

the avenue

spring 2016

From the Head

This term has seen the usual busy schedule of lessons, visits, events and fixtures and this issue describes a few of the highlights. Year 9 recently visited the Big Bang Fair, our Sixth Formers represented us in high-level debate at the annual Model UN Conference at Felsted School and 6i students participated in mock interviews, in preparation for university or employment. Last month Year 8, with the help of Gavin Greenaway organised a charity concert, and along with a line up of some of our most talented musicians, took to the stage themselves in order to help the cause. We were treated to some wonderful performances of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' by a cast who were very skilful at delivering the wordy and witty script and we all enjoyed



hearing and seeing all that went on during the Ski Trip in Italy over half term. There have also been many personal achievements during the term, whether in sport, art, or food tech, a few of which you can read about in these pages.

Now as we head towards the Summer term we wish all our senior students, particularly those facing public examinations, success and stamina as they approach those last final weeks of preparation and hard work. We welcome the new Quartet as they begin their new role next term and I look forward to formally thanking the outgoing Quartet at Friends' and Families Day on 25th June. I would personally like to wish Kamal, Ellie and Byron all the best in their final term; they have been great fun to work with and an excellent team.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Avenue and thank you as ever for your ongoing support of Friends' School. It really is a special place to be.

Anna Chaudhri



From the Junior School Head

If you were to take a walk around the Junior School right now you would find children making phone calls to each other in Nursery; writing about minibeasts and counting their legs in Reception; reviewing yesterday's trip to Linton Zoo across Key Stage 1; discussing Viking invasions in Year 3; completing a Big Write in Year 4; recording Rapid (book) Reviews on ipads in Year 5; and discussing the themes present in the text of 'Boy In The Striped Pyjamas' in Year 6. You might notice that some children are out at a hockey tournament, and that tomorrow there will be a visiting author as part of our World Book Day celebrations. You would see posters advertising the forthcoming PTA Quiz Evening, House charity events and the new House enterprise ideas. If you were in my office, you would be listening to one of the many individual music lessons taking place next door and you would be able to see children preparing for today's visit to Forest School. I know this because I have just done it, and I am struck that even on a day that is relatively calm, just how busy everybody is, and how engaged they are with the abundant opportunities available here. With our Open Science Morning next week, a Year 3 and 4 production and trips out to Stibbington the week after, two dance festivals to attend, various sport fixtures and house matches to play in, an Easter Bonnet Parade to take place as well as all the terrific work being done in class, we still have lots to do before we can declare the end of the Spring



Term. And that is how it should be. Busy children in a community where their potential and talent is recognised, encouraged and developed within a friendly and challenging environment.

And after the holidays we will all be back for more!

Sally Meryick

'The Importance of Being Earnest' Delights a Sell Out Audience

Lady Bracknell, Algernon Moncrief and Miss Prism were but a few of Oscar Wilde's characters that were brought to life in the Drama Studio on the 2nd and 3rd February.

'The Importance of Being Earnest', known for its extremely wordy and witty dialogue, was performed by a cast of Year 11 and Sixth Form students over two nights, and a matinee show, to packed audiences. Under the superb direction of Richard Smith, the cast of actors and technical crew showed a dedication in rehearsals and put in a fantastic effort in the lead up to the performances. It was brilliant to see the actors embrace Oscar Wilde's complex and detailed script with vigour and panache. We are extremely proud of all of them.



Students Join in for World Record Attempt

This term Year 9 pupils took part in a nation-wide world record attempt as part of World Book Day on 3rd March. The Bumper Book Quiz was an official attempt for "the most people taking part in simultaneous book quizzes", which was held in schools across the country between 2pm and 3pm on Monday 22nd February.

In order to fulfil the World Record criteria we needed two independent witnesses and a steward. Our thanks to Pat Lodge from Volunteer Uttlesford, John Berry from The Rotary Club of Saffron Walden and Paul Gadd for admirably fulfilling these roles. Taking part in the quiz was a great way to encourage children to discover, read and enjoy the wealth of teenage fiction which is available to them. We look forward to hearing if the attempt was a success and if Friends' makes it into the Guinness Book of World Records!

