



Middle School

Newsletter Summer 2008

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Summer Middle School Newsletter. The pupils of R12 and R13 have studied hard and participated in a host of extra-curricular activities with many notable successes. We do hope you enjoy reading about our action-packed last few months.

Mrs Rosemary Hart.

Assistant Head and Head of Middle School.

An Evening of Victorian Entertainment

Many pupils represented the Middle School with distinction in the school production on 28th and 29th February. Before the interval, the Junior School benefited from the help of Masters of Ceremony, Liall Medina and Harry Williams, from our Three Little Maids, Lowri Makin, Kathryn Prior and Hannah Tresize, as well as from members of the Flute Choir.

The climax of the evening was the *Pygmalion / My Fair Lady* adaptation – a highly challenging piece for any actors – that featured a swathe of Middle School talent, including three principals: Kate Gildersleve as the plummy Mrs Higgins, Hollie Harry as the fearsome housekeeper Mrs Pearce, and Lucy Daly as the aristocratic Mrs Eynsford-Hill. They were supported on stage by Phoebe Utting, David Birley, Kathryn Prior, Liall Medina, Harriet Williams, Nyree Moody, Pierre Russell, Tom Morris, Toby Jones, Rebecca South and Lana Boocock, given excellent choral backing by Lucy Williams, Jodie Powling, Ieuan Lewis and Karthik Kumar and augmented by the graceful dancing of Hayley Amin, Hannah Tresize and Olivia O'Brien.

Dates for the diary:

Friday 4 July	Senior Sports Day Charity Concert at St Mellon's Parish Church
Monday 7 July	Sports Assembly Middle School End-of-term Mass (TBC)
Thursday 10 July	End of term & trip to Bristol Zoo
Thursday 4 September	Start of Term



The Headmaster was fulsome in his praise of Middle School pupils who had played their parts in the production. How we follow this success is as yet undecided, so please feel free to make any suggestions for the next show to Mr Cooper. There may even be auditions before the end of term, so watch the noticeboards!

A professional standard DVD of the performance is on sale now. Please contact the College office for more details.

The Sport Department

A warm welcome was given to pupils from Rouen, France who visited St John's on Wednesday 23rd May, where a morning of sporting activities was organised by the St John's PE staff. The R12 St John's boys went head-to-head with their French counterparts in a game of football, and won by a marginal result. The girls meanwhile took part in a basketball tournament and also watched a game of netball between R12 and R13, which was a new and intriguing sport for our visitors. All the pupils from both schools thoroughly enjoyed the morning, and we hope it will take place again next year.



A Rounders League has been set up for girls aged between ten and fifteen in independent schools this summer. We are busy training for these in order to do our very best. Any parents wishing to spectate are warmly invited. The extra-curricular timetable is updated every week on the College website as well as reviews of the previous week's matches (see the 'Sports News' page for further details). It also includes information of new additions to the weekly sports practices, including girls' golf, volleyball, dance and touch rugby.



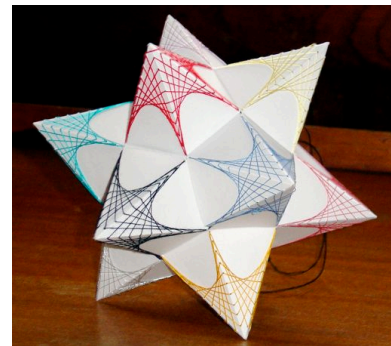
Sport Relief

On Thursday 18th March the school held an activity day in aid of Sport Relief. The pupils had a wonderful day, paying for the privilege to score goals, run a mile, work out and trampoline, raising more than **£800**. Over £300 was raised from the sale of official Sports Relief socks – and very smart they were too!

Many thanks to all who participated and supported our efforts.
Mrs Linda Brown

The Eisteddfod

The Middle School held an Eisteddfod this year, the first for many years. The pupils took part in a range of activities arranged by many different teachers, including an Art competition, singing Welsh songs (under the expert direction of Miss Rowlands),



A Stellation Dodecahedron with 5 parabolas stitched around each vertex. The winning Eisteddfod entry for R13 - Chantal Warren.

voting for the 'Greatest Historical Welshman', Geography and of course honouring the bard - **Sam Dunne** from R12C - congratulations! The afternoon was a resounding success and was enjoyed by teachers and pupils alike. The final house order was as follows: De la Salle (1st), Mostyn (2nd), St David's (3rd) and Bute (4th).

