-2. Both matches were played to a high standard with fast and accurate passing. Furthermore, the shooters were on top form and scored some exceptional goals. The 'Players of the Match' were: Phoebe Tremlett-Williams for the A team and Molly Batchelor for the B team. Following on from this tremendous win and draw, the Under 10 team played Bramdean on Tuesday. Again the St Margaret's team over powered their opposition and finished with an 8-2 victory. They displayed true team work, with every single member of the team working as hard as possible. Christina Dunn was 'Player of the Match' for her brilliant shooting.



Miss Roberts

## The Ancient Egyptians come to St Margaret's!

Years 3 and 4 came to school as Ancient Egyptians on Thursday. Why? Well, they have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians in History and as part of their studies, they were visited by Dawn and Ben, from the Royal Albert Museum in Exeter.

Dawn came as a priestess and showed the girls how to mummify a body – complete with pulling the brains out from the nostrils! There were lots of artefacts to look at, touch and even smell.

At the end of the afternoon, they performed a mummification to some of their parents and children from the Pre-Prep and Years 5 and 6.

It was great to learn new things in such a different way.

Mrs Every



## Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

On Thursday 11th February 2010 we set off on a long journey to Didcot, to visit the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. We started the morning with a presentation in the planetarium. We learnt about the solar system and some constellations. We were also informed of how it rains sulphuric acid on Venus. The speaker explained how increasing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions could eventually increase the Earth's temperature by 10.C and sea levels would rise as a result. Interesting facts about the sun were given: it's surface temperature is as hot as 5500.C and the core temperature is 14 billion. C. Rutherford are currently working with NASA to assist with the investigation of the sun's atmosphere and the effect it has on Earth, such as disruption to communication systems. Rutherford has designed and made the telescopes on board the NASA solar probe mission. High resolution photographs and data will be sent back to Earth over the next five years.

After our eyes had adjusted to normal light, we ate lunch and then took a tour around ISIS, the particle accelerator. With our lovely tour guide, Scott, we learnt about the different items which are tested using the facility. For example, the wings of the new A380 jumbo jet were tested for strength and durability. A leading shampoo manufacturer has tested pleasant scents used in shampoo to see how this affects their ability to clean our hair – the outcome was to avoid mango based scents as these do not clean as well. During the tour we had a chance to visit the new Target Station which was only opened in December 2009. Our guide described how live viruses can now be tested in this new section of the ISIS facility, helping to improve and develop new medicines. It was interesting to see how such a complex laboratory can help design the products which affect our daily lives.



By Lydia Kay and Sarah Wilson

## Learning Success news

After a highly successful Learning Success evening for parents last term, we have acted upon several ideas that were expressed to raise the profile, and indeed the 'success', of our department. One such idea was that some of the senior girls could become Mentors to the younger members of our community. We already have several sixth formers who have now become very successful Maths buddies, to girls in Years 7 – 9, since September. More recently, we are extremely grateful to Ruth Prideaux who has offered to become our first sixth form Mentor.

### Ruth Prideaux is Here to Help

In my new role as the Learning Success Mentor, I will endeavour to offer advice and support to any pupils who have questions or need advice about learning.

I will be available in the library:

- Tuesdays 2nd lunch break and period 5
- Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00



My role will involve acting as a mentor to pupils who may be experiencing difficulties when learning. At St. Margaret's I have gained so much and been supported so well that now I feel I can give something back to my fellow learners and encourage them when times are tough. Being dyslexic myself, I know how difficult it can be to approach work, whether I'm struggling with homework, feeling embarrassed when asking questions or balancing a social life with the effort that my work demands. I would like to help others in the same boat. I can help you if you are finding organisation difficult. I can show you ways you can revise. I can also be available if you need someone who will just listen.

Mrs Tanner and Ruth Prideaux

## Seraphim in Concert

On Wednesday 10th February at Glenorchy United Reformed Church in Exmouth, Seraphim were thrilled to have another opportunity to entertain a full and appreciative audience. The concert was part of a series of lunchtime concerts. As ever, the girls rose to the occasion and charmed the audience with their professionalism and high quality of musicianship. They performed a total of 13 items, some a cappella (unaccompanied), some accompanied, and in styles ranging from a traditional folksong from Lapland, to the moving 'Ave Verum' by Mozart and several lighter items, including their 'trade-mark' song 'Fields of Gold' by Sting. In addition to items sung as a trio, the girls all took a solo spot: Daisy sang the famous 'Autumn Leaves' by Joseph Kosma, Lucy sang the renowned 'In His Eyes' from the show Jekyll & Hyde by Frank Wildhorn and Alice sang the poignant 'When Did I Fall in Love' by Jerry Bock.