Remembering the Holocaust

As part of Holocaust Memorial Week, pupils in Year 9 heard of the wartime experiences of Holocaust survivor Henri Obstfeld. Henri explained to his enthralled audience how, at the age of two, his parents had the courage to give him to a Christian couple who became his foster parents so he could be hidden from the roundups and pogroms. The extent of risk was perfectly illustrated by his recollection that when his mother used to visit, she could only watch him secretly from an upstairs window as he played in the garden below. Henri explained to the students that he was warned never to tell anyone that his foster parents were not his real parents. A most difficult thing for a two year old boy to understand.

It was an immense privilege and thought provoking experience for our students to hear about Henri's childhood and to hear from someone who lived through this terrible time in history.



Millie Represents Friends' at Young Chef Competition

Millie put in a stunning display at the District Final of the Rotary Young Chef Competition in December, where she competed against students from three other local schools.

Cooking alongside her teammates, Charlotte Ebbens and Flora Turnbull, Millie presented a delicious meal of Chicken and Pea Risotto served with a Parmesan crisp and a brandy snap basket filled with whipped cream and fresh berries for dessert, aptly named, A Heart Filled with Love. All the young chefs were given the task to plan, prepare and present a healthy and nutritious meal for two people in 90 minutes, costing no more than £10. They were also required to create an attractive table setting. Congratulations to Flora Turnbull who finished in third place and to Millie who took the district title!

Millie went on to the next round and competed in the Regional Finals in Ipswich over February half term. The competition was tough but she performed extremely well delivering a lovely three course menu of Thai Butternut Squash Soup, Thai Prawn Ravioli with a crunchy salad and Asian inspired dressing, followed by brandy snap baskets filled with fresh mango, cream and Greek yoghurt sprinkled with lime zest.

A fantastic effort Millie, congratulations.



Alex Turnbull's Roche Court ARTiculation Success

Congratulations to Sixth Former, Alexander Turnbull, who came third in the 2016 Roche Court ARTiculation Prize Regional Heats at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

The ARTiculation Prize invites Sixth Form students to give a short presentation on a work of art, artefact or architecture of their choice. This initiative is designed to stimulate students' interest and understanding of art while developing individual thinking, observation, research, language and presentation skills. Alex spoke on the subject of 'Forgetful Angel', a work of art by the artist Paul Klee.

Judge Sharon Heal, Director of the Museums' Association said, "Alexander is a very engaging and assured public speaker with a light touch in his style and delivery which suited the subject matter. I commend him for his lovely turn of phrase and engagement with the audience. I would also like to praise him for introducing humour and for his discussion of humour within the work."



Nursery and Reception Flip for Pancake Day Races

Children in the Nursery and Reception celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a jam-packed morning of pancake making, poetry and pancake races. The children took great delight in not only making their own pancakes to eat as a snack at break time, but in racing their friends along the Avenue while flipping them in a mini frying pan!



Year 1 and 2 Visit Linton Zoo

Rain did not stop play as Year 1 and 2 embarked on their adventure to Linton Zoo this term. The children showed their resilience as they took the very wet weather in their stride and focused on the aim of the trip, to group animals and find out about their natural habitats. Far from being a wash out, the conditions seemed to suit lots of the zoo animals, including the magnificent Siberian tiger, who came out to parade proudly in front of Year 1 and 2. The children delighted in seeing the family of lions; the twin cubs providing a real highlight. At the end of the day there was a small animal session where they were able to pet a range of animals and ask the zoo keepers questions. Another great outing for Friends' Junior School pupils.



World Book Day

World Book Day promised a jam-packed day of celebration on Thursday 3rd March, and once again, it did not disappoint! Children and teachers arrived in school dressed as their favourite book characters, from Dorothy, Alice and Hermione, to Wally, Harry and the Artful Dodger. With books in hand, the children were able to Drop Everything and Read at a moment's notice – which they did often throughout the day. Hand-baked shortbread letters provided a different taste of reading at break time before Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a special visit from author Victor Watson who shared his memories of WWII and read excerpts from his new novel, 'Operation Blackout'. The finale of the day took place during a special Reading Tea Time where our guest reader, Mrs Stanley, introduced Year 5 and their parents to the work of author and illustrator, Anthony Browne.



