

5th April 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians

I am sad to announce that at the end of the summer term 2019, Mrs Sue Duckett, Head of Pre-Prep, will be retiring after 21 years' service at Saint Felix. Sue started as the Reception Teacher in 1998 and has gone on to teach over 300 Saint Felix children since then. I have successfully managed to convince her to reconsider retirement for the last couple of years but, on this occasion, even my heartfelt entreaties and best rhetoric has failed; Sue has a grandchild now and has rightly earned her retirement from active classroom service. From my point of view, as a Headmaster as well as a parent of a child who was once in her class, Sue is the epitome of what a teacher should be: kind, knowledgeable, committed, reflective and passionate about seeing all her pupils develop.

She has taught so many pupils in Senior and Clough and I make this announcement so that the whole school can join me in thanking her for her long and dedicated service to this school. I shall be making the appointment of a new Head of Pre-Prep after the Easter break.

Staff vs Sixth Form Football

I was very pleased to represent Saint Felix staff football team on Wednesday afternoon for the annual Staff v Sixth Form football match. I never get tired of seeing the annoyance in the faces of the Sixth Formers whenever I score a goal! The staff team were victorious, beating the Sixth Form 5-2, with goals scored by Mr Barlow, Mr Collis and Mr Laughland and myself. During the last fifteen years the staff team have beaten the Sixth Form students thirteen times.

Spelling Bee

The annual Spelling Bee was held in Gardiner Hall on Wednesday 3rd April and, once again, the Senior Department gathered to witness students from Years 7 to Year 13 compete for the prestigious prize of champion speller in their Key Stage. Lola Marsden triumphed for Key Stage 3, Lily Ellard for Key Stage 4 and Lily Talbot for Key Stage 5.

The captive audience played their part, generating an electric atmosphere while remaining respectful to contestants at all times. We now hope that all students will take their new-found enthusiasm for spelling with them into the new term.

Key Stage 3 book club

The English Department are starting a lunchtime book club for students in Years 7 and 8. We will meet on a Wednesday at 12.45pm in the library. Students will be expected to read the book in their own time, a few chapters a week, and then will discuss what they have read in the club each week.

We will start with reading 'The Boy at the back of the class' by Onjali Q Rauf, the story of a Syrian refugee called Ahmet and his four classmates who pledge to help him find his parents who have been 'lost' somewhere on the journey across mainland Europe. Aimed at readers aged 10-13, this is a beautiful book that all ages can enjoy. It raises many issues about the plight of refugees, as well as exploring the timeless themes of friendship, loyalty and doing the right thing.

All students in Years 7 and 8 are welcome. If your child would like to join we recommend that they get a copy of the novel and start reading it over the Easter holidays. We will begin the club on the Wednesday 24th April.

Book club

The Saint Felix book club meets on Wednesday 24th April at 4.45pm to discuss Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*, a witty and ironic view of New York in the late 19th century. A satirical portrait of a society in flux and one of the great love stories, this will delight fans of Jane Austen and Henry James. We hope to see you there.

Equestrian

The Equestrian Team had a very successful trip to Forest Edge Arena on Saturday 30th March for the National Schools Equestrian Association Eventers Challenge qualifiers.

Charlie Macmillan, Flora Macmillan, Louisa Everett and Jack Wilmot as a team were 4th in 70cm. A superb win for the 80cm team of Quim Cardona Carne, Laia Cardona Carne, Louisa Everett and Jack Wilmot. Nathaniel Hurst, Jack Wilmot, Katie Hammett and Flora Macmillan finished 2nd in the 90cm. The 1m team of Jack Wilmot, Nathaniel Hurst and Katie Hammett qualified for 3 finals at The All England Jumping Course, Hickstead NSEA Eventers Challenge Champs in May.

Sport

Football

On Thursday 28th March, the U15 Football team travelled to St Joseph's College for their final game of the season. They came across a team packed with Ipswich Academy players but due to great teamwork and hard work Saint Felix made it a competitive fixture only losing 3-2 to a last minute goal.

Golf

Well done to Ben Newman and Jessica Buck have been chosen to represent Suffolk at the South East of England Schools' Championships at Flackwell Heath G.C, Buckinghamshire on Thursday 30th & Friday 31st May.

Upcoming events

➤ Tuesday 23rd April – Return to school

Mr James Harrison
Headmaster