

Friday 13 March 2020

Message from the Acting Head

I was privileged to watch the dress rehearsal of High School Musical on Wednesday afternoon. A wonderful performance by the cast, with great singing, acting and choreography. I know that everyone attending the evening performances is in for a treat! My thanks to all the students for their commitment and dedication, sometimes rehearsing at weekends. The whole look and feel of the production is superb, from the set design to costumes, lighting and sound. A big 'Thank You' also to Mrs. Burton (Director), Mrs. Kershaw (Musical Director), Mrs. Tipp (Choreographer), Mrs. Smith (Producer), Mr. Gibb (Sound & Lighting), the band (Miss. Molloy, Mr. Bingham and Mr. Stockwell), the Art and DT departments and the student backstage crew.

We move to the next round of the new Head Teacher interview process next week with four strong candidates in school for briefing days, where they will be immersed into school systems and have meetings with key staff. In addition, I feel it essential that there is an element of student voice assisting with the selection process. Members of the school council will also be interviewing the candidates each day, and I had a briefing session with some of them on Wednesday to agree the questions to be asked. They will record their impressions and their comments will contribute to the wider evidence base in the selection process.

Best wishes
Paul Kershaw

Please Note

New traffic humps have been installed at the entrance to the school. Please drive with caution over them.

Harry Potter Studio

Last weekend the boarders set off for a magical day at the Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studio Tour. They were treated to a whole host of spectacular behind the scenes secrets. The props, sets and costumes on display were spectacular and an obvious highlight was the opportunity to test the famed Butterbeer! With the Great Hall, Gringotts Bank, the Forbidden Forest, Platform 9 3/4 and Diagon Alley to visit, they were lucky to get home in time for dinner!




PARENTMAIL

- Junior Division - Journal
- Year 6 - Bikeability
- Whole School - Section 48 Inspection
- Whole School - Recruitment of New Head
- Year 6 - Sex & Relationship Education Lessons
- Prep School - Mr Coakley Weekly Letter
- Year 10 - Mr Bailey Funeral
- Whole School - PTA Minutes
- Whole School - Update Covid-19
- Year 12 - Film Studies Trip
- Prep School - Hospice Cake Sale
- Junior Division - No Journal this week
- Whole School - Update Covid-19

News

High School Musical

The opening night of Disney's High School Musical was a roaring success. Luke and Tara as Troy and Gabriella displayed excellent chemistry, in contrast to Lucie and Olivier's diva behaviour! Kiara's flamboyant Ms Darbus was a joy to behold and the comedic timing of Ben and Luca was spot on. The cast and crew have worked tirelessly over the last few months and now can enjoy their final performances.



PTA

Save the Dates

Easter Egg Hunt - Monday 30 March
 Beechwood Day - Sunday 28 June
 Fireworks - Friday 6 November
 Christmas Fair - Saturday 28 November

Maths Challenge!



Raj in Year 6 has been awarded a bronze medal in the Primary Maths Challenge Bonus Round. It's a national challenge and only the highest scoring pupils (Raj scored 21 out of 25) in the country go on to the bonus round. He was

presented with his medal in the Prep School assembly.

Lambs!

On Wednesday morning Reception visited Albans Barnyard. Jasper's Grandad kindly invited us to see the lambs. He told us all about his Jacob sheep which might be one of the oldest breeds in the world. They are piebald and have horns. The children were able to hold a lamb before watching them being prepared for going out into the field. Each lamb has an ear tag with their own number. A big thank you to Simon and Lesley Pope for a wonderful morning.



WEEK 10

SUN 15	
MON 16	8.40 Recycle Upcycle Fashion Show
TUES 17	2.00 Year 9 & 10 Netball Coaching 5.00 Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening
WED 18	7.45 Year 10 & 12 Geography Field Trip to Dorset 2.20 U11 Mixed Touch Rugby v Fosse Bank (A) 2.30 U13 Netball v Radnor House (A) 2.30 U13 Rugby v Sackville (A)
THUR 19	All Day Year 10 & 12 Geography Field Trip to Dorset 2.30 U8/U9 Netball v Hilden Grange H
FRI 20	5.00 Year 10 & 12 Field Trip returns
SAT 21	9.00 IELTS Exams Year 13 Boarders

Sport News

Netball

On Tuesday our U15 Netball team faced Radnor House. The game was very close throughout and the lead frequently changed hands. We had a one goal advantage going into the last quarter but fatigue had set in as many of the team are taking part in High School Musical. Sadly some missed passes allowed Radnor to capitalise on our mistakes and sneak a final victory.

It took the U10/11 girls a little while to get into their game against Sacred Heart Wadhurst on Wednesday. The wind and the court being on a slope made it increasingly difficult to score. By half time the girls had learnt how to adapt to the conditions and were playing exceptionally well. Rubani helped us to into the lead during the third quarter, then Haniel and Francesca's goals in the final quarter secured a well deserved win of 5-1.

The U8/9 girls got off to a promising start with Alessia scoring 2 goals early on. Towards the end of the first quarter SH Wadhurst started to attach and managed to equalise and then crept ahead. In the second half we made a few mistakes which resulted in the opposition gaining possession of the ball. The girls never gave up trying but it was difficult to keep them out of their attaching third, giving them a final score of 2-9.

Rugby

On Wednesday afternoon, Beechwood U10/11's welcomed Sacred Heart Wadhurst and Bricklehurst for a series of Tag Rugby matches. Our first game saw us take on SH Wadhurst's second team, which proved to be a tight affair. Both teams struggled in defence leading to many try scoring opportunities, they traded try for try until late in the game when we forced an error from the SH Wadhurst attack to give us the ball back. We managed to extend our lead by two tries, and this was enough to secure a victory. Next, we faced Bricklehurst and dominated throughout, demonstrating excellent running, support play, and passing to score some excellently made tries. We raced into a three try advantage, and maintained this for the duration to come out victorious in our second game. Our final game saw us take on SH Wadhurst's first team, and again this proved to be a very tight encounter with fantastic defensive attributes being demonstrated by both of these teams. They had to work extremely hard in attack to create opportunities, with both teams having the lead for a portion of the match. We managed to secure victory with the last action of the match with a try off of a very dynamic and powerful run to beat the defence. Bricklehurst and SH Wadhurst shared the spoils in their respective matches, taking a victory each. A fantastic afternoon's Rugby and one that was thoroughly enjoyed by the players, teachers, and spectators of each team. Well done all.

The U9's faced SH Wadhurst on Thursday in an extremely tight and competitive battle. After trading try for try in the first quarter it was evident that both teams were excellent in attack but fragile in defence. At the half way stage SH Wadhurst had a one try advantage and extended their lead in the third quarter by three tries to one. We managed to score five tries in the final quarter but unfortunately there was not enough time on the clock for our boys to complete the comeback and on this occasion SH Wadhurst took the victory by a single try.

Crazy Jeans Soapbox Race

You will remember we wrote to you earlier this year about the Crazy Jeans Soapbox race which is happening on Saturday 27 June in Dunorlan Park which Year 9 are building a soapbox for. Tickets are currently on sale at a reduced rate until 15 March through www.crazyjeansevents.com. If you are looking for a fun, local day out, this could be for you!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

17 March 2020

Year 10 Parents' Consultation Evening

18-20 March 2020

Year 10 & 12 Geography Field Trip to Dorset

31 March 2020

Celebration of Song