Year 6 Visit Stibbington to learn about WW2

As part of their WW2 topic, Year 6 set off to Stibbington Education Centre in 1940s costumes with their gas masks and personal labels to be 'evacuated to the country'. Having boarded the train at Wansford Station they were met by, Mr Stafford, the billeting officer. The day was spent 'in role' as children who were actually evacuated to Stibbington during the war. They also took a walk through the village to see the guardian's houses and filled out identity cards which added to the experience. Their school lesson was interrupted by the air raid siren, but once safely in the shelter, the lesson continued! As Bea put it, "It was a brilliant day and I believed everything going on was for real!"





Year 3 and the Roman Legion

Year 3 have been bringing their learning to life by stepping into the guise of the Roman Legion. But it didn't stop there, they also dressed as Celts, complete with Boudicca, queen of the British Celtic Iceni tribe. Their re-enactment of the uprising against the occupying forces of the Roman Empire was enjoyed by all!



Friends' School Students Hit the Slopes - Ski Trip to Folgaria 2016

On Sunday 14th February those on the Friends' School Ski Trip were rewarded for their super early start with a hot Italian lunch at their lovely hotel, perfectly positioned at the bottom of the slope in Folgaria.

The first day of skiing saw the beginners group ski from the top of the mountain by the afternoon – a wonderful effort! The rest of the week brought with it perfect snow and deserted slopes which could not have been better for the group. They were able to hit the black slopes, practise and perfect their parallel turns on the bottom runs, participate in morning races on the slalom track, cruise the slopes while taking in the spectacular views and master the jump park.

It was no surprise, that even after a long day, the group still had the energy to enjoy an evening of entertainment! The group had a great time ten pin bowling, tubing (flying down and ice track in a rubber ring!), ice skating and shopping.

The week was capped off with a fabulous awards ceremony and a medal presentation for all our skiers. Thanks to Jen Allwood for organising such a fantastic ski trip.



Year 8 Basketball Success – A Highlight

The Year 8 basketball team had their toughest game of the competition so far as they took on unbeaten SWCHS. A slow start with some inaccurate passing meant Friends' were down 10-2 after only three minutes. However, after a time-out they picked up their game with William Barnett driving successfully to the hoop on several occasions. The boys worked harder on defence and turned the game around with Daniel Batcheler scoring five unanswered lay ups and Luke Horsfield and Ben Barker chipping in with two valuable baskets each. Friends' continued to push hard to the final quarter winning 42-26. A fantastic result.



SENIOR TEAM

The Senior Team v SWCHS had a 64-36 win to top their league table

Friends' Host Under 11 Tag Rugby Tournament

Friends' Junior School were represented by two teams at the recent tag rugby tournament, which took place on our spacious playing fields. The Rebels and Chiefs, both made up of boys and girls from Year 4, 5 and 6 put in some great performances showing their excellent handling skills, passing and clever offloads. It was great to see the girls get involved and score some great tries. Both teams finished 4th in their group with the Rebels getting through into the playoffs and only just missing out on regional qualification. Well done to all those who participated.



Skye Makes it into Top Ten in the UK

It has been an excellent indoor season on the track for Skye Wicks. After many hours of training she is seeing real results, recording numerous personal bests in the 60m and 200m. Skye put in a brilliant performance at the Eastern Region and Essex County U15 Indoor Championships, where she competed in both the 60m and 200m events. She ran extremely well to get through both her heats and the semi finals, which gained her a place in both finals. She saved the best for last, recording a time of 8.12s in the 60m to finish 4th and 26.31s in the 200m, a PB to take silver. A remarkable feat and one that means she is now ranked 9th in the UK in her age group for the 200m. Congratulations Skye, an outstanding achievement.



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