



SDC - The Week

12 March 2009



Astronaut Helen Sharman visits St Dunstan's



On Wednesday 11 March, as part of National Science and Engineering Week, St Dunstan's College was proud to welcome Helen Sharman OBE, the first Briton in space, to speak

about her visit in 1991 to the Mir Space Station. Helen Sharman captivated an audience of over 160 people, including students from the Junior and Senior schools as well as teaching and support staff.

In her inspirational presentation she explained how she was selected after responding to a radio advertisement – “astronaut wanted – no experience required”. The photographs and videos she took in space were brought to life by her evocative explanations of how the challenges of day to day activities such as eating, drinking, breathing, sleeping and going to the lavatory were overcome by scientific ingenuity. She concluded her presentation by emphasising the importance of not only learning science at school, but also the crucial role that science has to play in shaping the world around us.

The Rocky Monster Show

Kamal Less (6F) reports: “Children in Years 5 and 6 are presenting a play called The Rocky Monster Show! We have been hard at work rehearsing for over four weeks. First we had to sort out the characters and then audition for the parts. Once we knew our roles we started to learn our lines, dance moves, songs and timing.

Secondly, we had to get the costumes ready. We all had to bring in our costumes for the teachers to check and maybe improve what we were wearing. There are lots of interesting costumes - the two-headed boy is one of my favourites, but there are more! It is full of humour – and we will let you know where the jokes are, just in case you miss any. There is a

werewolf who might frighten you at various times and lots of fun characters from books and films.

We have people playing the parts of dead singers such as Elvis Presley and James Brown (if you want to know how this happens, you will have to come and see us!) We also have scientists, monsters and villagers acting and singing. Year 5 children are singing and acting, all in their Victorian villagers' costumes. We have had one dress rehearsal, which was good because we all knew what we were doing. We would like to see as many people as possible on the nights of the performance - Wednesday and Thursday this week.”

Senior School House Swimming

On Thursday, 5 March the Senior School House swimming gala took place. This event involved students from all Years in the Senior School. The commitment, especially from those in their final year at the College, was excellent, with a number of close, competitive races taking place. The blanket finish in the Year 11-13 boys breaststroke highlighted this, a race eventually won by Jack Ball.

In Year 7, there were good performances by Donovan Gervais and Lani Davies. In Year 8, Toby Seriki and Jessica Twist were equally as impressive. In these two Years, Stuart House were the winners.



In the Middle Years (9 and 10), Hecker held the whip hand with Tom Misch, Josie Monnick and Georgina Hall impressing. Other Houses had their

successes, notably Emily Regnier (Stuart), Euan Johnson (Usherwood) and David Oirshott plus Brodie Hibberd (Forder).

In the Senior Years, the result was in doubt until the final

mixed relay. Tom Gilmour, Chris Murray, Harry Newell, Nick Keppe amongst the boys and Rosie Tayler, Anna Peck, Jessica Pierce, Anna Marie Dixon and Ella Richards amongst the girls, swam with enthusiasm. The full results are on the website.

U9 Football v. St David's

The Under 9 A and B teams hosted St David's last week, and both teams played their very best during their games. However, St David's proved too strong in both games, scoring three in each. Teodoro Koshak restored SDC's pride by getting one back for the B team.

King's Swimming Gala



Outside of the Bath Cup, the King's Gala is the biggest meet that SDC have in the season. The boys swam against King's Canterbury, Sutton Valence, Harrow, Bishop Stortford and

King's Rochester, a tough call as the majority of the schools are boarding schools with the added advantage of time. The girls swam against the same schools except Benenden swan instead of Harrow.

The boys had some excellent swims and recorded very good times. In the U14s, the highlights were the 4x50m medley team finishing third in 2.40.82, and Donovan Gervais coming third in the 50m fly in 36.84. Overall, the team finished fourth. The U16 team fared slightly worse finishing fifth overall, however, Louis Phelps finished third in a tight 50m breaststroke race and again the medley team came third in 2.36.81. The Open team moved up a notch finishing fourth overall and once again the medley team came third in 2.31.06. The girls mirrored the boys in the overall competition finishing in the same place position in their various age groups. Again a good medley relay in 2.51.40, followed by excellent swims by Lani Davies (fly) 38.62 and Anna Marlow (freestyle) 34.90 who are both Year 7 students, cemented a good gala for the U14s.

In the U16s, false starts and illegal touches docked SDC vital marks and gave the team a fifth place overall. However, Brodie Hibberd (backstroke) finished first in 37.03 and Emelie Regnier came second in the fly recording 38.56. The team finished in third place in the 4x50 m freestyle relay in 2.20.10. The senior girls had a great start with Jessica Pearce coming second in the 50m freestyle in 32.41, and in the freestyle relay gaining a third place in 2.21.69. Once again the behaviour of the students was impeccable throughout the day and staff thanks them for this and their magnificent efforts throughout the gala.

U10 Football v. St David's

On Tuesday afternoon, the U10s hosted A and B teams from St David's. The A team played in a tight and competitive game, where James Williams scored twice and Ben Hull made an outstanding save, but the opposition determinedly scored two

as well. Final score, 2-2.

The depleted B team was boosted by three C team players and two Year 4 boys (Ewan Lewis and Owen March), and they all contributed very well to the game. St David's scored three goals followed by SDC's Alfie Dale scoring twice. The final few minutes were very exciting as SDC sought the equaliser they deserved. With seconds remaining, Alfie found the back of the net but the goal was disallowed as the referee was attending to an injured player. Final score, 2-3 to St David's.

U14 Kent Winter One-Day Tennis Tournament

On Friday 6 March, eight pupils were the first to represent SDC in this year's tennis calendar. The tournament held at Bromley Tennis Centre allowed doubles pairs to compete in a 'round-robin' tournament, playing seven games each in the hope of progressing on to further rounds. Lana Richards and Katie Payne secured three wins including a convincing win over Bromley High. Georgina Hall and Kemi Akinlotan were the other female doubles pairing, and though drawn in the harder of the two pools, still played some excellent tennis and recorded two wins.

In the afternoon, it was the boys' turn to impress. A Year 8 pairing of Jordan Williams and Ben Miles combined well and were unlucky not to progress. Frank Plummer and Charlie Francis were the only Year 7 pairing in the tournament, facing Year 9 boys including the Kent County Champion. Their tennis improved throughout the day and they were impressive in a 3-0 defeat of Tunbridge Wells Grammar School. All in all, the day was a huge success. Pupils enjoyed having the opportunity to play a new sport in a competitive situation and are committed to the summer fixtures and training sessions that are currently being initiated.

St Christopher's U11 Football Tournament

On Friday afternoon, SDC sent two teams to this annual event at Beckenham Cricket Club. The B team found themselves up against the eventual winners and two good A teams. They lost two matches by one goal and the third to the eventual winners by five. The team played determined football at times, especially in defence and special mentions go to Charlie Ferguson, Benoit Jauniaux and Savvas Savvas. Well done. The A team, up against two very good sides including the other eventual finalist, played very well in defence and midfield on a narrow pitch. Sam Lempp made a couple of terrific saves and the team communicated positively and enthusiastically throughout. Three 0-0 draws saw the team eliminated from the tournament at the halfway point.

Year 7 meet with Creepy Creatures



On Thursday 5 March, Year 7 learnt about and got to see first hand, a range of Creepy Creatures including snakes and a tarantula. See the website for photos of some of the creatures they met.

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