



SDC - The Week

26 March 2009

Message from the Headmistress

The Lent Term has been an extremely busy and successful one. The annual concert at St John's Smith Square last week saw concerto solos from Clare Skinner (Year 12) on the flute and Joe Ashmore (Year 13) on the organ. Old Dunstonian Eamonn Dougan was once again one of the vocal soloists in the main choral work, along with current singing teacher Heather Hunter and former singing teacher Claire Underwood. The concert was made even more memorable by the involvement of the Prep School Choir for the first time in the event's history, making it a College wide celebration of our musical talent.

We have been fortunate to welcome a number of distinguished guests to the College this term. Lord Ouseley and Baroness Garden visited Years 11 and 10 as part of the "Peers in Schools" programme to talk about their experiences as Members of the House of Lords. Helen Sharman OBE, the first Briton in space, enthralled a packed Great Hall with her memories of her visit to the Mir Space Station in 1991; actress Penelope Wilton, along with other professional acting colleagues, spent an afternoon with Year 10 during the Royal Shakespeare Company's 'Stand up for Shakespeare' week. The Armstrong Society welcomed, amongst other guests, Professor Fred Pearce from UCL, with his fascinating talk, 'Wheezes and Sneezes, Itches and Rashes' and, finally, Year 7 met some rather more unusual guests when 'Creepy Creatures', including snakes and a tarantula came to visit.

Senior school pupils travelled far and wide to broaden their educational horizons, as well as making the most of opportunities closer to home. Year 9 travelled by Eurostar to Lille, while Year 8 ventured to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich as they learnt about the failure of the Spanish Armada. Year 11 joined 1500 other GCSE students at the London Poetry Live! Show whilst a group of keen Geographers travelled to Morocco, spending two nights in the Atlas Mountains. Historians had an eventual trip to Poland which included a highly emotive visit to the former extermination camps at Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau whilst Biologists saw at close hand how disease can ravage the human body at the Bodyworlds Exhibition at the O2 Arena. Year 12 Physicists took part in a ground breaking project with

the National Theatre and 30 Year 10-13 French students immersed themselves in Parisian culture to top up their language skills.

Individual successes continue to demonstrate the breadth of talent and interests enjoyed by our students. Taylor Johnstone, in Year 11, came second in the final round of the National Cyclo-Cross Trophy, Michael Knight qualified for the British Mathematical Olympiad's Cayley competition created for outstanding pupils in Year 9 and Gregory Burr and Nathan Beardsworth, also in Year 9, qualified for the European Grey Kangaroo, a mathematics competition that takes place simultaneously across many countries in Europe. Group successes came early in the term with SDC following up their Regional win in the UK Senior Mathematics Competition with an impressive final national ranking of 22 out of 900 schools that entered. Year 8 duo of Jordan Mariotti-Wood and Sharujan Shangar were 'very highly commended' at the Classical Association Reading Competition whilst Charles Brook and Evangeline Atkinson won all their debates in the International Competition for Young Debaters (ICYD) in Cambridge, including the final, making them the overall winners of the ICYD regional round.

Despite the worst winter weather we had seen for many years, the cast and crew of Grease soldiered on and wowed audiences with a refreshing and fun version of the hit 1970's musical. Notable fundraising efforts included £200 for Amnesty International, raised at a highly entertaining Secret Policeman's Ball and £700 for Comic Relief at the SDCFS Coffee Morning. Senior School pupils have enjoyed a term of fives, football, hockey, netball and swimming. The girls' hockey teams have celebrated wins against Blackheath, Colfe's and Croydon High, whilst the fives team had a successful season beating Christ's Hospital, Eastbourne College and Tonbridge, and the swimming team recorded good times at both the King's Gala and Trinity Schools meet. I do hope you have a relaxing Easter break with some good weather to enjoy.

Message from the Head of the Junior School

What an exciting term this has been. The children continue to make great strides in their learning and it seems every week I am pleasantly surprised and impressed by what they achieve. I

am afraid it is impossible for me to mention every accomplishment, however, I would like to highlight a few outstanding personal achievements and some memorable occasions.

