

# Duncombe Digest



I have had the pleasure of several conversations with pupils across the week about their learning experience. It is always an enjoyable time hearing about the variety of experiences inside and outside of the classroom. This year I have been struck with how well the children can articulate their learning and what they are doing well and where they feel they could be better still. This ability to self-reflect is part of the learning development we seek to develop. I would really encourage you to have a conversation this weekend about one area of learning using the 'what's going well and even better if' model. I'm sure you will find it just as encouraging as I have.

I spent two days at the Head's Conference in London this week looking at a number of issues currently being explored by the Independent sector. What is clear is that several stand alone Prep schools find themselves with significant challenges from macro-economic and political pressures that many are finding hard to weather. At Duncombe I am pleased to share that the sound position within the sector grows from strength to strength and the membership of Cognita School Group strengthens this further still. This ability to be secure enables the excellent initiatives such as our Patron of Reading Alice Hemmings joining the team or the Global Be Well day initiative and subsequent experiences. I came away feeling very buoyed and encouraged for the coming developments across the year.

Global Be Well day is nearing us and details of the day will be shared on Monday via parentmail. It's going to be a wonderful experience for the pupils and staff to enjoy the surroundings of the Cuffley site and engage in walks, art, music, nutritionist talks and physical exercise whilst beginning the journey of understanding the importance of being well. Pupils will have the opportunity across the year to consider the significance of sleeping well, being safe when using the internet, managing screen time and knowing about the importance of speaking up if worried or concerned. Statistics sadly show clearly that many young people and children find the challenges of our 24/7 life a great barrier to wellbeing. By equipping our children with knowledge and techniques to keep healthy I am certain this will only be of benefit to them and us all. Do look out for the information to be shared on Monday of next week.

I am delighted to confirm that Stuart Rolland, CEO of Cognita Europe will be joining David Baldwin, Director of Education and Chair of Governors to meet with parents **on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm**. Their presentation will cover the wider group and our owner Jacobs as well as how well Duncombe performs within the UK and Europe setting. Following their presentation both David and Stuart will be available to chat to during a refreshment break which will then be followed by the PA AGM.

Next Thursday is our first Open Morning of the year. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome new families to visit, meet with staff, pupils and the wider team to gain a greater sense of what is on offer here at Duncombe. If you have a friend who is interested please do let them know and invite them to contact Lucy Evans our Registrar at [lucy.evans@duncombe-school.co.uk](mailto:lucy.evans@duncombe-school.co.uk) Lucy is an exceptional member of the team here at Duncombe and as parents we know the care, attention to detail and willingness to ensure we have the best experience when joining the school she provides. That's why I was so delighted to receive the following email from a new family:

*Thank you for the welcome to Duncombe. The children have settled in very well. On day two when we got home they both started their homework. The house was silent, never before have my children started homework without being asked by myself!*

*I also wanted to take the time to congratulate the school on the process of joining the school. I emailed Lucy along with several other Independent schools. Lucy responded to and we had a tour soon after with places offered. What I found very interesting was no other school responded to my calls or emails as they were all closed over the summer. At the start of September I was inundated with prospectuses in the post, emails and phone calls from the other schools. They were all surprised to hear that the children had already joined Duncombe. My only regret is that we didn't join two years ago when I first visited! I'm sure you'll agree that's a wonderful testimonial.*

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Mr Phelan

## Headmaster's Award

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



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## Diary Dates

### Wednesday 25th September

- Year 6 to Duxford.
- Reception to Bekonscot Model Village
- PA Macmillan Coffee Morning. 8.30am in Old Hall.
- Presentation from David Baldwin, Director of Education & Chair of Governors and Stuart Rolland, CEO of Cognita Europe. 6.30pm in Old Hall.
- PA AGM 7.30pm in Old Hall.

### Thursday 26th September

Open Morning for Prospective Parents.

### Friday 27th September

Global Be Well Day. Whole school to Cuffley Camp.

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## Looking Forward

**Wednesday 2nd October** - Individual and Sibling Photographs.

**Tuesday 8th October** - Year 6 Parents' Evening in New Hall from 4.30pm to 8.30pm.

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## Sports Fixtures

### Tuesday 24th September

U 8 & U9 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (home). 3pm start.

### Wednesday 25th September

U11 Netball v Stormont (away). Time TBC.

U11 Football v Sherrardswood (away). Time TBC.

