



A Busy and Exciting Week at St Faith's

The new academic year is now fully underway, and this week has been filled with opportunities for pupils to learn, engage and discover new interests.

Across the school, activities for Years 1 to 8 have begun, giving pupils the chance to explore new hobbies, develop existing talents and enjoy the wide range of experiences that form such an important part of life at St Faith's. From sport and the arts to academic enrichment and special interest clubs, it has been wonderful to see pupils embracing new challenges with enthusiasm.

Reception visits School House

Reception children enjoyed a special visit to my study in School House on Wednesday. They learned about my day-to-day role and the stories behind the paintings and pictures displayed on the walls.

The children then had the chance to ask me their own questions. Among the questions asked were, "What's your favourite food?" and "What's your favourite day of the week?" My answers were: fish and chips on a Friday lunchtime, and Monday because it offers so much potential for the week ahead.



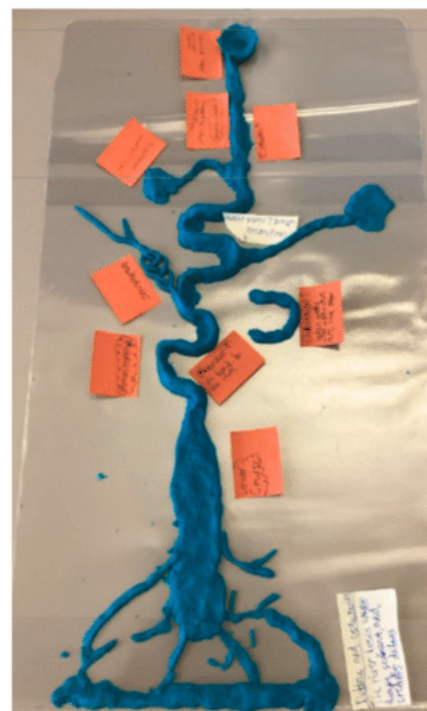
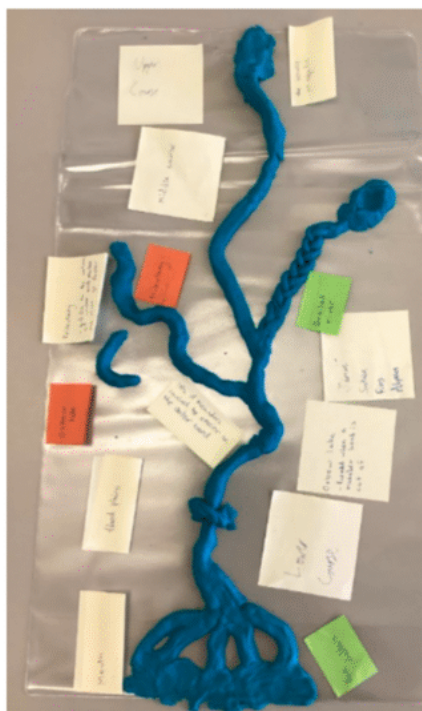




Year 6 Humanities

Miss Dow writes,

“In Humanities, Year 6 pupils have been finding out how rivers change from source to mouth. They have considered how rivers are a vital link in the water cycle. Working individually and in groups, pupils produced models using different materials to help them remember key words and processes.”





Year 7 Teambuilding

A particular highlight of the week has been our Year 7 teambuilding event on Thursday and Friday. As pupils continue their transition into the senior years at St Faith's, the two days provided excellent opportunities to strengthen friendships, develop leadership skills and build confidence through a range of collaborative challenges.

The activity programme involved land and water-based activities at Grafham Water, while on site at school there was a rich programme of outdoor challenges, Forest School activities, and collaborative workshops, including 'The Great Egg Drop'.

From marshmallow engineering to rounders at Latham Road, the timetable was packed with opportunities to build resilience as well as teamwork and collaboration skills, while having plenty of fun along the way. Evening activities included BBQs, games and quiet reading in Ashburton Hall. After a night spent camping in tents on the school back field, a hearty and appetising breakfast set the pupils up well for another busy day of teambuilding activities.

Here is a selection of photos that were taken during the two days. A wider selection will be uploaded to MSP in due course.







Science in Focus

Mrs Pritchard writes,

"Year 5 have begun their new topic on Forces, exploring the different types of forces that act on objects. As part of their practical work, pupils carried out an investigation to examine the relationship between upthrust and gravity, helping them understand why some objects float while others sink. They thoroughly enjoyed making predictions, collecting data and drawing conclusions from their results.

Year 6 have been studying separation techniques and have used evaporation to extract a solute from a solvent. Pupils also had the opportunity to see a Liebig condenser in action, observing how water can be separated from ink through distillation. This provided an excellent demonstration of how scientists can recover pure substances from mixtures.

Year 7 have been learning about the digestive system, identifying the various organs involved

and understanding their roles in breaking down food and absorbing nutrients. Pupils have explored how each part of the digestive system works together to provide the body with the substances needed for growth and energy.

Year 8 have been investigating displacement reactions, using practical experiments to determine patterns in the reactivity of different metals. Alongside this, they have been tackling GCSE-level chemistry content by calculating relative formula mass (RFM) and developing their skills in balancing chemical equations, laying strong foundations for future study.

Creative Arts Theatre Technical Taster

On Thursday, our Year 8 pupils enjoyed a fascinating Creative Arts Theatre Technical Taster at The Leys. This hands-on experience offered a behind-the-scenes insight into theatre production, enabling pupils to explore the technical creativity that brings performances to life.

