

THIS WEEK AT ST FAITH'S

08 June 2018

It is hard to believe that we are on the final straight of the academic year. Time certainly flies at St Faith's. There are, however, still plenty of special occasions to look forward to over the next few weeks, so please do keep a close eye on the school calendar. It would be great to see you at one or more of these events if you can make it.

School Punt Launch

One special occasion this week was the launching of the new St Faith's punt! It was designed and constructed by Year 8 pupils in the after-school Engineering Boat Building Project Club, with a little help from Dr Hoyle, Head of Engineering. To the delight of everyone, particularly those brave enough to get on board, the punt was completely watertight, floated gracefully, and looked elegant with its prominent red and black stripes on the exterior and house colours on the interior. Philip and Elizabeth, our two resident ducks on the Jubilee Pond, looked impressed and at times, a little bemused! The punt is being raffled to parents and, to date, over £500 has been raised for Tom's Trust. Tomorrow evening, at the SFPA Summer Party, the raffle draw will take place, appropriately on the bank of the Cam at the Double Tree by Hilton. The winner will be invited to step on board (it will be moored on the bank) and punt down the Cam. Now that's one event I won't be missing!

After the party the punt will be delivered free, with paddles, to the winner's home. Of course, it can be used as more than a boat; the owner may want to engineer another use, such as a cool sandpit or decorative garden flower bed!

Tickets can be bought via this form: <https://form.jotformeu.com/81363840924358>

Sports Days

'What a lovely afternoon', was the most common comment from the parents I spoke to at tea, after the Pre Prep Sports Day on Tuesday. An inclusive approach, enthusiastic cheering and a host of ingenious races made for a most entertaining and sociable occasion. It was lovely to see everyone smiling and clapping on an afternoon of athletic races and novelty events. The parents' relay race attracted a huge number of entrants with a wonderful array of sprinting styles, creating a flourishing finalé to an event which was supremely well organised by the Pre Prep staff. As I watched the races I talked to many of the Year 8 helpers, who spoke fondly of

their Pre Prep Sports Days. All of them could remember the team they were in and the events they took part in. My sincere thanks to Mrs Smith and the Pre Prep staff and specifically Mrs Gaastra and Mrs North for all their work in organising this wonderful family occasion.

A reminder that Sports Day for Years 3-8 is at school, next Friday. Parents of pupils in these year groups were sent a schoolcomms message that provided details of the day, and will be sent a programme of events on Wednesday. As usual, we will have our fingers crossed for fine weather so that all the children can enjoy a great day of athletics.

Green Goblins win in Norwich

On Wednesday, we took three cars to Norwich for the second Green Goblins race day of the season, an event which involved 28 cars. As usual, it was a full-on day of drag and slalom races. Our pupils were also assessed on how they made the car and how well they could explain the engineering behind the design, both verbally and through their written portfolio. It proved to be a most successful and enjoyable day, with St Faith's finishing as overall winners. The cars are now back in our engineering workshop, ready to be fine-tuned for the next day of races. Further details are in the 'index' of this newsletter.

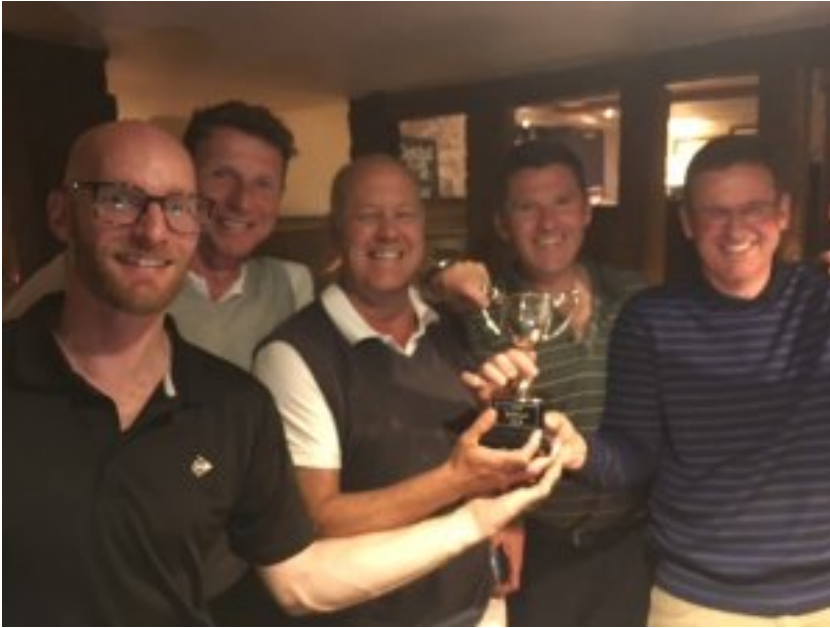
Concerts

This afternoon, Years 3 and 4 performed in the Junior Concert, a most entertaining occasion with a wide range of music, from percussion, string and brass ensembles to choirs and instrumental soloists. Mr Gorick and his colleagues created a relaxed feel to the concert and it was clear that the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of performing to their parents, grand-parents and staff. It is a big moment for a small person to play or sing in public, particularly for the soloists, but I am delighted to say that our young musicians rose to the occasion and there were plenty of proud parents and staff afterwards.

The Senior Concert, in which all our major ensembles will be playing, will take place at West Road Concert Hall on the evening of Monday 18 June (7pm). All families are welcome.

Weekend Activities

It is a busy weekend for St Faith's with three of our sports teams – swimming, gymnastics and triathlon – in action. Ten of our top swimmers will be competing in the IAPS National Finals in the Olympic Pool in London tomorrow. On Sunday our triathletes will be competing in the IAPS Championships at Cranbrook, whilst St Faith's hosts an inter-school girls' gymnastics competition. I wish all our competitors lots of fun and success.



Finally...

Congratulations to the staff golf team (five of the seven pictured here) which won the Kidman Cup, by beating the Old Fidelians on a lovely summer's evening at Gog Magog Golf Club on Friday 25th May.

I look forward to seeing many of you tomorrow, at the SFPA Summer Party at the Doubletree by Hilton. With over 240 tickets sold, it should be a great night.

With all good wishes,

Nigel Helliwell