

It has been another busy term here at St Edmund's, especially with the arrival of inspectors into school on Tuesday. OFSTED conducted a one-day Section 8 inspection, which is standard practice for all schools who were judged to be 'good' in their last inspection.

The day went very well, but the details remain confidential until the inspectors' feedback has been quality assured. At which point, OFSTED will write a letter for us to circulate to you. It will include some feedback from the inspection and the 'next steps' for the school.

Many thanks to the large numbers of parents and carers who completed the OFSTED **parental survey**; it was overwhelmingly positive and I am very grateful to you all.

We are very keen to continue to canvas your opinion on a number of matters; you will have seen that we have begun to send texts with links to short surveys. **Your feedback really helps us to continually improve what we do.** I am especially grateful to the 129 parents and carers who responded to the survey regarding the trial school report that you received at Christmas. Following your feedback, we have redesigned the report and made it simpler to interpret so that it is easier to understand your daughter's progress. The next report will come to you at Easter and I will ask for your feedback on the new version too.

As spring approaches and hopefully brings us warmer weather, we will be **encouraging students to go outside** more at break and lunchtimes. We have already asked that Years 7-10 do not go to their tutor rooms at morning break; it is just a short period of time to eat and drink, use the toilets and then prepare for their next lesson. This has improved punctuality to lesson 3.

Time outside each day provides many benefits including an increased intake of Vitamin D and can improve mood and self-esteem as well as give us all a welcome break from technology and non-natural lighting. We do have seating areas outside and plan to increase the number of picnic tables available. We have now purchased two outdoor table tennis tables and have opened up the

netball courts so that students can be active during lunchtimes. **Please encourage your daughter to enjoy a spot of fresh air at these social times**, although the dining hall and main hall are also available at these times.

I wish you all a lovely half-term holiday.

Nicola Bull – Headteacher

Commissioning Service



On 22nd January, St Edmund's students and staff were invited to Sarum Academy, to celebrate the Commissioning of their new Headteacher Nicola Bull, alongside Wyvern's new Headteacher Andy Bazen, and Sarum Academy's Jonathan Curtis.

The Bishop of Salisbury took the service with Miss Sarah Busby (Executive Headteacher of Magna Learning Partnership, pictured above). Mrs Bull's family, members of the local churches in and around Salisbury and representatives from the local primary and secondary schools also attended. Our choir gave a beautiful performance for this special occasion and the Heads were presented with keys to their respective schools.



Headteachers' Commissioning Service

School League Tables: St Edmund's Attainment and Progress 8 score

Many of you will have heard about the new way in which the government measure a school's success: the Progress 8 score. You may also have seen in the school league tables or the press that the St Edmund's Progress 8 score looks very low. Let me reassure you that there is a very specific reason for this and that **students at St Edmund's last year actually made better than average progress.**

To calculate the **Progress 8** score, an average grade of all of the Year 11 students' GCSE results is calculated (**Attainment 8 Score**) and compared with an **expected average grade** - this is based on what those students achieved in Year 6 at primary school (Key Stage 2 SAT results).

However, students at St Edmund's sit their English Language GCSE a year early (at the end of Year 10) and in 2017, the government didn't include these English Language GCSE results in the Progress 8 calculation because it was the old-style GCSE exam (A*-U grades).

In the **Progress 8** calculation, because English is such an important subject, the English grade (along with Maths) is worth double the score that other subjects are. Therefore, by not including the English Language results, our 'official' Progress 8 score was hugely affected.

We did our own calculations though and, if the English Language grades had been included, the St Edmund's Progress 8 score would have been positive. This shows that students at St Edmund's made better progress than was expected of them, based on their Key Stage 2 achievement.

To summarise, if your daughter attends St Edmund's, she will achieve better GCSE grades here than she would at the majority of secondary schools across both the county and nationally. The decision for students to sit English Language a year early in Year 10 was made because we believe it is what is

right for students and what will give them the very best chance of the very best grades. Every decision that we make is rooted in what is best for the girls at St Edmund's and not what is best for the league tables. Going forward, all exams undertaken are the new-style GCSE, so will, from this year on, now be included in the Progress 8 score.