Confirmation

Many congratulations to the R13 pupils who were confirmed at St David's Cathedral on Sunday 11th May. Archbishop Peter Smith conferred the sacrament upon the candidates. It was a beautiful celebration mass with excellent readings and music. The children were a credit to the school and to their parents.



Cathedral Choristers' Trips to Oxford

Earlier this month the Boy and Girl Cathedral Choristers were taken on a trip to Oxford. The Boys had a busy schedule, first dining in the magnificent 13th Century Great Hall at Merton College, then singing in the stunning surroundings of Merton College Chapel. This was followed by a tour around Christchurch College, where they visited the Great Hall - instantly recognised by many of the Choristers as the set of Hogwarts' in the *Harry Potter* films. After a visit to Christchurch Cathedral, the choir made its way across town (via the Bodleian Library and Radcliffe Square) to a reception at Magdalen College School where they had afternoon tea and a game of football with the Magdalen Choristers. A wonderful day was brought to a conclusion at Magdalen College itself, where the boys were invited to hear Evensong sung by its grammy-nominated Choir.

On the following Wednesday the Senior Girls' Choir also took a sight-seeing trip to Oxford, and were also able to explore some of Oxford's fine shops. The girls and boys enjoyed themselves enormously, and we hope it will be the first of many trips to come.



Charity Concert at St Mellon's Parish Church, 4 July 2008, 7pm

On 4 July, as part of St John's College's commitment to community outreach, the Music Department presents a Charity Concert in aid of St Mellon's Parish Church. The Boy and Girl Cathedral Choristers and instrumental ensembles will perform a varied programme of music for a summer's evening in the splendid surroundings of this 14th century church.

Careers & Academic News

A Careers advice day was arranged by Miss Rowlands for R13 at the end of April. This was in preparation for the important GCSE subject choices R13 pupils have to make this year. An options evening was held at St John's on May 7th which enabled students to further research the subjects in which they have a keen interest. Pupils are encouraged to view the Careers Wales website in the coming weeks and click into 'Career Ideas' to gain a better understanding of what's needed for a particular profession in which they are interested.

Four R13 pupils (photographed) represented the school at the Maths Team Challenge on 17th April - Sam Butcher, Dylan Robson, Sandeep Karthikeyan, Rebecca Stevens, while forty-six pupils from R12 & R13 took part in the Maths Challenge on 1st May with great success. Congratulations! Meanwhile, the Welsh Department is organising cultural trips to Cardiff Castle and to the *Senedd* this term for R12s and R13s.



Middle School Pupils' Extra-Curricular Achievements:

R13L

Luke Jones won a Sportsmanship Award for Badminton.
Showjumping
Dylan Robson raised £130 for his cricket club, selling cakes.
Sam Butcher came 3rd place in under 42kg category in the Welsh Judo Championship.
Harry Williams was top scorer for his football club this season.

R13R

Harry Willicombe has been chosen for Newport District Football Club.

R12W

Sophie Nethercott achieved merit in Grade 2 Flute.
Matthew Edwards has secured a place in the Cardiff County Cricket Team.
Sam Dunne is a member of UWIC tennis team who beat Cardiff Lawn Tennis Club in the local league. Sam in now ranked 7th in Wales at U12 level and 112th in the UK at Under 14.
Eilish Menzies, Anna Jones, Emma Cooney, Heather Courtney, Kate Mitchell and Rebecca South all members of Christ the King Netball team and compete in local competitions.
Ralph Pompeus is ranked number 10 in Wales at U13 in Squash
James Dixon plays for Rummy AFC who have been promoted to the A league at U12 level.
Harriet Williams achieved Grade 2 Violin merit and Grade 1 Piano distinction.

R13 C

Hayley Amin came 4th out of 40 in the Sunnybank Competition on her horse "Holly Golightly".
Taron Ikram got through to the last round of trials for Wales U13 Cricket.
Tom Morris passed Grade 3 Music Theory.
Graeme McCann achieved merit in Grade 2 Guitar.

R12C

Ieuan Lewis performed in Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood* with the Everyman Theatre.

R12T

Phoebe Utting has joined a rock climbing club near Abergavenny in the hope of entering climbing competitions.
Rebecca Gordon passed level one at her horse riding club.
Waseem Jawad achieved merit in Grade 3 Saxophone.
John Shafik passed Grade 1 Flute.
Joe Hill scored directly from 2 corner kicks for Lisvane!
Daniel Jeremy has joined Lisvane Whiteheads Cricket Club.
Tom Blyth swims for Cardiff Team which has been promoted from D6 to D5.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a very happy summer break from all the staff in Middle School.

