



HEADMASTER'S NOTES

We arrive at the halfway point of the term and, indeed, the academic year. Much like Janus, the Roman god who faced in two directions simultaneously, we pause to look back at everything that has already happened and to look ahead to the rest of the academic year. High on the list of all our endeavours thus far has to be the news that is slowly emerging regarding successful applications to destination schools for our boys. Epsom College, a traditional destination for many a Willingtonian, has made 13+ offers to Oliver Booth, Ben Castle, Sam Gale, Logan Herries, William Purcell, Oscar Winson and Joshua Vergunst. St. John's, another of our regular destinations, has made 13+ offers to Oliver Booth, Ben Castle, Connor Croudace, Sam Gale, Caeden Harries, Charlie Higginson, Cameron Omonua and William Purcell.



From one set of results to those of a sporting kind now, as we bask in the glory that comes from the Herculean efforts of our boys to wrestle back the Willington Shield from Tower House School (pictured opposite). Even now, over a week later, I am still smiling about both the result and the overall atmosphere at such a fabulous morning of Rugby. Hot on the heels of that epic event came the titanic Inter House Rugby Competition last week (well done, all you hardy souls who braved the weather!) and my congratulations go to Lancelot on retaining the trophy and securing their third win in a row.

I was delighted to welcome a speaker from the charity Digital Awareness into school last week. This was as part of our PSHE Programme and, as well as speaking to all the boys from Year 1 upwards, there was also a talk for parents in the evening after school. It was so heartening to hear the many positives that the speaker had to say about our work here at the school in keeping the boys safe, but also her view of how lovely it was to meet boys who were able to enjoy a childhood all the way through to thirteen, rather than displaying evidence of the kinds of teenage pressures that often materialise in senior schools for those year groups, especially when they are very young and not so easily able to take care of themselves.



Epsom College Strings Day

Our King's Maths Challenge boys scored 18/20!



I would like to draw your attention to a wonderful article that one mother brought to my notice earlier last week that she had seen online. It comes from the well known and respected newspaper *The Washington Post* and is entitled "How to raise kinder, less entitled kids (according to science)". So much of the advice therein resonated with me with regard to how Willington seeks to support you in raising your children. Sadly, I cannot replicate the article in full, but it is well worth reading

(https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/on-parenting/how-to-raise-kinder-less-entitled-kids-according-to-science/2016/10/03/1a74fa3a-7525-11e6-b786-19d0cb1ed06c_story.html?utm_term=.c717ff52e220). In summation, it poses the following notions: try to help children think outside of themselves and consider others; beware of "hedonic adaptation" regarding what becomes "normal" i.e. not every Saturday has to have an expensive outing, not every journey home from a match has to stop by Krispy Kreme Doughnuts; watch out for "availability bias" where they assume everyone has exactly the same as them simply because it is what they see (this is especially valuable in private school settings). Finally, it suggests that, if a child is to understand the suffering of others, such as people experiencing hunger or water shortages, it is best to avoid portraying the grand scale of human suffering as it may overwhelm or even frighten them off. Instead, use the "identifiable victim effect". We see this a lot on charity adverts nowadays, where they single out one case of someone in need to make it relatable, rather than portraying an incomprehensibly large problem.



Our weekly, proud faces



Happy Birthday Mrs. Spence!

As I close my musing and prepare for a little rest, I leave you with the reminder that, after Half Term, we will be joined once again by the Travelling Book Fair, which is always marvellously exciting for all the boys. Please do encourage your son to participate in this event, which will be running from Wednesday 8th March through to Wednesday 15th March, to find something new to sit and enjoy reading; it truly is a lifelong gift to treasure.



Reception boys made moon rock cakes

AFTER SCHOOL EVENT FIXTURE AMENDMENT**WEEK SEVEN****Monday 20th February****8.30am School restarts**

8.40am Assembly : Michael Chanter/News & Achievements

8.45am Year 3 Trip to British Museum

3.00pm U11 Colts A&B v Aberdour (Home)**Tuesday 21st February**

8.40am Assembly : Ed Drew, Dundonald Church

9.45am Year 6 Arrive Alive Workshop**3.00pm U8 A&B v Aberdour (Away)****3.00pm U9 A/B/C v Aberdour (Away)****4.30-7.30pm Year 5 Parents' Evening****Wednesday 22nd February**

8.40am Form Time/Nurture Groups

2.30pm 1st XV, U11 Colts & U10 v Priory (Away)

2.50pm Junior Assembly

Thursday 23rd February

8.40am Assembly : Hymn Practice

8.40am Year 6 Mindfulness with Alpa Joshi

2.30pm Shakespeare Workshop for Oates Scholars**Friday 24th February**

8.40am Assembly : Ruth Henson

2.00-6.00pm Play Rehearsal Dream On!

