



Academic Extension (AcE) Day

On Thursday, pupils in Years 3 to 8 enjoyed being 'off-timetable' for our first Academic Extension (AcE) Day of the year. AcE Days are a key feature of our ambitious and rounded education, forming part of a wider enrichment programme that culminates in *E-week* during the summer term — a week of exploration and challenge. This includes, for Years 7 and 8, the opportunity for overseas trips. The aims of the programme are to extend and deepen pupils' understanding both within and beyond the curriculum, while nurturing skills in communication, teamwork, leadership and creative thinking.

Year 3 pupils brought ancient history to life, donning Egyptian costumes and immersing themselves in activities such as writing hieroglyphics, drawing cartouches, sculpting scarab beetles from clay and learning traditional Egyptian dance. The scarab beetle, a symbol of renewal and rebirth, provided a particularly rich link to their studies.

In Year 4, pupils used their AcE time to focus on rehearsals for their pantomimes — short, lively performances they have been developing in Drama lessons and will present to parents on Thursday 4th December. The children were involved in dance and singing rehearsals, as well as trying on their costumes and making tickets for family members inviting them to the shows.

Year 5 became *Eco Detectives* for the day, taking part in four themed workshops — *Recycling*, *Marine Litter*, *Sustainable Eating* and *Habitats* — led by visiting environmentalist **Philip Hulton** from *Green Up Your Act*. In each session, pupils investigated real-world environmental issues and created responses drawing on their studies in Science, Maths, Engineering and Art. The day concluded with a reflective plenary session in which pupils discussed what they had learned and how they might make a difference.

Meanwhile, Year 6 were extending their Geography curriculum on Rivers. Due to the weather on the day, the outdoor part of the *Rivers Study* had to be cancelled, but the children were still able to complete a variety of analytical and evaluative activities related to their rivers project. These included designing their own River Board Game, answering River Quest questions, as well as creating and annotating a sketch map of Hobson's Brook and carrying out pollution experiments on samples of river water.

For Year 7, the focus was firmly on *engineering and wellbeing*. Pupils developed their understanding of rocket design, using compressed air as the propellant. Each group built a



rocket with an airtight body, applying Newton's third law to ensure a successful launch. They also explored the importance of stability and aerodynamics in achieving a safe and efficient flight — with test launches to take place in future Engineering lessons. Alongside this, pupils took part in a series of wellbeing activities designed to support reflection and balance.

Year 8's AcE Day was both reflective and practical. In the morning, pupils took a happy *trip down memory lane* as they selected the photographs for their Yearbooks — a keepsake to celebrate their time at St Faith's. The afternoon brought hands-on learning with **First Aid training** and an introduction to **Sports Psychology**, both encouraging self-awareness, resilience and teamwork.







House Assembly: Consideration for Others

In Tuesday's **Latham House Assembly**, pupils explored what it truly means to show consideration — not only towards friends, but also towards those we may not know well. Through stories and discussion, pupils explored practical ways to demonstrate kindness and empathy, from holding a door open to offering choices, and from patience and tolerance to apologising when we are wrong. These values and gestures help to shape the warm, respectful and inclusive community, that defines life at St Faith's.

Buddy Sessions



Buddy sessions provide a valuable opportunity for older pupils to encourage and support younger pupils. As well as developing leadership and teamwork skills, the 'Buddy' scheme promotes social integration between year groups. The latest round of Buddy sessions took place on Tuesday. You can read more about the role of Buddies – and other positions of responsibility that our Year 8 pupils undertake – on our school website page, under the heading [Prefects, Buddies & House Captains.](#)







Singing Tea-time Recital

Mr Symons and Ms Quinn write,

“On Monday Years 7 and 8 singing pupils gave a captivating Tea-time Recital, performing an impressive mix of repertoire that ranged from Schubert's *Der Lindenbaum* to Bruno Mars' *Talking to the Moon*. The Britten Room was filled with expressive solos and beautifully blended duets, each performance showing growing confidence, musicianship, and joy in sharing music with others.

For several pupils, this recital also formed part of their preparation for upcoming music scholarship auditions, and it was wonderful to see such maturity and focus in their performances. For other pupils, this was their first opportunity to perform in a recital, helping to develop the poise and confidence which will serve them not only in future musical pursuits, but in all aspects of leadership and collaborative teamwork. Most of all, it was a reminder of the courage it takes to stand up and sing, and of how rewarding that can be.”







