

7th December 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians

English trip

On Wednesday this week, a group of Year 12 and Year 13 students travelled to London to see the stage adaptation of Zadie Smith's novel 'White Teeth' which we are currently studying as A level coursework. Responses to the production were mixed. The challenges of compressing a 540-page novel into a 2-hour stage production are obvious, particularly when one considers the frequent time shifts which occur within the novel. Inevitably this was, at first, confusing to those students who have not yet read the novel. Equally contentious was the decision to include a number of songs to act as narrative fillers, a decision which some students disagreed with while others applauded. Despite this, the trip was worthwhile, giving Literature and Drama students alike the chance to sharpen their own critical teeth. We hope to arrange further visits to productions over the coming year.

Science

This week the A-level Biology students, along with some Year 11 Biology students, have had the opportunity to undertake a series of practical activities that demonstrate the process of DNA manipulation to produce a bio-molecule. As part of the Amgem Biotech Experience Project, students carry out restriction digestion and ligation of plasmids and analyse these using agarose gel electrophoresis, thereby experiencing real world applications for scientific research in genetic modification.

This afternoon, the Head of Education and Outreach from the Centre for Understanding Animal Research gave an informative lecture to students from Year 10 to Sixth Form on how most of the medicines we have come from animal research studies and, for many key questions in medicine and biological studies, the use of animals is crucial. The students entered into a full discussion and asked many interesting, thought provoking and challenging questions.

House Challenge

This week, the House Challenge was for the Houses to make as many legitimate words using only the letters found in the four House names. Longer words gained more points, and there was a bonus of 25 points for the longest word. Last week's winners were Kay for the 'unique number' challenge choosing three, but it was a three-way tie for second place.

Sport

Basketball

On Wednesday 5th December the Saint Felix U14 Girls Basketball team competed in the next round of the Basketball competition at home against Sir John Leman High School winning 24-22. This means they have progressed through to the next round which will be held after Christmas.

Cricket

Harry De Coteau Spring has been accepted to play in the Norfolk U15 Cricket team.

Cross Country

Brooke Oram competed in the second round of the Suffolk Cross Country Winter League at Woodbridge on Sunday 2nd December finishing 21st out of all the boys and girls in all age groups and 4th girl in her age category.

Well done to all the pupils that competed in the second round of the Suffolk Schools' County Cross Country competition on Wednesday 5th December in wet and windy conditions against the best runners in the county.

Pentathlon

Samuel Stephens has been invited to attend the English Talent Programme after his recent performance at the National Biathlon Championships in Leeds.

Rugby

On Thursday 6th December Saint Felix entertained Royal Hospital School with the final score being Saint Felix 17 - R.H.S 'B' 10

Chapel for Advent

On Thursday, we held our Advent Service of Light in the Chapel. As part of this more formal Chapel service, the choir sang two anthems and the first two candles were lit on our Advent wreath.

North Suffolk County Music Ensembles

The Concert for North Suffolk County Music Ensembles was held on Friday 30th November. Polly and Francis play with the North Suffolk Youth Concert Band. Bruce, Joanna and Emily play with the North Suffolk Youth String Ensemble.

Warm winter clothing appeal

This week a group of Sixth Form pupils took 30 bags of warm winter clothing, shoes and blankets to Haven Court, part of Access Community Trust. The pupils delivered the bags and heard about the work of Access and their different projects. Thank you to all parents and pupils who supported this initiative.

Year 9 Christmas meal

On Wednesday 5th December Year 9 enjoyed a visit to Desmonds Restaurant in Kirkley for a Christmas meal. The staff at Desmonds complimented the pupils on how polite, well-mannered and well behaved they were and said they were a credit to the staff present and the school.

Swimming

Saint Felix School attended the South East Swimming League on the weekend of 28th November for the first time this year which was held at Ipswich High School and involved eleven other schools from Suffolk and Essex, with the top six schools in each age group being selected for the final. There were some record-breaking swims in the qualifying rounds and the swimmers returned to Ipswich with high hopes and did not disappoint winning eleven of the fourteen events and again breaking another seven records.

During the weekend of 1st December, 24 Senior and 2 Prep pupils joined the squad and 35 swimmers from Saint Felix School Swimming Club travelled to Sheffield for the annual Snow Frills Long Course Open Meet, many racing in the prestigious venue of Ponds Forge, which hosts the annual National Championships for the first time. The whole team was inspired to swim fast and achieve some quality early season long-course (50m pool length) racing.

Results and photographs from both swimming events are on our website.

Upcoming events

- Sunday 9th December – Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 Christmas Dinner (7.00pm)
- Tuesday 11th December – Christmas entertainment
- Tuesday 11th December – Year 7 to Year 10 Christmas Dinner (6.30pm)
- Wednesday 12th December – Senior Department Carol Service at St Edmunds Church (2.30pm)
- Wednesday 12th December – Last day of term
- Sunday 6th January 2019 – Boarders return
- Monday 7th January 2019 – School term commences

(Please view the calendar on our website for events www.stfelix.co.uk/calendar/autumn-term-2018/)

Mr James Harrison
Headmaster