For a full explanation of how the Progress 8 score is calculated, please see the guide here:

(<https://www.theschoolrun.com/secondary-school-performance-measures>)

Sporting Success

Congratulations to our very own Lucy - Jane Matthews (below) who is now number one in the world at her age group for 60m hurdles! She is following the England Athletics' coaching pathway and aiming to become an Olympic champion one day – we are all rooting for you Lucy-Jane!



KS3 girls came 3rd at the Wiltshire School Games Badminton finals, well done to Lucy, Beth, Chloe, Imogen and Hannah!



Emily Fowles year 7, came 7th in Wiltshire for Cross Country finals and 26th in the South West. Congratulations Emily!

A great day of Kurling took place with the Year 9's and Mrs Bull and Mr Adams had fun taking part too!



A Social Media Reminder

Young people are increasingly using social media apps often without their parents knowing. These apps, particularly Snapchat and Instagram, can put your child in danger and encourage anti-social behaviour so we would like to offer some guidance for those parents who may not fully understand the dangers of these apps. The age limit set for the majority of these applications is 13 and, even then, under 18s require parental consent to obtain an account. Therefore, your daughter, if she has an account and is under 13, will have purposefully entered an incorrect date of birth. We strongly advise that you do not allow your daughter to have these applications if under age, and if she does have an account please ensure that you know the passwords and that you check her online activity regularly for her own protection; this also applies to Facebook. We also strongly recommend that phones and iPads are not used in isolation (e.g. in your child's bedroom) and that, at least an hour before bedtime, all electronic devices are left and charged elsewhere (e.g. the kitchen). As well as the dangers of using these apps, electronic devices are proven to interfere with sleep patterns and, from an educational point of view, we would prefer that your daughters were reading every night before bed instead.



Reflecting on the term

Mrs Newman's class had fun making model blood from oats, Cheerios and marshmallows!



Mrs Wake's debate club are getting ready to compete in the Regional Championships in May, good luck to them!



Year 9 students designed and made gumball machines for Design Technology.



Rehearsals took place for 'My Mother Said I Never Should' by Charlotte Keatley.



Pop up shop

Scholars, our supplier of school skirts, will be running a pop up shop at school on Wednesday 21st February from 3.30 p.m. until 5.30 p.m. in the school hall.



Facebook page

We have a new St Edmund's Girl's School Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stedmundswilts which runs in tandem with our Twitter page: www.twitter.com/@stedmundswilts giving parents and students the opportunity to connect and share in our community.

Suffragettes

This year marks 100 years since the Representation of the People Act was passed in Britain, giving women the right to vote. Many celebrations are taking place this week around Britain, to give thanks to those who fought for equality.



Our thought for the week is challenging us to keep a gratitude journal for February, Each day jotting down 3 things that you are grateful for. These inspiring women including Elizabeth Garrett

Anderson and Emily Wilding Davison certainly make our list!

Kids Fit & Teen Fit

At Odstock Health & Fitness

A combination of Cardio, Conditioning, Circuits and Pilates Fitness Sessions suitable for young people!

You will be learning about the importance of Fitness and Health while having a FUN workout!



Kids Fit 16.15 -16.45 (7-11 years)

Teen Fit 16.45 -17.15 (12-15 years)

These classes run term time only on Tuesdays

Next sessions start February 20th for 6 weeks

Child of member £15 Non member £18

For all enquiries and bookings call 01722 425085

Odstock Health & Fitness – Salisbury Hospital, Entrance B, Odstock Road, Salisbury SP2 8BJ

Forthcoming Events

Scholars' Pop up Shop: Weds 21st Feb 3.30-5.30pm

Year 7 Subject Consultation: 26th March 3pm-7pm

Finish for Easter (non-uniform day): 28th March early finish 12.50.

Start of Term 5: 16th April

Year 8 Subject Consultation: Thursday 19th April 3pm-7pm.



Friendly February

Girls are also taking part in Friendly February, an Action for Happiness tool which helps to promote good relationships and happiness.



Copyright: Action for Happiness

On that note, we would like to wish you all a peaceful and well deserved half term and look forward to seeing you all on the 19th February when school returns.

