Leadership and Teamwork

Our first school assembly of the half-term focused on the theme of teamwork and leadership. Mrs Davies and Mr Critchley reflected on the recent Year 7 Teambuilding event (previously reported in the newsletter of 19th September) and how, through a series of fun and engaging challenges both here at school and at Grafham Water, the pupils explored what makes truly effective teamwork. Collaboration, communication, initiative, leadership and resilience were all key qualities highlighted and ones that align closely with our St Faith's Learning Habits.

For our Year 7 pupils, these activities are more than simply enjoyable experiences: they mark an important step in developing confidence and leadership as they begin their senior school journey. It was also an excellent opportunity to continue welcoming our recent joiners into the St Faith's community.

"I think it was a really good experience and I think it helped me learn about people because I'm new," said one of our Year 7 pupils.

This Week at St Faith’s



The assembly continued the theme of leadership as I had the great pleasure of presenting our newly elected House Captains with their badges. In total, twelve pupils, three from each House, have been appointed following a rigorous process of application. These young leaders will help shape house events, mentor younger pupils, and foster a strong sense of belonging across our community. We congratulate them all on their well-deserved success.

Looking ahead to one of the highlights of our end-of-term celebrations, the song choices for our *Last House Standing* competition were also announced:

Bentley – *A Whole New World*

Chaucer – *When I Grow Up*

Latham – *Food Glorious Food*

Newton – *The Bare Necessities*



The Great Fire of London

Mrs Sheppard writes,

"This week, 2MAS captivated the rest of Pre Prep with their class assembly all about *The Great Fire of London*. The children have been studying the events of 1666 in class and brought the story to life through expressive poetry, lively songs, and impressive acting. Their storytelling helped everyone imagine what it was like during those dramatic days in London's history. Well done to all of 2MAS for their confident performances and excellent teamwork."

This Week at St Faith’s



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Lessons This Week

Across the school, pupils have been applying themselves enthusiastically to a wide variety of lessons and practical activities. Year 7 Engineering pupils have been busy building rockets powered by matchstick heads, while in English they have been exploring the art of persuasive speech-writing. Year 5 Mathematicians have been tackling equations, and in Year 3 Physical Education pupils have been developing close ball control through basketball. Meanwhile, Year 3 English lessons have seen some sparkling firework poetry, and our junior artists have been creating wonderful clay pumpkins. Beyond the classroom, there have been lively rugby and hockey fixtures against Bishop's Stortford School, King's College School, and The Stephen Perse School.

This Week at St Faith’s



St Faith's Preschool Opens

It was both an exciting and joyful moment to welcome our very first group of Preschool children on Tuesday, marking the official opening of the new St Faith's Preschool and the extension of our provision to the 3+ age group. The occasion was celebrated with the cutting of a bright red lace ribbon before everyone stepped inside the new classroom.

Wearing their distinctive St Faith's red sweatshirts, our young pupils quickly settled into their surroundings. For some, with older siblings already at the school, the environment felt instantly familiar. Before long, there were tricycles racing around the Early Years outdoor area and busy play in the reading corner, the kitchen, and the art station.

We look forward to welcoming more children when the next cohort joins in January. Families interested in a place for their child from the half-term following their third birthday are warmly invited to contact our Admissions Team at admissions@stfaiths.co.uk or by telephone on 01223 229421 to arrange a visit.

This Week at St Faith’s



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Quiz Club General Knowledge Area Heat

On Thursday, two teams represented St Faith's in the area heat of the Quiz Club National Championships. Each team comprised one representative from Years 3 to 6, competing live online from school. The event, hosted by professional quizmasters, included instant scoring, which added to the excitement. Both teams performed superbly, with one achieving a very impressive second place overall, securing progression to the semi-finals. We wish them the very best of luck in the next round and congratulate all competitors for putting themselves forward with such enthusiasm.

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English Schools' Cross-Country Cup (Regional Finals)

Mr Mageean writes,

"Well done to our Year 7 & 8 Girls' Cross-Country team that competed at the Regional Finals of the English Schools' Cup, hosted by Cokethorpe School, Oxfordshire, on Tuesday 4th November.

Myself and Mrs Fordham accompanied the team as they competed alongside the best fifteen qualifying schools from Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Norfolk and Northamptonshire, following their success in the first round before half term.

On a wonderfully sunny and mild day, perfect for running, the girls performed very well on a 2900 metre course. Our finishing positions of 25th, 28th, 33rd, 36th and 65th placed us seventh overall, and ahead of King's Ely, who had beaten us in the first qualifying round, a target the girls had set for themselves! The team should be extremely proud of their performance at this

level and are already looking forward to the District Schools Cross-Country Championships on 11th December."



Rowing Regatta

Miss Kennerley writes,

"On Wednesday, 9 rowers from St John's joined us for the first indoor rowing regatta of the academic year. For the first time, we had Year 6 pupils from St Faith's taking part now that the rowing programme has extended down to the younger age group. The pupils took part in individual sprint races and team relay, aiming to beat their own personal best times and distances.

The St John's rowing coaches commended our Year 6 pupils on their posture and technique – a great start for our young novices. Everyone enjoyed the competitive, but supportive and encouraging environment and they received a certificate recording their achievement in every event they took part in."

This Week at St Faith’s



This Week at St Faith’s





And Finally…

Next week, we will come together as a school to mark Remembrance Day. On Tuesday 11th November, at 11 o'clock. St Faith's will fall silent in respectful remembrance, and later in the day we will gather for our Remembrance Service.

Ahead of this, I look forward to seeing many of you at the annual SFPA Fireworks Display this evening — always a spectacular highlight of the autumn calendar.

After a slightly shorter week following half-term, the children have nevertheless been full of energy and purpose, and I am sure they will appreciate a well-earned rest this weekend. As the evenings draw in, I hope you enjoy the warmth of good company, the beautiful autumn foliage, and perhaps a touch of sparkle from the weekend's fireworks.

With all best wishes,



Crispin Hyde-Dunn