A New Chapter for St Faith's and The Leys

Following the announcement on Tuesday (please see the sidebar for further details) about the merger of St Faith's and The Leys to form a new all-through school called The Leys School, Cambridge from September 2028, the pupils were told the news in a special assembly on Thursday afternoon. We reflected on the long history of St Faith's and the many changes the school has seen over the years. We also spoke about the important contribution that Year 7 and 8 pupils make to the life of the school and the role they will continue to play in shaping our community in the years ahead. Most importantly, pupils were reassured that whilst schools continue to evolve, the values that are at the heart of St Faith's remain constant — kindness, community and excellence.

The Chimera – More than a Monster

Earlier this week, in our Year 7 & 8 assembly, Mrs Davies explored the fascinating idea of the Chimera. In Ancient Greek mythology, the Chimera was a fearsome creature made up of three different animals—a lion, a goat and a snake—often seen as a "monster" because it didn't fit neatly into one category.

But as pupils discovered, the word has acquired a range of different meanings over the years, including 'a thing that is wished or hoped for but is actually impossible to achieve'. And in modern science, the term describes an organism with more than one set of DNA. An example of this happening in humans is following a bone marrow transplant. Scientists are even researching how chimeras could help grow organs for transplants in the future.

The Chimera, once seen as something unusual or even frightening, offers a reminder that complexity is not something to be feared. Pupils were encouraged to reflect on the many different interests, talents and experiences that shape who they are. Whether academic, creative, sporting or musical, we are all made up of many different parts, and it is often this combination that makes each person unique.

This Week at St Faith’s



Year 8 Charity Challenge

(Written by a Year 8 pupil)

"Hi. We are competing in a challenge to see who can raise the most money for two charities chosen by our school. One of the two charities we are helping is in Jeffery's Bay, South Africa, and the other is in Cambridge.

In Jeffery's Bay, many families struggle with getting food and basic needs, and many children often go without meals for days. The soup kitchen we are supporting provides hot meals to as many families as they can. For many children it is the only proper food they receive in the week and it helps them stay healthy. This charity helps families so much and without it, they would have very little.

The other charity we are fundraising for is in Cambridge. Many children would love to learn music, but lessons and instruments are expensive. This charity helps with the cost of musical instruments to give more children a chance to express themselves, be free, build confidence, discover talents that they never knew they had, which can even help with mental health.

So far we have raised £130 from selling snacks and mini accessories in school and £40 from a bake sale. We are continuing to meet up and sell even more things in the near future and we hope to raise £1500 for people who could really benefit from our help.

Any small amount could feed a family, or give a child a music lesson. We are working as hard as we can to raise money for charity, but we can't do it without your help – thank you".

The whole school community is very thankful to all of our families who have supported their children in so many different ways. Other initiatives have included busking in central Cambridge and one of our Year 8 buskers was even interviewed on *That's TV Cambridgeshire*!

This Week at St Faith’s






BRACLETS



SFPA Donation

Continuing the theme of charitable donation, thank you to all those who have supported SFPA events, and to our SFPA committee and volunteers who have worked tirelessly throughout the year. I am delighted to report that as a result of fundraising at these events, we have received an extremely generous donation of £4716 from the SFPA, which will be divided between the House charities:

- £1179 to RSPCA for Bentley House
- £1179 to Arthur Rank for Chaucer House
- £1179 to Cancer Research for Latham House
- £1179 split between Arthur Rank and Tom's Trust for Newton House

A View from the Classroom

We thought that you would enjoy this selection of photos taken this week in classes around school.

In Year 3, Art pupils were moulding clay into 3D tile-like squares, painting them gold and adding glitter.

Meanwhile, ahead of Sports Day, a Year 4 Computing class have been creating sport themed PowerPoint Presentations, focusing on their favourite events and athletes.

In a Year 7 Maths class, the pupils used Pythagoras' theorem to work out distances in Ashburton Courtyard.

There has also been plenty of cricket taking place on the School fields (in between the rain showers) and finally, we have had the pleasure of welcoming Ottie, our new school dog. She is a 1 year old Cavapoo, trained by PAWS as a therapy dog, and she has joined our Learning Support team in the Discovery Zone. She has been an immediate hit with pupils and staff alike! If you follow St Faith's on Instagram, you will already have seen her relaxing in the DZ after a hard day's work!

