



Duncombe News

22nd September 2017



We welcomed Year 5 back from PGL this week and I have been greatly enjoying the recollections of events and activities. Despite the weather being a little soggy on occasions it clearly did nothing to dampen spirits and it was evident that taking on the variety of challenges has really impacted positively.

6LT presented their Form Assembly today on the power of YET. Pupils explored hard work, inspiration and motivation with reference to the quote 'To be inspired is great, to inspire is incredible'. With the use of a pacey script and some very intelligent ICT timing we were treated to an excellent experience which both players and audience enjoyed. They have certainly set the tone and bar for the remainder of the year. Well done 6LT, a fine effort.

You will be aware that earlier in the week we had a spike in the number of cases of sickness. As communicated in the week, and has been the case regularly in the past, it is imperative that should a pupil be sick or have diarrhoea they must stay off school for **48 hours** after their last episode. The school site staff carry out antibacterial cleaning of handles, knobs and of both dining and toilet facilities. In addition the evening cleaning team use Milton and antibacterial wipes to minimise the spread of infection. Pupils are instructed to wash hands before eating and hand sanitiser is placed as always at the entrance to the dining area. Your support in keeping children off school if sick and reminding them about hygiene when using toilets and before eating will assist greatly.

In other news our Year 3 parents joined us for lunch on Thursday. A thoroughly lovely occasion with the Warren Restaurant buzzing with excitement! Do look out for the Science Trip to Duxford report. A most enjoyable experience exploring the topic of *forces* and a link to the study of WWII.

On **Thursday 5th October** we will be hosting a Senior Schools Fair from **7.00pm. (Not 6.15 as shown on the calendar)** For those of you who have not attended before, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet with representatives of a number of local Independent Senior Schools who each host a stall with information about 11+ education, the process of transition and experience at the school. Please do be aware that this is open to parents of children of all ages who would like to attend.

Next week sees further trips, matches and Year 6 Parent to Lunch. In addition there is the PA Macmillan Coffee Morning on Wednesday 27th along with the PA AGM that evening at 7.30pm. I met with the PA team this week and do want to congratulate them on the excellent year last year and for the most impressive plans for this year. I know they are the first to say that the support of many parents throughout the year makes it possible to put on and enjoy the myriad of events. Finally, good luck to the U11 players at the Forest School Football Tournament this weekend.

Have a wonderful weekend. Mr Phelan.

Well done to this week's Pupil who received a Headmaster's Award.



Diary Dates

Wednesday 27th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning at 8.30am in Old Hall. Miss Ord, Mrs Frost, Mrs Watson, Mrs Sheriff, Miss Angus, Mrs Galaska, Mrs Howes, Mr Sopher and Mrs Hodson will be in attendance. PA AGM in Old Hall at 7.30pm.

Thursday 28th September - Year 2 to Affinity Water. Year 6 Parent to Lunch. 6LT at 12.50pm, 6T at 12.55pm and 6S at 1pm.

Friday 29th September - 5V Class Assembly. Parents welcome.

Friday 29th September - Years 2 & 3 to see The Tiger Who Came to Tea at Hertford Theatre. (There will be no swimming for Years 2 & 3 on this day.)

Sports Fixtures

Saturday 23rd September - Football Tournament at Forest School. 8.30am start.

Wednesday 27th September - U11 Football Tournament at Haileybury.

Thursday 5th October - U9 Football v Lochinver (away). Time TBC.

Saturday 8th October - U10 Football Tournament at St Edmund's Prep.

Looking Forward

Tuesday 3rd October - Year 6 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm in New Hall.

Wednesday 4th October - Individual and Sibling Photographs.

Thursday 5th October - Open Morning for Prospective Parents.

Senior Schools Fair. 7pm to 9pm.

Friday 6th October - Year 5 visit Hindu Temple.

Monday 9th October - **Music** Assembly for invited performers. 8.50am start in Old Hall.

Tuesday 10th October - Reception to Bekonscot Model Village.

Wednesday 11th October - Year 3 to Celtic Harmony Camp

Thursday 12th October - Open House Coffee in Treetops. Mrs Baxter, Miss Burton, Miss Varney, Miss Rea, Mrs Pannett, Miss Theobald, Mrs Marrion, Mrs Thomas, Miss Flowers, Mrs Sands, Señor Torres and Miss Cartwright.

Friday 13th October - Lower School Harvest Festival (children only).

Upper School Harvest Festival (Parents welcome). Holy Trinity Church at 2.30pm.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Isabella B (2A) who passed her Primary Modern Dance Examination with a high Distinction. Here is a very proud Isabella with her lovely dancers hair. Well done Isabella!



Year 5 have a Fantastic Time at PGL!

Last week Year 5 had an exciting week in Devon on their PGL residential trip.

Although it was a rather wet week, the rain could not dampen their spirits and they took part in an amazing array of activities. The children had their head for heights tested on many of the sessions. The High Ropes course was an aerial adventure about 10 metres off the ground. There was also a zip wire activity, climbing and abseiling. Of all the treetop based activities, the most death-defying was the 'trapeze'. This was an innocent sounding activity, but involved climbing a 10 metre pole, standing on the top and then jumping into mid-air to try to grab hold of a suspended trapeze bar. The children were all safely harnessed for all of these activities, but my goodness, they were still very brave!

With both feet on the ground, the children also tackled rifle-shooting, archery, forestry and survival (den building and lighting fires). Unfortunately the wind was too strong for surfing and body-boarding, but the children thoroughly enjoyed an array of team games and mountain biking in its place. Of course the highlight of the week was undoubtedly 'challenge course'. No one quite knew what to expect, but when the first group came back caked in mud, we knew it would be an adventure! It involved a military-style assault course, with scramble nets and tunnels, all with the added challenge of a hose making the entire course a mud-bath. Speaking of which, the end of the course consisted of a knee-deep mud pool, where the children were encouraged to 'play'! Well, at least they came home with lovely soft skin.

The children amazed us all with their enthusiasm and their support for one another. We frequently witnessed children stopping to help and encourage each other and it really was lovely to see. We had many lovely comments about the excellent behaviour of our children around the site and during meals in the dining hall. They really were a credit to Duncombe. As with all of these activities, a lot of planning went into the trip and I'm sure everyone wishes to thank Miss Varney for her excellent organisation and leadership as well as the PGL staff who went to such lengths to ensure the happiness and safety of your children. What a wonderful experience it was!

The Year 5 Team.

Year 6 Duxford Trip

On Tuesday Year 6 had a fantastic trip to Duxford. Science and engineering was the theme and we were not disappointed. There were plenty of planes being restored and we watched the restoration of many. We were very lucky to be there as they were preparing for The Battle of Britain weekend and saw many planes of all ages taking off and performing some aerobatics. We also had some unexpected history input from an ex parent whose children left many, many years ago. He volunteers at Duxford and gave the children a fantastic talk on what happened in the briefing room during WW2. We also met with a gentleman who had lived through the Blitz and talked to the children about life as a child during WW2. A terrific day was had by all. *Mrs Marrion - Science Leader.*



Year 4 Really Getting Involved in their Science Lesson!



