

Duncombe Digest



The Duncombe Time machine was in full working order this morning as we were whisked backwards to 1666 and the Great Fire of London by 2W for their class assembly. I stood watching our young performers, kitted out in exceptional period costumes, surrounded by model artwork of the fire of London and exceptionally well-made props, singing, playing instruments, performing poetry and sharing their learning of historical facts. I had to remind myself that the pupils are in Year 2! Equally I had to remind myself not to take the exceptional achievements of our pupils for granted. They had learnt lines, stage transitions, understood about minimising blocking on stage and were able to use the prompt system if required. Frankly they displayed a maturity and level of independent learning that is well above that which their age would dictate be displayed. Because we see this so frequently there is a danger of thinking that it is like this everywhere. The reality is that it is not, and it bears witness to the exceptional hard work of the pupils and staff who consistently delight and entertain us all across the school year. So it's a huge congratulations to all of 2W, Miss Watson and Mrs Hills for getting today off to a wonderful start.

I was delighted to see so many parents of Year 4 and 5 yesterday evening for our Senior Schools information event. This was a very informative evening where staff, former pupils and parents and Mr Matthew Mostyn of St Edmund's College spoke about the process of transition from Year 6 at Duncombe to senior school. Thank you to all who contributed and attended; it was very encouraging to see such a pleasing level of engagement and feedback showed clearly that it was very useful and well received. Our next Parent Event for all parents is on 12th February looking at Relationships Education and Diversity at 7pm in New Hall.

Earlier in the week I attended the IAPS Membership Committee in Leamington Spa. We looked at a number of current issues facing Preparatory School Education and listened to a number of Heads share some of the very real difficulties they are facing as a stand-alone school. I was struck with how very different the picture is for me here at Duncombe. As part of the Cognita Group, I and the staff have access to excellent support and constant dialogue about teaching and learning. I am able to take full advantage of initiatives such as Steer AS tracking and discuss my ideas for future development of Duncombe with a dynamic and forward-thinking Executive. I think it's fair to say that I have had several moments of reflection this week, just taking stock of what we have here at Duncombe both personally and collectively. This really is a great place to be and that is because we are all pulling together as #TeamDuncombe. We have a staff who always give of their best, pupils who respond to challenge and are willing to give things a go and a parental body that is overwhelmingly supportive and encouraging. It really does make for a recipe for success.

We have 4S class Assembly on Monday, we also have several fixtures during the week and a Music Assembly on Friday morning. In addition, it's the PA Superhero Disco on Friday. I'm certainly looking forward to throwing some shapes and seeing the new lighting rig the PA have supported in purchasing in full action. Enjoy the Rugby and have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Phelan.

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



Well done to the Lower School Stars of the Week



Thank you to 2W for a Brilliant Assembly Today!



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Diary Dates

Monday 3rd February

4S Class Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am start in New Hall.

Thursday 6th February

Chinese Workshop for Years 1 to 3 at Duncombe.

Friday 7th February

Music Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am start in Old Hall.

Looking Forward

Tuesday 11th February

Year 1 Glass Workshop in Ware.

Year 4 Sikh Temple Trip.

Years 5 and 6 Swimming.

Wednesday 12th February

Year 1 Glass Workshop in Ware.

Parent Event - Relationships, Education and Diversity. 7pm in New Hall.

Thursday 13th February

Last day before half term.

School finishes at normal time and all After School Clubs will be on as normal.

Friday 14th February - Half Term begins. School closed.

Monday 24th February - School resumes

Tuesday 25th February - Year 4 York Meeting and Come Dine with Us. 4.30pm in 4C.

Monday 28th February - Upper School Bake Off (Round One). 2pm in New Hall.

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 5th February

U10 Rugby v Kingshott (away). Time TBC.

Wednesday 12th February

U11 Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). Time TBC

U11 Rugby v Manor Lodge (away). 2.30pm start.

Thursday 13th February

U9 Rugby v Kingshott (away). Time TBC.

Wednesday 26th February

U11 Boys' Hockey v St Joseph's in the Park, at Broxbourne. Time TBC.

Thursday 27th February

U8 Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.15pm start.

Important Notices

Upper School Swimming Gala

Our Upper School Swimming Gala will be taking place on the morning of Tuesday 24th March at Haileybury. As usual, parents are invited to come and watch and support their child/children. We will be sending full details out about this event very soon.

In the meantime we would like to inform you of the following changes to swimming lessons:

Tuesday 11th February

Years 5 & 6 will be swimming

No swimming for Years 2 & 3

Tuesday 24th March

Upper School Swimming Gala day

No swimming for Years 2 & 3

Mrs Johnson

Woburn Charity:

May we remind you that on **Monday 3rd February** we are going to fill a koala image with money. We would be very grateful if you could bring in some loose change on that day and the Woburn Team will put them together to create a koala from all the coins we collect. All the money will be donated to Wildlife Victoria and WIRES (Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service) to help the wildlife in Australia following the devastating bush fires.

Thank you

The Woburn Charity Team

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Maxwell for winning a Gold medal for the 100 metres freestyle and a Bronze medal for the 100 metres Individual Medley at the Hertfordshire County Swimming Championships recently. Well done Maxwell!





