



22nd March 2019

As I write the Upper School pupils are ready to embark on their journey to the Swimming Gala for what, I am sure, will be a hotly contested house event. I am sure all will give their best for Woburn, Knebworth and Hatfield and we will celebrate the outcome with everyone soon.

The music concert was another successful event where our young musicians performed a variety of pieces on a number of instruments and voice to great acclaim. The progression of our pupils is always a delight to celebrate and this was no exception. Well done to all involved.

I had the great joy of observing a Reception class lesson this week. The pupils were working on their phonics and decoding some very challenging words. As ever, the energy and commitment given by the teaching staff was exceptional. Discussions around silent 'e' and the 'oi' sound demonstrated very clearly the pupils' understanding and application across their work. Excellent work Reception!

The Healthy Body and Healthy Mind Parents' Information Evening was a great success. Our visiting speaker, Nutritionist Julia Hayes, shared some very interesting and thought-provoking information. Parents had the chance to sample some of our Head Chef Michael Goulston's menu. Thanks to all who participated in what I know was a very valuable evening.

Congratulations to our STEM pupils who participated in the Haileybury Robotics challenge. Solomon R, Erin G, Samantha A and Dominic K - greatly enjoyed the event with 13 Prep schools participating. Ranking a very creditable 6<sup>th</sup>, our children gave an excellent demonstration of problem solving, creative thinking and teamwork. Thank you to Señor Torres and Miss Norton for supporting them throughout the day.

Next week is our final week of the Spring Term. The newsletter will be a little lighter but do not fear, for I shall write summarising this term and looking ahead to the Summer over the Easter period. Have a wonderful and restful weekend. *Mr Phelan.*

### Well done to these pupils who received a Headmaster's Award Today



### Diary Dates

**Thursday 28th March** - Nursery and Reception Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.00am to 9.20am in New Hall.

Lower School Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.30am to 10.15am in New Hall.

End of Term.

Treetops and Years 1-3 - finish time 2.45pm,

Years 4-6 - finish time 3.00pm.

There will be no After School clubs but care will be available until 6.30pm. Please let us know if your child requires care.

### Looking Forward

**Wednesday 24th April** - School resumes.

**Wednesday 1st May** - Class and Sports Team photographs.

**Thursday 2nd May** - Open Morning for Prospective Parents. 9.45am start.

**Friday 3rd May** - 4C Class Assembly. (Parents Welcome.)

**Monday 6th May** - Bank Holiday - school closed.

**Wednesday 8th May** - Knebworth House Charity Coffee Morning. 8.30am start in Old Hall.

Parents Event - Music at the Heart of Duncombe. 7pm start in New Hall.

**Thursday 9th May** - Year 3 to Bushcraft.

**Friday 10th May** - Year 3 return from Bushcraft.

2W Class Assembly (Parents Welcome.)

### Sports Fixtures

**Monday 25th March** - U10 Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

**Wednesday 27th March** - U11 Girls Football v St Edmund's Prep (away). Time TBC.

U10/U11 Rugby v Kingshott (away). Time TBC.

**Wednesday 1st May** - U11 Girls Cricket v St Edmund's Prep (away). Time TBC.

U11 Boys Cricket v St Joseph's in the Park (away). Time TBC.

**Wednesday 8th May** - U11 Boys Cricket v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3pm start.

**Wednesday 15th May** - U10 Girls Cricket v Westbrook Hay (away). 3pm start.

U10 Boys Cricket v St Nicholas School (away). Time TBC.

### Well done to this week's Lower School Stars of the Week!



**Well done to 4V for a Brilliant Super Hero assembly on Monday.**



**Nursery Stars of the Week**

Well done to Lewis and Maisie in Nursery who won the class trophy this week.



