



Dates for the Diary

JAN

Mon 5 Term begins for pupils
AS and A2 exams begin
Head's Surgery 6pm (by appointment)

Mon 12 Y11 Parents' Evening 4-6pm

Thur 22 Y9 Parents' Evening 4-6pm

Mon 26 'Poetry Live' Victoria Hall
Stoke-On - Trent Yr 10/11/VI Form all day

Tue 27 Y10 and VI Form Parents' Evening
4-6pm
Year 7 Reports

FEB

Mon 2 Head's Surgery 6pm (by appointment)

Wed 4 ISA Midlands Junior /Senior Cross
Country Championships, Bedstone
College

Thur 5 UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Thur 12 Prep Reports

Fri 13 Staff Inset Day

13-20 (inclusive) HALF TERM

Mon 23 School Opens

Wed 25 Ash Wednesday Mass 11.30am
U11/U13 ISA Midlands Netball
Y8 Parents' Evening 4-6pm

CAR PARKING ON STATION ROAD

Please be advised that the school has received a number of complaints from residents and pedestrians regarding parking on Station Road. For the safety of pedestrians and fellow motorists, as well as complying with The Highway Code, could you please ensure that if you park on Station Road, drives are not blocked, cars are not parked on the pavements or on the yellow road markings and cars are not parked opposite or within 10 metres of a junction. Finally, to keep all pedestrians in site safe, cones have been sited in the School Car Park to prevent parking on and near the path. For safety reasons therefore, please do not park in this area.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

As an incredibly busy term comes to an end, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas. Make the blessings of this special time come into our homes and our hearts and inspire us towards being the best that we can be in 2009.

Mrs Pat Adamson

Prep School Christmas Concert

Last week was a busy week for the Prep Department. On Wednesday, children and pupils from local Nurseries and First Schools came to watch the Dress Rehearsals of our Nativity and Hansel and Gretel productions respectively. The children went on to perform to a full house on Friday afternoon. Over 220 guests, including The Mayor and Mayoress of Stone, thoroughly enjoyed the performances. Mrs Adamson summed up the afternoon when she said that, 'the performances were absolutely fantastic,' and thanked all of the staff and children involved for their hard



Scarlett Caine, Sophie Roberts, Saskia Cummings and Meera Ram

work. A collection was taken for Katharine House Hospice which raised £305.

Senior Festival a Roaring Success



Members of the Senior Choir

Parents and guests, both young and old, thoroughly enjoyed the Senior Festival of Carols and Readings, held in St. Dominic's Church. The Audience were spellbound at the breadth of talent and prayerful nature of the occasion.

Stephi Walters and Lucy Carroll on Percussion



The Famous Five go to the Palace

On November 6th "The Famous Five" – Sarah Harding, Stephanie Hughes, Amy Leighton,



Antonia Milner and Rachel Tabernor, members of last year's UVI – had the pleasure of attending St James's Palace, for the presentation of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Prince Edward chatted informally to the group prior to the presentation of the certificates by Tom Levitt, MP for High Peak and chair of the All Party Group on the Community and Voluntary Sector.

Last Chance to grab a School Calendar

Pupils from Primary 6 to Year 9 took part in a Calendar Designing competition organised by Mrs Dunk. They used knowledge and skills learnt during their ICT lessons. The winning design was chosen by Mrs Adamson and Mr Soar. The winning team consisted of Sarah Wright and Fiona Sellers from Primary 6, who each won a £5 Book Token. Runners up were Louise Chambers (Y8), Sophie Tasker (Y8), Lucy Talbot (y8) and Hannah Sutherland (y7).

If you would like to purchase a calendar please contact the school office.

'Open Sesame!'

Years 7, 8 and 9 recently visited the New Victoria Theatre to see the 'Arabian Nights' production. Holly Morgan (Y9) was a member of the cast, which made the production extra special.

Arabian Nights is full of enchanting tales of magic and adventure: *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, *Sinbad the Sailor*, *The Little Beggars* and more of the classic stories. This captivating production was colourful and entertaining, an excellent basis for class discussion of theatre techniques and drama.



Availability

For all of those budding sportsmen out there who are looking for an indoor venue, the school Tennis Centre is available for booking most evenings during the week. Please note that there is a substantial reduction in rates for those with Parent Membership.

