



# Duncombe's Weekly Digest

## 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 particularly 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!

I have had a lovely time talking with many of you at drop off and pick up. The excitement and positivity was marvellous and several of you wrote in to say how lovely it was. Our pupils are settling in well to the new routines and timetables and I expect that they will each be very tired over the weekend, so do plan some good opportunities for rest. The Year 5 pupils are heading off to Mount Cook residential camp 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.

Mr Thomas has written covering the extensive programme of works carried out over the summer. I'm delighted the ICT investment that occurred last year has been further developed with 6 more interactive Smart Screens installed across the school site. In addition, the Treetops Exploration Hub is ready for its grand opening soon and our new Reading Café in Treetops will act as a Literacy Hub to tie in with our exciting Patron of Reading work with children's author Alice Hemming. You will have also noticed the front of the school parking area has been widened completing the earlier work of the gated pedestrian area. I now need **all pupils, parents and staff to use the pedestrian entrance** when walking into school and not to walk via the car access gates please. Thank you to Mr Thomas, Mr Bedingfield and Mr Beeson for their fine work over the holidays to ensure the school continues to look great and develop in its delivery for our children.

Our assembly focus is on being safe and looking after ourselves. As we build towards the Global Be Well Day on 27th September we shall be looking at staying safe when out and about and online. In anticipation of this, please do have a look at the following link from our school website which is of particular interest <https://www.duncombe-school.co.uk/parent-portal/e-safety/>

I was delighted with the LAMDA results this summer with the continuance of our 100% pass rate. This year saw all outcomes at Merit or Distinction with 70% at Distinction. Five pupils gained scores of 99/100 and Reece Hurley gained 100/100. 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 5 Passes, 4 Merits and 3 Distinctions ranging from Grade 1-6 across voice, piano, violin, clarinet and alto saxophone. Thomas Hipkin gained a Distinction for Grade 6 saxophone whilst Ines Bueno and Hexia Yao achieved Distinction for Grade 1 piano. Congratulations to all our pupils and music staff.

On Tuesday this week all teaching staff attended the first annual Cognita teaching conference in London with over 1000 teachers from the 40 UK schools. The event was exceptionally positive, and I was delighted that Duncombe featured as celebratory examples on a number of occasions. I was extremely proud of Señor Torres who formed part of a panel presentation focusing on Global Citizenship and Digital learning. He was passionate, funny and thought provoking getting a fine cheer from the assembled throng and of course #TeamDuncombe!

We shall be hosting our bi-annual Senior Schools Fair on **Wednesday 2nd October from 6.30pm**. With 15 of the leading Independent 11+ schools in attendance do please make a note in your diary to attend. This is for all parents and is an excellent opportunity for families to meet with admissions teams, Headteachers and Heads of Year 7 to find out in a relaxed and informal environment about the options that lay beyond Year 6.

I'm delighted that Mr Sims has settled straight into our Games Team working very effectively with the children and staff. We also welcome Mrs Grinyer who starts on Monday as our new Assistant Bursar. You may have noticed Mr Price has been working with us this week. He will be with us until the 20th September when he then heads off to Leeds to begin his new job in surveying, for which we wish him very success.

Do have a wonderful weekend and I'll look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

*Mr Phelan*





# Duncombe's Weekly Digest

## Newsletter

You may notice some changes to the newsletter formatting over the coming weeks as we try out some new styles. Please feel free to give us feedback.

## Diary Dates

### **Monday 9th September**

Year 5 to Mount Cook all week.

Toddler Group resumes - 10am in Treetops.

Lower School (Year 1 to Year 3) Meet the Teacher Meeting, 7pm in New Hall.

### **Wednesday 11th September**

Reception Parents Workshop. Treetops at 7pm.

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## Looking Forward

### **Tuesday 17th September**

Swimming resumes for Years 2, 3 and 4 at Haileybury.

### **Wednesday 18th September**

Year 1 to Audley End.

Year 2 Parent to Lunch. Times TBC.

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## Sports Fixtures

### **Wednesday 11th September**

U11 Haileybury Football Tournament.

### **Wednesday 18th September**

U10 and U11 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (home). 2.30pm start.

U11 Football v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 2.30pm start.