**Wednesday 2nd October** - U11 Netball v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

U11 Football v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

**Thursday 3rd October** - U9 Football Tournament at Lochinver House. Time TBC.

## Importance Notices

### Healthy Snacks

May we remind you that pupils in Years 1 to 6 need to bring in a healthy snack for morning break.

### Shin Pads

Boys in Years 4, 5 & 6 must have shin pads for football during Games lessons this term please. It is also strongly advisable, but not essential, for boys in Year 3 to have shin pads for football during their Games lessons too.

### Individual and Sibling Photographs

Individual and Sibling photographs will take place on Wednesday 2nd October. Please be aware that all children need to have smart hair and uniform and wear their blazers (no jumpers please). Photographs of sibling groups are only available for children attending Duncombe. If your child does not attend Treetops on this day and you would like their photograph to be taken, please advise the School Office who will make the necessary arrangements.

Please can you ensure your child arrives at school promptly on the 2nd so that we can start the photos on time. Thank you.

## Well done Lower School Stars of the Week



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## Wednesday 25th September

May we remind you that David Baldwin our Director of Education and Chair of Governors along with Stuart Rolland the CEO of Cognita Europe will be giving a presentation to parents about the wider group and our owner Jacobs, as well as how well Duncombe performs within the UK and Europe setting.

Following their presentation both David and Stuart will be available to chat to during a refreshment break which will then be followed by the PA AGM.

To confirm, timings are:

- 6.30-7.00 Presentation
- 7.00-7.30 Refreshments and opportunity to chat
- 7.30- 8.30 PA AGM

We hope to see you there.

## Duncombe's 2019 Senior School Fair

We will be hosting our bi-annual Senior School Fair on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 6:30pm to 8pm.**

Duncombe will once again be host to an array of Independent Senior Schools, where you will have the opportunity to informally meet with representatives from the schools and find out more about them.

We would like to welcome all our families to the Fair, especially those in Upper School who may be starting to think about the next steps in their child's education.

Further details to follow via ParentMail.

**Donna Saunders, Marketing Manager**

## Treetops

If you would like your child to join Treetops during this academic year or September 2020, and have not registered, please contact Lucy Evans, Registrar. Places for siblings are only given priority once registered.

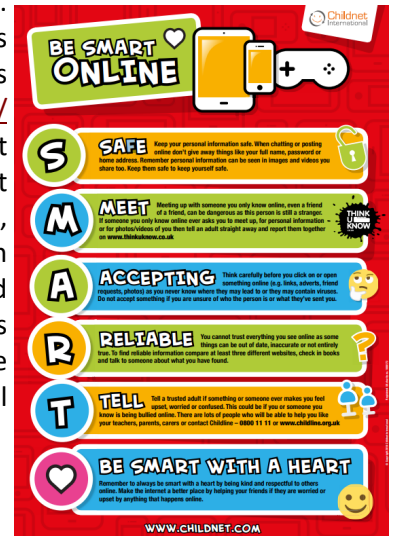
## Macmillan Coffee Morning

The PA are holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Wednesday 25th September to raise money for Macmillan Nurses. Please bring in your nut free (including ground almonds and almond essence) cake donations on the day. Your child may also bring in 50p or £1 to buy a cake at break time. Please join us for coffee in the Old Hall from drop off to raise money for this worthy cause.

## Staying Safe Online

This week, both teaching staff and children have focused on exploring the online world safely. During our Friday assembly, we discussed the importance of being 'SMART' whilst in the online world. Furthermore, the teaching staff were trained into supporting the children in navigating the digital world with a CEOPs and thinkuknow twilight. Parents can also access some helpful materials by visiting <https://parentinfo.org>. Parent Info provides support and advice to parents, with contributions from the leading experts and organisations in matters related to young people and families in a digital world.

*Mrs Micele-Jones  
Deputy Academic*



## Challenge for Charity

One of our parents, David Norton, is raising money for Orchid Mens Cancer. David was challenged to purchase a convertible Mini for £1,000 and drive 5,000 miles across Europe with the roof down all the way. They are only allowed to stop for fuel or mechanical issues. All kit, tools and spares must be carried in the car.

David left last Sunday and has so far driven to Luxembourg, the Austrian Alps, Slovenia, Rome, Bologna, Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary and Vienna. He is now on his way to Prague and the plan is to finish in Amsterdam at midnight tonight.

Here is a link to David's JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/david-norton7>

Good luck David and Reception are looking forward to hearing all about your exciting adventure next week!

