

School News Exam Results Special



ST. DOMINIC'S
PRIORY SCHOOL

Sept 2008 – Edition 1

Dates for the Diary

SEPT 2008	
Tue 23	U14 District Netball festival, SSC
Thur 25	U13 District Netball Festival, Penkridge
Sat 27	Open Morning, 10am-12.30pm Compulsory attendance for the whole school
Mon 29	Healthy Food Week begins
Tue 30	Whole School Photograph—Winter uniform U12 District Netball Festival
OCT	
1-3	Healthy Food Week
Wed 1	Senior Harvest Mass 11.30am Prep Harvest Service 2.30pm
Fri 3	PFA Junior and Senior Disco
Mon 6	Head's Surgery 6pm (by appointment)
Tue 7	U16 Netball Tournament, SSC
Wed 8	Team-Building Day Yr11 and VI Form Senior Cross Country Relays 4.30pm
Thu 9	Prospective VI Form Open Evening
Wed 15	Senior Cross Country Relays, Weston Road
Thur 16	U12 District Netball Festival
Tue 21	U14 District Netball Festival, Walton
Wed 22	Cross Country District Championships
Thur 23	U13 District Netball Festival, Penkridge
Fri 24	Senior School Interim Reports
SCHOOL BREAKS UP FOR HALF TERM, 27th OCT—3rd NOV inclusive	
NOV	
Mon 3	Staff Inset Day

Do you have any news??

If you would like to share any news that you have with the school community via the School News then please e-mail: marketing@st-dominicspriory.staffs.sch.uk

'Welcome back'

Our new term has got off to a busy start as we welcome Mr. Soar, Mr. Booth and Miss Davies to our teaching staff and Mrs Curnick to our school office. We also welcome Ben Barber, Olivia Cummings, Storm Murray, Hugo Plant, Daisy Pountney, Megan Upright, Dominic Weaver, Freya Wedgwood, who are new to Nursery, Emily Kidner, Katy Sizer, Hannah Sutherland and Sophie Walker who have joined us in Y7, and Holly Morgan, Sharmine Miah and Amy Plant who have joined us in Y9. August saw great delight once again at our examination results which you can read about in this newsletter. Suffice to say that we were all delighted and our best wishes go to all our students especially those that are enrolling at University later this month. Finally I look forward to working closely with you all this year so as to ensure the best possible learning experience for your children.



Pat Adamson

No. 1 in Staffordshire for exam results



Antonia, Alice and Phillipa on results day

It's official, St Dominic's Priory is one of the leading Independent Schools in the country. Following this year's A Level results, when our girls achieved 100% pass rate with 75% of all grades awarded being A-B and a staggering 87% of all students achieving passes in 4 A Levels, the Daily Telegraph placed us 14th best performing Small Independent School, as well as out performing all of the other Independent Schools in Staffordshire.

Head Girl, Antonia Milner, achieved an outstanding 4 grade A's at A Level. Antonia was an active member of the school community who while managing her commitments as Head Girl, also achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award during her time in the Sixth Form. Antonia aims to study Fine Art having first completed an Art Foundation course.

Hot on Antonia's heels were Alice Chatburn and Phillipa Slingsby who both achieved 3 A's and a B at A Level. Alice, who joined St Dominic's Priory School in the Sixth Form having previously studied at Madeley School, intends to continue her studies in Education and Sociology at Durham University while Phillipa is planning to study Medicine at Birmingham. Jessica Stubbs also gained a Distinction in the Advanced Extension Award for English which is the equivalent of an A* at A level.

Mrs Adamson said, 'The exam success of our girls shows that we can add value to a student's educational experience whether they have been with us for their entire school life or just for the Sixth Form. I am absolutely delighted for all our girls. St Dominic's Priory has provided the key for them to open the door to their chosen career paths, and I wish them all every success in the future.'

Not to be outdone, our GCSE results were also impressive with 100% pass rate across the board. Half of all students who took this year's exams gained an outstanding 10 or more GCSE's. Mrs Adamson continued, 'I am delighted with this year's GCSE results. We have students with a range of abilities, who have all worked hard over the last two years, to deliver impressive results that they can feel proud of. As they continue their education in our Sixth Form, I feel confident that they will build upon the strong foundations laid at GCSE.'

