



26th April 2019

Welcome back to you all and a very warm welcome to our new families who have joined us this term. We are delighted to have you here with us for what I know is always a fabulously busy and enjoyable Summer Term. The clocks went forward, the sun decided to shine and Easter did not disappoint. I have greatly enjoyed catching up with a number of you this week about your travels and the pupils have been regaling me with information ranging from skiing trips, trekking and soaking up the sun!

Speaking of the sun; we have sent out a reminder of our sun safe policy this week. Could I please ask that you read it carefully and follow up on the actions required. As the weather develops over the term, it really is important that hats, sunglasses and sun cream are all available for the pupils. We celebrated St George this week in assembly looking at the man and how his legend developed. The ideas of tolerance, courage and putting others before ourselves were the main talking points. A very interesting article looking at St George can be found via the link. <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/St-George-Patron-Saint-of-England/>

During our Inset the staff here at Duncombe, or Team Duncombe as I often use in internal emails, focused on pupil progress meetings along with safeguarding and professional development reviews. The energy and commitment displayed will come as no surprise to you at all, but I do want to commend them for the excellent start to term with the vigour, passion and professionalism that they all show. Duncombe is a very special place and it really is a privilege to lead such a dedicated and talented group of people.

The talent of our pupils continues to develop and I am delighted to share with you that two Year 6 pupils have been offered places to join two extremely prestigious orchestras recently. Alex M-L was successful in his audition held in Leeds earlier in the year and has a place as a clarinettist (one of only three) in the U11 National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain. The NCO auditions over a thousand 7-14 year olds and identifies 600 young musicians to form 11 orchestras: five age-banded national symphony orchestras and six symphonic mixed-age regional orchestras. A place in NCO gives children access to inspirational residential music courses and monthly regional orchestra rehearsals.

In addition, Thomas H was successful in his audition for the London Junior Guildhall School of Music as a saxophonist. The Junior Guildhall's Music Course offers advanced training for young people between the ages of 8 to 18. Entry to the Music Course is by audition where they look for musical potential and commitment. Masterclasses and workshops are given by distinguished visiting artists: flautist James Galway, conductor Mark Wigglesworth and pianist Iain Burnside are among recent guest speakers.

I'm sure you will join me in congratulating both Alex and Thomas for such phenomenal achievements of which we all here at Duncombe are exceptionally proud. So if you would like to hear the boys and indeed many other of our talented

pupils, along with a look at music and the arts here at Duncombe, do book a place at our Music at the Heart of Duncombe Event on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

And it doesn't stop there! Lucas C of Year 4 represented Duncombe at the National IAPS Chess championships recently. This involved a two day tournament hosted in London against competitors from across the UK. He played 9 matches in total, each of an hour in length and came out with 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the U9 section. This is a tremendous outcome and one which he can be rightly proud of. Our membership of IAPS sees us with a number of national and regional finalists over the past two years and Lucas has carried that mantle on for us again here. Well done!



There are numerous events planned for next week so do take a good look at the pocket calendars and I'll look forward to seeing you at some of these in the days to come. Have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan*

## Diary Dates

- Monday 29th April** - 6TA Assembly (Parents Welcome).
- 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).

## Looking Forward

- 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. 6.30pm start in New Hall.
- Thursday 9th May** - Year 3 to Bushcraft.
- Friday 10th May** - Year 3 return from Bushcraft.
- 2W Class Assembly (Parents Welcome).
- Sunday 12th May** - May Fair. Time: Midday to 3pm.
- Monday 13th May** - Exam Week for Year 6
- Tuesday 14th May** - Year 5 to Rye Meads.
- Lower School Bake Off - 2nd Round.
- Wednesday 15th May** - Year 4 River Trip to Ware.
- Thursday 16th May** - Upper School Bake Off—2nd Round.
- Friday 17th May** - Music Assembly in Old Hall at 8.50am.

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



### Sports Fixtures

**Tuesday 30th April** - U11 Girls Cricket v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 3.45pm start.

**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.

**Thursday 23rd May** - U8 Cricket v St Edmund's Prep (home). Time TBC.

### Woburn Charity Money Raised

We are delighted to announce that Woburn have raised a fantastic £971.19 for Tiggywinkles. Thank you to everyone who supported all of the charity events last term.

