

Friday 22nd April 2016



# Duncombe News

Welcome back and indeed welcome to our new families who have joined this term. This is such an action packed term with so much to look forward to including Duncombe's School Picnic in celebration of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday later this term. I have been very pleased with the approach of pupils to their learning. We spoke in assembly about how we can help ourselves in certain situations to grow as independent workers and used, as the focus point, a very engaging and accessible clip called 'Get off the Escalator'. I have put a link to it below. I was delighted with the engagement of the pupils in our discussion surrounding it and am sure that it will help us all to grow as independent learners.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrSUE\\_m19FY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrSUE_m19FY)

As part of the recruitment process I have been in discussion with several candidates already for the Deputy Headship post. To date one Headmaster, three Deputies and four Senior Leaders from schools locally, nationally and internationally have been in contact and I am very encouraged with this response. Several have toured as well. Interviews are to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May. I want to reassure any of you who may feel unsettled regarding new appointments for the future. Duncombe has been the beneficiary of many staff who have worked here for a great number of years and this inevitably can lead to a sense of nervousness around change. Please be reassured that that this is a natural process which is in fact very healthy as it brings new ideas, opportunities and builds on all the excellent work that went before. Our recruitment process continues to attract and find excellent practitioners who each add to the story that is Duncombe School. As one past member of staff said to me on my first tour before joining, 'Duncombe is in the walls'. I understood that at the time and this remains very much the case today.

I had the opportunity to visit the Kennedy Space Centre over Easter and was quite literally blown away by the technical feats and sheer determination that has gone into space exploration. In addition to buying a NASA cap and watch, I have also been in discussion with Mrs Marrion about how we at Duncombe may get involved in all that is space! Stick with me here. To that end we have entered into discussion with a company to explore the possibility of a near space launch experience and as I know more I will let you know. Have a wonderful St George's Day! *Mr Phelan.*

## Diary Dates

**Monday 25th April** - The Mayor of Hertford attending assembly.

**Wednesday 27th April** - Class and Sports Team Photos.

**Thursday 28th April** - Open Morning for Prospective Parents.

**Friday 29th April** - 4R Assembly. Parents welcome.

## Looking Forward

**Monday 2nd May** - Bank Holiday. School Closed.

**Tuesday 3rd May** - Upper School Masterchef.

**Thursday 5th May** - Years 5 & 6 to Hertford Theatre. Lower School Masterchef.

**Friday 6th May** - 3CF Assembly. Parents welcome.

**Sunday 8th May** - May Fair. Midday to 3pm.

**Monday 9th May** - Exam Week.

**Thursday 12th May** - Open House Coffee in Old Hall. Mrs Copeman, Miss Watson, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Griffith, Miss Ashcroft, Ms Norton, Señora Couzens, Mrs Welch, Miss Micele, Miss Limrick, Mrs Potter, Mrs Hurley and Mr Le Tissier will be in attendance.

**Friday 13th May** - 4M Assembly. Parents welcome. The Queen's 90th Birthday Picnic (children only).

## Sports Fixtures

**Tuesday 26th April** - U11 Rounders v St Francis' College (away). 4pm start.

**Wednesday 27th April** - U11A, B & C Cricket v Westbrook Hay (away). 2pm start.

U11A&B Rounders v Westbrook Hay (away). 2pm start.

**Thursday 28th April** - U9A&B Rounders v Westbrook Hay (away). 2.30pm start.

**Tuesday 3rd May** - U11 Cricket v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 2.45pm start.

**Monday 9th May** - U9A Cricket & Rounders v Friend's School (away). 2.30pm start.

**Wednesday 11th May** - U11B Cricket v Friends' School (away). 2.30pm start.

**Thursday 12th May** - U9 Rounders v Kingshott School (away). Time TBC.

## Staff News.

Mrs Welch has decided to take on a new challenge from September 2016, launching her own enterprise linked to the dramatic arts. We of course wish her every success with her exciting venture and will be recruiting a new music teacher in the coming weeks.

