



Welcome back! I want to say a hearty congratulations to our pupils, staff and parents for such a positive and energetic start to our new academic year. A particular warm welcome to the many new families who join us this year. As I said (or will say) at the Meet the Teacher Evenings, do get involved and get stuck in!

Our pupils are settling well in to the new routines and timetables and I expect that they will be very tired over the weekend, so do plan some good opportunities for rest. The Year 5 pupils are heading off to PGL on Monday for what promises to be a very exciting and excellent experience for all. We wish them and the Year 5 team a wonderful trip. We are looking forward to hearing about how they faced the variety of challenges that are awaiting them.

The focus in assembly next week will be around keeping safe. We will look at safety when outside along with stranger danger and people we can turn to for help. We shall also look at how to stay safe when using the internet in the following week. In anticipation of this, please do have a look at this link from our school website which is of particular interest <https://www.duncombe-school.co.uk/parent-portal/e-safety/>

Mr Thomas has detailed the excellent programme of works carried out over the summer in this newsletter, amongst which is the very exciting ICT investment of £250,000. Visibly this can be seen in the new flat screen SMART boards across the entire site, HP pupil laptops, replacement PCs and teacher tablets that have the capacity to interact with the new screens. In addition, the Wi-Fi has undergone a further upgrade and existing iPads and laptops have received software updates. Allied to all this is an excellent training programme for class practitioners directly linked to HP Head Office. This is a most exciting development for pupils and staff and puts us right at the forefront of integrated digital learning in our sector. I look forward to sharing this aspect of our whole school development across this academic year.

I was delighted to see the LAMDA results this summer with the continuance of our 100% pass rate. This year saw 73 merits and 20 distinctions. I'm sure you will agree that the pupils and Mrs Coley all deserve a very significant well done! In addition our pupils had excellent outcomes with the summer music examinations resulting in 1 pass, 7 merits and 1 distinction ranging from Grade 1-5 across voice, piano, violin, clarinet and viola. Congratulations to all our pupils and Peri staff.

Please see information on our Meet the Heads event taking place on Wednesday 19th September, in this newsletter.

Have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan*

Diary Dates

- Monday 10th September** - Year 5 to Beam House all week. Toddler Group resumes, 10am in Treetops. Lower School (Year 1 to Year 3) Meet the Teacher Meeting, 7pm in New Hall.
- Tuesday 11th September** - Swimming resumes for Year 4.
- Wednesday 12th September** - Reception Reading Workshop. Treetops at 7pm.
- Thursday 13th September** - Speech and Drama resumes.
- Friday 14th September** - Swimming resumes for Years 2 & 3.

Looking Forward

- Wednesday 19th September** - Meet the Heads Event. 7pm in New Hall.
- Tuesday 25th September** - Year 2 to Affinity Water. Year 5 Parent to Lunch. Time TBC.
- Wednesday 26th September** - Macmillan Coffee Morning. 8.30am in Old Hall.
- Thursday 27th September** - Year 1 to Audley End. Year 6 Parent to Lunch. Time TBC.
- Friday 28th September** - Year 3 to Hertford Theatre to a 'Meet the Author' event (AM). Years 1 & 2 to Hertford Theatre to see The Snail and the Whale (PM).

Sports Fixtures

- Wednesday 12th September** - U11 Haileybury Football Tournament. U11 Football v Heath Mount (away). 2.30pm start.
- Thursday 20th September** - U10 & U11 Football v Bishop's Stortford College (away). 3pm start.
- Monday 20th September** - U11 Netball v St Francis. 3.30pm start.
- Tuesday 25th September** - U10 Netball v Stormont (home). Time TBC.
- Wednesday 26th September** - U11 Sherrardwood Festival. 2.30pm start.
- Friday 28th September** - U11 ISFA Football Tournament at Chigwell School.

Here is this week's Pupil who received a Headmaster's Award. Well done!



Meet the Heads Event

The Meet the Heads is open to **all of our parents** and takes place on Wednesday 19th September at 7.00pm. We are very proud to host the Head Teachers from a number of leading Independent schools for an evening of discussion and debate on a variety of topics concerning children and their parents, such as:

- Single-sex vs co-educational?
- Technology and education
- Social media and pupil well-being
- Academic vs well-rounded?
- What is the most important question to ask a Head Teacher?

The Panel:

Mr Matthew Burke - Mount House
Mrs Jo Cameron - Queenswood School
Mr Martin Collier - Haileybury
Mr Paulo Durán - St. Edmund's College
Mr Bill Toleman - Bishop's Stortford College

Following the panel discussion, there will be refreshments and an opportunity to speak to the Head Teachers and their school admissions teams.

You can register your place via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/duncombe-hosts-meet-the-heads-tickets-47165458155>

If you would like to put a question forward to the panel on any of the above topics, please email: meettheheads@duncombe-school.co.uk by Tuesday 11th September. *Mr Phelan*

Woburn Charity—CHIPS

Thank you to everyone who supported Woburn's charity, CHIPS, last term. With your many donations we raised £667.86 for this worthy cause.

The Woburn Charity Team.



Duncombe Bear Brings Baby Shark to School

At break time this morning, Duncombe Bear joined the children and staff in the playground for a dance and singalong to Baby Shark. Click on this link to see what fun we all had!

<https://www.duncombe-school.co.uk/2018/09/07/duncombe-bear-brings-baby-shark-to-school/>

Parental Consent Form

Please be aware that you have not been sent the Annual Parental Consent Form for Day Trips, Swimming and Sports Fixtures as this permission is now included in the Terms and Conditions which were sent out in the Spring. We will of course always notify you of any educational trips prior to the event. In addition you will still be asked to complete a consent and medical form for all residential trips.

