

St Margaret's School Newsletter

Issue 71 28th June 2010

Dear Parents,

The sun added extra sparkle to the arrival of our German exchange visitors who arrived last Wednesday (herzlich willkommen!) and to so many other events.

Our Performing Arts Evening, on Thursday, provided a delightful contrast between the excellent acting and dramatic speaking and high-quality musical excerpts. It was a privilege to be able to watch and listen to many of the items. Mrs Leonard's expertise in developing students' abilities is well recognised throughout Exeter and we are keen to encourage students to take advantage of her lessons. Do get in touch, with Miss Hattie Agg-Manning in the first instance, if you are interested in your son or daughter benefiting from her tuition.

Other events extended and reinforced the curriculum. We were pleased to welcome our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) ambassadors to Year 9, as Dr Trimming reports later in this newsletter. The Geographers in Years 5 and 6 were, weather-wise, the most fortunate pupils of recent years in their visit to Dawlish Warren.

Our Prep swimmers realised some outstanding achievements in the Exeter Schools Swimming Gala last Thursday, as did some of our athletes in the Senior School. Congratulations to everyone!

Mrs Clarke was delighted to report that all the Sixth Form passed their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Assessed (three-day) expedition. It was rather a hot, dusty experience (with lots of ticks as opposed to leeches). Walking up Porlock Hill in the recent sun was extremely demanding! Mrs Clarke also congratulates them on being the best group she has ever had! The assessor was very impressed by their mature, positive attitude, they were a credit to the school.

On such an invigorating note, with only next week's newsletter left before the end of term,

My very best wishes,

Sheila Cooper
Headmistress

'Exhibit A'

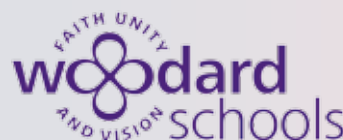
The Art Department staff and A Level students invite all staff, students and parents with an interest in Art to our 2010 'Exhibit A' exhibition on Wednesday 30th June at St Margaret's School. The event will take place between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Sarah Agg-Manning

We will be celebrating all that Sarah Agg-Manning has done for the Prep Department after the Prep Play on Friday 2nd July. You are warmly invited to join us in thanking Mrs Agg-Manning. There will be a reception at 8.30 in The Prep Garden following the final production of The Nightingale. Please call the school if you able to join us.



'enjoying excellence'



Our trip to Dawlish Warren

Last Wednesday, Years 5 and 6 went on a Geography fieldwork trip to Dawlish Warren - it was great fun. We were split into four groups: one with Mrs McClune another with Mrs Maxwell, one with Mrs Williams (Taylor's mum) and the other group with Miss Roberts. When we got there the four groups became two! One group set off for the nature reserve, whilst the other group went up the road and answered the questions about land use and tourism on the work sheet. After the groups had completed their tasks they swapped over.

When we had finished the work side of our trip, we went to get our lunches and sat on the grass by the sea wall. In addition, Miss Roberts bought us all ice-creams! After we had all finished our lunch, we had a game of rounders. The score in the end was 19 rounders to 10 rounders. We even made up team names, one team was called The Winners and they won! The other team was called the Ice-creams! Overall, it was a very enjoyable trip that none of us will forget.

By Erin Singer and Henny Knott (Year 6)



Exeter Primary Schools Swimming Gala

Last Thursday, nine very eager, competitive Prep pupils entered the Exeter Primary Schools Swimming Gala at The Pyramids Swimming Pool in Exeter. We entered the Gala last year and did well but this year was even better with many individual successes. The pool was buzzing all evening with lots of cheering and clapping and some brilliant swimming. St Margaret's entered the spirit of the evening and were determined to do themselves proud as well as the school. The following pupils all came second in their heats and therefore made the finals:-

Laurel Watts (backstroke)

Taylor Williams (freestyle)

Izzy Knott (breaststroke)

Orla Kislingbury (breaststroke)

In the finals, Izzy and Orla came 5th and Laurel and Taylor came 6th in their respective races. The finals were so close that the girls could quite easily have come second!

The others who took part also did well in their heats:-

Daisy Conibear came 3rd

Molly Simpson came 5th

Bailey Cameron, Lucy Brice and Anusha Brown came 6th

Well done to the whole Swimming Squad – you were a credit to the school!



Occombe Farm

I went to Occombe Farm. First of all we had to feed the cows their breakfast. There was a greedy cow and she didn't like being stroked. She was the biggest cow in the group. All the cows were very hungry. Next we went to see the goats. There was a goat called Jess and a baby goat called King Julian. He was very cute and he had a purple tag on his ear. Then we went to get the chicken eggs. We were able to have a go at holding an egg. There was one warm egg that had just been laid.

After that we made some bread and it was delicious. It was fun making the bread. I made a cake and a smiley face out of the dough. In the afternoon we went on a nature walk. We went sweeping for Minibeasts in the meadow and collected all the different coloured leaves we could find. After we came back to school on the minibus. In the evening we were able to eat our bread.