### Knebworth Charity This Term

This term Knebworth are raising money for Herts Young Homeless. Herts Young Homeless are a unique charity in Hertfordshire providing services to support vulnerable people. Their focus is on preventing homelessness - from education in schools and family mediation through to supporting 16-24 year olds in their first homes or caring for adults of all ages who have mental health issues and housing needs.

The first event will be a Coffee Morning/Bake Sale on **Wednesday 8th May** in Old Hall from 8.30am.

We would be most grateful if children in all year groups (EKG to Year 6) could bring in cakes or biscuits, nut free (including ground almonds and almond essence) to Old Hall on the 8th May. The tasty treats will be delivered to classrooms at first break with the remainder of the cakes being sold after school. Please could the children also bring in £1 to donate to the charity.

We will be announcing our other fundraising events shortly.

*The Knebworth Charity Team*

### After School Club Pick Up

Please could we remind you that once you have signed and collected your child from After School Club you please leave the school premises. Children should not be playing anywhere in the school playground once this has been done. Thank you.

### Class and Sports Team Photos

Class and Sports Team Photographs will be taken on Wednesday 1st May. 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.

### Music at the Heart of Duncombe Event

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 6:30pm our Music Team will be hosting an evening showcasing music and creative arts here at Duncombe.

From 6:30pm our instrumental teachers will be available for an informal chat over canapé and drinks. During this time, you will also have the opportunity to view some of the children's art and DT work on display from this year.

We will then move to Old Hall for 7pm, where Duncombe's four music scholars from Year 6 will be performing for us and sharing their experience of the scholarship process. We'll also welcome back Lucy Harris, Music Captain 2017-18, to talk to us about music at secondary level.

During the evening Mrs Sutton and Mrs Turner will talk about Duncombe's musical curriculum and how your child develops as a musician from Nursery through to Year 6.

To book a place on this event please click on this link which will also be on our website from next week.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/music-at-the-heart-of-duncombe-tickets-60926323273>

We look forward to sharing this evening with you.

### Driving in the local area

We need to remind you to please drive considerately in the local area when dropping off and picking up. This is particularly important when driving down Warren Park Road as other vehicles need to be able to get through. Thank you.

### Uniform

May we remind you that either Summer or Winter uniform can be worn up until half term. Please remember that short white socks can only be worn with the girls' Summer uniform. Please see our website for the full uniform list.

## Easter Holiday Works

Over the Easter holiday period, we have continued to invest in the facilities and fabric of the school and I am pleased to detail some of the main works that have taken place:

- Full Refurbishment of Treetops conservatory ahead of the creation of an EYFS exploration hub
- Full deep clean of main kitchen
- Replacement of external fire door in 4C classroom
- Various tree works.

This weekend the following work is planned:

Installation of additional metal railings at the front of school to prevent children climbing on the bank and to segregate visitor access to the front of school from vehicles.

*Ian Thomas, Business Manager*

## Lost

Guitar belonging to Keanush Safa-Leathers.  
Named TomTom watch belonging to Jensen Clay.

## Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 29th April 2019

Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 2 (29/04, 20/05, 10/06, 01/07)					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>SOUP</b> Kettle	The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread	The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread
<b>ENTREE</b>	Tuna and Spinach Pasta Bake	Jamaican Style Jerk Chicken with Rice & Peas	Teriyaki Beef	Roast Turkey Breast & Cranberry Sauce with Gravy	Cajun Breaded Chicken Escalope with a Pineapple Salsa
<b>VEGGIE Lovers</b>	Quorn Cottage Pie	Sweet Potato and Corn Patties	Cauliflower and Roasted Butternut squash Cheesy Bake	Meatless Sausage Rolls with a Warm Onion Relish	Brie & Tomato Quiche
<b>Light BITES</b>	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special	Vegan Red Lentil Bolognese with Penne Pasta	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special	Cream of Mushroom and Dill Sauce with Pasta	Baked Jacket Potato Chef's Special
<b>on the SIDE</b>	Garlic Bread Sweetcorn Cauliflower	Green Beans Cucumber Salad	Chinese 5 Spice Noodles Broccoli Sauté Courgettes	Roast Potatoes Braised White Cabbage Lightly Boiled Carrots	Potato Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans
<b>TASTY PUDDS</b>	Chocolate Cookie	Yoghurt Sundae with Fruit	Peach Crumble	Strawberry Jelly	Vanilla Ice-Cream

Salad Bar available everyday  
Chunks of fresh fruit and Homemade Wholemeal Bread