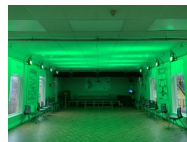
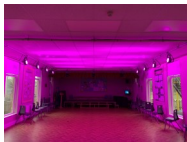
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New Hall Stage & Mood Lighting

We are extremely excited to be able to share with you that thanks to the generous support of the Parents' Association, we have been able to replace and upgrade the stage lighting in New Hall.

We are very grateful to the Parents' Association for their funding of this much needed upgrade. The new lighting not only included new stage lighting but also provides mood lighting for the hall and even comes with a disco option; which I know the children are going to love when the PA hold their children's Superhero Party on Friday 7th February 2020.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager



Eco Team Project

In Monday's assembly, Catherine Firth from Paradise Wildlife Park came to talk to main school about endangered animals. It was interesting, informative and engaging whilst at the same time raising awareness of how we are losing some of our amazing animals. Part of the assembly focused on the effect that rubbish and pollution has on the environment. Following on from this, Duncombe is taking part in the HEART project which is run by Paradise Wildlife Park. HEART stands for (Helping Endangered Animals by Recycling Trash) and each school that takes part is given an endangered animal. Duncombe has been given the gibbon.

The ECO Team will head up the HEART project in the first instance which entails researching the habitat of the gibbon. They then have to design and make a sculpture of a gibbon using recyclable materials. The finished sculpture is taken to Paradise Wildlife Park in May and put on display.

We look forward to keeping you informed of our progress and are looking forward to taking on this exciting and important challenge.

Miss Ashcroft and the ECO Team



Nursery and Reception Drama Workshop

We were very pleased to receive a visit from [Perform](#) on Wednesday 29th January. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of [Around The World](#) and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.

The children used their imagination to take them all they way to Australia, passing through France, Italy and China along the way. The children took part with energy and enthusiasm. Well done Nursery and Reception!



Queenswood Open Morning, exclusively for Duncombe Parents

On Friday 28th February 2020, Queenswood will be hosting an exclusive Duncombe Parents' Open Morning.

Throughout the morning you will be able to discover more about a Queenswood education, which in turn will assist you in your decision about the next steps in your daughter's education.

For the comfort of our parents, Queenswood will provide transport to and from the event, departing Duncombe at 8.45am and returning for 12pm. A ParentMail has been sent to all our families with young ladies with further details.

If you are interested in attending the Open Morning, please email donna.saunders@duncombe-school.co.uk to book your place by **Thursday 13th February 2020.**



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2020 RUGBY CAMPS

Monday 17th February 2020	Kicking Clinic
Tuesday 18 February 2020	Rugby Camp
Wednesday 19 February 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 07 April 2020	Rugby Camp
Wednesday 08 April 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 14 April 2020	Kicking Clinic
Thursday 16 April 2020	Rugby Camp
Friday 17 April 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 26 May 2020	Rugby Camp
Wednesday 27 May 2020	Rugby Camp
Friday 29 May 2020	Kicking Clinic
Monday 13 July 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 14 July 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 21 July 2020	Kicking Clinic
Monday 27 July 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 28 July 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 04 August 2020	Kicking Clinic
Monday 10 August 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 11 August 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 18 August 2020	Kicking Clinic
Monday 24 August 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 25 August 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 01 September 2020	Kicking Clinic
Monday 26 October 2020	Rugby Camp
Tuesday 27 October 2020	Rugby Camp
Friday 30 October 2020	Kicking Clinic
Wednesday 16 December 2020	Rugby Camp
Thursday 17 December 2020	Rugby Camp






To find out more about Sharks Sports Coaching please contact us on 07767 20 10 30 or email juniorsharksrugby@yahoo.com
Please check website for confirmation of venues, times and prices.
www.juniorsharksrugby.com

Warren Restaurant Menu



Duncombe School Lunch Menu - Week 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ENTREE	Mince Beef Bolognaise with Tri Colour Pasta	Sticky BBQ Chicken with Soy Sauce Noodles	Sausage and Butterbean Casserole	Roast Gammon with Sage and Onion Stuffing with Gravy	Beef Burger with a Floured Bap and Ketchup
VEGGIE LOVERS	Root Vegetable Pie with Flaky Pastry	Vegetable and Kidney Bean Chili with Nachos, Sour cream and Salsa	Cauliflower and Roasted Butternut squash Cheesy Bake	Meatless Sausage Rolls with a Warm Onion Relish	Mixed Bean and Lentil Burger
LIGHT BITES	Baked Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Vegan Red Lentil and Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta	Baked Jacket Potato with Baked Beans	Creamy Chestnut Mushroom Sauce with Penne Pasta	Baked Jacket Potato with Baked Beans
ON THE SIDE	Garlic Bread Green Beans New Potatoes	Sweetcorn Cauliflower Boiled Rice	Broccoli Peas Mash Potato	Roast Potatoes Steamed Green Cabbage Lightly Boiled Carrots	Oven Chips Garden Peas Baked Beans
TASTY PUDS	Chocolate Sponge Cake with Chocolate Custard	Yoghurt Sundae with Fruit Coulis	Apple and Forest Fruits Crumble	Lemon Cheesecake	Shortbread /Cookie

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