Assemblies

Assemblies have been an important part of the week, and new for this academic year, we are also introducing assemblies for Years 5 & 6, to complement those for Years 7 & 8 which were introduced last year.

In the Pre Prep assembly, pupils heard from Mrs Scott about the work of the Eco Committee, and she encouraged pupils to consider joining this important initiative.

Meanwhile, Years 3 & 4 came together to celebrate recent achievements and reflect on the wide range of opportunities ahead.

House spirit was also evident as Bentley, Latham, Chaucer and Newton pupils met for House Assemblies and House Tutor Time sessions.





Photographs

Pupils and staff were looking their best for Individual Photographs on Tuesday, with smiles in abundance throughout the school as our photographers captured this year's portraits.

Next Tuesday, please remind your children that if they are in Preschool, Reception or Year 8, they will be having a year group photo taken. Please ensure that they are wearing winter uniform and will change into PE/Games kit later if necessary.

The photos will be available for purchase directly from the photographer and ordering details will be shared in due course.





SFPA Coffee Mornings

Our series of SFPA coffee mornings has continued this week, welcoming families from across the school and enabling new families to learn more about the St Faith's Parents Association (SFPA). These popular occasions allow parents to meet one another and enjoy conversation over coffee and pastries. I am also grateful for these informal opportunities to meet parents at the beginning of the new school year. This week I enjoyed meeting parents from Preschool and Reception, Years 3 & 4 and Years 7 & 8. Next Tuesday will be our final coffee morning of the Michaelmas term, and I look forward to welcoming our Year 5 & 6 parents.







Under 11 Girls' Hockey

Mr Thompson writes,

“On Wednesday our U11 girls' hockey team travelled to Framlingham College to compete in their annual pre-season tournament. This guaranteed them seven games of hockey where they could focus on their shape and fitness in preparation for the season. The tournament provided a valuable opportunity to build on their previous weekend's performance, and the progress was very apparent throughout the day.

Their understanding of shape both in and out of possession grew with every game, whilst having fun and creating wonderful memories. They went on to win the tournament, having played seven matches, won six and drawn one, conceding just one goal whilst scoring 15. This not only put an even bigger smile on their faces, but also ensured plenty of celebratory singing on the journey back to Cambridge!



A fantastic day spent in a beautiful setting, with girls who were outstanding ambassadors for the school."

Rugby

Mr Gillick writes,

"There was a real sense of excitement as the rugby season got underway, with our senior teams returning to action at the historic Cambridge University Grange Road Ground and enjoying the opportunity to compete on its brand-new playing surface.

While the scores and results naturally created plenty of excitement, it was the display of TREDs values across all age groups that was most pleasing to see. The RFU's principles of **Teamwork, Respect, Engagement, Discipline and Sportsmanship** were evident throughout the afternoon and provided a wonderful foundation upon which to build for the season ahead.

Particularly impressive was the grit and determination shown by our players. Rugby has a unique way of presenting challenges and adversity, and time and again our pupils responded positively. Whether recovering from a mistake, responding to a setback, or supporting teammates during difficult periods of play, they demonstrated the resilience that lies at the heart of both rugby and personal development.

The fixtures also highlighted the growing skill set within our teams. It takes courage to attempt new skills in a competitive environment (especially replicating passes made by French scrum halves...) and our players showed both bravery and confidence as they explored, learned and expressed themselves on the field. Players were willing to take positive risks, make decisions under pressure and support one another in the knowledge that growth comes from challenge as much as success.

At the same time, the opening fixtures provided plenty to build upon. The commitment to continual improvement is one of the most valuable aspects of school sport, and our players should be excited by the opportunities that lie ahead as the season unfolds.

Finally, it was wonderful to see so many parents lining the sidelines in support of their children. The atmosphere they created reflected everything that is positive about school sport. Just as loud were the cheers for a brave tackle, a selfless piece of teamwork, relentless work rate or an act of sportsmanship as they were for a try or a winning result. Such support reinforces the values we want our young people to develop and reminds our players that character and effort are every bit as important as the scoreboard.

The season is only just beginning, but it was heartening to see TREDs so clearly on display. We look forward to seeing our players continue to grow, develop and embody the values of rugby throughout what promises to be another exciting season."

Meanwhile, Years 4 and 5 enjoyed competitive football and hockey fixtures against Perse Prep, with all pupils showing great commitment and enthusiasm for their teams.

Scavenger Hunt

The week concludes on Saturday with an SFPA community event as the St Faith's Parents' Association (SFPA) hosts a Scavenger Hunt for Reception children and their families. The children will have the opportunity to show their parents around some of the places they have been getting to know during their first few weeks at St Faith's.

We look forward to seeing our youngest pupils and their parents enjoying a morning of fun, exploration and adventure together.

And Finally...

There have been plenty of opportunities to look at school life from a different angle this week: Year 8 went behind the scenes of a theatre, Year 7 spent a night under canvas and tomorrow our Reception pupils will find themselves showing their parents around St Faith's rather than



the other way round. No doubt this will be the first of many occasions during the year when we see their growing confidence and independence in action.

I look forward to seeing many of our Reception families at the Scavenger Hunt tomorrow and wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

With all best wishes,

C. Hyde ~ Dunn

Crispin Hyde-Dunn