There was something for everyone's musical taste and there were many very positive and genuine comments from the audience:

'Three delightful voices and a maturity not typical of girls their age'.

Seraphim know that they are privileged to have these performing opportunities and are always seeking new ways to extend their repertoire and technique.

My sincere thanks to Alison Northcott who devotes much time to coaching the girls and encouraging them to achieve bigger and better things!

Mrs M Lowles

## Match Reports

Both the U15s and U14s played particularly well on the last Thursday before Half Term, against Kinglsey School. The U15s played exceptionally fiercely, with some great square passing, dodging and teamwork from Imogen Mackie and Connie Muldoon (Captain), who plays centre. However, Amber Kislingbury, who received 'Player of the Match', was on top form defending with Lena Wilding and Becca Stacey. They were picking up every ball with some lovely passing also. Hattie Collins additionally played really well, working hard with Laura Harris, with virtually every goal shot going in! This fabulous play led to an easy victory, 18-5 for St. Margaret's. The U14s played equally victoriously, with Grace Kislingbury and Emily Hill working very hard to get the ball up the court, with hard, fast passes and some fancy dodging! Megan Ford also played well, and surprised herself with an outstanding goal, that did not even touch the sides! However 'Player of the Match' went to Tia Butt, whose goals went in every time and her dodging and holding space, are second to none. The final score was 23-10 to St. Margaret's. Well done girls, I am so proud of all of you!

## Calendar

Sat 27		Ten Tors Training
		Yr 9 Maths Masterclass - Exeter University
	19:00 - 21:30	Bliithe Spirit - Performance
Sun 28		Ten Tors Training
<b>01/03/10 - 05/03/10</b>		<b>School Fundraising Week</b>
Mon 01	14:00 - 15:00	U15 + U16 EOS Netball at West Exe
Tue 02		CCF Field Day - RAF Cosford - TBC
	18:30 - 20:30	D of E Coastal & Countyside Training Course
Wed 03		<b>WORLD MATHS DAY</b>
		CCF Field Day - RAF Cosford - TBC
		Pre-Prep Parents' Consultations
	13:30 - 14:30	U19 EOS at St Margaret's (1.45 start)
	16:30 - 18:00	Yrs 3 & 4 Parents' Consultation Evening
Thu 04		<b>World Book Day</b>
		Pre-Prep Parents' Consultations
	13:00 - 16:00	<b>Meeting a Holocaust Survivor - Yr 10 students</b>
	16:00 - 17:00	U18 Netball vs Exeter School (H)
	17:00 - 18:00	Confirmation Service - Chapel
	17:00 - 19:00	ABRS Music Theory Examination
Fri 05	19:00 - 21:30	<b>PSA Auction of Promises</b>
Sat 06	10:00 - 16:30	<b>Choral Masterclass with James Davey</b>
		Yr 9 Maths Masterclass - Exeter University

## **'Dreamaway' Soirée at The Guildhall**

St Margaret's were very pleased to contribute to another soirée at The Guildhall on Wednesday 17th February, in the presence of the Lord Mayor, to celebrate his charity 'Dreamaway' raising their first million pounds - an achievement indeed! It was an evening of wine and canapés, and speeches, with some film footage showing the work of Dreamaway. The quartet from St Margaret's played in the gallery before and after the speeches. Tessa Dibble and Lucy Norman-Walker played flute duets, some accompanied by Miss Highton on piano, the girls were joined by Miss Highton for flute trios, accompanied by Mrs Lowles and later Miss Highton and Mrs Lowles played a combination of flute, clarinet and piano music. The company seemed to really appreciate our input and once again there were many favourable and appreciative comments. The Chairman of Dreamaway, Mr Jeff Merrett MBE, wrote the following:

'Please can you pass on my thanks to the two young ladies, Liz and yourself for coming along to the Guildhall and providing us with delightful musical entertainment.

I'm sure you realised how special the evening was to all connected with Dream-A-Way and with your support it reached the heights we had hoped for.

Thank you again for your excellent support; it really is appreciated.