This Week at St Faith’s



This Week at St Faith’s





Science in Focus

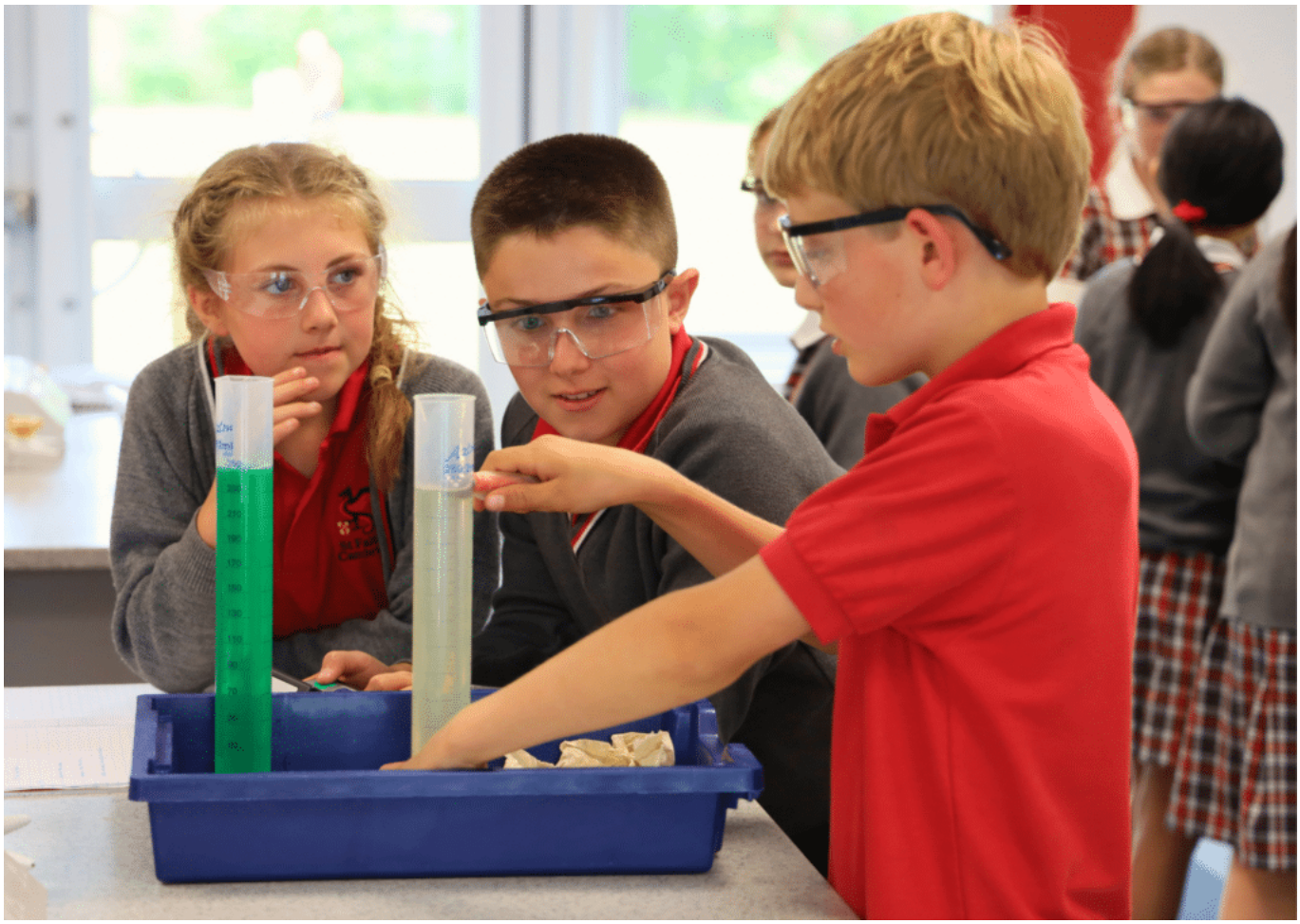
Mrs Pritchard writes,

"Year 5 have moved onto their new topic of Matter, beginning with an exploration of how different materials can be categorised using the kinetic theory of particles. They then carried out hands?on practical work investigating the viscosity of liquids, observing how the thickness of a liquid affects the time taken for an object to travel through it. Building on this, pupils have begun planning their own practical to calculate the speed of an object moving through a liquid, applying their understanding of variables and fair testing.

Year 6 have continued their work on Reproduction, focusing this week on the process of fertilisation. Pupils compared how fertilisation occurs in mammals versus fish and amphibians, developing a clear understanding of internal and external fertilisation and how these strategies support survival in different environments.

Year 7 are nearing completion of their Bronze CREST Award projects. Some pupils have now printed and mounted their final reports, ready for display. Their investigations show impressive independence, creativity and scientific thinking, and they are rightly proud of the work they have produced.

Year 8 have continued to deepen their understanding of Forces. This week they explored Newton's First and Second Laws, presenting explanations in original and imaginative ways. They also worked on interpreting distance–time graphs at a GCSE level, demonstrating strong analytical skills and growing confidence in handling more advanced physics concepts."



Class Concert Series

Mr Gorick writes,

"The Class Concert Series began this week, with pupils across the Prep School sharing performances within their forms and filling the school with music. It has been a genuine delight to hear the children's progress and to pause together to appreciate the musical journeys they are each undertaking.