By Chandani Sundarum Year 1

Bronze D of E Practice Expedition

Last Sunday and Monday, 36 Year 9 pupils participated in their Bronze D of E Practice Expedition in the East Devon countryside. This was their last chance to hone their navigational and map reading skills before their assessed expedition in September. The six groups started on Woodbury Common and walked out towards the coastal footpath, before reaching camp they had to tackle the notorious Salcombe Hill at Sidmouth! In the blistering heat and sunshine, this was a formidable task, having already completed 8 miles with full packs on their backs! However, they were rewarded with a brilliant campsite which they had all to themselves. In the evening, we lit a camp fire, sang a mixture of songs and toasted marshmallows. In addition, Abbie's Mum and Dad delivered some delicious ice creams for us all to devour! The following day, the groups had a ten mile route over East Hill to Ottery St Mary. All the groups finished their routes in good time and felt a real sense of achievement on completion of the walk. Yet again, Year 9, you were a real pleasure to be out with!



Miss Roberts

Soloists' Concert – Tuesday 22nd June 2010

On a warm, sunny afternoon last Tuesday, the final Soloists' Concert of this year, took place in the Hall. One of the particularly special things about this event is that it embraces musicians from the Prep School right up to the Sixth form. It is such good experience for the students to hear each other perform and, as is typical in our school, they are always so supportive of one another.

It delights audiences to see the range of instruments played and the diversity of musical styles, and this concert was no exception. There were performances on oboe, violin, and piano, as well as voice and flute, and composers ranged from Handel to Schumann, and Gershwin to Rodgers & Hammerstein.

It was a real treat for the concert to begin with the two Lower Sixth A level Music students - Daisy Walford and Lucy Norman-Walker, singing the famous 'Flower Duet' from Lakmé by Delibes. They really did give a sublime performance of this famous work - to the extent that it reduced a Visiting Music Teacher teaching in the PAC to tears, as the music wafted across the tennis court!

There was also a lively finale, played by the Flutelets, led by Miss Highton, playing 'Flute Cha Cha' by Mike Walton. This group is certainly in good training to succeed Flute Cocktail in the future!

The soloists all performed commendably and with poise, displaying a high standard of musicianship and technical assurance. Many congratulations to them all. We wish them well in their forthcoming Associated Board and Trinity exams.

Many thanks to Mrs Maby for her help with accompanying, and to the VMTs who prepare the girls for concerts and exams.

The Performing Arts Evening - Thursday 24th June 2010

On a beautiful, hot summer's evening last Thursday, the first Performing Arts evening took place in the hall. The purpose of the event was to offer a combined sample and celebration of all the Performing Arts that take place at school throughout the year. The evening was, quite simply, a real delight for the large and appreciative audience.

The standard of performances was hugely impressive and they were delivered with energy, conviction, clarity and aplomb.

It was such a pleasure to see so many girls offering such a diversity of performances. These included: monologue and duologue scenes, prose speaking, solo drama, contemporary dance, choral singing, orchestra, chamber music and solo 'cello and voice. It is also gratifying to see more senior girls performing alongside younger girls.

They are so fortunate to benefit from the expertise of their teachers in all these disciplines and the standard of performing, which is continually rising, promises an exciting future!

It was also lovely that the audience were able to enjoy seasonal refreshments outside on the lawn during the interval.

A huge thank you for the dedication and support of the speech and drama and music staff who coach these girls, and to all the St Margaret's staff, whose help and support at such events is invaluable in making them such a success.

Mrs Lowles



Reminders

2010/2011 AS and GCSE level study leave will start one and a half weeks after the start of next Summer Term. It is useful to remember this in any planning of Easter holidays.

Prize-Giving

It would be a very great help if all replies could be sent in as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Calendar

Tue-29	15:00 - 17:00	Alumnae Strawberry Tea
	16:00 - 17:30	U12VI + U13VI Tennis vs Exeter (A)
	16:00 - 17:00	U14 +U15 Rounders vs Maynard (H)
Wed-30		Last GCE A2 Examination
		Oxford University Open Day Visit - Yr 12 - Leave 13.30
		Activities Day
	14:00 - 16:00	German Exchange - Students from Stuttgart return home
	17:30 - 19:30	Prep Production Matinee Performance
01/07/10 - 04/07/10		Exhibit A - A Level Art Exhibition Opening TBC
Thu-01		D of E Gold (Upper 6th) - Assessed Expedition Dartmoor
		Oxford University Open Day Visit - Yr 12 - Return 19.30
		Cambridge University Open Day Visit - Yr 12 - Leave 13.30
	16:00 - 17:00	U12 + U13 Rounders vs Maynards (H)
	19:30 - 21:00	Prep Production
Fri-02		Cambridge University Open Day Visit - Yr 12 - Return 19.30
		D of E Silver - Practice Expedition Dartmoor - Leave 4pm
	14:00 - 15:30	Pre-Prep Sports Day
	19:30 - 21:00	Prep Production
03/07/10 - 04/07/10		D of E Silver - Practice Expedition Dartmoor