For more information please contact Celia Clewlow.
tel: 01785 818664
e-mail: cm.adams@virgin.net

POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS



Recently members of the Year 8 and Year 9 literacy support groups entered a poetry competition called, 'The Big Green Poetry Machine.' The competition was organised by Young Writers, a publishing company for young

writers. Each student had to compose a poem relating to environmental issues such as recycling, global warming, protecting the habitat of animals and plants and how everyone can make a difference and help protect the planet. The following have had their work selected for



publication in 'A World of Difference—verses from the Midlands' which will be published on 28th February 2008 — Olivia Gardiner, Charlie Urban, Emily McHugh, Lauren Bathew, Pippa Urquhart, Lucy Evans, Cleo Buckley, Maki Ozawa, Lucy Hulme, Sarah Healings, Eden Atkinson, Sally Latham, Emma Cork and Megan Baskeyfield.

Newman win the 15th House Public Speaking

On November 11th after the two minutes Remembrance Day commemorative silence in the Priory Hall the annual House Public Speaking Competition took place. This is the fifteenth year of the event and involved members of years 7, 8 and 9.

Representing Barberi were Susie Francis, Amy Champ, and Sarah Whittaker. Representing Hallahan were Hollie Stow, Lauren Horton and Katy Francis. Newman's speakers were Eve Phillips, Bryony Fagan and Caroline Furey. For Ullathorne were Sarah Lymer, Jessica Kennerley and Olivia Gardiner. A variety of topics included: 'Not in my back yard...!', 'Charities' and 'The best things in life are free.' Andrea Terallis was the timekeeper. The winning house was Newman and the best individual speaker was Caroline Furey. The judges, Mrs Harp, Mrs Smith and Mrs Titley were greatly impressed by the quality of the speeches and by the good spirits of Lauren and Sarah who stood in at the last minute.

Making Learning Relevant

As part of their studies in Citizenship and preparation for GCSE English 'Speaking and Listening' assessments, early in December, Mrs Betty Titley came to address Y11 about her voluntary work in supporting local charities. She began by outlining the nature of charity and its history in religion and society. This led on to her description of the work she does for Home Start and The Stone Stroke Association. There was a discussion of other charitable organisations which included Sight Savers and The National Trust. Mrs Titley's personal experiences made her talk vivid and interesting and it was much enjoyed by the students. The information and handout will be very useful in curriculum preparation for 'Speaking and Listening' presentations.

Taking a trip down Memory Lane

Primary 5 and 6 recently enjoyed a trip to the Black Country Museum where historic buildings from all around the Black Country have been authentically rebuilt, to create a tribute to the traditional skills and enterprise of the people that once lived in the heart of industrial Britain.

They were transported back in time by electric tramcars and trolleybuses from the modern exhibition halls to the canal-side village, where costumed demonstrators and working craftsmen brought the buildings to life with their local knowledge, practical skills and unique Black Country humour.

The Black Country is the industrial region to the west of, and separate from, Birmingham. It gained its name in the mid nineteenth century due to the smoke from the many thousands of iron working foundries and forges.

The region was described as 'Black by day and red by night' by Elihu Burritt, the American Consul to Birmingham in 1862 and other authors, from Dickens to Shenstone, refer to the intensity of manufacturing in the Black Country and its effect on the landscape and its people.

Celine Heraty, Zara Isted, Fiona Sellers and Lauren Brown enjoying their school trip



Making learning Fun



Reception, Primary 1 and 2 took part in workshops held at The Potteries Museum and Art gallery. The tours, workshops and resources have been carefully developed to inspire, involve and motivate children. Reception enjoyed learning about different nocturnal animals such as the hedgehog, fox and badger. While Primary 1 and 2 were busy looking at moving toys and making their own puppets.

School Disco a great Success

The latest School Disco, organised by the PFA, raised a whopping £130 for the Barnardo's Charity. The Disco, which had an ABBA theme was attended by all ages. The money will go towards supporting Barnardo projects in the Midlands area including Stafford. As one of the UK's leading children's charities, Barnardo's works directly with over 100,000 children, young people and their families every year. They run 394 vital projects across the UK. Each Barnardo's project is different but they all believe that every young person, no matter who they are, what they have done or what they have been through, has the potential to be the best that they can be.