Musically, the children continue to be encouraged and challenged and have had the opportunity to perform on a variety of occasions. I enjoyed a visit to Pre-Prep Strings Club, where the children executed their exercises with promising dexterity. As Head, the Prep Choir's participation at the St John's Smith Square Choral and Instrumental Concert was an extremely proud moment. The children's performance was exemplary and their enthusiasm and enjoyment for singing was clearly evident as they performed.

Those who attended the Year 5 & 6 production of 'The Rocky Monster Show' were hugely impressed by the children's maturity and confidence on stage. All the children performed well but



special mention must go to Samuel Lempp for his interpretation of the character Igor. It was also lovely for Elvis, alias Ricardo King, to make an appearance and 'wow' everyone with his singing and ability to recreate the famous hip action!

In sport the children have competed in netball, football and swimming. St Dunstan's College Junior School has hosted a variety of

tournaments and the children have continued to impress staff with their determination and sportsmanship. In sport, special mention goes to Daniel Newhouse and Lucy Sands. They have both qualified to participate in the IAPS National Swimming Gala. Their times in the heats positioned Daniel second in the country at butterfly and Lucy ninth in the country at breaststroke. These are wonderful achievements and we wish them both the best of luck in their events.

Academically, the children have been busy and as usual, staff have organised a variety of activities to ensure the children's learning is stimulating and effective. This has involved a variety of visitors being welcomed to the Junior School to enhance the children's learning experience. These have included a visit to the Nursery by Mr Tiwari (father of Tapasya) as part of their 'ourselves topic' and author Bernard Ashley, who spoke to all the children from Year 1 to Year 6 as part of World Book Day. Year 4 spent a highly entertaining day working with historian Richard York, learning and acting out aspects of life during Tudor times. I was delighted to participate as a rather pompous Queen Elizabeth!

For the Prep children one of the highlights of the academic year are their residential school journeys. For Year 3 this is 'a big step' spending time away from family with their teachers. I was delighted when they returned buzzing with enthusiasm for their time at Sayers Croft. They enjoyed three action-packed days and staff were very impressed with the children's

independence. It was lovely to see everyone return with a smile on their face.

As we conclude the Lent Term, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our parents and friends for supporting the children in their learning and activities. It always raises the children's performance when parents and friends are cheering them on at special events or in aspects of daily school life. Your encouragement and participation is important to the pupils and staff.

Finally, thank you to the all the Junior School staff who work so hard to ensure that St Dunstan's College Junior School is the friendly, dynamic school that it is. I wish you all a restful and happy Easter.

St Johns Smith Square Concert

Report by Benoit Jauniaux, 6F: "On the 19 March, the Prep Choir accompanied by their teachers, went with the Senior School choirs and orchestras for the first time ever to the concert in St John's, Smith Square. Everyone was very excited to go into such a posh place to sing near the Houses of Parliament. We entered the venue after a long bus journey, to be stunned by the beauty of the amazing hall. We then rehearsed for awhile with the Senior School and by ourselves. After rehearsing, we went outside to have a break for half an hour. As we re-entered the hall parents, children and many other people had already filled it up. The concert began with the senior orchestra and swing band while we waited in our seats excitedly. We went on stage with Mr Barnard and Miss Marcinkiewicz very nervously. We sang our two songs very well and were proud of ourselves. As we went back on stage to sing our third song (this time with the Senior School) we had more confidence. We sang the song even better and this time stunned everyone in the hall. We all had a great time at St John's. This is a memory that will stay in our heads for years to come."



Year 3 trip to Sayers Croft

On Monday 16 March, the Year 3 children went to Sayers Croft in Surrey for their first ever residential trip. The three days were action packed, and the children enjoyed a range of activities including wall climbing, abseiling, pond dipping, natural art, shelter building and a very long country walk. The weather was exceptional with blue skies and it was really rather warm for March. The clear night sky was particularly impressive and Orion's belt could clearly be identified as everyone sat around the campfire roasting marshmallows. The teachers were particularly impressed by the children's independence and enthusiasm, and happily returned them all safe and sound to their parents on the Wednesday afternoon.

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