

# St Margaret's School Newsletter

Issue 55 29th January

Dear Parents,

"I miss them so much!" – this comment about the children from those who had helped in the Goodwill Village in India characterised St Margaret's girls on their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Scheme's trip to India. Last night's presentations by the Sixth Form were fascinating. We learned about the different cultures, even within one country. We experienced the trek, ever upwards into the mountains, it seemed, and empathised with the sheer endurance needed, in such heat and humidity and so much adjusting to do (not least to diet). Most memorable, though, was the happiness the girls found there. That was the real message of the evening. If the children of Goodwill, with so little, can be so happy, perhaps in this country, we should appreciate all our blessings. Very many thanks, as always, to Mrs Clarke, Mrs Forbes, Miss Roberts and their teams.

It was a particular pleasure to welcome back Mrs Maureen D'Albertanson, whose original St Margaret's project it was, and Mrs Denise Williams, who sponsor one of the boys in the Goodwill village. Mrs D'Albertanson has recently become a Trustee for the Goodwill Village and received a cheque for the amount raised this time: a stunning **£11,269!** This is an incredible total. Huge congratulations to everyone. St Margaret's outdoor life began again last weekend, with the first practice walk for Ten Tors. In addition Mrs Forbes and her geographers have explored the Dawlish coast this week! Meanwhile, our musicians have taken the first steps towards recording a CD of their singing.

Finally, I am delighted to include more Prep School writing. I hope that you enjoy reading these 'Mini-Sagas'.

Sheila Cooper  
Headmistress

## Rotary 'Youth Speaks' Competition 2010

On Monday evening, at St Luke's High School in Exeter, Latifa Al Lahow, Tara Searle and Natasha Disney represented St Margaret's in the Junior section of this public speaking competition. Their chosen topic was 'What makes a good role model?' and they acquitted themselves admirably. In total, 5 teams have represented the school in this year's highly competitive rounds and are all to be congratulated on their commitment and resilience. It has been a demanding and educational experience for all concerned.



'enjoying excellence'



## India Presentation... Impact On me:

I think that probably the most influential part of the trip was the great effect and impact it has had upon me and all of us when thinking about the truly extreme differences between our lives and others within the world. Not everybody is as fortunate as us, and I think that all of us underestimated, and still do, the great amount of privileges we take for granted every minute of the day. Children at the Goodwill Village don't have or see their parents, they sleep on the floor, they can fit all of their belongings into one box, but they still manage to be happy in their day-to-day lives. Throughout the trip I found myself asking, "How do they do it?" I mean, I complain on a D of E walk on Dartmoor, or even walking up mountains while being ill in India, but these situations, I see as challenges, are small and insignificant compared to the lives of the many stricken in poverty in India. Goodwill, is a charity I know we are all proud to be a part of, they do unbelievable work, giving seriously disadvantaged children the opportunity to step out of the poverty cycle and make a better life for themselves and their families in the future. This is crucial for the generation of today as surely all of us would like to see poverty improving, and more positive prospects for those in need. It might take that little bit of effort from all of us, but I think it's worth it for the sheer amount of positives we could take from the situation. We all know that there will always be poverty in the world, including within our own country, but we could make that percentage just a little less, giving people just that extra hope across the globe.

Another great effect, which I mentioned briefly earlier, was the great happiness of those in such poverty. We all think about the need for money in this country and how we could add to our income, but do we really need that extra cash? It gives us a momentary feeling of happiness, but it's not really 'needed'. I know I enjoy buying new things, clothes and jewellery, but I don't actually need them, I just like to have them. As we are all so used to the possibility of going shopping and buying new things constantly, I think the realisation of the small amount others possess really affected all of us. Not only did they have almost nothing, they didn't seem sad about it, they were unbelievably happy and gracious about the fact that we had come to see them, I dread to think of their faces if they knew how many equivalent rupees it cost us to go, but I think that those pounds or rupees were worth it because it was truly a once in a lifetime experience.