Julie Woods from Barnados presents a certificate to Zara Isted and Holly Machin with Primary 5 teacher Miss Davies and Mrs Champ, Chair of the PFA



A Good Friend by Lucy Hodgson. Primary 6

Friends stay through thick and thin.

They will always share.

Friends will never be jealous.

Friends will always care.

If they had some yummy sweets,

There'll always give you the most.

A good friend will always tell the truth.

And will never ever boast.

Friends are never bad,

Friends are kind and sweet.

They will always play with you,

And don't ever cheat.

Good friends cheer you up,

When you are feeling low,

A friend is wise and cool,

And will never ever go.

Get Fit in the New Year

If you would like to take up Exercise and Get Fit and Toned in the New Year - Ann Alston runs 2 classes in St. Dominics Priory Hall on a Monday Evening - Pilates class (for Core Stability) from 7 - 8pm and Aerobic Dance Fitness class from 8 - 9pm. Classes re-start Monday Jan 5th - Beginners welcome.

There is also a Tuesday lunchtime Aerobics session for Senior Girls.

For further details ring Ann on 01785 814842"

'BLACK AND WHITE'

Young Enterprise—by Abbie Swift

As we began the Lower Sixth, we were told about a business education scheme that we could take part in called Young Enterprise. After hearing how this would help us to grow as people and business women, all 7 of us decided to seize the opportunity to take part. Taking part in Young Enterprise has become a tradition at St. Dominic's in Lower Sixth and after chatting with last year participants at our school we became more eager than ever to take part. Just a week later, we had our first meeting with the advisors with whom we would be working with throughout our business venture.

John Sayer and Tim Abbott were both very welcoming and explained to us what our participation in Young Enterprise would involve. We set the day of a weekly meeting so that we could meet up with our advisors within school to share our progressions and in case we needed any advice.



Abbie Swift and Helen Hayward at the Christmas Fayre

The first thing we had to do as a group was agree on job titles. In order to work these out, we sat as a group and focussed on the qualities of each member. Being such a select group has enabled us to really get to know each other; therefore this was not such a quandary. We had a group discussion where we concentrated on each others' virtues and in order to make a fair decision, we had an anonymous vote to decide on the main posts. The Managing Director was to be Helen Hayward; Company Secretary, Abbie Swift; Marketing Director, Hannah Wakefield; Finance Director, Abigail Price; Operations Director, Emma Roberts; Sales Director, Stephanie Edge; and the IT Director, Lauren Tucker.

Now we were left with the small matter of actually choosing a product for our business! After several meetings and hours of in-depth discussions we narrowed it down to two products that would be professional, accessible and would target a variety of different markets. With some members of our team having contacts with suppliers, we decided to focus on personalised coasters and glasses.

We thought that both products had great potential and we began our market research to decide on a final product. Originally we intended to offer both products, however after our market research had been carried out, we decided that personalising glasses would be time-consuming and demanding and therefore decided to focus upon coasters. After researching costs and suppliers, we got started on producing our product. With the Christmas market fast approaching – we had to get a move on as this would be one of our most important target markets of the year! To begin with we all got to work selling shares in order to get a cash flow rolling, and began to produce our coasters. One of our main challenges so far has been setting up a bank account and learning about how finance works within a company. We decided to put our share money securely into the bank. This was certainly a learning curve for us all as we learned the best way to handle our company finances!

Our first withdrawal was made in order to purchase coaster casings from a supplier. Letting go of such a large amount of money was slightly challenging at first as we were wary of whether we had made the right decision, but it was necessary in order to start producing our final products. Before we knew it, it was time for our first event and selling opportunity. On Thursday 20th November we attended the Christmas Lights switch-on in Stone High Street where we set-up a stall. This day was one of our busiest and most tense so far, as there were concerns over whether our products would sell and making sure that all the necessary information was put into place. After the school day we arrived at the High Street with plenty of time to spare in order to produce a professional and sophisticated looking stall.

Emma Roberts and Abigail Price at Stone High Street



The night was a huge success as we sold a large number of coasters and we exceeded all of our expectations! The event was definitely the most pivotal moment in the running of our business so far, as we were given a huge confidence boost as we saw our coasters flying off the stall and money flowing into the till! On this night, we all learned a lot about each other as we were forced into an intense team situation, however the whole event was a very positive experience and we all came away with a large grin on our faces and a lot of knowledge about the busy world of work! For the first time, we really felt like a group of directors who really had control of a real life company!