Year 6 Science

Mrs Pritchard writes,

“Our Year 6 students have embraced the challenge of designing, piloting, and conducting their own independent scientific investigations. Their focus: exploring how the angle of a torch affects the length of a shadow. Working in small groups, pupils developed their own methods for measuring shadow length at different torch angles. This wasn't just about results—it was about the scientific process. Students were encouraged to reflect critically on their approach, identifying why their initial methods might not have produced reliable data, encountering real-world challenges that scientists face every day. What followed was a brilliant display of resilience and scientific thinking. Pupils adapted their setups, refined their measurements, and worked collaboratively to ensure their data were both valid and robust. Their ability to evaluate and improve their methods demonstrated a mature understanding of the scientific process and a genuine curiosity about the world around them.”





Year 7 Poetry Recital

Ms Morris writes,

"Last week, more than 30 of our talented Year 7 pupils took to the stage for the annual Poetry Recital — a celebration of rhythm, language, and expression. From the timeless verses of Wordsworth and Shakespeare to the playful humour of Rosen and Dahl, pupils showcased an impressive range of poetry. Many even performed pieces they had written themselves, bringing their own creativity and voice to the spotlight. The performances were full of energy, fun, and confidence, making for a wonderfully engaging event that left the audience inspired and thoroughly entertained."

English Schools' Year 8 Cross Country Cup (Cambridgeshire Round)

Mr Mageean writes,

"Last Friday saw our Years 7 & 8 Boys and Girls Cross Country teams running in the first round of the English Schools' Cross Country Cup. There was a fantastic turn out of many independent and state schools, with our pupils competing in races comprising more than 50 athletes.

First up were our Girls Team running 2100m. Such great runs from all of our pupils, saw them being rewarded with qualification for the Regional Round of the competition. The girls were only 8 points away from being placed as 1st team and only 1 point behind Perse Upper. They are already excited about the next round where they are aiming to improve further, and they firmly have the two other Cambridgeshire teams in their sights. We wish the girls all the best when they compete in the Regional Round in Oxfordshire in November.

Our Boys Team were also keen to start well, with one of our pupils establishing his place in the top 5 athletes after the first 600m of the 2700m race. He then enjoyed a fantastic race, running alongside an Old Fidelian in the battle for 4th place. The other St Faith's vests were all very well

packed together; a special congratulations to one of the boys who stepped in to the team at late notice. I expect that there were some tired legs the next morning! Well done to all our athletes, and a huge thank you to all the parents that came to encourage all our pupils and cheer our teams on."



