



From the
Headmaster

It was a pleasure to welcome the Court of the Merchant Taylors' Company to St John's yesterday. I was particularly pleased that the Master, Mr Duncan Eggar, and the Clerk of the Company, Rear Admiral John Clink, were able to visit Year 4. They highlighted the important and relevance of the Company's charitable and educational activities. The Year 4 boys listened intently and asked some excellent questions.

I would like to congratulate our musicians for their two super concerts. As I said last night the level of performance and enjoyment of the participants were clear for us all to see. I hope you enjoy the photographs.

For the first time a group of sixteen boys took part in the new Horse Riding activity whilst Year 4 worked on all round cricket skills at York House.

Year 8 have been busy with the Post Exam curriculum which included a first aid training course and this afternoon's Northwood 500 assault course. This is an exciting team assault course competition against five other schools.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Aubrey for receiving a reply to his letter to the Queen.

Have an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.

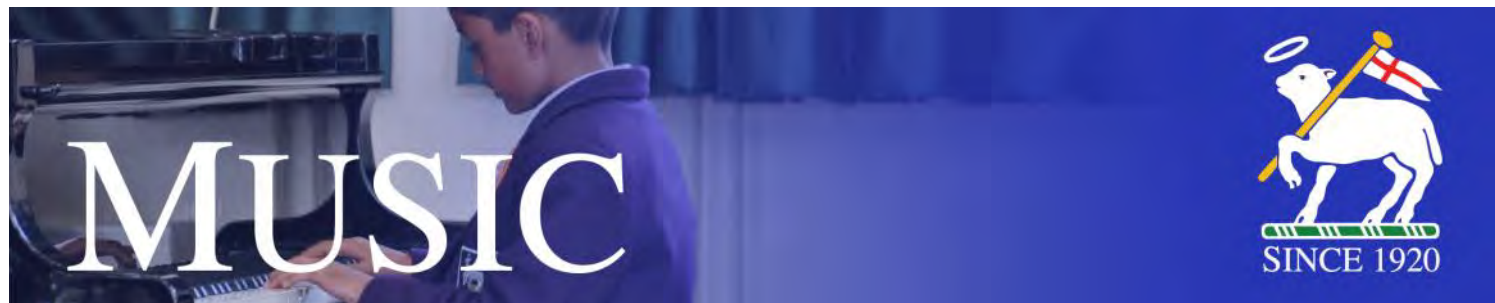
S. Robinson

Master of the Company visits



The Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company Duncan Eggar and the Clerk Rear Admiral John Clink visited Year 4 on Thursday morning with Mr Robinson and the Head Boy. The boys listened with interest to Mr Eggar telling them all about the Company and his job as The Master. They found the history of the Merchant Taylors' particularly interesting and asked some searching questions, both about the company and Mr Eggar's own school days and his interests, which he answered graciously. Then it was the Rear Admiral's turn, he spoke engagingly about his own job in the company. He also talked about his life in the Navy, the mention of aircraft carriers and serving the Queen really took the boys' interest! We learnt about different Companies and the story of how the 'Sixes and Sevens' came to be. The boys said afterwards how proud they were to be part of Merchant Taylors' and how much they had enjoyed the visit.





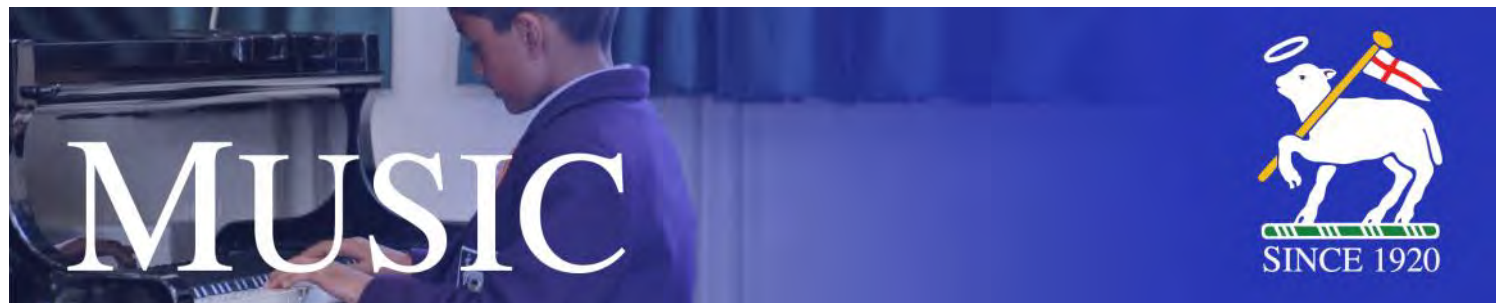
Two concerts in one day - keeping our musicians busy



What a busy day our musicians had yesterday! Firstly several groups performed to the Master and members of the Court of Merchant Taylors' Company in a very well received lunchtime concert. The Master spoke highly of the standard of playing before our invited guests chatted to the boys individually about their musical journeys and what they most enjoyed about playing an instrument.

