



SCHOOL NEWS

MARCH 2009

Dates for the Diary

Apr

- 1 Wed Stations of the Cross 2.30pm
TERMS ENDS 3.30PM
- 20 Mon Staff Inset Day
- 21 Tue Term begins for Pupils (Week 1)
- 24 Fri Whole School Assembly
PFA Disco
A Level Exams begin
- 27 Mon PFA Bags2school Collection
Head's Surgery 6pm (by appointment)
- 29 Wed Founder's Day Mass, 11.30am in Church
- 30 Thu UKMT Junior Maths Challenge Y7/Y8

May

- 4 Mon **MAY DAY HOLIDAY**
- 5 Tue GCSE exams begin
U15/U17 Athletics District Championships, Rowley Park
- 11 Mon Head's Surgery 6pm (by appointment)
- 12 Tue Y3/Y4 and Y10 to Ironbridge
Y9 trip to ABB
- 16 Sat **Open Morning 10am–12.30pm**
Old Dominican's Reunion 1.30pm
- 18-22 Year 10 Work Experience Week
- 20 Wed 1st Holy Communion Mass 1.45pm
- 25–29 (inclusive) **HALF TERM**

Jun

- 1 Mon Head's Surgery 6pm (by appointment)
- 2 and 4 Individual photographs, Nursery, Prep School and Y7, 8 and 9

Library Poster Competition

This is the winning entry from Lucy Cunningham Y7.



Message from Mrs Adamson

Another busy term has come to an end with sporting success and yet another wonderful school production. 'Oliver' lived up to all our expectations and in fact, exceeded them. Well done to all involved.

May I take this opportunity to welcome Kyra Kaur, Christina Calleja, Hugo Caine, Olivia Hearing, Sophia Keeling, Isabella Dobson, Eleanor Grattage, Lily Morrell and Natasha Roberts who have all recently joined us, or will be joining us after the Easter break.

I wish all our students a restful Easter but remind them to begin preparing for next term which will bring both public and school examinations.

Wishing you all a happy and holy Easter.

Mrs P Adamson

Viking Day

Children from St. Dominic's Primary School joined our Prep department for a Viking Day. Everyone entered into the spirit of the day by dressing as Vikings. The pupils learnt about the traditional Viking way of life and had the opportunity to experience an authentic Viking Lunch complete with Barley soup and Blueberry rolls.



Evie Scholes as a Viking warrior



A new approach to school lunch

A replica Viking Longboat

Damian Drooth - Supersleuth, 'Undercover' at School

Barbara Mitchelhill, local author of the Damian Drooth stories, presented her latest Damian Drooth novel which has been dedicated to St. Dominic's Priory School.

Having recently opened the refurbished Prep School Library, local children's author, Barbara Mitchelhill, made a return visit to the school to present her latest novel, 'Damian Drooth, Supersleuth: Under Cover' to the Prep Library. As part of the school's activities for World Book Day. Barbara, who has been writing children's novels for over 20 years, spent the morning reading from her latest novel, which has been dedicated to the school, and discussed the process of writing books with pupils from the Prep School. It was a particularly exciting day for one youngster, Ella Hearing, who celebrated her birthday on the same day.



Barbara Mitchellhill reading to Raphaella Sheldon, Reception

Catenian Public Speaking Competition

Earlier this month Helen Hayward, Y12, took part in the Catenian Annual Public Speaking Contest at the Solihull Arts Complex. She was competing against 12 other students from Midland Catholic schools with Sixth Forms. The contestants were judged on a 4 minute presentation and Helen's topic was "The pen is mightier than the sword". This is a prestigious competition and gave Helen a good opportunity to develop her public speaking skills. Helen performed well and was awarded a certificate and £20 worth of book tokens.

Music Results

Victoria Jenkinson Y8, Grade 1 Piano with Distinction. Amy Champ Y8 Grade 1 Drumkit with Merit. Ellie Spratt Y9, Grade 2 Drumkit with Merit.