**Natural History Museum Trip for Year 3**

As part of our Science topic 'Animals, Including Humans', Year 3 visited the Natural History Museum in Tring. The children had an opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of animals and marine species. Their knowledge and scientific skills were enhanced during our skeleton workshop, whereby the children had to make inferences in order to identify which animal the skeleton belonged to. Year 3 were wonderful ambassadors for Duncombe School; their behaviour was exemplary.

*Miss Kyriakou and Miss Gaffney.*



**Robotics Challenge Team**

Four of Duncombe's Upper School children took part in the Haileybury Robotic Challenge this week. Working as a team against the clock, Samantha, Solomon, Erin and Dominic built their own remote controlled robotic models, which would then go forth to compete in the arena battles against 13 other schools. The team worked together well and they all had a fantastic time. Thank you to Señor Torres and Miss Norton who accompanied the team.



**Early Finish Time on Thursday 28th March 2019**

As always on the last day of term, we will be finishing early as follows:

- Lower School will finish at 2.45pm.
- Upper School will finish at 3pm.

There will be no After School clubs but after school care will be available until 6.30pm. Please let us know if your child requires care.

**After School Football on Monday 25th and Wednesday 27th March**

Please be aware that there is no After School Football on Monday 25th and Wednesday 27th March. Care is still available. Please let the School Office know if you require this. Thank you, *Mrs Price*.

**Unclaimed Lost Property**

Once again we have a lot of unclaimed, unnamed lost property. We will be displaying this lost property after school on Wednesday 27th March. Please come and check to see if any of the lost property belongs to you. Any unclaimed lost property will be given to the Uniform Shop.





## Music Assembly

This morning we were treated to a wonderful display of musicianship from our pupils in our final recital of the Spring Term.

Toby F opened the show performing the traditional Spanish *Malagueña*, some very fast fingering capturing the passion of España! Freddie M was next, also performing *Malagueña*, and showing a sensitive awareness of the melody. Polly B then treated us to a lovely performance of *Easy Winners* on the flute. This was a bouncy, light piece which showcased Polly's beautiful tone on the flute to it's best. Erin G started the pianos with *Spies on a Mission*, a mysterious performance with both hands working well together and taking it in turns to lead the melody. Nathaniel M the played *Asian Tiger Prowl*, a piano piece with an oriental feel which showed off some accomplished contrasts between staccato and legato passages. Samuel G then played *Lightly Row*, a confident performance, showing good speed over the notes and nice loud and soft touches. Hugo H then played *Egyptian Level*, a popular piece evoking the sprawling desert sands of Egypt and making great use of the sustain pedal. Next we had some of our talented singers performing. Josh K was first, with a lively rendition of *La Cucaracha*, sung with excellent diction including impressive rolling of the 'r's in the Spanish words. Luca M sang next with the favourite *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, performed with a clear voice and a really lovely tone. Jasmin H performed next, playing *Daisy Bell* on the clarinet. This was a lovely performance with excellent staccato playing. As it was Jasmin's birthday, she was even treated to a performance from her audience: Happy Birthday, led by Mrs Turner. A musical family were next: Ellis H with *Grandfather Clock* sang crystal clear high notes and made great use of the silences in the piece, followed by Reece H with *Guter Mond*, a lyrical melody showing off his delicate tone to its best. Xavier M-L then performed on the piano playing *Agincourt Song* with confident dynamic contrasts and a wonderfully 'crunchy' key change in the final chords. Another family affair closed the concert with George S performing *Brass Fanfare* on the piano, a confident performance showing his increasing control of playing hands-together, then big brother Henry S gave us the finale performance with *Badlands*. This was a fast-paced piano piece showing excellent dynamic control with his hands passing the main melody from right to left effortlessly. Mrs Sutton, Head of Music.