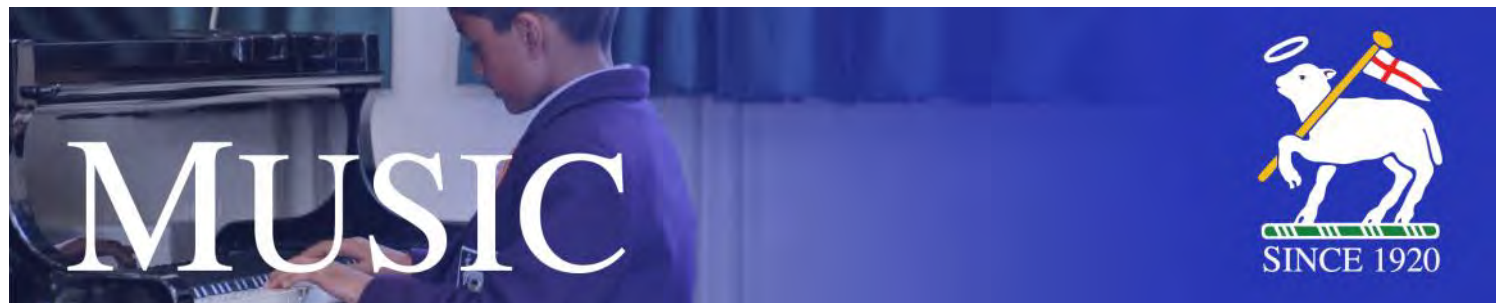
Later, in the evening, it was time for our major musical showcase of the year when every group was able to perform to a full house. Our youngest boys played in Junior Recorders and Choir whilst the senior boys excelled in many ensembles and Senior Choir. Mr Robinson was able to take the opportunity to thank our leaving musicians for all the hard work and commitment they have given to St John's over many years and he wished them every success in the musical life of their future schools. Very well done to all of our musicians - take the weekend off!





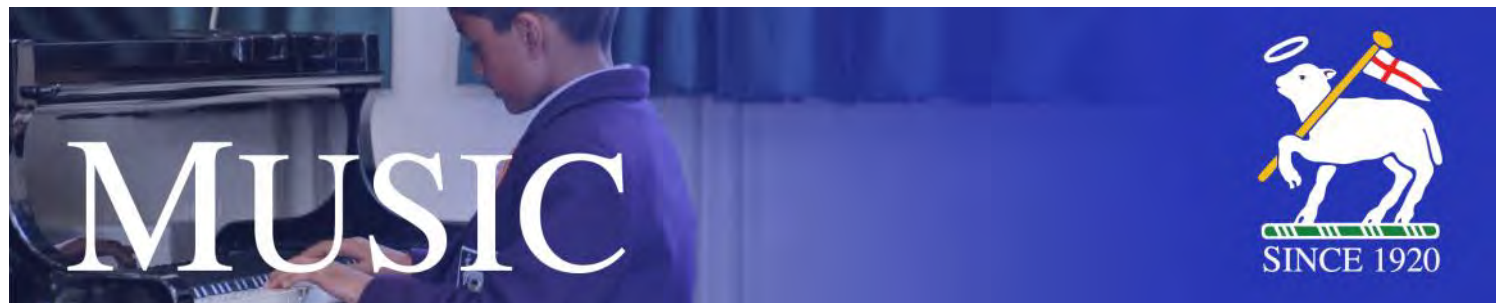
Music for a Summer's Evening in pictures





Music for a Summer's Evening in pictures





Music for a Summer's Evening in pictures





Year 8 First Aid training Friday 26th April



Last Friday morning as part of the post exam curriculum the Year 8 boys were introduced to a certified First Aid course. Throughout the training the boys fully participated and were totally engaged in both the theoretical and practical aspects of the course. This was a fantastic opportunity to gain a valuable life skill and all the boys worked exceptionally well together to learn the essential skills of First Aid. This was an extremely successful morning and all boys are now certified First Aiders.