Full details of this years exam results are contained overleaf.

Don't forget **Open Day**—27th September from 10-12.30pm

A Level Results 2008

Name	Subject, University Destination and Course					
C Atkinson	G*	GS*	So	Tex		Newcastle College Foundation in Art and Design
A Chatburn	EL	H*	GS	Ps	So	University of Durham Education and Sociology
M Edwards	GS	Mu	Ps	So		Derby University Criminology and Sociology
C Godon	A	G*	GS	I	Ps	Newcastle College Art Foundation Art
S Harding	A	EL	Tex			Newcastle College Foundation in Art and Design
S Hughes	A	B*	BS	GS	Ps	Keele University Business and Media
A Keats	EL	F	GS	Ps		Manchester Metropolitan French
I Lee	A	BS	GS	M		Newman University Key Stage 2/3 with ICT
A Leighton	BS	G*	GS	So	Tex	Aston University Business and Sociology
H Matthews	G	GS	H	M	Ph*	Harper Adams Rural Enterprise and Land Management
A Milner	A	EL	GS	H	M*	Newcastle College Art Foundation
E Parton	EL	GS	So	Tex		Nottingham Trent University Textiles
P Slingsby	B	C	GS	H*	M	University of Birmingham Medicine
J Stubbs	B*	EL	GS	I	RS	Warwick University Italian
R Tabbernor	BS	F	G	GS	I*	Nottingham University Management Studies with French

Key: GS—General Studies, Ps—Psychology, So—Sociology, BS—Business Studies, RS—Religious Studies, A—Art, Tex—Textiles, EL—English Language, I—Italian, H—History, M—Maths, B—Biology, C—Chemistry, F—French, Mu—Music, G—Geography

* - Denotes an AS award



GCSE Results 2008

Name	No of GCSE Achieved	No. of GCSE's A* - C
S Attwood	10	10
A Banks	10	10
D Blackburn	8	4
N Chan	9	9
E Costello	9	3
E Davis	10	10
S Edge	10	7
E Green	9	8
H Hayward	10	10
M Heath	10	9
V Kell	11	9
E Lewis	9	7
A Price	10	10
A Robb	8	5
E Roberts	10	10
A Swift	9	9
L Tucker	10	10
H Wakefield	9	3
E Whitfield	9	7



Some of last year's Y11 receiving their GCSE results

Speech and Drama goes from Strength to Strength

Not only have our students excelled in A levels and GCSE's this year they have again produced exceptional results in the latest Speech and Drama exams. Miss Sawyer, Speech and Drama teacher, said: 'These results are a credit to the girls who have worked so hard to achieve their very best in this area.' Interestingly, Miss Sawyer has just returned from performing a 2 week run at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival playing Mrs Robinson in Blue Dye's Productions' The Graduate, which was directed by Old Girl, Kate Shenton.

Senior School

Emilia Harker	Grade 1 Acting	Distinction
Harriet Mauger	Grade 1 Acting	Distinction
Hollie Stow	Grade 1 Public Speak-	Merit
Eve Phillips	Grade 1 Acting	Distinction
Emma Scholes	Grade 2 Verse and	Distinction

Prep School

Siena Elsby-Smith	Preparatory	Distinction
Rhianna Warnes	Preparatory	Merit
Evie Scholes	Preparatory	Merit
Harriet Stone	Preparatory	Distinction
Lucy Worthington	Preparatory	Distinction
Amalia Phillips	Preparatory	Pass
Amy Charlton	Preparatory	Distinction
Brittany Cartwright	Grade 1 Verse and Prose	Distinction
Lucy Naylor	Entry	Distinction
Holly Packman	Entry	Distinction
Emilia Wyatt	Entry	Distinction

Emma Hall	Grade 1 Acting	Merit
Giulia Landi	Grade 1 Acting	Merit
Rachel Chambers	Grade 4 Acting	Pass
Eleanor Davies	Grade 4 Acting	Merit
Victoria Burton	Grade 5 Acting	Merit
Emma Webster	Grade 7 Acting/Silver	Pass
Andrea Terallis	Grade 7 Acting/Silver	Merit
Antonia Milner	Grade 7 Acting/ Silver	Distinction
Courtney Atkinson	Grade 8 Acting/Gold	Merit
Harriet Matthews	Grade 8 Verse and Prose/Gold Medal	Distinction