Sunday 26th February

10.00am-4.00pm Dress & Tech Rehearsal 1 Dream On!

WEEK EIGHT**Monday 27th February**

8.40am Assembly : Hymn Practice

9.30am Whole School Science Workshops with Dr. Jasmine

2.00pm Years 1 & 2 Finton House Cross Country**Tuesday 28th February****8.40am Assembly : Class 6F****11.15am U7 A-G v Wimbledon Common Prep (Home)**

POW Pancake Lunch

4.00-6.00pm Dress & Tech Rehearsal 2 Dream On!**5.30pm Finance Committee Meeting****Wednesday 1st March**

8.40am Form Time

10.30am Dream On! School Performance (Junior Boys)

2.00pm Years 5-8 Epsom Cross Country (Selected Boys Only)

2.50pm Junior Assembly

Thursday 2nd March WORLD BOOK DAY

8.40am Assembly : World Book Day

8.40am Year 6 Mindfulness with Alpa Joshi

9.00am Year 4 Trip to Bletchley Park**7.30pm Dream On! Parents' Performance****Friday 3rd March**

8.40am Assembly : Ruth Henson

8.45am-12.30pm Reception Forest School

10.30am Dream On! School Performance (Senior Boys)

7.30pm Dream On! Parents' Performance**HANDWRITING GRADUATION CERTIFICATE**

Robbie Stapleton (3H)

READING CERTIFICATES

Alexandre Bernard (5J) Bronze

Benedict Hunter (5J) Bronze

MUSICIANS OF THE WEEK**Junior Music** Jonty Dryer (2S)

Nathaniel Kinmont (3L) Leo Hansen-Damm (4S)

George Willis (5C) Ryan Patnaik (6S)

Travis Cochrane (7P) Tom Abbott (8S)

All Choristers for a fantastic Evensong!**Hymn Singer** Ollie Hughes (8G)**Sparrow** Ludo Brown (2W)**DATE FOR THE DIARY****THE BOOK FAIR RETURNS TO WILLINGTON**

WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH TO WEDNESDAY 15th MARCH

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

MRS. HOPPE'S YEAR 4**MATHS STUDENTS OF THE WEEK**

Freddie Johnson (4S)

Ravi Vohora-Loyns (4S)

HOUSE POINT BADGES

Ryan Nasskau (8S) Merlin 1,250

Geno Bonning-Pitorri (6F) Lancelot 250

Johnny Fleming (4S) Merlin 250

Harry Hammond (4T) Merlin 250

Lucas Luckin (4S) Galahad 250

Isaac Robinson (4T) Merlin 250

Ethan Goodhind (4T) Lancelot 125

RUGBY PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Sam Goodhind (8S)

William Kane (7C)

Connor Croudace (6S)

Leo Fong (6F)

Callum Hunter (6S)

Joshua Vergunst (6S)

Arun Chapman-Dawe (5C)

Adam El-Hady (5J)

Sam Kinmont (5C)

Nihaal Saraon (5J)

Leo Hansen-Damm (4S)

Freddie Johnson (4S)

William Leutert (4T)

Isaac Robinson (4T)

WEEK 6**JUNIOR****HOUSE****POINTS**

1st Excalibur

2nd Galahad

3rd Lancelot

4th Merlin

JUNIOR**OVERALL****HOUSE****TOTAL**

1st Excalibur

4th Galahad

2nd Lancelot

2nd Merlin

WEEK 6**SENIOR****HOUSE****POINTS**

2nd Excalibur

4th Galahad

3rd Lancelot

1st Merlin

SENIOR**OVERALL****HOUSE****TOTAL**

1st Excalibur

3rd Galahad

4th Lancelot

2nd Merlin