



HEADMASTER'S NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th October 2019

Headmaster's Assembly

As the leaves start to fall and the mornings get a little darker, I explained to the boys that this had made me think about the nature of change and how we approach it. I reminisced about my own schooling and a particular memory I have about a maths test that I was made to do upon returning from an illness. Having missed school when the material for the test was being taught, I got 60% right. Instead of focusing on the positive, my rather stern teacher focused on the 40% that I had got wrong. Thankfully, we have a change in our approach to teaching and learning now, focusing much more on the positives as opposed to over dwelling on the negatives. Today, there is great change all around us, especially in politics, and who knows what the outcomes will be? What is clear, for us and for the boys, is that change is a constant theme. Change, in the lives of our boys, might be moving houses, changing schools, losing a beloved pet, starting a new activity – changes that can be both positive and challenging. However, my message to the boys was clear. No matter how much we try, change of some sort is inevitable. More crucial is how we deal with it. We need to do our best to embrace the new experiences that change brings as change can help us grow, it reveals our strength of character, helps us with our own personal development and can offer us new possibilities.

Class Assembly: 'We don't grow when things are easy: we grow when we face challenges.'

On Wednesday, 6CR gave a fascinating Assembly on challenges. Mrs Richards reports: 'I have not failed, I have just found 10,000 ways that won't work'. This famous quote by Thomas Edison began the Assembly, asking what would have happened if Edison had given up after his first attempt. As a group we looked at why setting yourself challenges are important and shared some challenges that those in the tutor group have had to face; these included jumping into water from a height, abseiling and the daily challenge of getting up in the morning! We also looked at certain challenges faced in the world such as those faced by sports people and the global challenge of helping the environment by stopping using plastic. We asked the rest of the school to think of a daily challenge that they could do and make a positive influence on somebody else. **Toby Craig**, a member of 6CR, said, 'Everyone took part and all the boys had valuable information on how to overcome challenges, making it a very current and stimulating Assembly.'

PSHE Report by Mrs McKeown, Head of SMSC & PSHE, DSL

Our theme for PSHE this week has been Health and Wellbeing with topics relating to Keeping Safe and Growing and Changing. Recognising there is advice and guidance to help keep people safe in different places and situations, as well as being able to identify some of the risks that may occur in and out of school, has been a key part of discussions for Year 3. Year 4, 5 & 6 have explored change and transition. They have looked to describe ways to express feelings at times of change, recognising the importance of treasuring and sharing memories and where to seek advice and support if needed. Year 7 & 8 have focused on keeping safe in a wide variety of situations and considered the potential outcomes of the misuse of personal information and what to do and who to speak to if they receive images or communication online that makes them worried or upset. Next week Year 3 & 4 will study people who keep us safe at school and in the wider community and Year 5, 6, 7 & 8 will be exploring healthy relationships.

Tutor Sessions Report by Mr Eaves, Head of Pastoral Care

This week during Tutor sessions, the boys had the chance to vote for the members of the School Council (Year 3 vote after half term). This links into the discussions (last week) in PSHE on democracy, which is one of our Fundamental British Values. The new School Council will be announced by Mr Doble next week. The School Council will meet throughout the year and act as a voice for the boys where they can put forward ideas to Mr Doble about different areas of school life.

Harvest Festival

We were thrilled to see so many families in attendance at the Harvest Festival in St Andrew's Church in Surbiton this morning. The boys rose beautifully to the occasion with all four choirs singing in the service. The junior choir performed a beautiful round called 'Autumn', while the Middle Choir added some spice to the service with the 'Harvest Samba'. The Senior Voices gave a moving rendition of Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World' and the SHS Singers gave a professional display of the music of John Rutter with 'Give me Wings' and the appropriate 'All things Bright and Beautiful'. Accompanied by Mr Stevenson on the piano and organ, Mr Thomas commented on the high level of choral singing at the service across the school, with the hymns being sung with gusto and energy by all.