It really is a pleasure for us to work with you, Liz and the girls and we very much look forward to the next time'.

It is indeed typical of students and staff from St Margaret's to give up their time so willingly during half-term, to give so much pleasure to so many and. my grateful thanks go to Tessa, Lucy and Miss Highton for their support.

Mrs M Lowles



## **Auction of Promises (Friday 5th March from 7 p.m. Main Hall)**

Next week's Auction of Promises 'promises' to be a hugely enjoyable event. A proportion of funds raised will be presented to 'Dream-A-Way', the Lord Mayor's Charity. The Lord Mayor himself is attending on Friday night.

A list of the unmissable 'promises' offered so far are printed overleaf so you can decide in advance which lot(s) you might earmark for your bid(s).

Tickets are still available but we must have last applications by Wednesday 3rd March to enable us to finalise our catering arrangements. Tickets are just £5 and include a two-course Italian style meal. A vegetarian option will be available but please let us know if you have any other special dietary requirements.

If you can't attend but would still like to make a bid for any lot here's how to do it:

- a) Sealed Bids - Write your name and the number (Main auction) or letter (Silent Auction) of the lot you would like to bid for on the front of an envelope. Inside enclose a note indicating how much you would like to bid for the lot. You could indicate a bid range if you wish - e.g. Starting Bid £5 – Maximum Bid £20
- b) Telephone Bids – If you would like to join in the fun for a short time during the evening but can't attend, contact Miss Tucker, confirming the phone number you wish us to use and what lot(s) you are interested in. (rtucker@stmargarets-school.co.uk or tel. 01392 273197) We will let you have all the details you need. On the night we will ring you shortly before your indicated lots are due to be presented. Friends and family are welcome so don't forget to invite them this weekend. Even if you don't want to make any bids, you are all, of course, still very welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

# Main Auction Promises

- 1 Tea with the Lord Mayor - with transport provided in the Mayoral limousine.
- 2 A sewing workshop with the Deputy Lord Mayor.
- 3 A Day with Express and Echo Photographer Marc Astley - with at least one picture published.
- 4 Evening's fly fishing/guiding on the River Bathern at Bampton for wild trout or an evenings fly dressing tuition.
- 5 A round of golf for 4 people at Woodbury Park Golf Golf Club.
- 6 A weekend in a holiday home in Porthowan, Cornwall (sleeps up to 8 people). 2 mins from beach.
- 7 A day's camera tuition with a professional photographer - ie, do you have a digital camera and aren't really sure you are getting the best out of it.
- 8 Puddings for up to 50 people for a Spring/Summer event.
- 9 A canvas print measuring 3ft x 2ft stretched over a wooden frame and varnished - Provide a digital image of your choice or select an Exeter landmark. eg The Cathedral or the Quay.
- 10 Mrs Sheila Cooper (The Headmistress!) will wash your car.
- 11 Tour of Exeter Cathedral for 4 People (11 years upwards) including a visit to the medieval roof.
- 12 Tour of Exeter Cathedral for 2 adults including a cream tea in the Refectory.
- 13 Canapé party for 20 prepared by a Corden Bleu trained chef served in your own home.
- 14 Interior Design Service (Consists of a visit to your home to discuss your interior design needs, after which a mood board will be produced containing fabric swatches, paint samples, furniture and lighting ideas etc, or alternatively if a mood board is not required then 5 hours of interior design advice).
- 15 2 tickets for Dream-A-Way Mardi Gras Ball plus a Hollywood Limousine pick up for up to 8 people. (Limited to within 10 miles of Exeter).
- 16 A day's PR work or a review of a small company's communications strategy and seeing the best way to get their message across.

# Silent Auction Promises

- A A day of gardening for someone who might like all their winter weeds cleared ready for Spring!
- B A Family portrait (or a house, car etc that anyone wants photographed).
- C 5 Tickets for 'Paignton Zoo'.
- D 5 Tickets for 'Living Coasts'.
- E Mr Harrison (A school governor) will do your ironing! (2 hours)
- F An air hockey table.
- G 6 Bottles of red wine.
- H A yummy basket of Vie cosmetic goodies.
- I Nicholas Orme's book: 'The first thousand years of Exeter Cathedral'.
- J Taxi/Chauffer Service (Max total mileage = 60 miles) on up to 3 separate occasions, carrying a maximum of 4 people. Date and times by mutual agreement.