## Lost

Blue watch belonging to Jamie Wackett.  
Named shorts belonging to James Mitchell.

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## Year 1 trip to Audley End

On Wednesday Year 1 went to Audley End. As the bus drove into the car park we saw a great big house. There were some people dressed up in Victorian costume ready to meet us. We walked up a long path. We learned all about what it would be like to be a servant in those days and it was very hard work! They had to get up very early and clean and scrub before breakfast. They worked hard all day. We found out there were special jobs for girls and boys.

We walked round the big house and saw the kitchen with the big ovens and we went into the laundry. We got into teams and had to fold large sheets.

After our picnic lunch on the grass we saw the Nursery which has some amazing toys. We really liked the rocking horse, large chess set and massive dolls house. Then we walked into the walled garden.

We had a tiring but very exciting day and learned a lot about the olden days.

## *Year 1*



## Harvest Festival

A Harvest Festival celebration will be held for Treetops and Lower School (EKG - Year 3) on the morning of Friday 11th October which will be for children only.

A service for Upper School (Years 4, 5 & 6) and parents will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Bengoe in the afternoon of Friday 11th October at 2.30pm. Children may leave with their parents after the service, or return to school with staff for After School Club.

As usual we ask that children who are not of school age do not attend the Upper School service to ensure the enjoyment of everyone. We do offer a crèche service from 2pm to 3.30pm on the day. If you would like to book your child into crèche please fill in a form which can be found in the School Office no later than Friday 4th October.

We invite all the children to bring in a small parcel of non-perishable items on the day (a shoe box without a lid for example). These will be donated to the Hertford Foodbank (located on Cowbridge in Hertford) to help support local people in crisis. For more information please visit <http://hertforddistrict.foodbank.org.uk>. Children in EKG, KG and Nursery should bring in one item each, rather than a small box. Children will have to carry the boxes so please ensure that they are not too heavy!

Here is the Foodbank's Harvest shopping list for 2019:

- Small jars of instant coffee 100g
- UHT milk 1 Lt cartons
- Long life fruit juice 1 Lt cartons
- Tinned potatoes
- Packets of instant mashed potatoes
- Jars of chilli, curry or sweet & sour cooking sauces
- Tinned meat
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned peas or carrots
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned ready mixed custard
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned fruit
- Small packets of sweet biscuits.
- Small bottles of cooking oil
- Washing up liquid
- Shaving foam in spray cans
- Deodorant / Antiperspirant
- Baby wipes

NB: Please do not donate anything in glass jars.



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## Warren Restaurant Menu

Week commencing 23rd September 2019



### Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 1



**The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup  
with 50/50 homemade  
bread

**The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup  
with 50/50 homemade  
bread

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Seasonal soup  
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**The Soup Kettle**  
Seasonal soup  
with 50/50 homemade  
bread



**Beef Chilli con Carne**  
Served with sour cream  
and Guacamole

**Lemon Paprika Chicken**  
with Rice and  
Crunchy Slaw

**Beef Pasta Bolognese**

**Honey Roast Gammon**

**Pupils Choice Cod Fillet**  
Fingers with Homemade  
Tartare Sauce



**Cherry Tomato and Basil**  
Quiche

**Vegetable Sausages with**  
Gravy

**Macaroni Cheese with**  
Garlic Bread

**Braised Quorn Fillet with**  
Onion Chutney

**Halloumi Cheese and**  
Vegetable Fingers with  
Sweet Chilli Dip



**Baked Jacket Potato**  
Chef's Special

**Pasta Penne with Tomato**  
Sauce

**Baked Jacket Potato**  
Chef's Special

**Pasta Spirals with a Nut-**  
free Green Pesto

**Baked Jacket Potato**  
Chef's Special



**Braised 50/50 Rice**  
Broccoli  
Corn with Roast peppers

**Crushed New Potatoes**  
Glazed local Carrots  
Cauliflower

**Garlic Bread**  
Peas  
Mixed Garden Salad

**Roast Potatoes**  
Green Beans and Carrots  
Roasted Parsnips

**Chips**  
Peas  
Baked Beans



**Choc Chip Cookie**  
Fresh Fruit or  
Yoghurt

**Yoghurt Sundae with**  
Mixed Berry puree

**Peach and Honey**  
Crumble

**Chunky Fruit Jelly**  
Fresh Fruit or  
Yoghurt

**Chocolate Ice-cream**

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

