AI Spotlight Week: Exploring the Future Together

The assembly on Tuesday looked ahead to *AI Spotlight Week*, and an opportunity to explore one of the most important and fast-moving developments shaping our world today: artificial intelligence.

Pupils were introduced to the idea that AI is not something distant or abstract, but already part of their daily lives and it has been developing since the 1950s. In recent years AI has become more visible and powerful.

A key theme of the assembly was understanding how AI works and the principles which sit behind it. Pupils learned that AI systems are trained on large amounts of data to recognise patterns and make predictions, rather than "thinking" in the same way humans do. This helped demystify the technology, making it more accessible and comprehensible.

Alongside this, the assembly invited pupils to reflect on the opportunities and responsibilities that come with AI. While AI has tremendous potential to support creativity, solve complex problems, and improve lives, it also raises important questions about accuracy, fairness, and how we use technology wisely. Pupils were encouraged to think critically: not simply about what AI can do, but what it should do, and how human judgement remains essential. AI can be used as a tool to enhance rather than replace human imagination. Whether generating images, supporting writing, or helping with research, AI was presented as something that works best when guided by human curiosity, values, and critical thinking.

Importantly, the assembly linked these ideas back to the school's wider aims: preparing pupils not just for exams, but for life in a rapidly evolving world. As AI continues to develop, qualities such as adaptability, curiosity, and ethical awareness will become ever more important.

AI Spotlight Week will continue with activities and discussions across the school, giving pupils further opportunities to engage with this fascinating topic. Next week several of our parents have very kindly agreed to speak to pupils on such interesting topics as 'How AI can help in drug development' and 'How Google is working to make AI as reliable as possible'. By approaching AI with both curiosity and care, St Faith's pupils are being encouraged to become thoughtful, responsible participants in shaping the future.

This Week at St Faith's



This Week at St Faith’s





Learning What Truly Matters

Mr Gorick writes,

"This week's Year 7 & 8 assembly explored how we come to understand what truly matters. We began with recent research showing how music reshapes the brain, using it as a picture of how steady practice and attention can gradually transform us from within.

That idea of inner change led into the example of the Gospel story of Nicodemus, who comes to Jesus at night with honest questions. Using Matthias Stom's famous painting *Christ and Nicodemus*, pupils reflected on how Nicodemus sits face-to-face with Jesus, yet cannot fully recognise the truth before him until his understanding is reshaped.

I shared a line I once heard from the departing Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in his final service: "Without endings, there would be no new beginnings." Nicodemus stands at the end of what he knows, and Jesus invites him into a beginning he cannot yet see. This sense of standing on the

threshold connected naturally to our Year 8 pupils preparing to leave St Faith's, and to the school's own transition as it becomes part of The Leys.

We closed with the school motto, In Fide Fiducia — in faith, trust — encouraging pupils to trust that growth is possible and that new beginnings often start before we fully recognise them."

Year 1 Trip to Hedingham Castle

Ms Hendry writes,

"The rain on Thursday did not dampen Year 1s enthusiasm for our trip to Hedingham Castle where we enjoyed meeting Lord and Lady De'Vere who had transported us back in time 700 years to meet people who lived and worked in the castle. Mrs Niedbalski had her headache cured with the help of a Wise Woman who suggested a cabbage leaf tied to her head with a red ribbon. We learnt about how to defend the castle and how to serve food to the Lord and Lady themselves (although sadly not pizza (no tomatoes) or donuts which some of the children suggested might be food fit for a Lord)! A highlight was the medieval music and dancing in the Great Hall. Thank you so much to our parent helpers (Mrs Jones, Mrs Lane and Mrs Zhao); without this great help we couldn't run such trips."

This Week at St Faith’s



National Geographic Poems

In their English lessons, Year 8 pupils were given a selection of National Geographic photos and were asked to write a poem in class based on their chosen photo. Please enjoy the selection of the pupils' work which can be found in the sidebar.

Library Summer Book Fair

The annual summer book fair took place this week and The Hub buzzed with activity as all year groups were able to browse and purchase new books during lunchtimes and after school.

Miss Johnson writes,

"I would like to thank parents, pupils and staff for being so generous once again and making our Book Fair another huge success. Your support has meant we took nearly £4000, an uplift of £1300 from last year and our most successful book fair on record! Your purchases have earned us nearly £2500 in Scholastic rewards and will help to support the St Faith's Library and local schools in the National Year of Reading – thank you so much! It is always so heartening to witness the buzz of the book fair, pupils excitedly charging in with their friends at lunch time and parents sharing quieter moments with their children after school, discovering new stories to share. I would also like to say a big thank you to the Pupil Librarians for their invaluable help and to Mrs Oxborough, Mrs Pritchard and Miss Gamble for kindly letting the book fair take over The Hub, I think you'll all agree it made a wonderful setting to showcase hundreds of books!"


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ROALD DAHL
BEN MILLER

This Week at St Faith’s





Boys' Swim Team Shine at IAPS National Finals

Mrs Critchley writes,

"Many congratulations to the five boys who represented the school at the IAPS National Swimming Finals last Saturday. Despite the early start, the team rose to the occasion brilliantly, and with performances fuelled by energy and determination, they did not disappoint.