Mrs Macallister in her address spoke about the very essence of Harvest. She said that Harvest is about preparing, gratitude and abundance; celebrations the world over, are about expressing thanks for the fruit of the land. She said that as we think of those less fortunate than ourselves, and the wonderful food donated and distributed, it is also key to think about the importance of preparing and growing, sowing seeds and harvesting - literally, in agriculture, spiritually, and in hearts and minds. It is as vital to work on our 'to be list' as our 'to do list' and prepare the ground well. Mrs Macallister said, 'As we think of the harvests we wish to reap, and the seeds we wish to sow, both at school and at home, and throughout our lives, we may wish to remember the following quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson about success.'

What is success? To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to learn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

Congratulations to all the boys who were readers during the service; you delivered your passages with poise and emotion. Our readers were:

Year 3 Readers

Oliver Hill, Ethan Luo, William Sayers and Elijah Spencer

Year 4 Readers

Adam Dizayee, Jack Doyle, Piers Parladorio and Arthur Tolson

Year 5 Readers

Jaeden Ford, Charlie Hulme, Archie Rae and Alexander Senny

Year 6 Readers

Ernie Hill, Casper Maxwell Randeria, Oliver Rees and Benjamin Stone

Year 7 Readers

Jasper Boulanger, Charles Bulman, Alex Collins and Alexander Volkov

Year 8 Readers

William Cutler, Harry Ebbans, Phoenix Kellah-Nash, Henry Turnbull, George Hennessy, Ben Moffatt and Thomas Inledon.

Congratulations to the boys' whose colourful and intricate artwork was used in the Harvest Festival programme: **Jack Webster, William Clarke, Cameron Bell, Nicholas Draper, George Hall and Ludo Hart.**

A sincere thank you to all of the families who were so generous in their donations of food. The much needed food supplies were very gratefully received by the Kingston and Elmbridge Food Banks and the Fircroft Trust and will go to help local families in need. Thank you to Mrs Gregor, Mrs Kapoor, Mrs Malet De Carteret and Mrs Kellah-Nash for organising and displaying the food in St Andrew's Church. We are similarly grateful for the donations at the end of the service which will go to the excellent work that the Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness provides to people in real need in the Kingston area.

Thank you to **Arran Blevins, Rafe Buxton, Jake Adams, Oliver Casebourne and Kiran Sagoo** for welcoming our parents and guests and for supporting the retiring collection. Finally, thank you to all of the SHS staff and wider SHS community who made this event so successful.

Artist of the Week

Congratulations to **Henry Heilpern** (Year 5) who is our first Artist of the Week for this academic year. Henry painted a beautiful harvest offering using ready mix paint on A4. Henry has captured some lovely detail and tones in his painting. A superb effort Henry. Well done!

Sports Report by Mr Davison

We track back as usual to last Friday to pick up where we left off – wishing our weekend warriors all the best for the Friday/Saturday/Sunday events. In this case, it was not just the Year 4 U9 football teams who enjoyed a competitive afternoon at King's House School (well done all!), but also the huge number of boys who participated in the Ski Racing training and trial event at Sandown Ski. Fifty boys donned boots, skis and helmets for an evening of expert tuition and time trials in an effort to gain recognition and experience for future ski race clubs and events. Two slopes, two lifts, two hours, four SHS staff, four ski instructors and a few hot chocolates – a great evening of fun and endeavour!

All the Year 5 U10 football teams availed themselves of the marvellous facilities at Almshouse Lane sports ground for matches with Northcote Lodge – just one of those great fun Saturday mornings (save for missing the Rugby World Cup match!). Well done also to the Year 4 U9A and U9B football teams who travelled to Ashted on Saturday for the Downsland School event – a wonderful opportunity for our boys to play in high quality tournament competition.

Thanks to Mr Rush for leading such a successful day for the Year 5 U10A football team at the Winchester College event, and to Mr Doble for his support on Sunday. This tournament has proved a happy hunting ground for the SHS U10A teams along the way and this year proved no exception - the boys ran out as champions having scored twenty-four goals and conceding only three! Super!

Commiserations to the senior 1st XI football team who narrowly missed out in their cup match versus Haileybury in the ISFA competition on Monday. Despite the result the boys can be very proud of running such strong opposition so close – keep going boys!

Tuesday brought one of those busy non-stop Games' days. Morning Games for the Year 3 U8 football teams with KCS – so much fun! And the afternoon offered many of the Year 6 U11 football teams the chance of friendly matches with our friends at Parkside School.