### Parents Information Evening - Wednesday 8th May Music at the Heart of Duncombe

We are delighted to inform you that our next Parents Information Evening will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May and is titled: 'Music at the Heart of Duncombe'. We will share with you an outline of the music curriculum through the years, and talk about why music is important and how it helps us in all areas of our lives. We will look at the requirements for obtaining a music scholarship to secondary school. This years' music scholars will talk about their love of music and give a first-hand insight into the scholarship process. They will also perform an item on their main instrument. We will welcome back Lucy H, Music Captain 2017-18, to talk about what music is like at secondary level. Many of our instrumental tutors will be available for a chat between 6:30pm and 7pm, when drinks and nibbles will be available. Come along and find out more about what music adventures are on offer here at Duncombe.



**JUNK MODELLING COMPETITION**

**WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY**

The Eco Council would like to invite you to take part in a Junk modelling competition.

Please be as creative as you can with throwaway plastics or other types of Junk

- Finished models should be brought into school on the morning of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May for judging.
- Models will be judged on a creative use of plastics/junk.
- Please ensure you attach your name and class.
- Please give your model a name.

There will be prizes for Upper and Lower School.

Help our environment by turning our rubbish

into something wonderful! 

**JUNIOR SHARKS**

# Easter Rugby Camp

**8th and 11th April 2019**






**Come along and join ex-professional player James Storey for 2 days of Easter Rugby fun.**

**8th and 11th April at Hertford Rugby Club**  
**9:30am - 3:30pm, £26 per day**

To REGISTER please go to [www.juniorsharksrugby.com](http://www.juniorsharksrugby.com)  
Email: [juniorsharksrugby@yahoo.com](mailto:juniorsharksrugby@yahoo.com) Twitter: @juniorsharksrug  
Facebook: @juniorsharksrugby Instagram: @juniorsharksrugby  
Tel: James 07767 20 10 30




**Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 25th March 2019**

<p style="text-align: center; color: #4682b4;"><i>Monday</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4682b4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p><b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p><b>Tasty Entrée</b> Flaked Tuna in tomato sauce with 50/50 pasta</p> <p><b>Flexitarian</b> Roast tomato with cannellini beans and basil sauce with 50/50 pasta</p> <p><b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Cheese or BBQ Beans</p> <p><b>On the side</b> Roast peppers with kale and sweetcorn</p> <p><b>Tasty puds</b> Peach and strawberry topped yoghurt</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4682b4;"><b>TUESDAY</b></p> <div style="border: 1px dashed #4682b4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p><b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p><b>Tasty entrée</b> Chicken Rogan josh with onion salad, mango chutney and raita</p> <p><b>Flexitarian</b> Cheese layered potato bake</p> <p><b>Pasta Bar</b> Tomato and peppers</p> <p><b>On the side</b> Basmati rice or naan Garden peas</p> <p><b>Tasty puds</b> Fudgy chocolate brownie bites (reduced sugar recipe)</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4682b4;"><i>thursday</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4682b4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p><b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p><b>Tasty entrée</b> Roast chicken legs with homemade gravy</p> <p><b>Flexitarian</b> Lentil and vegetable polenta slice</p> <p><b>Pasta Bar</b> Vegetable Chilli</p> <p><b>On the side</b> Rustic roast potatoes Baked parsnip and carrots</p> <p><b>Tasty puds</b> Mandarins in jelly</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #4682b4;">Week Commencing 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #4682b4; font-size: 2em;"><b>FRIDAY</b></p> <div style="border: 1px dashed #4682b4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1; text-align: center;"> <p>EASTER HOLIDAYS</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center; color: #4682b4;"><i>Wednesday</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid #4682b4; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f2f1;"> <p><b>The Soup Kettle</b> Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p><b>Tasty entrée</b> Beef Ragù with penne pasta</p> <p><b>Flexitarian</b> Stuffed sweet potato with Borlotti beans and plum tomatoes</p> <p><b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Tuna Mayonnaise</p> <p><b>On the side</b> Corn on the cob Spring greens Coleslaw</p> <p><b>Tasty puds</b> Homemade berry and swirl smoothie</p> </div>			