The U13 boys competed outstandingly in both relay events, demonstrating great teamwork and resilience. Their efforts paid off as they secured 11th place in the medley relay and 10th place in the freestyle relay—setting new school records in the process with impressive times of 1:03.23 and 55.62 seconds.

The success continued in the individual events, with three swimmers competing in the U13 50m backstroke and freestyle, alongside an U12 finalist in the 50m backstroke. A particular highlight of the day was a superb bronze medal performance in the U13 freestyle—an exceptional

achievement at this level. In addition, our U13 backstroke swimmer improved by three places from his qualifying position, while the U12 backstroker climbed four places—both achieving personal best times.

It was a fantastic day of competition, leaving the team rightly proud of their efforts and accomplishments. I would like to extend my thanks to the U13 boys' team, who have represented the school with distinction over the past four years. Their commitment, talent, and enthusiasm have been a joy to witness, making this a fitting and memorable conclusion to their competitive swimming journey at St Faith's."



U12-U14 East Area Athletics Championships

Mr Mageean writes,

"On Friday 5th June, a strong field of 46 of our pupils represented St Faith's at the U12-U14 East Area Athletics Championships at Bedford International Stadium.

With the event attended by 53 different schools from the East of England it was the largest sporting event that many of our pupils have ever attended. They rose to the occasion to compete to the very best of their ability, and they were true ambassadors for St Faith's throughout the day. A special mention goes out to our five Year 8 Prefects who helped the results officials on the day too. The organiser was very complimentary of their hard work to help the event run smoothly behind the scenes.

A huge thank you to Mr Johnson, Mr Elwood and Mrs North, who all helped with the logistics of a busy day of sport, getting all of our pupils to events on time and encouraging and fine-tuning technical details. It was also great to see so many parents who managed to attend, cheering on all our athletes, which was very much appreciated. It has come to my attention that we're unofficially often referred to as 'the hurdling school' with many teachers and spectators enquiring as to how our hurdlers are so successful every year! For the first time ever, all six of our hurdlers made it through the heats to qualify for the hurdles final later in the morning. The red, white and black vest was certainly very much on display, and four have now progressed further to qualify for the National finals.

By the time the final event was over, we had achieved a fantastic haul of 22 medals, 8 new school records and a new Championship Best Performance! Ten individual athletes and one relay team finished in the top two positions thereby claiming their spot to be invited to compete at the National Finals. So, with twelve of our pupils heading to the National Prep School Finals in Birmingham in early July, we wish them all the very best. They are so lucky to be competing in the same stadium that hosted the 2022 Commonwealth Games and where the 2026 European Athletics Championships will take place this summer. We look forward to this inspiring them further in their quest for further athletic success and new personal bests…good luck athletes!"

This Week at St Faith's




40



U10 and U11 East Area Athletics Championships

Mr Mageean writes,

"At the U10 and U11 East Area Athletics Championships on Tuesday 9th June, we took 27 athletes to compete at Wilberforce Road against 30 independent schools from the Eastern Region.

With so many schools competing at the event, pupils taking part in the sprints, hurdles and relays had to qualify from heats earlier in the afternoon to claim a place in the Finals at the end of the day.

The day started fantastically with all four of our relay squads qualifying for the final later in the day. This was followed by seven school records being broken; some were recent new events with one pupil adding almost four metres to the U11 Ball Throw record that was set in 2012! Two individuals were crowned Prep School Area Champion as well as our U10 Girls 4x100m

Relay team.

Our team acquitted themselves superbly with many personal bests being set, and a good number of our athletes qualifying for the finals in the sprint events. It was especially encouraging as for many of our athletes it was their first time competing in such a competitive championship.

A huge thank you to all the parents and grandparents who came to spectate to support the children. Thank you to Mr Gillick, Mrs Critchley, Mrs North, Mr Elwood and Miss Kennerley who were all involved in team managing and officiating throughout the day. We were also extremely proud of our Year 8 helpers who assisted the officials at field events; and a huge thank you to Mr North for being the chief organiser of this championship, as it all ran so smoothly."



Old Fidelian v. Parents' Tennis Evening

On Tuesday evening this week, the Old Fidelians vs Parents' tennis matches took place at Latham Road. This is a very friendly and relaxed social occasion, and now a well-established annual fixture on the OF calendar. Thank you to Mr Nichols for organising this event and to all of those who attended, whether to play or support from the courtside.



This Week at St Faith’s





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…

By the time you receive this weekly newsletter, our annual Sports Day for pupils in Years 3 to 8 will have taken place and run its course. The pupils will have enjoyed the opportunity to experience professional track and field facilities at the University's athletics sports ground. Well

done to all the pupils who took part and thank you for all your enthusiastic support at the event. May I extend a particular thank you to Mr Mageean, our Master in Charge of Athletics, who has been especially busy, overseeing three athletics meetings in the past week.

Good luck to all our Gymnasts taking part in the S Club invitational competition on Saturday. After all this, I am sure everyone will be grateful to catch their breath over the weekend, before Monday's starting pistol signals the start of another busy week!

With all best wishes,



Crispin Hyde-Dunn