Several classes may enjoy further performances next week, and the Music Department is already looking forward to more moments of joy from our young musicians.

We send our very best wishes to over sixty pupils taking ABRSM exams. We are right behind you. Whatever the outcome, please remember that you are valued, supported, and celebrated by the Department. We are proud of every note you play and every song you sing!"

This Week at St Faith’s





Litter Picking

Mr Burt writes,

"Last Friday the catering and housekeeping teams went litter picking around the area surrounding St Faith's, including Brooklands Avenue, part of Hills Road, Trumpington Road and Lammas land. We picked up 14.43KG of rubbish."

These excellent efforts are a timely reminder to us all to make sure litter is placed in the many bins around the school site.


Pre Prep

Goblins Celebration

This year represents 11 years since Engineering was introduced as an integral part of the curriculum at St Faith's. The Goblin cars, designed and built each year by teams of Years 5-6 pupils, bring together the design and engineering skills developed through this important part of the curriculum. Yesterday afternoon, we enjoyed an end of year celebration with families when they watched the 4 cars being raced on our own home-grown track (the hard court area behind Pre Prep).




Lethal Lightning
DANGER



Calling All Traffic Volunteers

Miss Mills writes,

"Most of you will have seen we have an army of people who work to ensure that our pupils arrive safely into school, and that we can respectfully share Trumpington Road with other users and our neighbours. Some of our amazing volunteers will be leaving us in the summer and we really need to recruit some new people to take their place. The duty takes less than 30 minutes, and really makes a difference. If possible we would like people who can commit to at least 1 shift per week.

If you would be interested in finding out more about volunteering, please do contact Miss Stella Mills smills@stfaiths.co.uk, or complete the form."

Swimming Gala v. Bedford School

Mrs Critchley writes,

"Our final swim gala of the year took place on Tuesday afternoon against Bedford School. As always, it was an enjoyable occasion, with plenty of exciting and competitive swimming on display. The Year 8 team performed particularly well, providing a fitting finale to their time at St Faith's. It was especially valuable preparation for the boys' team, who are now looking ahead to the National Finals this Saturday. They are in strong form, and we wish them every success. St Faith's secured an impressive victory, finishing with 145 points to Bedford's 125. Many thanks go to all pupils and staff who have worked so hard throughout the year to make our swimming fixture programme such a success."

Eastern AA Athletics Championships

Mr Mageean writes,

"Last Saturday was a wonderful day with 18 of our pupils competing in the sunshine at the **Eastern Athletics Association Championships** at Wilberforce Road Athletics Track, amongst almost 600 athletes from the East of England in attendance.

This is a 'club' championship with the best athletes in Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Bedfordshire and Essex competing. As a school, we were specially invited to compete following the results of our pupils at the County Championships that took place in May.

Everyone enjoyed a great day competing in the sunshine; lots of personal bests broken and some wonderful performances all round; many of our pupils finishing in the Top 10 of the East of England; one breaking another school record and two of our pupils winning medals too at this high level.

We wish our athletes well over the coming week as our Years 6-8 team compete at the East Area Prep School Championships at Bedford today, followed by our Years 4 & 5 team competing in their Championships that we host at Wilberforce Road next Tuesday. Before you know it, Sports Day will soon come around on Friday 12th June too!"



Old Fidelian v. Parents' Tennis, Tuesday, 9th June 5:30-7:30 PM

With Wimbledon just around the corner, it is surely time to dust off your racket and take to the courts. Whether as a parent or Old Fidelian, you would be very welcome to join us at the Latham Road courts for a relaxed and friendly evening of tennis, followed by refreshments. Please email marketing@stfaiths.co.uk by Monday, 8th June to let us know how many people will be attending and if you have any dietary requirements.

Save the Date

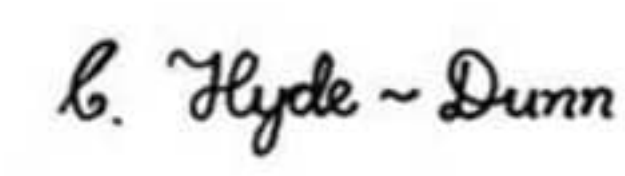
Please note that our next whole school Open Morning will take place on Saturday, 10th October. This event will be primarily for families interested in September 2027 entry and beyond.

And Finally…

It has certainly been a week for new beginnings. As we look ahead to an exciting new chapter for our school and Foundation, it has also been a pleasure to welcome our new four-legged team member, Ottie, to the St Faith's community.

I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend and look forward to seeing many of you at the concerts, sporting events, celebrations, enrichment activities and community gatherings, that always make this final part of the summer term such a special time.

With all best wishes,



Crispin Hyde-Dunn