Newcastle Festival of Speech and Drama 2009

Prose Reading 9-10yrs— Fiona Sellers (P6) 1st, Katie Lovewell (P6) 3rd. **Verse Speaking 7yrs**—Evie Scholes (P3) 1st, Natasha Carter - Motley (P3) 3rd. **Verse Speaking 11-12yrs**—Eve Phillips (Y7) 2nd. **Solo Drama 9-10yrs**—Fiona Sellers (P6) 2nd. Other girls that took part and performed well were:

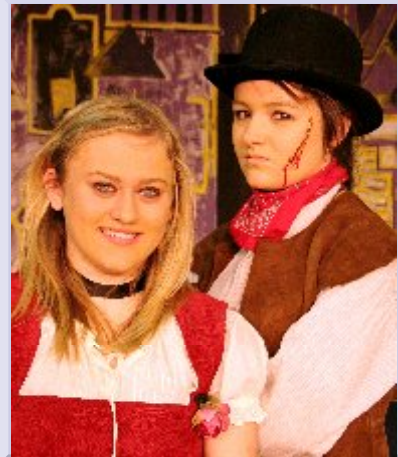
Harriet Stone (P3), Eleanor Gardiner (P4), Lucy Worthington (P3), Hollie Stow (Y7), Harriet Mauger (Y7), Ashleigh Davies (P4), Caroline Furey (Y9) and Elyse Mauger (Y9).

'Please Sir – can I have some more?'



These immortal words were uttered by Pollyanna Stone at this year's production. After many hours of intensive rehearsals, 'Oliver', this classic rags to riches tale promised to rival any West End production, particularly in the enthusiasm of its young cast of students aged from 7 to 18. Under the Directorship of Miss Lynch, Mrs Dickson and Miss Sawyer, students mastered their roles. Pollyanna Stone as

the meek and mild Oliver, Alice Costello as the despicable Fagin, Rachel Chambers as the wretched Bill Sykes and Lauren Haynes as the ill-fated Nancy. Following a very successful Dress Rehearsal, when over 200 local school children came to enjoy the show, the evening performances on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th



March, were complete sell-outs! As one small boy exclaimed, 'Wow, it's even better than the film!'



From top left to right Pollyanna Stone as Oliver, Lauren Haynes as Nancy, Rachel Chambers as Bill Sykes, a selection of Senior Girls as Senior Chorus and Prep Girls as Street Urchins.



Sports News

Cross Country

Pictured are some of the girls that competed in the Midlands Cross Country Championships at Bedstone College, Bucknell, Shropshire. The Prep team finished in fourth position, with fine individual performances from Katie Lovewell 9th and Daisie Mierau 10th, both qualifying for the National Championships. Louise Chambers was 12th in the U14 race and Caroline Furey 14th in the U16 race, both just missing out on a place at the Nationals.



The Prep school competing in the Stafford and District Primary and Middle School League have produced a very good set of results over a series of four races. Twenty schools took part, many much larger than ourselves. In a very competitive League we were third after the second race, but most unfortunately were without Katie Lovewell in the third race due to illness and as a result dropped back to sixth place overall. Katie had finished 5th in the first



two races and was our leading runner. On Katie's return for the fourth and final race we registered an improved score and just missed out on the medals in finishing fourth overall. Racing for St. Dominic's were Katie Lovewell, Celine Heraty, Zara Isted, Leonie Grant and Sarah Wright (P6), Daisie Mierau, Lauren Charlton, Stephanie Else and Georgia Dunford-Jones (P4), Amy Charlton, Jessica Champ and Amalia Phillips (P3).

Katie Lovewell (Yr 6) and Daisie Mierau (Yr 4) were selected to represent the Midlands team at the U12 National Championships at Princethorpe College, near Rugby, having finished in the top ten at the Midlands Championships. After a difficult start and in tough conditions Daisie finished 45th and Katie 47th. Well done to both girls on their first experience at National level.



The day was made memorable for both girls by having a chat, an autograph and their photo taken with Sally Gunnell, a past GB Olympic Gold medallist and World record holder in the 400m hurdles.