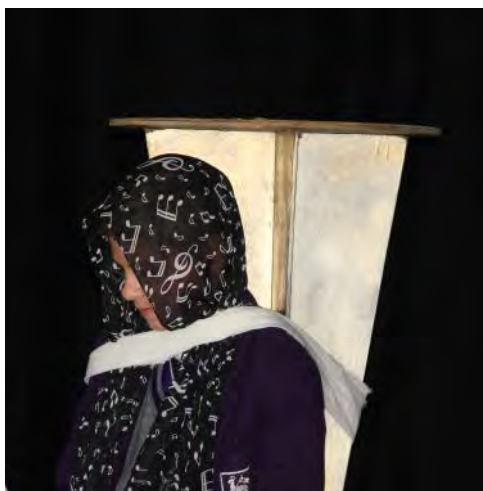
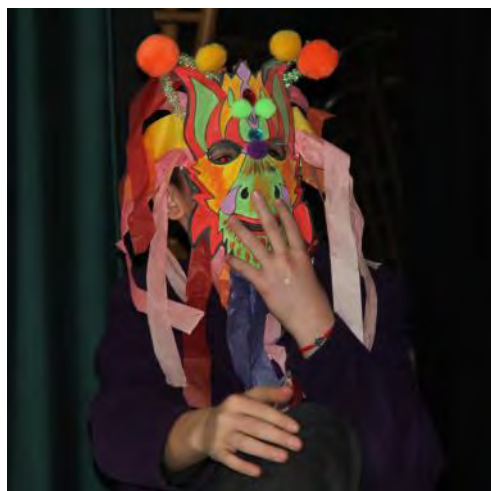




Beginning of term assemblies



To mark St George's Day on 23rd April three Year 8 boys acted out a memorable version of this famous story in our opening assembly of the summer term. Then the following day Mr Russo enlisted the help of some of our keen actors to perform three scenes from famous Shakespeare plays to celebrate his birthday. Whilst these were entertaining presentations they also helped boys to remember these two very famous figures in British history.





From soil to Science laboratory



Our produce is reaping benefits as both Zachary and Andreas demonstrate here. A further use for lettuces is to feed our turtles in the Science department who have developed a ferocious appetite for this salad. Being able to satisfy their dietary needs from our own produce is an added bonus! Zachary is pictured busily feeding one of the turtles from our latest crop.



Dump the car day !





**LET'S
WALK TO
SCHOOL**



St John's WALK TO SCHOOL Day (or Dump the Car Day!)

Every Thursday!




Walk, cycle, bus, car share or train at least part of the way to school and you will get a Green point! 10 green points gets a badge!
Also an award for the boys with the most green points and Housepoints for highest boys in each class!



THIS WEEK

Joseph visits Yad Vashem

We arrived to begin our much-anticipated tour of Yad Vashem. As we entered, Mindy our guide talked us through the significance of the impressive triangular tunnel like architecture; that it represented life for the Jews and other victims. The tunnel begins airy and open representing how Jews lived in general freedom. As you travel through, the walls narrow denoting the oppression Jews suffered and their world closing in on them. Beyond this harrowing stage, the tunnel opens again and overlooks the city and beautiful landscape below representing freedom after the war. We arrived to begin our much-anticipated tour of Yad Vashem. As we entered, Mindy our guide talked us through the significance of the impressive triangular tunnel like architecture; that it



represented life for the Jews and other victims. The tunnel begins airy and open representing how Jews lived in general freedom. As you travel through, the walls narrow denoting the oppression Jews suffered and their world closing in on them. Beyond this harrowing stage, the tunnel opens again and overlooks the city and beautiful landscape below representing freedom after the war. It was graphic and most upsetting as we passed through and experienced accounts of survivors that crawled

out over dead bodies in mass graves. We were told of a journey of a group of three vibrant young lady “couriers” and their exciting journey through the war and how ultimately, they were completely stripped of their dignity and assigned a number in Auschwitz. This was heart breaking to see their identities as



happy healthy girls in one picture, to later see them as bald nameless figures in striped pyjamas with numbers for identity... a complete transformation from the smiling figures we saw earlier. We proceeded to visit the children’s memorial. It was dark except for what seemed to be thousands of flickering candles, each one representative of a child that died during the war. We learned that there weren’t thousands of candles, just three candles and mirrors creating this chilling effect. Our emotional visit led us to the ‘hall of names’. As there were no cemeteries, no headstones, no traces left to mark the loss of the six million Holocaust victims, Yad Vashem embarked on a mission to identify and put a name instead of a number to each victim. Through testimonies from family

members Yad Vashem have so far logged 2.7 million named victims with testimonies as well as many more photos and keepsakes that were left behind. Yad Vashem aim to memorialize as many victims as possible to restore their stolen identity. As it was my Bar Mitzvah, we arranged a special Bar Mitzvah tour whereby I would be matched with a holocaust victim that was not as fortunate as myself to to have a barmitzvah because they were murdered before the age of 13. The victim matched with me would have something in common; in my case my barmitzvah twin and I share our names. Joseph Safir died age 12 along with the rest of his family. I received a certificate and a copy of his identity sheet plus the rest of his family’s identity sheets with testimonies. I was tasked with memorialising Joseph Safir and keeping his memory alive, which is why I am proud to share this experience and his memory. **Joseph (8L)**





Inaugural Horse Riding Club



Last Tuesday was the first session of horse riding and the boys went to Littlebourne Equestrian Riding Club in Harefield. They were shown how to keep their posture, control and how to trot on a horse. They were also taught how to steer the horse when it was walking and where to hold to be safe when the horse was trotting fast. For some it was the first time on a horse and with the fantastic help of Mrs McSween and other trainers, we all had an amazing experience. The boys had a great time and cannot wait for next session. By **Daanish 3W**





Spring has sprung at St John's!



On Wednesday the Science Bird-Cam witnessed the hatching of possibly 15 chicks! The nesting pair of blue-tits had been sitting on 15 eggs for two weeks and they all seem to have hatched! The Year 8 boys will be putting out special food for the new parents to feed their chicks; sunflower seeds, raisins and currants, mild grated cheese, mealworms, seed mixtures without peanuts, soft apples and pears cut in half, bananas and grapes are all foods that could give nesting birds a boost. Fat and bread are bad for very young birds. We will cross our fingers and be watching their progress of the chicks over the next couple of weeks. Hopefully they can avoid the predatory Green Woodpecker that took our last set of chicks. If you want to watch the live "feed" please email Mr Lawrence for the details. Our bees have also been very "beezy". One of our hives was so full of bees and honey that the Queen started to make plans to move to a bigger space and create a swarm. So she was made to "artificially swarm" into a new home, meaning that we could keep her and all the honey and worker bees that she would have taken with her! The old hive will now develop its own Queen and become a new colony. So St John's now have three hives full of busy bees. One final thought: if you do have a cat, it's a very good idea to keep it in overnight when there are fledglings around. Early morning is an important feeding time. It is estimated that pet cats in the UK kill up to 7 million birds a year.





PRE-PREP

Fun with shapes in the Lambs



The Lambs have been learning all about 2D and 3D shapes. We went for a walk around the school looking for shapes in the environment, played shape twister and played musical shapes in the hall.





Weighing in Reception

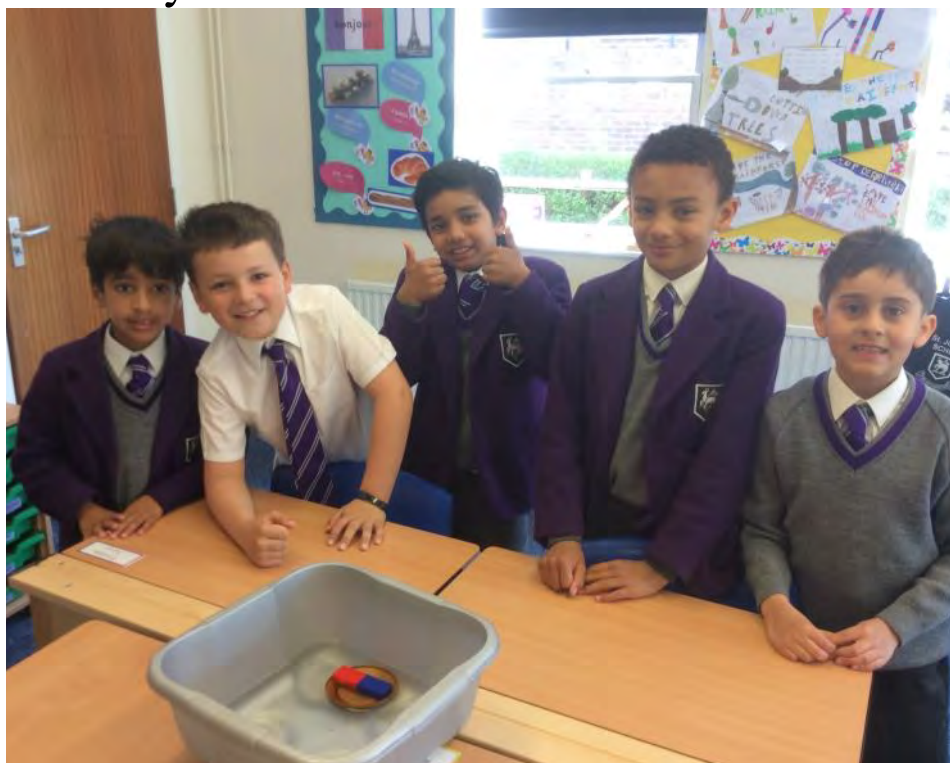


The Robins and Squirrels have had the scales out this week. They have weighed all sorts of classroom equipment. Who would guess a sunhat was heavier than a tennis ball?





May the force be with you!



Year 3 have been learning about *forces* in Science this week. We looked at different forces we could use to make a car move such as pulling and pushing. We also looked at the force of gravity. We conducted an experiment where we allowed a magnet to move freely in water and discovered that it will always point to north to line itself up with the poles of the earth.





Two Year 3 boys reach chess Megafinal



Mehul and Marcus, both in 3H took part in the Delancey Chess Megafinal at Harrow High School during the Easter holidays. It was a pretty gruelling day which saw the boys play six games back-to-back. Both boys, as a result of their efforts on the day received a certificate of achievement and Marcus has managed to reach the Gigafinal which takes place in June. They have thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience which started at St John's with our very own chess club which runs on a Tuesday. Very well done Marcus and Mehul.





Working together in Year 4



The boys in Year 4 worked together to produce some excellent Settlement Posters this week. Groups were chosen at random and each group elected a leader, as the early settlers would have done. The leader allocated jobs to his group members. Boys were chosen to investigate the needs of settlers, design titles, draw pictures, make notes and design the layout of the poster. The boys negotiated, compromised and worked towards a common goal while learning a lot about early settlers. Once the posters were completed, each group presented their learning to the rest of the class. As in the TV show “The Apprentice” they then commented on the leadership of their leader, who then reported on the efficiency and willingness of his team, fortunately there were no negative comments on either side! A great learning experience.





Inter-house Northwood 500 29th April



On Monday at 3 o'clock the boys from Years 7 and 8 sorted themselves into their houses and got ready for the practice round of the famous Northwood 500, designed and built by Mr Vince and Mr Horrocks. There were two rounds; a practice and a competition. The practice round was so that one could get used to the obstacles which they would be facing. Some obstacles were easier than others and some involved teamwork. In the competition each boy started four seconds apart with one minute intervals between each four boys. There were lots of small features like a tunnel and the fallen tree, which involved teamwork to get everyone over quickly. Also there were larger obstacles like the log ladder and the net jump. One of my favourite activities was the rope swing. The timing system was arranged by Mrs Cook and involved averaging so that it did not matter how many boys from each house were competing. It was the largest attendance of the event ever, with 53 boys taking part. Overall everyone enjoyed the event, Bradley said it was a "tremendous event for teamwork." Zak (7H)





Senior Cricket v Westbrook Hay 1st May

1st XI v Westbrook Hay (home) Won by 9 wickets

St John's 92 for 1, Westbrook Hay 90 all out

Outstanding performances: The whole team

A very positive start to the season for the team with a strong victory over Westbrook Hay. Our opening bowlers of Aadil and Shane set the standard of the game early with some strong bowling. Our fielding could have been improved as we were given chances to catch their stronger batsmen early on in the game which we didn't take, this made it more challenging to slow down their runs. As soon as their stronger batsmen were dismissed we found wickets easier to come by with some great fielding and bowling to limit their runs in the final over. Our three batsmen saw out the game well. We hit a few loose balls in the air which were dropped fortunately, but we played sensibly and with confidence which saw our run count tick over nicely. Well done boys, great team effort!

3rd XI v Westwood Hay (away) Won by 41 runs

St John's 119 for 7, Westbrook Hay 77 for 9

Outstanding performances: Mason, Rohan and the team

The 3rd XI had a magnificent start to the season with a great 41 run victory against Westbrook Hay. The St John's team were put into bat and achieved a total of 118 runs for 7 wickets, off 20 overs. Mason batted with great maturity and steered and supported the batsmen with great authority. The boys bowled and fielded extremely well with Rohan taking 4 wickets, 2 maidens for 7 runs. Westbrook Hay managed to post a total of 77 for 9 off 20 overs. This was a fantastic start to the season. Congratulations to all the boys involved !





Junior Swimming Gala at York House 2nd May

This was a very good experience for all the Year 4 swimmers to take on some strong swimming schools. Throughout the meeting all the pupils swam well and the St John's pupils were placed 2nd in the majority of the events. We showed good team work in the Freestyle and Medley relays by coming 2nd in both these races. We still need to work on our diving technique and leaving the board in the correct manner. This was an excellent event for our boys to take part in. Well done!



1st Aldwickbury 33 points, **2nd** St John's 23 points, **3rd** York House A 20 points, **4th** York House B 14 points

U9 Freestyle 25 metre Relay, Archie, Mihir, Shane, Armaan, 2nd overall.

Archie 2nd in 25 metre Freestyle.

Armaan 2nd in the 25 metre Backstroke.



Year 4 Cricket Festival at York House 2nd May



Twelve boys from Year 4 went along to represent St John's in the York House Cricket Skills Festival. This was a well-planned and structured afternoon for our boys rotating through four different skills sets; bowling, batting, fielding and a game based activity. Boys and girls from York House, St Martin's and St John's were encouraged to mix groups and join in on the fun from the word 'go'. There was no time to rest and all activities were full of action, repetition and valuable feedback from the coaches to ensure all children improved and enjoyed the game more and more as they went along. The progress and enjoyment for the game was evident in their actions and faces. Well done indeed and Mr Kruger knows they are looking forward to their first match against St Martin's on the 21st May.



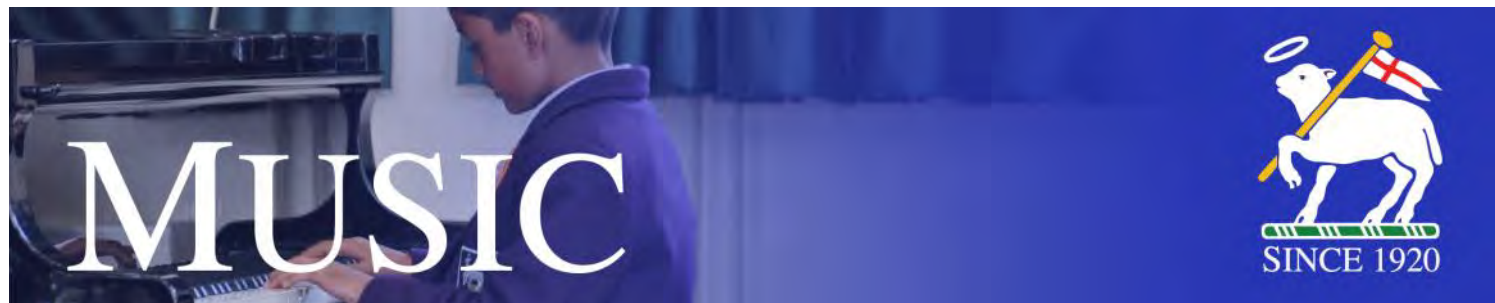


St John's boy is mascot for Watford



Last weekend, Shane (4C) was a mascot for the Watford team when they played against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Watford. He had a tour of the changing rooms and met each and every one of the players before the game. The highlight of the day was that he walked out onto the pitch in front of a packed Vicarage Road stadium holding the hand of Watford's Spanish striker, Gerard Deulofeu! Then, to top it all off he appeared on Match of the Day on Saturday night! A fantastic day and, according to Shane, both teams, their managers and staff couldn't have been any nicer to all the children.





Memorable final String Group rehearsal



On Tuesday the String Group was given a very special treat as it met for the last time this academic year and the last time ever for our Year 8 boys. Zain's mum, Mrs Ahmed, very kindly brought in delicious sandwiches, sushi, Doritos and cakes to celebrate Zain's six years as a member of String Group, latterly as an excellent leader. Everyone enthusiastically tucked in and polished off almost all of the food before grudgingly picking up their instruments for our final rehearsal! On behalf of all members of the group we would like to thank Mrs Ahmed for her generosity and we are just sorry that she wasn't able to join us.





1. **Year 4** are having a paint splattering time learning all about the artist Jackson Pollock.
2. A beautiful flower study by **Ansh** in 5R.
3. A lovely lino print designed by **Zain** in 7J.
4. **Kianu** in 8C has made and designed this table using mosaic tiles.
5. Colourful entries for the House Art Competition by **Archie** and
6. **Kian D** in 4M.



Calendar and important dates

Monday 6th May: BANK HOLIDAY

Tuesday 7th May: Merchant Taylors' Associated Schools Quiz (Year 8)

Year 7 Trip to Epping Forest

Year 2 PGL Meeting (3.15pm-4.00pm)

Wednesday 8th May: Cricket v Belmont: 1st XI (h), 2nd XI (a), 3rd XI (h), 4th XI (a) (2.30pm)

Thursday 9th May: Pre-Prep Class Photos
Pre-Prep Parents' Evening (6.00pm-8.00pm)

Friday 10th May: House Meetings

MTS U10 Lamb Cricket Festival

(9.00am-3.00pm)

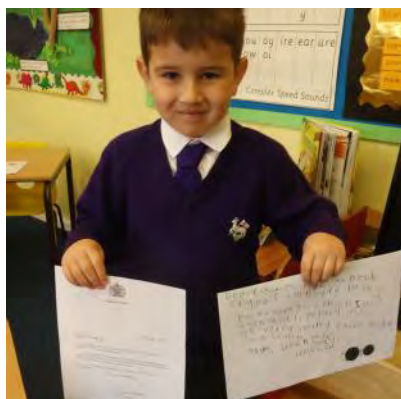
Quiz Club Maths Challenge at Merchant

Taylors' Prep (Year 6)

Cricket v Haberdashers': Colts A, B, C (a)

(2.45pm)

Saturday 11th May: Belmont U13 Cricket Festival (12.00pm)



Recently Aubrey decided to put his writing skills to good use by writing to the Queen. He wanted to give her some useful advice about how to clean rusty coins. He was delighted to receive a reply from the Queen's Lady-in-Waiting who wrote back to Aubrey on behalf of Her Majesty. The Queen was pleased to hear from Aubrey and thanked him for his kindness.

Updates: please continue to visit www.st-johns.org.uk for all the latest information on sports fixtures and results.

The website will have announcements in case of emergency. You can also follow us on twitter [@stjnsnorthwood](https://twitter.com/stjnsnorthwood).



Mailings: if you have received The Lamb from someone else and would like to be sent your own copy direct each week, please email: Lamb Editor. Let us know your contact details and you will be added to the list.

Photographs: Do please continue to send in any photographs which could be included in The Lamb and thank you to all those parents who have sent in photographs.

Notices and Reminders

Open Morning. This takes place on Wednesday 22nd May at 9.15am. Please invite any friends or family to this event who are considering sending their son here. It is a fabulous opportunity to see the school in action!

Music activities. After our concerts yesterday, a reminder that there are no more music activities until September as we concentrate on the forthcoming Senior Drama production of 'Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat', performances for which are on Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th June at 7.00pm. Please put the date in your diary and come and support the boys.

Tower of London 5k Run. Dr Soneji (Neil's mummy-Eagles) is running at this event for the British Heart Foundation in memory of her late husband. If you would like to find out more or donate please use the following link: justgiving.com/Nila.Soneji

Revision Guides. These are currently available on the Parent Portal for Years 5-8.

Year 7 Normandy Trip. A reminder that the deadline for handing in the following documentation is **Tuesday 7th May:** spending money, medication, passport, EHIC card, 2 x passport photos (name on reverse) and Code of Conduct - pupil declaration. Please hand in to the School Office marked for the attention of Mrs Marshall. All items will be locked away until the morning of the trip. Thank you.

Votes for Schools. Current question: **Should junk food ads be banned?** 74.1% No, 25.9% Yes. Question for next week which you may like to discuss at home over the long weekend: **Is it fair to shut down a city over climate change?**

House Point Totals: Churchill 108.67; Lincoln 105.95; Oates 104.92; Lawrence 101.94

Enjoy the long Bank Holiday weekend.