Introducing the new Deputy Head—Mr Soar

With Mrs Adamson being promoted to the post of Headteacher, a vacancy became available for Deputy Head. After searching hard for the right candidate, the school is proud to announce that Mr Nick Soar has gladly decided to join the school to fill this post. Originally born in Stoke on Trent, Mr Soar gained a First Class Honours Degree in English Literature and Geography at Keele University and then spent two summers near Krakow in Poland teaching English as a foreign language to 8-21 year olds and adult teachers of English. It was here that he first realised the love of teaching, explaining prepositions and tenses using baseballs, darts and bread rolls!

Having trained in London at Roehampton Institute, his first taste of teaching was at Ibstock Place, a 3-18 independent school near Richmond Park, where he enjoyed helping put on plays such as Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Schaeffer's *Royal Hunt of the Sun* and the Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle*. From 1998—2006, Mr Soar then went on to be Head of English at Pangbourne College, where he led the department that enabled the school to be awarded *Best Independent School for A Level Film Studies* (Good School's Guide), and Reading Blue Coat School where he led the department to become *Best Independent School for A Level English Literature* from 1998-2006. From Easter 2006 he took over as Deputy Head at Reading Girls' School, which he helped to transform from being in Special Measures to the best performing Comprehensive School in Reading.



In his spare time, Mr Soar and his wife, now live in Worcestershire, he says, 'I love to read all literature, balancing the latest Martin Amis with the occasional Tom Clancy, and am especially drawn to science fiction in film, being a Star Wars and Star Trek addict! I also love all sports, particularly watching and playing cricket, rugby, football and American football where I captained the Ballymena Wolfhounds in Ireland and the Stoke Spitfires while at University. My playing days are sadly now over, but I am a qualified rugby, cricket and American football coach and referee.' He continues, 'I feel privileged to be part of the team, here at school, and look forward to meeting all of those involved with St Dominic's Priory over the coming weeks and months.'

Latest Music Results

Keyboard—R. Bloor—Grade 7 with Distinction and M. Bishop—Grade 3 with Merit

Drumkit—N. Murphy—Grade 3 Merit, R. Chambers—Grade 3 Pass and T.Stubbs—Grade 1 Distinction

Violin—A. Joyce—Grade 3 Pass

Who needs snow?

New nursery pupil, Freya Wedgwood has successfully completed her Snowsports Awards Level 1 Ski assessment at Ski Stoke, Festival Way, Stoke on Trent.

Freya skiing in Val d'Isere earlier this year



New equipment for the Prep School

Thanks to the generosity of the PTA, the Prep School now has a newly refurbished Library extended over two floors, creating a wonderful space for Prep pupils to enjoy. Also building on the success and obvious enjoyment of many of the Prep girls at Maypole Dancing, Mr and Mrs Champ have very kindly donated a maypole to the Prep Department.

'I Have a Dream'- Staffordshire

Charlotte Reid has won a Runners-up place in the Young Writers 'I Have a Dream' 2007 inspirational poetry competition. Charlotte was only one of 6 winners out of 20,000 entries for Staffordshire to win a prize. The 'I Have a Dream' series is an inspiring collection of poetry, that has become part of the National Archives at the British Library, London, and gives a snapshot of what inspires today's children.

Old Girls News

Former students have gained First Class Honours Degrees during the Summer months. Katie Adamson in Physiotherapy from Coventry University, Elizabeth Slingsby in Geography (Manchester University) and Louise Terallis in Italian (Warwick University).



APPEAL FOR TOOTHBRUSHES

For the planned Mombasa Trip, 15-30 October, there is the option for the girls to visit a centre which houses severely disabled children. When the Guide Leader visited Mombasa in June of this year, she visited the centre and discovered that they were still using the same toothbrushes that had been donated by the Girl Guides 3 years ago. Such a small item can make a huge difference to these children's lives. In total they need 100 toothbrushes. If you would like to help by donating a child's toothbrush, it would be very much appreciated.

**Any donation to be forwarded to Fiona Brown by
Tuesday 14 October**