I never really understood the statement, 'money can't buy you happiness' fully until I arrived in India. Many of us say we believe in this statement, but we all like that extra money in the bank! I realised that that statement really is true. If Indians such as the ones we met are able to find happiness in such a dire condition, I believe that each and every person is able to be truly happy without the comfort of endless money. We don't really need it, what we need is to be loved, by our parents or by house mothers. This is another reason why the work of the Goodwill Village is so astounding, as without that love given to the children, many of them would be lost without path to find the happiness they deserve.

Many of us would love to return to India, and meet the children of Goodwill once again, I know that this is something I would love to do! Or maybe St Margaret's will still be visiting Goodwill in the next 30 years, and some of us to decide to do a 'Mr and Mrs Painter' and offer to go and look after the lovely and easy going sixth formers, which of course we were for every minute of the day, without fail!

Alice Hodgkinson

## Geography Fieldwork

Despite the chilling wind the Year 11 Geography pupils enjoyed a bracing day at the beach! Suitably dressed for the day, the girls studied coastal landforms and sea defences at Dawlish Warren. Their observations were reinforced with an interesting talk by Phil Chambers from Teignbridge Nature Reserve. The beach has recently suffered from severe storm erosion and the options and conflicts associated with holding the line or managed retreat were discussed. We finished the day with a warming cup of hot chocolate.

The AS students on the other hand, carried out urban fieldwork during the week, which did not require as many layers of warm clothing! Their aim was to compare the character and associated social issues between two wards in Exeter. Census data was used as starting point to design relevant data collection techniques, to support the task.

Mrs D. Forbes



## Year 6 Mini Saga

The following pieces of writing are mini sagas which were entered into a competition by Year 6. A mini saga is a short story which has to be written in 50 words or less! Year 6 will have their work published in a book later this year.

### A Trip to Daymer Bay

One morning, we went to Daymer Bay in Cornwall. When we got there I ran down onto the beach and sat on the soft sand. I couldn't wait to go in the sea, soon I got into my swimming costume. I swam for ages until I had to go home.

By Tamzin Gray Year 6

### Stone Manor

Grace approached Stone Manor, a funny feeling ran through her spine. Knock, knock, no reply. The door swung open. She wandered in. Curtains fluttering and lights flickering, she walked into a dark room. The door slammed behind her. "Boo!" She screamed loudly, she turned around. It was her brother!

By Henny Knott Year 6

### The Zoo

Me and Billy were best friends. We met at the zoo, I can remember it well, seeing the giraffes and the elephants. However, the best were the lions, we fed them bits of meat, it was fun. But now I don't know where Billy is and never will!

By Natasha Disney Year 6

### Death

Anne knelt upright in a French style execution. "To Jesus Christ, I commend my soul, Jesus receive my soul." I knew I had to do this, with one swipe of my sword, I cut off Anne Boleyn's head. I began to cry, my best friend had died, or had she?

By Lucy Brice Year 6

## El Español viene a St Margaret's

We are delighted to share with you the excitement of both Pre Prep and Prep students as they learn Spanish at St Margaret's. We are delighted that Mrs Jacqui Richards from El Club Espanol is running an extra curricular Spanish club for the younger pupils. The lessons are fun and full of activity based learning methods as the children learn about the Spanish language and culture through play. In the photo you can see Pepe el caracol ( the snail) having a conversation with some Pre Prep pupils.



## Blood Diamond talk for Sixth form perspectives

On the 22nd of January the sixth form were invited to listen to a talk about blood diamonds. Nigel Campbell specialises in buying and selling diamonds and as a part of his job has to study all the properties involved with different gemstones. We were given an interesting insight into the blood diamond trade which involved mines being over run by armed groups in Africa. These groups forced young children, equipping them with artillery and almost brainwashing them to work or protect the blood diamond trade. We were shocked when we heard, they forced adults, teenagers and children of their own kind, to work in awful conditions in the diamond mines. Recently measures have been taken to ensure we don't buy these blood diamonds and support this awful trade, which is slowly decreasing in popularity. Children are now being given a better chance to gain an education instead of working in cruel conditions and certificates have been issued with every diamond to ensure it hasn't come from illegal diamond trades. We enjoyed looking at different sized diamonds gaining a grasp of the amount they can be sold for. One being sold for over 5 million...Quite shocking! Overall we thoroughly enjoyed the talk, taking a better knowledge of where our pretty jewellery has come from!

