



SDC - The Week

5 February 2009



Weather conditions

Dear Parents

School Closure

Thank you for your patience during the recent school closure. Clearly, the concern is to ensure that our pupils are as safe as possible whilst at school, as well as when travelling.



Unfortunately, due to the severe weather conditions encountered on Monday and Tuesday, many members of staff were unable to journey safely into school. Consequently we could not ensure that appropriate levels of supervision and catering would be in place during the school day.

Teaching staff will take steps to ensure that any missed work is caught up before half term. We aim to maintain a normal school routine for the rest of this week. Like you I rely on the forecasts and occasionally they are not able to predict exactly what will happen. So, in the event that further severe weather warnings suggest that the safety of pupils, parents and staff would be compromised, we will take the following steps:

A decision will be taken by 6 pm the previous evening as to whether the school will open the next day. If the decision is to close the school, messages will be placed on the school switchboard, the website and the electronic message board to that effect.

If, during the school day, weather conditions deteriorate to the extent that we deem it necessary to close early, pupils in the Senior School will be sent home once contact with parents has taken place, and in the case of Junior School pupils, parents will be contacted and the pupils held at school until they can

be collected.

The aim, in these circumstances, is to ensure that everyone, including staff, can get home safely so we would appreciate it if you would prepare for this contingency.

Thank you, again, for your patience and our best wishes to you as normal business resumes.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jane Davies
Headmistress

Year 11 attend the London Poetry Live! show

The English Department took the whole of Year 11 to the Methodist Central Hall in Westminster on Thursday 29 January to see the London Poetry Live! show, an event which is now in its eleventh year, but which the College has not attended before.

Six poets were at the event – Gillian Clarke, Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage, Imtiaz Dharker, Daljit Nagra and John Agard – of whom five are featured in the AQA Anthology for both the English and the English Literature Examinations. Students heard poets perform (and explain) poems which they will be examined on this summer, and there was also an opportunity for audience members to ask questions. The Chief Examiner for English, Tony Childs, led two sessions during which students received valuable, concrete advice on writing effective examination answers.

Sessions were extremely effective: short, intense, and very well balanced, and the audience of around 1500 GCSE students were, for the most part, attentive and focused. St Dunstan's students behaved impeccably throughout the day; the journeys to and from Westminster went without a hitch and our behaviour within the Hall was absolutely first class. Mr Webb received a number of compliments from teachers from other schools on how immaculate, both in terms of appearance and behaviour, the St Dunstan's group was.

This was an extremely valuable day, and one which the English Department would be very keen to see become a regular fixture of the College year.

U10 Football

The Under 10s have had two lots of matches over the past two Thursdays. On the 22nd, against Allyn's the C team put up a good display, especially in the first half. Alfie Dale scored the SDC goal, and there was some pleasing passing and positional awareness. Sadly four losses of concentration saw Allyn's score four goals. Final score 1-4 to Allyn's.

The B team played very well in a good game. Callum MacLennan made a string of excellent saves throughout the match and Malachi Less scored a very good goal in the second half. Allyn's pulled one back to record a 1-1 draw.

The A team found themselves 0-5 down at half time. However they rallied well in the second half, going close a number of times and conceding one goal. Final score 0-6.


On Thursday 29, the boys travelled by train to Bickley Park. Here the C team was involved in a thrilling encounter. Both teams played some good football and passed the ball intelligently. Good tackling and positional awareness allowed the score to always be close. Bickley took an early lead but in the second half, SDC started to gain the upper hand. The equaliser was almost instantly wiped out as the game moved to 1-2 to Bickley Park before Alfie Dale tied the scores at 2-2.

The B team stormed into a 2-0 lead after Malachi Less scored twice in the first half. Bickley rallied well in the second half, scoring twice. Final score 2-2.

The A team were dominant throughout their match. James Williams scored two well taken goals as the boys responded well to last week's disappointment. Final score, 2-0 to SDC. Well played to all over both weeks.

Stand up for Shakespeare – RCS

As part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's national 'Stand up for Shakespeare' week in schools, St Dunstan's entire Year 10 spent Friday afternoon with actors Penelope Wilton, Patsy Kwasi and Eugene Washington looking at the story and language of Macbeth. Patsy and Eugene took on the roles of Lady Macbeth and Macbeth



Stand up for Shakespeare Workshop
Friday, 30 January 2009

Actors: Patsy Kwasi, Eugene Washington with Penelope Wilton

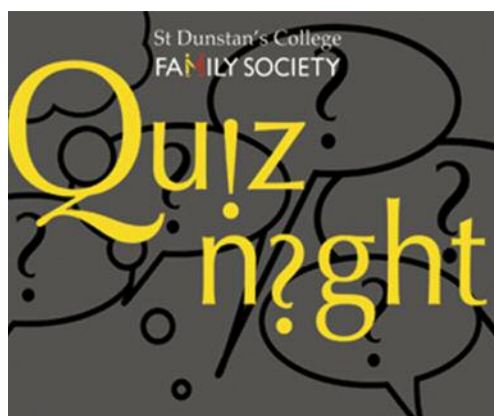
working with the students to produce some thoughtful and at times amusing interpretations of the language, whilst Penelope spoke about the power of the plays and their significance today. A great afternoon and may we all stand up for Shakespeare.

U15 A Hockey v. Blackheath

After a slightly tentative start, the girls began to find their feet in their various positions on pitch and made a number of promising moves to place pressure on Blackheath. Two magnificent goals were scored by Anna Denvir and Maddy Allery, each of which was followed by an equaliser in response. Twice SDC's slight lead was matched with Blackheath maximising spaces. The team were unlucky not to get a penalty corner in the last five minutes of the game, which could have made all the difference. Short corners are so key, as shown in SDC's first goal that came from Anna Denvir at the top of the D. The final score was a 2-2 draw.

Player of the Match was Maddy Allery, and special mentions go to Connie Wroe who played a strong game in defence. The girls will be working on securing and perfecting these set pieces next week. An enjoyable match, enjoyed by all, marking the beginning of our hockey season.

SDCFS Quiz Night



The ever popular Quiz Night - Saturday 28 February, 8-11pm in the Great Hall.

Select your brainiest friends to make up a team and pit your wits against the Quiz Master, Mr Austin, or join up

with others on the night. Bring your own food and drink - glasses provided. Tables for the teams will be set up by 7.30pm so do join us early to prepare and have a drink before the start. A very fun and popular event so get those applications in quick and start swotting up.

£7.50 per person. Ticket application forms are available from the website.

Year 10 training exercise - postponed

Due to the impending bad forecast again, the Year 10 CCF training exercise which was to be held this weekend has been postponed and will now take place over the weekend of the 13th, 14th & 15th March.