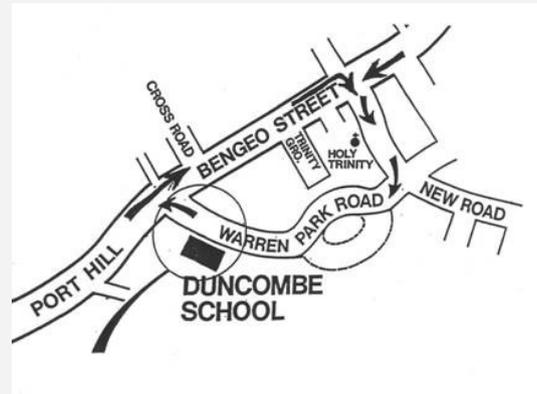
### **Thursday 19th September**

U10 and U11 Football v Bishop's Stortford College (away). 3.30pm start.

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## Importance Notices

### **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:

### **Pedestrian Entrance**

Please only enter the school using the pedestrian entrance.

### **Additional Traffic for Monday 9th September Drop Off**

There will be a coach outside the gates Monday morning for the Year 5 trip. Departure is planned for 8:15am but this may cause more traffic at drop off.

### **Afterschool Dance and Ballet**

Classes will resume the week of 9th September.

### **Speech and Drama**

Classes will resume on Thursday 12th September.

### 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.

### Upper School Meet the Teacher Information

The presentations shown at the US Meet the Teacher Meetings last night can be found on our website in the Parent Portal under 'notices'.

As a reminder the username and password for the Parents Portal is:

Username: parents

Password: stnerap!

### Summer Holiday Works

Over the Summer holidays, 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:

#### **Statutory Checks**

- Portable appliance testing of 1473 electrical items
- Annual service & inspection of air conditioning units
- Annual service & inspection of boilers
- Annual gas safety check of kitchen appliances

#### **General Improvements & Upgrade Works**

- Landscaping works at the front of school to create additional visitor parking
- Extension to fence by Music Studio to prevent vehicles going across the path
- Replacement of manhole cover outside Treetops
- Replacement of manhole cover in parent car park
- Removal of wooden climbing frame in Treetops garden and installation of play boat
- Installation of furniture for Treetops Exploration Hub
- Installation of new outdoor storage shed by New Hall to house disposables such as paper towels and toilet rolls from the cellar
- Installation of 6 new touch screen interactive Smartboards in - Early Kindergarten, Nursery, Treetops Exploration Hub, 5J, 6T and SEN classroom
- Redeployment of 3 75" Smart Screens in Old Hall, Staff Work Room & Headmaster's Office
- Redeployment of TV Screen from Old Hall to the foyer to display photographs and marketing materials

*Ian Thomas, Business Manager*

# Warren Restaurant Menu

## Week commencing 9th September 2019



### Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 2

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

MEAT FREE



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

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Seasonal soup  
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Tomato and Fresh Basil  
Pasta Bake with a  
Parmesan Crisp

Korean Style Chicken with  
Egg Noodles

Butchers Choice  
Sausages and Mash  
Potato

Roast Chicken  
with Gravy

Homemade Salmon and  
Cod fish cakes



Quorn and vegetable  
Hotpot

Vegetable Chili with  
Nachos, Sour cream and  
Salsa

Cauliflower and Roasted  
Butternut squash Cheesy  
Bake

Meatless Sausage Rolls  
with a Warm Onion Relish

Brie & Tomato Quiche



Baked Jacket Potato  
Chef's Special

Vegan Red Lentil  
Bolognese with Penne  
Pasta

Baked Jacket Potato  
Chef's Special

Creamy Mushroom and  
Dill Sauce with Penne  
Pasta

Baked Jacket Potato  
Chef's Special



Garlic Bread  
Sweetcorn  
Roasted Vegetables

Green Beans  
Cucumber Salad

Broccoli and Cauliflower  
Peas  
Mash Potato

Roast Potatoes  
Steamed Green Cabbage  
Lightly Boiled Carrots

Potato Wedges  
Garden Peas  
Baked Beans



Yoghurt Sundae with Fruit  
Coulis

Chocolate Cookie

Apple and Pear  
Crumble

Chunky Fruit and  
Strawberry Jelly

Vanilla Ice-Cream

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