The school inter house race saw children from P3 to P6 competing against one another. Ullathorne and Barberi house were joint Team Champions this time with Katie Lovewell taking the Individual honours.

Well done runners on all your achievements!

Netball

The U16 team playing some determined and impressive netball, reached the semi-finals of the National Independent Schools Tournament held at Rugby School in March, losing out to Kingsley School from Devon.

Closer to home they finished as Runners Up to Walton High in the District Tournament. Congratulations to the squad, Jessica Mierau (Capt), Gill Anderson, Jourdan Atkinson, Zoe Groom, Sammi Walters, Eleanor Davies, Aimee Hawkins, Josie Hulme, Niamh Murphy and Bethany Price.

The U16s have also beaten St. Dominic's Brewood 9-5 and lost 12-7 to Walton High.

The U13 netball squad travelled to Cheltenham in February to compete in the ISA Midlands Netball Tournament. On a bitterly cold day the girls finished as semi finalists. The Stafford & District tournament also saw them reach the semi final stage.

The U13s have also beaten St. Dominic's Brewood 10-2, Christchurch Middle 24-0, lost 8-7 to Walton High and beat Walton Priory 10-1.

Recent match results for the U12s have seen them beat Walton Priory 9-0, Penkridge 9-4 and St. Dominic's Brewood 7-5. In the House netball Hallahan won both the Senior and Junior competition.



Giant 6m Red Nose raises money for Comic Relief

Over £830 was raised on Red Nose Day, bringing the total raised by our school for charity so far this year to well over £2000 .

As part of the fund raising events for Comic Relief's Red Nose Day 2009, the school held a Fashion Show, sold cakes, biscuits and Red Nose bookmarks, dressed in red and joined together to make a giant Red Nose, which measured 6200mm wide. The winning estimate came from Mr. Jim Charlton who guessed 6197mm. Mrs Adamson said, 'This is a tremendous achievement, the whole school has had lots of fun supporting a worthwhile cause while raising such a large sum of money.' When asked was this truly the biggest Human Red Nose in Staffordshire, Mrs Adamson simply replied, 'I've certainly not seen a bigger one!'



Ready, Steady, Bike



P6 improving their cycling skills

Bikeability is the latest Cycling Proficiency test, designed to give children the skills and confidence to ride their bikes on today's roads. In order to receive their awards, children have to participate in the Government approved National Standard for Cycle Training which was launched in Staffordshire last year. It was the turn of our current Year 6 students to participate in the Staffordshire County Council run course last week.

Learning the importance of Education

Year 11 and the Sixth Form attended a talk by Rita Langton earlier this month about the importance of Education. Rita is currently studying for a Doctorate at Keele University and is involved in the training of teachers and social workers on issues of child protection. After her presentation Rita and the A Level Sociologists discussed how Sociology can relate to real life situations in the workplace. It is hoped that Rita will be able to join the school again in the future to share more of her experiences on a number of sociological issues such as, 'the family', and 'education', topics that are on the current AS specification, and are also part of the Sixth Form Enrichment Programme here at St. Dominic's.

Filming for the BBC

Watch out for budding new star Emilia Harker who will be appearing in an edition of the BBC's 'Magic Grandad' which was recently filmed at Shugborough. Although it was a bitterly cold day, Emilia enjoyed playing the part of an Edwardian young lady. The programme is to be aired in April or May of this year.

Poetry Writing Success

Three members of the school have won top prizes in the Stafford District Libraries and Stafford District Arts Council under 16s poetry competition . There were more than 80 entries all of a 'very high standard' but Emma Davies (Y8) won first prize for her poem called 'Pig'. Sarah Lymer (Y7) came second with 'The Whistling River' and Gill Anderson (Y11) came third with 'The Stars'. The judges said 'we have all been astonished by the brilliant use of language and the imagination of the poems.' The English Department is currently compiling a collection of poetry written by our pupils. More news about this next term.