
Principal's Newsletter

10 February 2023

Dear Parents,

Mrs Gail Gannon, Head of Pre Prep, informed me this week of her intention to retire at the end of this academic year. Mrs Gannon has led the Pre Prep with great vigour, passion and distinction for the past 18 years. Thousands of families and children, including my own, have appreciated and enjoyed the warm, child-centred and positive ethos she has engendered in her school, initially in an old building with a small Nursery and Pre Prep and latterly in a new building as a three form entry outstanding state funded infant school. Typically of her, Mrs Gannon has given the College plenty of notice of her intention so that governors can work towards appointing leadership in the Pre Prep which will build on this wonderful legacy. There will be future opportunities to celebrate Mrs Gannon's service to the College and thank her formally and informally.

Mr Atkinson invited in the Big Question group to the Prep School. Pupils participated in philosophical, technical and ethical education relating to digital technology. There is a serendipity that this is occurring during national mental health week. There are terrifying graphs, best kept from children, which show the total correlation in an epidemic of increasing mental health referrals and the period of time from 2010 when social media became ever more prevalent. Mr Atkinson takes the right approach. The digital world is here to stay and we must do all we can to make children reflect on it and experience agency within it.

The Medical Society is a student-run organisation. Their written updates reflect the passion of young people to learn beyond the curriculum and the wonderful support they receive in their gatherings from Ms Shaw:



Last Friday we had the opportunity of dissecting a couple preserved sharks. Throughout the sessions we identified many internal structures and their adaptations such as the oily, fat dense liver used for floating in the water or the gills adapted for efficient gas exchange.

We were able tie in our biological knowledge and delve even deeper, doing something that would make us stand out as medical sciences applicants.

Congratulations to Marvin, Harley and Alfie in Chapter 8. While playing at breaktime they discovered a rock and considered it might contain a fossil. The ubiquitous Ms Shaw was able to confirm that they had stumbled upon a 180 million year old Dactyloceras ammonites fossil.



Congratulations to Chapter 7 boys football. They advance again in a national competition, defeating the powerhouse of Cardinal Heenan 2-0. Mr Cook praised the players' *"team ethic of togetherness, and a never give up attitude."* There was also a very creditable Chapter 11 Rugby 7s performance at the Chester 7s. Our team was able to defeat Merchant Taylors, Shrewsbury and Scarisbrick Hall and come a very creditable 3rd. Last weekend saw some excellent results from our hockey and netball teams at Rydal with wins for the Ch10 netball team (31-13) and Ch8 hockey team (5-0) and a narrow loss for the Ch9 hockey team. Our Ch7 and Ch8 rugby teams played well at St Edwards, a school with which we cooperate so fruitfully to provide more and better sport opportunities and to raise the profile of hockey and rugby among pupils in the city.

This week is also the 16th annual National Apprenticeship Week. National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) aims to shine a light on the amazing work being done by apprentices, employers, and their training providers across the country. The theme for National

Apprenticeship Week 2023 is 'Skills for Life'. Mrs Drew (Careers Leader) reports that this week our Chapter 10 pupils have been looking at apprenticeships and the importance of having an up-to-date CV and covering letter when making an application. Chapter 10 Army contingent also joined our Chapter 11 students in attending an apprenticeship talk given by The Royal Signals and Royal Logistic Corp.

Our artist of the week this week is Annabel A (Ch 12) with her Sketchbook Investigation and research into Wax artists.



She writes: "We have been exploring wax and textile techniques by the artists Jennifer Collier and Priscilla Jones. Creating wax sculptures and objects using recycled materials, found objects and pre-loved items to create breathtaking new life into tired and forgotten fragments of the past."

Ms McWatt and Mrs Hardisty have also asked me to remind Chapters 11-13 that there will be a workshop for GCSE and A Level art pupils during half term on Wednesday 15 February from 9.00am - 2.00pm.

The PTA has had another very busy half term and I look forward to formally opening the nearly new uniform shop after half term. Ms Javeed (PTA Chairperson) reports:

The PTA has been busy this half term! We started the new year with a trip for Pre Prep and Prep children to Bounce House.

This week we organised three Valentines discos for the lower school, where children danced the night away with their friends, purchased lovely keepsake gifts, and had masses of fun!

Going forward, we have our Mother's Day afternoon tea party on Saturday 18th March. This is a chance for the whole family to have a nice meal celebrating the mothers in our lives. More information and ticket details can be found in the PTA newsletter.

Finally, we are so excited to announce that our nearly new shop, LC's Preloved Outlet, will be having a grand opening ceremony on 23 February. We would love you all to join us. We are so pleased to be able to have the shop open and we welcome any donations of uniform or fancy dress/world book day costumes that you may have.

To keep up to date with all the PTA news please read the PTA newsletter which is sent out weekly.

A special Valentine's Day theme for our maths challenges:

1. Consider the cardioid (a heart-shaped curve!) generated by the polar equation $r=1-\sin\theta$, where θ ranges from 0 to 2π . What is the volume of the solid of revolution obtained by rotating the curve about the y-axis?
2. A heart is obtained by adding two semicircles on adjacent sides of a square. Can you find the area of the heart if the side length of the initial square is 2cm?

Answers to last week's puzzles:

Q1. (29, 1, 1, 30, 1, 1, 31), (29, 1, 1, 30, 1, 31, 1), (1, 29, 1, 30, 1, 1, 31), (1, 29, 1, 30, 1, 31, 1).	Q2. n
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May I wish you and yours a pleasant, sunny and well deserved half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal