



From the
Headmaster

This has certainly been an action packed finish to the half term.; this morning we had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs Horn, Head of Pre-Prep at St Martin's, who judged the impressive Pre-Prep Poetry Competition final which was enjoyed by boys, staff and parents.

We were delighted to see so many parents and boys at our inaugural Tech Talk when we heard from eight parents about how technology has influenced their careers.

I know Years 1-4 had an entertaining day taking part in the Perform Dance Workshop whilst Year 5 boys joined with several visiting schools to attempt Mrs McSween's D&T challenge to build a 'windy tower'.

The Year 8 boys have been out on the roads enjoying their Bikeability training sessions delivered by the Hillingdon team and I am sure that both Year 7 and 8 are looking forward to the Magic Breakfast charity disco this evening.

In sport the U13 and U11 sevens squads started their sequence of rugby tournaments at St John's Beaumont.

I wish all the boys a restful half term holiday and the boys going skiing in Austria a fantastic trip.

S. R. A.

Pre-Prep Poetry Competition



This morning the Pre-Prep held their annual Poetry Competition. Every boy learnt a poem with titles ranging from 'Watch Out!' to 'I saw my teacher on a Saturday' The preliminary rounds were difficult to judge but eventually three boys from each class were put forward to recite their poem in the final. Mrs Horn, the Head of Pre-Prep at St Martin's School, was faced with the difficult task of choosing the class winners and eventually the overall winner of the competition. Each boy recited his poem clearly and confidently. After much thought, Mrs Horn announced that Rahul in the Owls was the Pre-Prep Poetry Competition winner 2019. Well done to all the boys who learnt their poems so well.





Dance Workshop with an Egyptian theme



On Tuesday Years 1-4 got moving in the Norman Hall whilst taking part in a dance workshop, organised by 'Perform'. The aim was to learn to dance like an Egyptian and all the boys had great fun. These are some of the comments from Junior boys:

“When I was doing Perform, I had lots and lots of fun. My favourite part was when we played a game called Mummies and gods!”

“In the dance workshop I really enjoyed it because it inspired me to dance a bit more and to do some warm-ups!”

“Today Years 1-4 had a ‘Perform’ workshop. We learnt how to groove like an Egyptian and played a game called Mummies and gods!”

“Today I went to the dance workshop. I really enjoyed it, we danced to Egyptian songs and did freestyle dancing. I did disco fever and the teacher liked it. I really loved the dance workshop, I would recommend it to anyone!”





First Gold Award of the academic year



Aarav in 5R is the recipient of the first Gold Award for collecting 120 House Points. This is a fantastic achievement and Aarav should be very proud of himself.

‘The Tempest’ Reading Club



The boys of The Spring Reading Club are working on Shakespearean language, characterisation and plot of one of Shakespeare’s most known plays, “The Tempest”. We use the RSC (Royal Shakespeare Company) recommended activities for teaching Shakespeare to students of all ages. These are based on the principle of deliberately building a spirit of one team with a shared purpose. This is about *us* rather than *me*. We often do this with games that warm up our brains, voices and bodies. At the heart of our pedagogy is the idea of students encountering Shakespeare as fellow artists. Working with his language in the same way that Royal Shakespeare actors do, they can create outcomes that offer real insight into the text, in which they can take great pride,

and which are often genuinely beautiful. The picture is from the boys’ recreation of the tempest taking place in Act 1, Scene 1 of the homonymous play.



Bikeability week for Year 8



Blessed with perfect weather all week, our Year 8 boys have taken part in the Bikeability course run by Hillingdon Council to try and achieve their level 1 and 2 proficiency. Level 1 involves learning to control and master their bike with training taking place on the playground. This means that they will be able to fit their own helmet, carry out a simple bike check, mount their bike, start cycling, stop and get off, be able to use the gears, negotiate objects safely, control the bike with one hand, stop quickly if needed to and look all around when riding, including behind, without wobbling. An extensive list!

Level 2 takes place on local streets, giving a real cycling experience. Boys have been taught how to deal with traffic on short journeys such as cycling to school or to the local shops. To attain level 2 boys had to be able to start and finish a journey by road, including passing parked or slower moving vehicles and side roads, make a U-turn, identify and react to hazards in the road, signal their intentions to other road users, understand where to ride on the road, use junctions, including turning left and right into major and minor roads, decide whether a cycle lane would help their journey and use the Highway Code.

Brilliant blue skies welcomed us every day which meant dry riding conditions for all. The St John's bike shed was rammed full of all types of bikes during the week (so much so, the staff had to find alternative bike parking arrangements) nevertheless it was good to see, better environmentally, compared to a full car park!

We hope this different activity which the boys enjoyed during this week, will help them appreciate the two wheeled experience. Many congratulations to all the boys who passed and enjoyed this commendable course. For more information about the course please visit <https://bikeability.dft.gov.uk/what-is-bikeability/>





Bikeability week for Year 8





Governors chat with Year 8 boys



Last Thursday Alex, Mason and I were given the opportunity to have lunch with three of the Governors: Lady Harding (The Chairperson), Mr Henson and Mr Robb. To begin with we met the three of them in the White House foyer. After shaking hands and introducing ourselves we walked over to the dining hall, soon to be filled by the chatter of Pre-prep boys. After taking our seats at the table we soon tucked into our beef cannelloni and jacket potatoes. Lady Harding discussed with us what senior schools we had recently sat exams for. We were all relieved that they were over. We also talked about how excited we were that Joseph was the chosen drama production this year, which all three governors remembered fondly (Does *Phillip Schofield* or *Donny Osmond* ring a bell...?) Throughout all this, the consistently well-behaved Pre-Prep boys scuttled around quietly to receive their lunch, and their good manners were noted by Lady Harding too.

Next the conversation moved to the topic of themselves! They explained what they had to do as Governors and how some of them ensure that students are being taught in the best way possible while others, like Mr Henson, made sure that the school's funds were being used wisely. For example, if one part of the school *wanted* iPads but another *needed* fixing then the one that *needed* it was supplied with the money. Then they asked us about the School, for example, which House was winning and how the lunches have improved. Mr Henson was disappointed that Lawrence wasn't in the lead because when he was at St John's, his house, Lawrence, was winning *all* the cups! Mr Robb said that since the last time he had been here the lunches had improved immensely and that we boys were very lucky that we weren't being served Semolina Pudding, however Lady Harding immediately countered Mr Robb saying that Semolina Pudding was undeniably delicious!

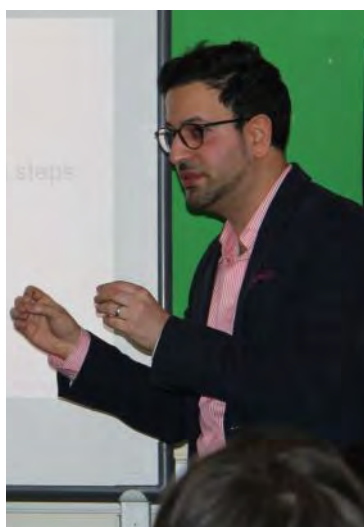
Finally, we went up to collect some dessert (not Semolina!) and Lady Harding started to ask how the Eco-Council was doing. She was pleased that they now had hedgehog homes, bird feeders and had even implemented a "no plastic policy" for snacks! As we all scooped up our last spoons the lively conversation ended with a quick chat about parakeets. Lady Harding told us that there used to be many of them back in Australia, where she used to live, and they were brought in to England from there. Now you can see them flying around parks and even the school. However, they are scaring off local songbirds so they could be bad for the environment. We said our fond farewells and thanked the Governors for having lunch with us. It was a special and memorable occasion for the three of us Year 8 boys. **Zain (8C)**



Inaugural Tech Talks

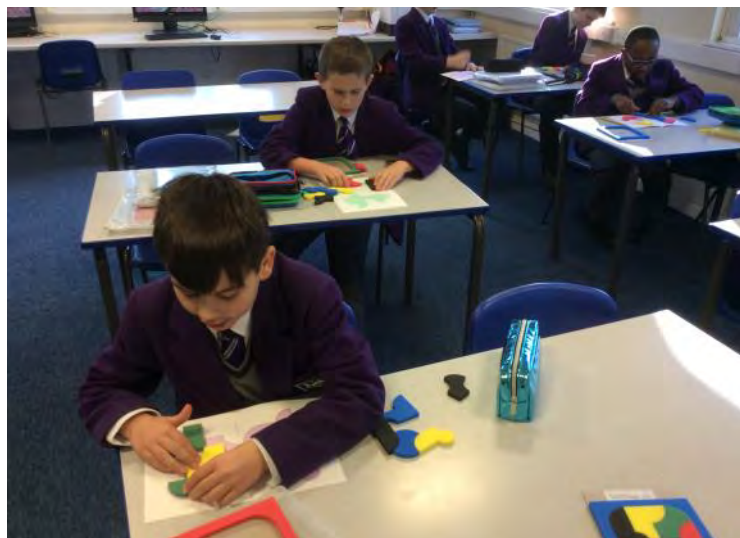


On Tuesday St John's held its first ever Tech Talks evening; a careers evening for Years 6-8 to inspire the boys who are interested in a future in technology. Eight parent speakers gave talks about their routes into technology, how technology affects their day to day working life and how, ultimately, it is an exciting area for all boys to become involved in, no matter their current passions. Mr Ahmed started the evening talking about his journey with Barclays and showed how the banking app has transformed the way that banking is now done; Mr Apps discussed how an accountant can become fully involved with many exciting technological projects even though Computing wasn't his background; Mr Ellis opened the boys' eyes to the link between Latin and coding and how his company can now use data science to help large organisations to predict the movements of their customers; Mrs Heward showed how the retail sector is so vastly affected by technology and blew the boys away with a video about the new 'AmazonGo'. After a short interval where many more technological discussions were continued, Mr Rickard discussed how his background as a sound engineer has lead him into the field of vibration and wowed the boys with how he has worked with submarines and rockets; Mr Sikafi inspired the boys with his journey on how to begin a start-up company and gave his top tips to encourage all boys to question 'why not?'; Mr Southon explained how his company app has taken shape and how, through the use of technology, he is overturning the used car finance sector; Mr Wasserstein concluded the evening by showing the boys how technology has changed in such a short period of time and that we just don't know where it will be in 10 years' time, and how exciting it is that the boys sitting in the room will be part of that change. Overall, an inspiring, educational and informative evening and I would like to say thank you to the speakers and to everyone who came to support this new initiative.





‘Tak Tiles’ in Maths for Year 6



Mrs Cook’s Year 6 Maths group had the chance to work with “Tak Tiles” today. The aim was to make the individual shapes link together to form given outlines and then the boys had a go at creating their own challenges for their friends. Much fun was had by all.





Chess v Lochinver Wednesday 13th February



Our chess match against Lochinver on Wednesday started off very encouragingly with Anek opening up with a win in his first round (2 rounds in total). We had a mixed bag of a team with both Year 5 & 8 boys making up the team, Yuri & Shivank offering their services from Year 8. Despite us have a slightly “older aged team” our younger competitors gave us no quarter. Going into round 2 we held a slender 3-2 lead with wins for Michael and Yuri supporting Anek. Forging on into round 2, Anek kept up his 100 percent record by securing his second win. Round 2 was keenly competed and finished all square 2 ½ points each, with another win from Michael and Lucas securing a draw. Overall we won this tight contest by 5 ½ points to 4 ½ so well done Team St John’s.





Entertaining the elderly with cake and music



Sam (6M) and Joseph (8L) hosted a Valentine's Day themed tea at their home for six elderly people and their carers on Sunday. Everyone had a lovely time tucking into tea and cakes whilst Sam and Joseph entertained them on the violin and piano. One lady who is 97 also very much enjoyed a small glass of Prosecco! Well done to both boys for demonstrating their real sense of community.





Love is in the air!



The Otters and Owls have been thinking about the people they love. The boys used a variety of art materials and techniques to design their own cards and pictures to take home.





Rock erosion in Year 2



Year 2 have been learning all about erosion as part of their materials topic. Having learned about the gradual effect of the oceans on cliffs they built their own sugar cube cliffs and recoded very carefully how many drops of coloured water were needed to dissolve the sugar. Sugar and food colouring is not usually an ideal combination for Year 2 boys but in this case it enabled a very successful afternoon science to take place.





Rock erosion in Year 2





Year 3 investigate distance in Maths



Year 3 were learning about how to **measure distance** in Maths this week. They decided to investigate for themselves and used some trundle wheels to explore distance around the school. They measured how many metres it was from the Junior Block to the gym, the dining hall and The White House.





U10 hockey v Parkside Friday 8th February

U10 A v Parkside Lost 2-0

Outstanding performances: Aryan, Oliver and Thomas

A very good game against a very well drilled Parkside team. The opposition passed the ball very well but in defence, Thomas and Oliver covered superbly to stop some attacks in our own D. Aryan was outstanding in goal where he made a number of great saves. However, he was eventually beaten by 2 v 1. We created some good opportunities to score but we were closed down quickly by the opposition defenders. We still needed to stay wider and have more confidence in moving the ball around the pitch. We had a shuffle shoot out after the match had finished with 5 players from each team taking on the goal keeper with 7 seconds to score. We did very well in this part and came out winners 3-1. But this was a much better performance by the side in many areas. Well done!



U10 B v Parkside Lost 3-1

Try scorers: Zian 1

Outstanding performances: Joshua

A hard game for the team but a consistent performance from start to finish. We were solid in defence giving the opposition few opportunities thanks to some great defending by Joshua, Aaron, Oscar and Zian. We were slightly sluggish in attack and found it hard to work the ball towards the goal, however we moved it well down the wings and around the box but couldn't find enough space to test the goalkeeper. Zian had our only 2 well worked chances to score, the first of which was missed but he learnt from his mistake and scored off the second and got our only goal of the game. We were the better team on the day and played with each other in order to score which is very positive for the future. Well done boys, hopefully your hard work will pay off in the next match.



U10 C v Parkside

Outstanding performances: The whole team

A very promising performance from the entire team once we switched on after the match started. Our defence was solid and we didn't let much through the middle of us which forced the opposition out wide. We gave each other ample options to pass with great support play and we had great vision to pass into space, however our accuracy could be improved in order to execute our chances and build the score line. All the shots we took were on target but we just struggled to get into these shooting positions. Well done to everyone who played, we can work on passing for our next fixture.

U10 D v Parkside Drew 1-1

Try scorers: Benjamin

Outstanding performances: William

A really impressive performance for the first game of the season. The whole team played with real commitment and got their just rewards after going a goal down with an excellent equaliser by Benjamin. Once the boys felt happy in their positions, they started to play with more confidence and caused the opposition problems all over the pitch. Parkside found it increasingly difficult to breach the St John's defence and William put in a fantastic performance in this regard, earning him the Man of the Match award.



U11 A at St John's Beaumont Tournament

This was the first 7's tournament for the Colts this season and although we didn't win any games we came out learning many lessons and more experienced ready for the next tournament. Our first game against Donhead featured a great try from Ethan from a pacey run down the wing. Our defence in this game was very intense and put a lot of pressure on the opposition which resulted in Samuel scoring an interception try. Our second game was against a well drilled Belmont side but included a try from Jaidev. We really struggled to create anything in this game despite some good hands all around the pitch. Game three against Trinity ended with both teams making failing to convert some well worked opportunities. This was our first game on pitch 1 (the larger of the 2) and we took some time to adapt to the longer passes that were needed to work the ball to the wings but still totally dominated the possession. The fourth game against the host's B team resulted in a draw with tries from Charlie and Ethan. We worked much better on the pitch this time and managed to overcome the pressurising defence with some fantastic offloads. The fifth and final game against St John's Beaumont A's ended in favour of the hosts, our fitness levels were tested every single minute of the game and we fought extremely hard to the end unfortunately with nothing to show for it. Well done to all the boys, Mr Lambden hopes you've all learnt something during the festival to improve as a player so we can improve as a team for the next tournament.

Try scorers: Sam 1, Ethan 2, Jaidev 1, Charlie 1





U13 A at St John's Beaumont Tournament

V Gordon's Won 4-1

V St John's Beaumont Won 5-1

V Oratory Lost 3-2

V Belmont Lost 3-1

V Chesham Prep Won 3-2

Try scorers: Skye 5, Netanel 3, Alex 4, Rohan 1, Ollie 1, Matthew 1

The boys started strongly with two good wins. The first against Gordon's showed strong ball carrying especially from Skye. The next game against SJB Bs they needed to work the ball more to save some of their energy but in reality they went all out again with strong running from Alex and Rohan, and strong defence from Matthew and Netanel.

With changes to the line up and some obvious fatigue creeping in the team fought hard over the next two games against Oratory and Belmont narrowly losing both. The play-off for 7th and 8th position re-galvanised them. St John's scored the first two tries from Alex and Skye. Chesham Prep came back with two of their own in the second half and Netanel scored the winning try in the final seconds of the match.

This was a good opening tournament with the team experiencing top level match practice which they can take on to the upcoming competitions after half term. Thank you to Mr Wood for taking these superb photos.





U13 A at St John's Beaumont Tournament





Windy Towers - D&T Challenge 14th February



It was fantastic to welcome teams of enthusiastic young people to come and take part in our 4th Interschool's DT Challenge yesterday. Year 5 pupils from Belmont, Mill Hill Prep, Merchant Taylors' Prep, Pinner Wood Primary and York House all battled it out by building 'Windy Towers'. By looking at the real life problem of building tall towers in highly populated Shanghai, China we were able to appreciate that not only did we have to build high, we also had to engineer ways to combat the lateral force of the wind. All of the students showed exceptional collaboration skills and all of the teams solved the brief perfectly, withstanding the force of the wind from our fan really well. When it got down to the final nitty gritty of judging, Merchant Taylors' Prep were the winners with an interesting shape of building. Pinner Wood and St John's came equal second. A wonderful morning had by all; thank you to all visiting schools for attending.





1. **Year 3** have been learning about complementary colours. They have also been weaving hearts for Valentine's Day.
2. **Lucas, Trian, Rakshaan and Aarav** in Year 5 have also enjoyed using salt to create texture in their work.
3. **Junior Art Club** have been blowing kisses.
4. **Leon and Leo** in Year 5 has been experimenting with rock salt and ink. They have painted these beautiful sea life pictures.



RPLF Easter Adventure 2019

The RPLF has a single goal, **TO BUILD LEADERS**. With the RPLF Day Out August 2018 we took our first steps to achieving that goal. Now we're back to do it again!

With the RPLF Easter Adventure, you will learn amazing new skills whilst having an amazing time! You will learn;

- How to do some basic first aid, that could one day help you be a hero!
- How to navigate the old fashioned way, using a map and compass!
- How to be a leader, leading a group of people a similar age as you to try and solve a problem.
- How to work as part of a team, where you have to solve a difficult problem you can't solve on your own.
- Important survival skills.
- How to solve problems.



On the Easter Adventure, aspiring leaders aged 10-14 can learn skills not only useful in leadership, but useful in life, such as problem solving, team work and first aid. This training is delivered by our experienced team, who have run team building events such as these for several hundred young people. Our team works tirelessly to ensure all activities are fun, challenging and effecting in delivering our training. These Instructors want to take the next generation, who we call Beginners, down the path to becoming the leaders of tomorrow!

Dates: 9th and 10th April 2019 Time: 10:00 - 16:00

Location: Mill Hill School Costs: £60.00

Ages: 10 – 14 years old

If you want to help create the Leaders of tomorrow, then why not come along!

Contact us;

Tel: +44 (0)7557118218

Email: rpleadershipforce@hotmail.com

Web: rocketplanet.org.uk



St John's Association Presents
A Fun Filled Evening of Entertainment on
Saturday 23rd March 2019 - 7.30pm



To book your table please complete the form at the bottom of this sheet and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

This is always a hugely popular night when we set our knowledge and wisdom against that of the teachers and the Quiz Master.

The price per ticket will be £20.00 per person to include a Fish & Chip supper or a Vegetarian Option.

The tables will be set up for teams of eight and we would respectfully suggest that you try to put together your team of 8 competitors. There will be a prize for the winning team.

Contact Name: - _____

Contact Number: _____

_____ Tables of 8 £160.00 per table (£20.00 each) _____

Number requiring fish and chips
Number requiring vegetarian option



Calendar and important dates

Monday 25th February: School Resumes (8.25am)

Tuesday 26th February: Reception Vision Screening
Year 3 Visit to Neasden Mandir
Haileybury U11 Regional Hockey Tournament (9.00am)
Rugby v Orley Farm: U9 A, B (a) (2.30pm)
Musicians to Denville Hall (4.00pm)
Pre-Prep Parents' Evening (6.00pm-8.00pm)

Wednesday 27th February: Hockey v Aldenham: U13 A, B (h), U12 A, B (a) (2.30pm)
Squirrels Parents' Meeting (3.30pm-5.30pm)
Belmont U11 Oti Relay Race (4.00pm)
Year 6 Parents' Evening (A-L) (6.00pm-8.00pm)

Thursday 28th February: Pre-Prep Illustrator Workshop
Pre-Prep Parents' Evening (3.30pm-5.30pm)

Friday 1st March: House Meetings
UCS Hockey Tournament: U11 A (1.00pm-4.00pm)
St Martin's Road Relay Race U14, U12 (2.00pm)

Saturday 2nd March: St John's U10 & U9 Rugby Tournament (9.00am-12.00pm)

Contact details

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  @stjohnswood.

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.

Notices and Reminders

Magic Breakfast Quiz. This fund-raising activity which will take place on 6th March and boys should have brought home sponsor forms.

Please help your son to find as many sponsors as they can over the half term holiday - thank you.



House Music Festival. The Grade 4 rounds take place after half term as follows:

Thursday 28th February Churchill, Lawrence and Oates
Friday 1st March Lincoln

Don't forget your instrument and music (including any accompaniment) on the day you are due to play and invite your friends to come and support you. All rounds take place in Music Room 1.

St John's Association Quiz Night. This popular event is on Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm. Please see the flyer on the previous page and think about putting your team together. The evening includes a fish and chip supper.

St Helen's PHAB Disco. Hot on the heels of our own disco is a similar event to be held at St Helen's on Thursday 14th March in aid of PHAB. Tickets will be available for boys in Years 7 and 8 from our School Office straight after half term.

Parents' Evenings. The online booking form for the Year 6 Parents' Evenings after half term will be open by the end of today. Please also note the two Pre-Prep Parents' Evenings which are during the first week after the holidays.

Votes for Schools. Our question this week has been: **Would you rent your Clothes?** Yes: 24.3 % No: 75.7. The question for the week after half term: **Should uncontacted tribes be left alone?** Enjoy discussing this over half term.

House Point Totals: Churchill 77.16; Lincoln 76.67; Oates 76.12; Lawrence 74.48

Wishing all the St John's community a super half term and look forward to reporting on what promises to be an excellent ski trip to Austria.