



SDC - The Week

10 September 2009

Message from the Headmistress

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer and I welcome you back for another exciting and rewarding year. During July and August we celebrated the publication of another set of outstanding public examination results. Our Year 13 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma students achieved excellent results, with a third scoring 41 points or above out of a maximum of 45, placing them in the top 750 (1.9%) of IB students worldwide. Simon Pickstone achieved full marks, which last year would have placed him amongst the top 75 (0.2%) of IB students. The College's average IB Diploma score was 36.2 (worldwide average points score in 2008 was 30 points), which equates to 559 UCAS points, more than 4 A grades at A Level.

A Level results were just as impressive. The pass rate was 100% with 51.1% of exams awarded an A grade (26.7% national average) and 80.1% of exams graded A-B (national average 52%). Special mentions go to Joe Ashmore, Peter Colling, Edward Davenport, Sam Meddick, James Middleton, Pascale Morrison-Derbyshire, Rebecca O'Malley, Rajiv Patel, Hannah Redler, Ella Richards and Robert Wilkinson who all achieved straight A grades.

I am delighted that Joe Ashmore, Edward Davenport, Holly Lanes, Edmund Owen, Rajiv Patel, Ella Richards and Ben Russell have secured their places at Oxford and Cambridge universities. The 'Class of 2009' is now eagerly anticipating their departure to university or GAP year adventures. My colleagues and I are delighted with all that these young people have achieved so far and we send them our very best wishes for the future.

A successful summer concluded with the GCSE results. 61.35% of exams were awarded A*-A grades (national average 21.6%), 90.4% of exams graded A*-B (national average 41.5%), and 99.17% graded A*-C (national average 67.1%). Two students, Elizabeth Bingham and Giulia Spissu, achieved straight A* grades in all nine subjects taken. Our congratulations to everyone as they embark on their Sixth Form studies.

As we begin this new academic year, I am delighted to welcome Mr Tim Cook to the College as Deputy Head. Tim

brings with him a wealth of experience in the independent education sector. He will be known to many of our parents as he has not come far to join us – he has spent the last 14 years at Dulwich College, where he was a member of the Senior Management Team. Tim will be involved in all aspects of College life, but I know that he is particularly keen to help us build on the excellent reputation that the College has for its extra-curricular provision and pastoral care. I would also like to welcome new members of staff to the College. Ms Diaz Blanco, Miss Inglebert and Miss Zatloukal (Languages); Miss Pearson (Art & Design); Miss Halfacree (Head of Girls' Games) and Mr Stobart (Head of Extra-Curricular Music). Welcome back to Miss Buchanan (English) and to Mr Thorogood (Mathematics). I am delighted to introduce our new Head of School, Jake Richards, who is supported by two Deputies – Segun Ilelaboye and Clare Skinner - and his Red Tie Prefect team of Victoria Harris, Kadeem Simmons-Bah and Daniel Tahsin.

The College Calendar has a comprehensive list of the events taking place during the Michaelmas Term. A few forthcoming highlights include, the Family Society Cheese & Wine Evening on Friday 18 September, an annual event providing an early opportunity for parents to meet each other; the Music Scholars' and Exhibitioners' Concert on Monday 5 October, and a Prom Concert on Friday 9 October, showcases the musical talents of our pupils; the Languages Day on Friday 25 September, which will include a Fashion Show from pupils and staff.

We have a varied programme of school trips this term including the Year 11 and 13 CCF cadets visit to HMS Collingwood; a CCF Advanced Training Weekend; Geography Field Trips to River Darent for Year 8 and to Swanage for Year 12; and a History Theatre Trip to War Horse for Years 9-13. A packed fixture list and sports events throughout the term include House Rugby, Netball and Basketball Matches, a Trinity Schools U15 Netball Tournament and a Trinity Schools U13 Hockey Tournament. During Exeat pupils will travel far and wide on a Rugby Tour to Lake Garda, a History Trip to Berlin, a Netball & Hockey Tour to Cyprus, and many will participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Qualifying and Training Expeditions.

This is the term when we welcome many prospective pupils and their parents to the College. Junior School Open Mornings will be held on Thursday 29 September for Nursery & Reception, and Thursday 19 November for Year 3 (7+). For the Senior School, Open Mornings will be held on Saturday 3 October and Saturday 14 November. For the Sixth Form we have two events - a 16+ Information Forum for Parents on Thursday 24 September and a 16+ Open Afternoon for Students on Wednesday 4 November. Current pupils are our best ambassadors and, as always, we welcome their important contribution on these occasions. I look forward to seeing you at College events, and wish the pupils and staff a happy and busy term ahead.

Message from the Head of the Junior School

Welcome to you all on the start of the school year. It was lovely to see the children returning happily to school and I can report that they have settled quickly in their new classes. This term we



welcome 40 new families to the Junior School. I hope that you will soon feel very much part of our community.

The summer holiday was a busy time for many staff as maintenance work was carried out to develop the Junior School learning environment. In Pre-Prep the activity room was decorated and reorganised. A new multi-purpose floor has been laid so that the children can experience a variety of wet play and/or messy activities. We have also established a hub of four computers which can be used to enhance the children's learning and complement the lessons Year 1 and 2 have in the ICT suite.

Thanks to a donation from the Family Society the Prep playground has seen the beginning of its development. Playground markings (chosen by the children) have been completed and there are some new table top benches and planters that will be added in the next few weeks. The playground is an area that Student Council will continue to develop during this academic year.

At St Dunstan's College working in partnership with parents for the benefit of the children is extremely important. I would like to remind you of our Leadership structure.

Deputy Head of the Junior School – Mr A. Dickson
Pre-Prep

Head of Early Years (Nursery and Reception) – Mrs A. Hughes

Head of Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) – Mrs W. Smith
Prep

Head of Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) – Mrs L. Woodhams

Head of Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) – Miss S. Davis

Obviously, your first point of contact is your child's class/form teacher but any member of the leadership team is available to meet with you if requested. Mrs Rosemary Scard, Junior School registrar is also a key point of contact for all Junior School parents.

This term promises to be as full and exciting as ever. A variety of activities and events are already planned to enhance the children's learning experience starting with Year 4 visiting the Greenwich Environmental Centre and Year 5 visiting the Ragged School Museum. We can look forward to reading reports of the children's activities in future newsletters. Please check the school calendar for important Junior School dates including the dates and times of our Christmas concerts and Carol Service.

On behalf of the Junior School staff, I wish all of you a very enjoyable, successful year and hope to see many of you on the 18th of September at the Family Society Cheese and Wine event.

Sainsbury's and Tesco Tokens

Thank you to everyone who collected the Sainsbury's and Tesco tokens. The Junior School was able to select a variety of equipment which will enhance the existing resources.



Training begins for Open Group Rugby

The Open Group Rugby senior squads travelled to Dulwich College to play a series of 20 minute sessions as final preparation for the start of the new season. Whilst the opponents were a strong team, there were many positives to be taken from SDC's performance including the scrummage where the team held their own, the lineout who gained parity with their larger opponents, and the senior players who came to the fore in terms of leadership by example on the pitch. The players were cheered on by a large contingent of parents supporting on the touchline,



who are always extremely welcome at matches.

St Dunstan's face a tough fixture on Saturday against Caterham, but as always the boys are ready to face the challenge.

John Lewis Sample Selling Visit

The next John Lewis Sample Selling Visit will be on Friday 25 September, 15:00-17:00, in the Refectory.

SDCFS Cheese & Wine Evening

Friday 18 September, 8.00-10.30pm in the Great Hall. See website for details.

For more news go to www.stdunstans.org.uk