By Lydia Hicks and Emma W-Hornby

## Sports Report

A massive congratulations to Harriet Comer-Calder who came 3rd in the Exeter v East Devon cross country race. This is a fantastic achievement. She will now go through to the next round of The Devon Schools Cross Country Championship. This race will decide the athletes who will go on to represent Devon at the South West Championships. Good Luck Hattie. Well done to Holly King and Zoe Sing who came 20th and 25th in their race, a very respectable result.

Last Friday the Year 7s played QECC. The B-team made a good start and possession was 50-50. Just before the end of the first quarter QECC scored and went to the second quarter with a 1-0 lead. The second quarter was very similar, we missed a few opportunities allowing QECC to increase their lead to 3-1. In the second half QECC found their feet and showed more determination and grit than us, finally winning the game 13-4. The A team had a similar experience of holding on in the first half and being in contention to QECC running away with it in the second half. The final score was 15-3 to QECC.

The Year 8s played Exeter School on Tuesday. The A team had a tough time against an effective Exeter team. Our passing and movement was sluggish and Exeter needed no encouragement to take advantage of this. Our composure from the Bramdean game evaporated and our passes were panicked and loopy. The end score was 19-1 to Exeter. The B team also faced tough opposition, again Exeter were slightly quicker and hungry for the ball. The end score was 8-0 to Exeter.

## Auction of Promises!

During the week of 1st – 5th March the school is focussing on fundraising . The week's efforts will culminate in an exciting 'Auction of Promises' on the evening of Friday 5th March in the Main Hall 7 p.m.

Any monies raised from the 'Auction of Promises' will be shared between school funds and this year's Lord Mayor's charity, Dream-A-Way.

We hope that you would like to join us for the evening, which includes a two course meal and some musical entertainment. Come as a group if you wish – tables of up to eight people can be reserved! Tickets only cost £5 .

We already have the following 'promises' to offer in our auction but need more of course:  
Afternoon tea with the Lord Mayor with transport via the Mayoral limousine, A round of golf for four people at Woodbury Park Golf Club, A day with an Express and Echo photographer.

If there might be something that you feel you could offer or would be prepared to seek out from others as a 'promise' for the auction, please could you fill out the appropriate section of the reply slip. Alternatively, you can simply attend the auction and join in the fun bidding for the promises on offer.

## Forthcoming Careers Event - Working with Children and Young People

This event is specifically aimed at Year 10 students to find out more about the many different career opportunities available to them involving working with children and young people, from childcare to teaching, youth and social work. If you are interested please reply to the Year 10 letter by Friday 5th February.

## Calendar

Sat 30		Yr 9 Maths Masterclass - Exeter University
01/02/10 - 09/02/10		Yr 11 Options Interviews
Mon 01	13:10 - 15:45	A Level Art exam given to students
Tue 02	16:00 - 17:30	U16 Netball vs Bramdean (A)
	16:30 - 19:00	Yr 8 Parents Consultation Evening
Wed 03	15:30 - 16:30	U15 + U12 Netball vs Okehampton (H) (3.45 start)
Thu 04		Intermediate Maths Challenge - Yrs 9-11
	08:30 - 16:30	AS Biology - Field Trip - Paignton Zoo
Fri 05	19:00 - 21:00	Spring Concert - Senior School
Sat 06		Yr 9 Maths Masterclass - Exeter University
		Ten Tors Day Walk
Sun 07	10:00 - 16:00	Upper Sixth Drama Assessed Performance - Technical Rehearsal
		1/2 Day Walk - 35 & 45 mile Ten Tors (finish 12.00)