## Well Done Cece!

Here is Cece E (3D) who decided to donate her beautiful long hair to the Little Princess Trust. This charity makes wigs for children who lose their hair through cancer treatment and alopecia. Cece decided to do this all on her own, so well done Cece for such a thoughtful gift!



### **Congratulations**

To Maddi B (4R) who gained third place and a bronze medal at the Hertfordshire Junior County Championship Fencing Competition.

In addition to this, Maddi also achieved third place in the National London Foil Girl's U9 Competition. Thanks go to Bryant Blades for all their wonderful coaching!



Congratulations to Edie P (6LT) who achieved a distinction in her Grade 1 Flute Exam. Well done Edie.



Congratulations to Lucy H (4CH) who achieved a merit in her Grade 2 Piano Exam. Well done Lucy.

Congratulations to Boris D (4CH) who was selected to represent Herts County in the Regional Tennis Tournaments during Easter. Boris made the final 6 and came 3<sup>rd</sup> in East of England. Well done Boris!



Congratulations to Oscar T (Nursery Birch) and Harry M (Nursery Maple) who reached their class goal this week. Well done Oscar and Harry.



### **Congratulations cont/...**

Congratulations to Georgiana F (3D) who was recently crowned gymnastics County Champion again this year, and qualified to compete in the East Regional Finals which will take place in two weeks. (Regional Grade 5, age 9; youngest age group.)

Georgiana was selected to train on the National Development Plan with the Marriotts Women's Artistic Gymnastics Squad when she was 4 years old with training increasing to the current 13 to 18 hours per week, over four to five days, all year round. Training includes body conditioning, working on strength and flexibility, as well as gymnastic skills on the four women's apparatus (uneven bars, beam, floor and vault).



### **Reception Trip to Mill Green**

Before the Easter Break Reception had a lovely visit to Mill Green Mill and Museum. The children were very excited to see a working waterwheel and took part in the Little Red Hen Workshop, listening to the story and joining in with the animal noises while wearing masks. They also each made a special badge to remember the occasion and - best of all! - made their own bread rolls to take home and eat. The children reported back that they were "delicious!" A lovely time was had by us all.



### **Class & Sports Team Photos**

Class and Sports Team Photographs will be taken on Wednesday 27th April. All children must wear their summer uniform and blazers please. If your child does not attend Treetops on a Wednesday and you would like them to participate, please speak to the class leader.

## Lost

Named jumper belonging to Toby Fowler.

### Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 25th April

Weekly Menu				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Dish of the Day</b> Spaghetti Bolognese with Home made Garlic Bread	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Chicken and Summer Vegetable Puff Pie	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Beef Chilli with Tortilla Chips and Sour Cream	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Roast Pork with Gravy and Apple Sauce	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Oven Baked Fish Fingers
<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Vegetable Korma with Rice	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Mediterranean Vegetable and Halloumi Gratin	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Cheese, Spring Onion and Chilli Quesadilla with Sour Cream and Salsa	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Mushroom Stroganoff With Rice	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Chinese Vegetable Noodles
<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	<b>Pasta Bar</b> Creamy Tomato sauce	<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Baked Beans	<b>Pasta Bar</b> Cheese Sauce	<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Coleslaw Cheese
<b>Vegetables</b> Rissole Potatoes Green Beans and Broccoli	<b>Vegetables</b> Steamed New Potatoes Steamed Carrots with Peas	<b>Vegetables</b> Steamed Rice Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	<b>Vegetables</b> Roast Potatoes Cauliflower Cheese Steamed Carrots and Broccoli	<b>Vegetables</b> Oven Baked Jacket wedges Baked beans Garden Peas
<b>Dessert</b> Chocolate Fudge Pudding Served with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Citrus Iced Sponge Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Ginger Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Eton Mess Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Banoffee Pie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt
 Daily Salad Bar With a Selection of Home cooked Meats & freshly Prepared Salads Fresh fruit salad available daily 				