House Hockey & Football

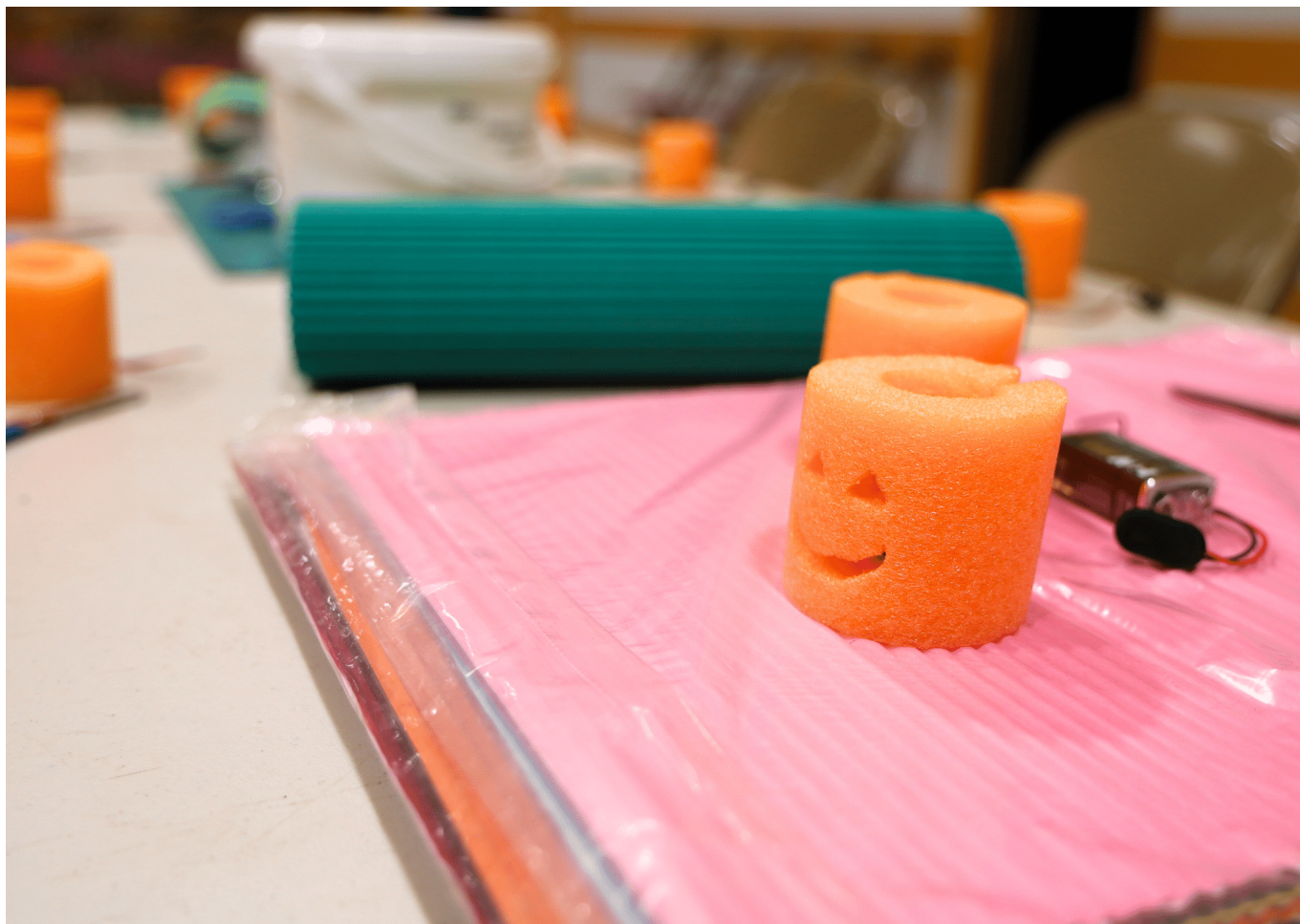
This week there have been boys' house football matches taking place for Years 3, 4 and 6 and girls' house hockey matches for Years 6, 7 and 8. Playing for their respective Houses brings a great sense of pride and enjoyment to the children; our St Faith's Learning Habits of Collaboration and Resilience are always at the fore during these occasions. Thank you to all parents who came to support the children and as usual, results are posted on to the SOCS portal.



Prep Open Morning Tuesday 21 October

On Tuesday morning, we were delighted to welcome a large number of prospective families to our Prep Open Morning. During the presentations to families, three of our Year 8 pupils spoke most eloquently about their time at St Faith's. As a new initiative this year, we offered some activities for the younger visitors, where they were also joined and supported by some of our Year 5 pupils. Following the talks, Year 8 tour guides led families around the school, receiving many compliments for their warmth, confidence and communication skills. I am very grateful to them for being their 'best selves' and being such excellent ambassadors for St Faith's.







Pop-in & Play and Preschool Settling-In Sessions

On Monday, we held the second *Settling-In* session for new Preschool pupils joining us after half term. It was wonderful to observe their enthusiasm and growing confidence as they explored their new surroundings. It was clear to see valuable early connections being built with staff and classmates ahead of their official start on **4th November**.

Wednesday's *Pop-in & Play* session once again filled our Early Years playground and classrooms with laughter and excitement. These informal playtimes have become so popular that each event now reaches capacity very quickly. Details of upcoming sessions will be shared on our website and social media channels (Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook).



And Finally...

There is growing excitement amongst our Year 5 pupils as they prepare for tonight's highly anticipated "Sleepover" event". The evening is a great way to round off the half term, with a treasure hunt in the school grounds, laboratory experiments, trampolining in the sports hall and then a pizza supper. After a hearty breakfast on Friday morning, the children will round off the sleepover event with visits from circus jugglers who share their skills, and the hugely popular 'Reptile Experience' – giving the pupils a chance to learn about and see some remarkable creatures.

After the first half of term filled with treasure hunts, rockets, poetry recitals, pantomime rehearsals, and even a few visiting reptiles, I imagine everyone will be more than ready for a well-earned rest. We return to school on **Tuesday 4th November**, and on **Friday 7th November**, we look forward to the annual **SFPA Fireworks** – always a spectacular highlight of the calendar. Before then, whether you are travelling, working or staying close to home, I hope the week brings you and your families an opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy some time together.

With all best wishes,

C. Hyde ~ Dunn

Crispin Hyde-Dunn