



Message from the Headmistress



Dear Parents

With Easter occurring so early, the final two weeks of term have been a little unusual this year. We decided to follow the decision of the maintained sector in the local area and end term after Easter, as we understand that many parents have children in both the independent and the maintained sectors. It has not been an ideal arrangement but I am told we won't face this situation again for another 150 years!

Despite the snow, I hope you all enjoyed the long Easter weekend and are now ready for the two week break. Many St Dunstan's students will have little time to put their feet up as they head out for some exciting activities. On Wednesday we waved off nine students on their way to Neuburg for the second leg of the annual German exchange programme we run with the Descartes Gymnasium. I know they were all looking forward to being reunited with the friends they made when the German visitors came to London last term.

On Saturday, 16 students from Years 9 to 13 will depart for warmer climes for their cricket tour of St Lucia. While they are sunning themselves at the wicket, a hardy group of 80 CCF cadets will take part in the Easter Camp in the slightly less exotic location of Folkestone. We wish them well.

This term we have had a number of individual and collective successes to celebrate. Not least among these was the exciting news that five students have secured places at Oxford or Cambridge. It is a great achievement, so well done to Oliver Kay, Alex Rush, Imogen Large, Anna Katchinska and William Bott. We also heard that Head of School, Dominic Cottrell, has been offered a place to study Medicine at Imperial College London. Imperial is internationally recognised in this field and it is a huge achievement to attain an offer for such an over-subscribed undergraduate programme.

The top Mathematics set in Year 11 also had plenty to celebrate when the results of the GCSE they took in the Michaelmas term came through. Of the 21 students in Mrs Malpart's group, 16 students achieved A*s and the remaining five got As. Well done!

A highlight of the term was the wonderful production of *Oliver*, which played to packed houses for two nights in February. For me the production summed up the St Dunstan's spirit perfectly, not least because it hinged on the enormous enterprise and talent of two Year 12 students, supported and encouraged by the Director of Music, Mr Gobey and the English Department. Ben Russell directed and choreographed the production, while Joe Ashmore was the music director. The two of them drew fantastic performances out of a cast and orchestra of pupils in Year 7 to Year 12. I think we will long remember Arthur Jones's wonderful Fagin and the accomplished singing of Nancy Ackland as Nancy, to name but a few. Overall it must rank as one of the finest productions St Dunstan's has ever staged.

The musical talents of our pupils were also on display in this term's Music Competition and the impressive Prizewinners' Concert that followed in the evening. Well done to all those who took part.

The Family Society organised two successful events this term – the Lower School Disco and the Quiz Night, which attracted a record 25 teams. I would like to thank the Society's Committee for its hard work in organising these events and the parents who support them. The fruits of these fundraising labours include the new minibus, which arrived this term. The College is most grateful for this generous gift in support of our activities.

It is with sadness that we must say farewell to music teacher, Miss Acker, who leaves us for Wallington County Grammar School to take up the post of Director of Music. We wish her every success.

Looking ahead to next term, there are a few dates I would like to draw your attention to. On Monday, 28 April the College choirs and orchestras will be performing a concert at St John's Smith Square. We look forward to returning to this beautiful venue and to enjoying a splendid evening of high quality music once again. Friday, 23 May is Commemoration Day, which is celebrated with our annual service at Southwark Cathedral. The Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend John Hall (OD) will be our preacher on this occasion. You are most welcome to join us for both events.

On Saturday, 7 June the Lower School will hold its Charity Morning where pupils in Years 7 to 9 get involved with sporting and other activities to raise money for good causes. The House Athletics Competition will take place on Tuesday, 24 June providing a feast of sport at the Ladywell Arena.

The creativity of our GCSE and A Level Art and Design students will be on display at the Art and Design exhibition on Thursday, 26 June. The term will end with a flurry of trips as Year 7 heads off to France, Year 8 to Wales, a Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award expedition will take place in Dover and members of Year 12 will be in Wales for a Biology field trip.

The whole year's achievements will be celebrated at Senior School Prize Giving on Tuesday, 8 July. We look forward to welcoming Professor Sir Martin Evans, Nobel Prize winner and Old Dunstonian as our guest of honour.

As you can see the summer term is not just about exams although, of course, GCSE, A Levels and IB examinations will loom large for many pupils. Good preparation is the key to success and I urge all those sitting public examinations this summer to plan time for study over the holiday to spread the burden, as well as taking some time out to relax.

This is the last Newsletter to be edited by Clare Maclure. I would like to thank her for her tenacious pursuit of news from around the College and wish her well with future projects.

I look forward to welcoming back staff and pupils on Tuesday, 15 April, refreshed and ready for the new term.

Jane Davies

German Club



Sarah Selley of Year 7 reports: German Club meets every Tuesday, and is directed by both Miss Lessem and Stephan, the German assistant. We learn about all the different cultures and traditions of Germany, enjoying delicious German chocolates and other treats along the way! Christmas and Easter in Germany are among the things we find out

about, and meals, cakes and ice creams have been discussed too! We play games and watch presentations whilst learning German, which makes it fun and interesting! All in all, I have thoroughly enjoyed the German Club this year, and hope it continues to thrive. It is definitely the best way to learn a language. Thank you to Miss Lessem and Stephan!

DofE Training Weekend



Nine Year 12 students and three staff spent three days on navigation, camping skills, hill-walking and backpacking training. Poor weather on Friday and particularly Sunday limited the scope of the venture, but a lot was achieved, with the literal high point being an ascent of Cnicht in strong cold winds for most of the group.