Wednesday and senior afternoon sport – every footballer in action, in seven teams with matches at Rokeby School. Another bright and successful afternoon and lovely to see (as ever) our efforts to support sports' competition for ALL boys in action. And for those not in football teams? An afternoon enjoyed on the river Thames – braving single sculls in strong wind - not for the faint of heart and only one boy swimming (following a capsized boat!).

Let's re-cap: football, skiing, rowing (not including after-school sport of fencing, table-tennis, judo, hockey and shooting!) But what else? How about a dusting of cross-country? Of course! Yesterday saw our top U11 and U13 cross-country runners make the long journey to the Kent Schools Championship at The Schools at Somerhill. Sunshine, autumn wind and brave, brave efforts by the SHS boys! Hearty congratulations to **Zachary Elliott** who secured our first ever medal at the event – securing third place in the U11 race (despite a tumble at the start!) in a field of over one hundred runners!

Yesterday saw further world-wide promotion of our awareness, understanding and desired support in maintaining mental health for ourselves, our colleagues, our pupils and our friends and family. It is fantastic that this issue continues to receive the spotlight it deserves and certainly the involvement of Harry (Prince) and Ed Sheeran will certainly help! It will come as no surprise that it is easy for me to extoll the virtues of participation in sport as an antidote to poor mental health. Evidence of this is seen, if not objectively evidenced, every day in SHS Sport. It was only yesterday that I witnessed the support shown by a team of SHS boys towards one of their peers who was experiencing some challenges – wonderfully affirming in respect of the importance of what we provide. I remain as ever in hope that the enthusiasm and benefit inherent in sports' participation is engendered in our pupils to the point of commitment to lifelong engagement.

Good luck to the Year 4 U9 football teams in action with Northcote lodge, and the Year 3 U8A and U8B teams at the KCS event (both sets play this afternoon). Big morning tomorrow as well – best wishes to ALL the Year 6 U11 and Year 5 U10 football teams taking on Northcote Lodge and Dulwich Prep respectively. I would say good luck to England for tomorrow, but weather has stopped play – if it was SHS Sport we'd have found another venue and got the game on!

Congratulations to the mysterious UK winner this week of £170million! That's a lot of money, but is he/she truly happy? Probably, at least for now! Scotland or Japan – you decide!

Teams of the Week

Very well done to all of the boys who feature in the Teams of the Week:

Team of the Week (Junior)

1. **Kevin Ruo**
2. **Harry Bunce**
3. **Simon Morris**
4. **Aiden Zhang**
5. **Angad Mohinta**
6. **Ayaz Dikmen**
7. **Jack Dickinson**
8. **Jack Wright**
9. **Jack Webster**
10. **Ben Ellis**
11. **Cameron Bell**
12. **Joseph Badenoch**
13. **Arthur Tolson**
14. **Alp Kaya**
15. **Sacha Bali**
16. **Charlie Vignon**

17. Harry Crump
18. Patrick Denham
19. Josh Barlow
20. Liam Gopal
21. Amar Shah
22. Brannon Woods
23. Luke Adams
24. Jaeden Ford
25. Luke Curle
26. Max Verdult
27. William Moore
28. Tristan Mercer

Well done to: **Jack Dickinson** (Football AND Skiing) and **Tristan Mercer** (X-Country).

Team of the Week

1. Philip Ellinghorst
2. Dilan Guganeswaran
3. Luther Dent
4. Anton Stepanek
5. Luke Morris
6. Louis Deverill
7. Johnny Hart
8. William Cutler
9. Nicholas Draper
10. Saahan Kapoor
11. Charlie Babb
12. Hari Stewart
13. Seungjae Won
14. Charlie Craig
15. Iestyn Rowe
16. Lewis Ridley-Smith
17. Ronny Dogra
18. Hugh Jacobs
19. Jack Williams
20. Oliver Rees
21. Max Stuttard
22. Zachary Elliott
23. Finn Haldane
24. Harry Duffy

Well done to: **Zachary Elliott** (X-Country), **Finn Haldane** (X-Country) and **Harry Duffy** (Skiing).