Pocket Calendars

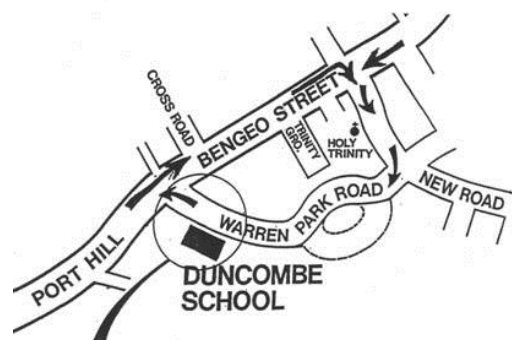
The Autumn Term pocket calendar will be sent home in book bags today. We have allocated one per family but do ask at the School Office if you need another one.

Year at a Glance

Attached to this Newsletter is the Year at a Glance giving you key dates throughout the year.

Unofficial One Way system

Please can we remind you, to ease congestion at drop off and pick up, that you use our unofficial one way system. Please see the diagram below:



Attain Online Magazine

Attached to this Newsletter is the Attain IAPS online magazine which is the leading education magazine for parents and staff in the independent schools' sector. Please do take time to read it.

Summer Holiday Works

The seven weeks of the summer holiday has allowed us time to carry out a significant number of improvement works across the site which I would like to share with you.

Improvement and Remedial Works

- Removal of front screen to Astro Court in line with Planning Approval
- Full refurbishment of female staff toilet in Main School
- Replacement of stair carpet in Treetops with vinyl safety flooring
- Installation of LED lighting into Ground Floor Treetops classrooms
- Installation of 5 fly screens in Treetops Breakfast Club/ASC Room
- Installation of 16 door blinds
- Replacement of glazing panel in 4C
- Removal of curtains and poles in the Library
- Cutting back of foliage across the front of school and along Port Hill
- Installation of water supply to The Dell
- Installation of storage cupboards in Main School ASC Room
- Full redecoration of two Main School classrooms (5T & 4V)
- Part redecoration in Staff Work Room
- Clearance of redundant and obsolete equipment from across the site
- New classroom chairs in 3K
- Replacement teacher desks in 4 classrooms
- Replacement of 2 CCTV cameras
- Replacement of fire alarm control panel in Main School
- Tuning of grand piano in Old Hall and upright piano in Music studio
- Windows cleaned inside and out across the site
- Removal of outdoor play equipment in fenced adventure playground area ahead of the installation of new equipment during the coming months.
- New pipework to the front of school from Staff Room boiler.
- Remediation of IT network issues following external IT audit
- Installation of 17 smart 2075 screens in Main School
- Installation of 6 smart 6265 boards in Treetops

Statutory Checks

- Portable appliance testing
- Gas boiler servicing
- 5 year fixed wire testing
- Gas safety check on kitchen equipment
- CCTV & access control annual check

We are currently finalising our Capital Expenditure plan for the coming year and I shall share some of these highlights in the coming months.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

IT Investment

Those of you that have been into school this week may have seen the fantastic new smart screens that have been installed across the site.

These screens are part of a £250k investment from Cognita in IT at Duncombe for this new academic year.

The investment includes 17 x 75" 2075 Smart Screens, 6 x 6265" Smart Boards, 40 x HP Probook 450 pupil laptops and 35 x HP Pro X2 612 2 in 1 teacher tablets.

In addition a number of desktop PC are being replaced together with the existing photocopiers and printers across the site. The investment is backed up with a strong training programme for staff so that the new technology becomes embedded within the curriculum and supports our already significant learning outcomes for pupils.

We will have an IT team on site next week to undertake the roll out of the new equipment.

We are delighted to have been chosen as one of Cognita's first schools in the UK to receive this technology investment. This, in conjunction with Señor Torres appointment as Head of ICT is an exciting new chapter in educational excellence at Duncombe.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 10th September 2018

Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily				THIS WEEK'S MENU	
				Where possible Gluten and Dairy Free equivalent dishes will be offered	
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Week 2	
Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	
Dish of the Day Gammon, Sweetcorn Pasta Bake	Dish of the Day Chicken Korma Curry with Poppadum's and Mango Chutney	Dish of the Day Hearty Beef Chilli with Nachos, Sour cream and Salsa	Dish of the Day Roast Chicken with Gravy	Dish of the Day Freshly made Breaded Salmon Fishcakes with Lemon and Tartare	
Vegetarian Option Pasta Primavera	Vegetarian Option Vegetable Korma with Poppadums and Mango Chutney	Vegetarian Option Quorn Chilli with Nachos, Sour cream and Salsa	Vegetarian Option Butternut Risotto	Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable Wraps with Cheese	
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Pasta Bar 3 Cheese Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	
Vegetables Steamed New Potatoes Steamed Green Beans	Vegetables Steamed Rice Saghaloo	Vegetables Rissolo Potatoes Steamed Medley of Vegetables	Vegetables Rustic Roast Potatoes Steamed Medley of Vegetables	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Steamed Garden Peas Baked Beans	
Dessert Apple and Blackberry Crumble	Dessert Warm Pear Sponge with Cream	Dessert Duncombe Power Bar Strawberry Milkshake Fresh Fruit	Dessert Raspberry Ripple Mousse Marble Sponge Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Fudge Cake Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	

COGNITA
LEARNING SOLUTIONS

Week commencing: 10th September, 8th October,
5th November, 3rd December 2018