Cricket Tour

On Saturday, 16 members of the College are setting off from St. Dunstan's on their cricket tour of St. Lucia for just under two weeks. They will play five games on tour in addition to spending time exploring the island and its historical legacy.

The tour promises to be a wonderful experience for all the pupils and staff. Good Luck to them all. For regular updates please visit: www.sdnews.org.uk.

Football

The 1st XI had its final game of the season against Bishop Challoner last Wednesday. The team won 3-1 thanks to two goals from James Jutson and one from Peter Coling. Thanks to Joe Stephenson for all his sterling work as captain all season.

Congratulations to the girls of 11F who won an inter-class football competition that has been running this half term. The team won the final 1-0 against 11I. The boys final has yet to take place.

Golf

St Dunstan's golfers played Dulwich College. The team was depleted by the absence through illness of captain Richard Tatum. The first pairing of Josh Waters and Henry Fielder lost six and five. Matt Frankis and Anna Denvir won their game two and one, and the third pair of Jamie Corbin-McKenzie and George Kamenou lost six and four.

Message from the Head of the Junior School

In the Junior School we encourage the children to start their writing in new and

original ways. All of which poses a bit of a problem for me. I always seem to mark the end of every term by saying how the time has flown and how busy we've been, which is hardly practising what we preach. But some things just can't be avoided and so at the expense of repeating myself yet again, the term has indeed flown and we've certainly been busy! As ever the teachers have ensured that the children's learning is enhanced by a wide range of visits, sporting and performance activities.

A highlight of the term was undoubtedly Year 6's moving and memorable production of *Godspell*, a colourful celebration of the many talents of the Junior School's oldest children. I know that everyone who saw the play was deeply impressed and we are all very proud of them.

Year 5 visited the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum to see the Antarctica exhibition. Year 4 enjoyed a Tudor Afternoon, ably led by teachers, male and female, in wimples and tights. DT Days saw children bread making with the School Chef. The Pre-Prep organised a visit to the local fire station, celebrated Easter with a day of activities and became Victorians for a day. And week-in-week out, our children have put the swimming pool, football pitches, netball courts and music venues to excellent use.

After a freezing Easter, we are looking forward to sunshine and fun in the Summer Term ahead. Year 3 children will get their first taste of a school trip away from home when they visit Sayers Croft. Year 4 will be off to Cromer, Year 5 to Shropshire and Year 6 to France. I know they will all have a wonderful time and confidently predict they will return a little taller with some souvenir 'treasures' and wonderful memories that will stay with them.

In the Pre-Prep, Year 2 children will go back in time to experience what life was like in mediaeval times at Tonbridge Castle, Year 1 will visit the Museum of Childhood and the Reception children will have fun at Horton Park Farm. We are also looking forward to the Pre-Prep Sports afternoon in June, preceded by the popular family picnic, and being entertained by the Pre-Prep children in their end of year summer concert.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Lemar who has provided cover for Miss Davies in Year 5. We are looking forward to welcoming Miss Davies back with us at the start of next term. I would also like to send our very best wishes to Mrs Russell for the safe arrival of Baby Russell. Happy holidays.

Annie Dempsey

Antarctica Exhibition

Noah Cashian reports: Last Wednesday Year 5 went to the Natural History Museum to visit the Antarctica Exhibition and find out about what it is like to live in Antarctica.

We went into the cold room which was -20°. We started to feel cold after about 20 seconds. After 45 seconds the door at the other end of the cold room opened and we all waddled out like frozen penguins!



We then walked into a room full of orange and red coats and jackets. We all got to try the huge coats on and some of us played a game where you had to dress a man who was standing in Antarctica. I tried on a coat that was down to my ankles and weighed a ton!

Then we found out about penguins and a bit about albatrosses. In this room there was a bucket of penguin sick - it was watery pink with bits of squid and fish in it. When we looked up we saw an albatross which had a wingspan of a pair of outstretched arms.

In another part of the exhibition there was a big game where we had to steer a diver and collect unusual things. I liked this game because the graphics were good and it was really easy to use. In another room there was a snowmobile and six games. We could sit on the snowmobile but it didn't do anything. There was also a replica of a room in an Antarctica base.

After a brilliant and exciting day, it was time to leave. We all had learnt 10 times more about Antarctica than we knew before.

Football

On Saturday, 15 March, on a perfect morning for football, SDC hosted its annual U11 tournament. Mr Moran produced six excellent pitches despite the dire weather and 15 teams turned up. No scores were kept and no trophies or medals awarded. As a result the atmosphere was friendly, relaxed and fun. The SDC B team played in a round robin event against three schools. Due to last minute withdrawals, they only had five players - but what a five! The boys played above themselves all morning and enjoyed three good games. Bill Fox-O'Brien scored two excellent goals. Lawrence Gordinsky, Kadim Khan, Rowan Hancox and Augusto Koshak ably supported him.

The A team played five matches against. The boys their time to get going but excellent displays against Colfe's, Alleyn's and Laleham Leas were pleasing to watch. A draw against Alleyn's was the best result. Jonny Regnier scored twice during the morning. The team was missing a couple of regular players but all the boys played a good standard of football. The squad was made up of Jonny, Zac O'Brien-Manley, Iziah Yarde, Rory Burns, Erran Gordon and Armen Brown.