History Talk Report by Mr Smart

On Wednesday evening, we were delighted to host a History talk entitled 'Airborne Chaplains of the Second World War' which was given by historian and writer Linda Parker. This is clearly a very specialist area and came about because one Shrewsbury House Old boy, who graduated from here around 1924, was actually an Airborne Chaplain, attached to the 6th Airborne Division during this conflict. His name was Captain The Rev Walter T Ogilvy, fondly known by his peers as "Watto" or "Tully", he left here for Harrow, then went up to Oxford. Later he was ordained and when war began in 1939 he joined the Army Chaplains Department serving in Ireland and then North Africa where he was captured with the tank unit he was attached to. He was sent to an Italian POW camp, got quite ill and was repatriated to the UK where he recovered his health and retrained as an Airborne Chaplain. The one obvious thing about Airborne units is that everyone has to be trained to parachute so they can be moved together and they all have to be very fit and Ogilvy clearly managed both. He was dropped in to Normandy during D Day in June 1944, served in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and was dropped

again during the Crossing of the Rhine operation in March 1945 where sadly, despite being a non-combatant Chaplain attached to a Medical unit, he was killed by a German Sniper aged 33 years.

My previous research uncovered some of the above, but after getting in touch with Linda she very generously and selflessly shared all her research, photos and some links to our old boy and he does feature in her future book – *Nearer My God to Thee: Airborne Chaplains of the Second World War*. The book is published by Helion later this autumn.

Linda gave a very interesting and, in many places, quite moving talk about this very specialist group of Chaplains and their experiences in the war. Clearly she was very passionate and interested in this topic and enjoyed talking about it. At the end the large number of SHS boys present asked a series of technical questions about airborne troops and gliders and she handled every query as seriously as the next. At the end she said she was very impressed by the boys and their questions.

I need to thank all the boys who attended with all their amazing questions, all the parents who came along, the old boys and parents of old boys, the local residents and neighbours who attended, the Local History Association, the Regency Bookshop in Surbiton for their help and support, the visitors from the Royal Star and Garter Home and to a huge team of staff here at SHS who made this possible.

Switch and Save

Year 5 Problem Based Learning (PBL) has seen boys produce 'Switch and Save' cards to go next to light switches across the school over the past two weeks. This ties in with Eco projects, with the School's development plan under 'switch and save culture' (premises and accommodation at schools), with sustainability and also focuses on a real world problem. The boys had to use a rhetorical question or emotive language to get the message across. The signs are now up around the School to help remind staff and pupils to turn off the lights, help conserve energy and do our bit for the planet.

Outside School Achievements

I was thrilled to hear that two of our boys in Year 8 were accepted into the U13 Surrey Hockey Squad. Many congratulations to **Paul Ellinghorst** and **Max Moore**!

Well done to a group of boys who entered the All Surrey Chess Championships at Sandown Racecourse last weekend. The boys who took part were:

- **Aneesh Agrawal**
- **Ayush Agrawal**
- **Jacob Boamah**
- **Adam Dizayee**
- **Alexander Volkov**

I was delighted to hear that **Adam Dizayee** was the top Kingston player in his section and that **Alexander Volkov** was also a Prize winner. Well done to all of the boys who took part.

Congratulations to **Alexander Das Wermes** (Year 4) who took part in his first foil fencing tournament in the Leon Paul Junior Series in the U9s category last weekend. He came first in his two pools winning 3 matches out of 4 in each. He then moved on to knockout rounds and was eliminated in the 2nd round to achieve place 6th overall out of 25 fencers!

Max Aherne (Year 4) has been a part of the Rose Youth Theatre drama programme for 3 years through attending classes and summer workshops. He has been in productions including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Red Riding Hood* and *The Jungle Book*. I was delighted to hear that last weekend, at the Rose Community Awards 2019, he received an award for outstanding contribution to the Rose Theatre Under 11s group. Excellent Max!

Well done to **Arthur Tolson** (Year 4) for passing his Grade 1 Electric Guitar exam recently and I am delighted to hear that he is busy preparing for Grade 2!

Exciting news that **Kit Lockard** and **Freddie Wolff** (both in Year 7) were chosen to appear in a Screwfix Commercial for Sky Sports as part of their official sponsorship of Sky football. This was in conjunction with their football club Claygate Royals. The advert is scheduled to be aired during the Euro Cup, so keep an eye out for them!

Have a great weekend.

Kevin Doble
Headmaster