



WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

The Headmaster writes...

Welcome back or indeed, if you are new to the school, welcome to Davenies.

It has been a very cheerful start to the term with the boys chatting and smiling as they have come through the gates. The weather has helped with this positive start, but so too has the work gone into preparing the site for the boys' arrival. You could not have failed to notice the multi-coloured fence surrounding the Pre-Prep playground. But if your eye was distracted by this riot of colour, did you notice the new paving around the Year 1 classrooms, or the new quiet area we are beginning to cultivate for the boys who want a rest from the hurly burly of the astro-turf? You will see that the grass has been cut and the rugby posts installed. What you will not notice is the 15 tonnes of soil deposited on the pitches to help with drainage. At one point in the holiday The Loop looked not entirely dissimilar to a World War I trench as we put in new soakaways.

To this sparkling, resplendent school we have welcomed Mr Jack Lunnon who replaces Andy Craddock as the ICT Technician. Teaching in the ICT suite, and a Year 5 Form Teacher, is Mrs Amy Simmons, whom we welcome from York House Prep School. Miss Kathryn Wilson is the new Teaching Assistant in Reception and M^{lle} Chloé Guezennec is our French Assistant. Messrs Leisos, Nickless and Shaw join Davenies as Gap students. For any of you wondering who Mrs Newell is, it is, of course, the former Miss Swift.

May I wish you all a very happy term. Though I have three doors to my office, all of them are open to parents should you wish to pop in.

Mrs Newell writes...

Operation Christmas Child

After the resounding success of Operation Christmas Child last year, Davenies has decided to register once again for this very worthy cause run by the Good Samaritans. The launch will be on Monday 21st September and box collection will be on Monday 2nd November.

Please start collecting shoeboxes, filling them with simple gifts and include £2:50 in a small envelope which needs to be given to Mrs Newell when handing in the box by the foyer. The money covers the postage when sent to countries recovering from famine and war. As soon as this has been received each boy will receive an HMA.

Last year's target was 250 and we are hoping to beat it this year with a new target of 300 boxes.

Leaflets will be given out on the 21st explaining how to pack the boxes, in the meantime please start collecting!

The Bursar writes...

Autumn Term School Fees

May I remind all parents that Autumn term fees are now due? There are a number of fee accounts outstanding, and it may well be that some payments remain in school bags and have not quite reached the School Office!

PRE-PREP NOTICES

The Head of Pre-Prep writes...

Welcome back to the new school year. The boys have all settled in swiftly and are already working very hard and enjoying the new challenges.

A date for your diary – we shall be inviting all Pre-Prep parents and other family members to visit their son's classroom on the afternoon of **Wednesday 21st October from 2:30**. I shall be writing to you soon giving you more details.

Thank you to all Reception parents who joined us for the Curriculum Briefing meeting on Thursday evening. I hope that it has given you a clearer picture of the way we teach your sons and the resources we use.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Year 1 (September 15th) and Year 2 (September 17th) Curriculum Briefings in the PAC starting at 6:30.

May I please remind parents of boys in Year 2 that your sons need to bring their named white shorts and named white ankle socks in a named plastic bag to school on Monday morning. This kit then remains at school until half-term.

All 15 spaces have now been allocated for the first computer club in Year 2 starting on Wednesday 23rd September; there are seven spaces remaining for the second session. Please come and see me if your son is interested in joining the club after half-term.

PREP SCHOOL NOTICES

Mr Scriven writes...

Geography/Senior School Trips

Year 8 Residential Geography Weekend to Eastbourne

As you read this, 30 boys in Year 8 will be with Mr Cooke, Miss Graham, Mr Shaw and myself at Seven Sisters Country Park. They will be collecting fieldwork data to enable them to write a 1000 – 1500 word project for Scholarship/Common Entrance. It will not be all work however, as they will be enjoying mountain biking, ten-pin bowling, as well as a 1½ hour RIB ride out to see Beachy Head. Friday is 'Costume Night' at a Freddie Mercury tribute band concert at the bandstand in Eastbourne and we are all really looking forward to seeing Mr Cooke's newly purchased outfit!

Year 7 Bushcraft Survival Week in Oxfordshire

On Monday, Year 7 are off for a 'Lord of the Flies' adventure, along with Miss Bell, Mrs Newell and myself. They will be taken away from school to live for the week in shelters, which firstly they shall have to construct. The boys will be preparing and cooking most of their own meals over open fires – which they must maintain throughout the week – as well as learning the mystic arts of tracking, hunting, foraging and trapping, fishing, remote first aid and rescue, personal hygiene, water purification and wilderness food preparation! On Thursday night, the boys will embark upon a twelve hour, overnight survival exercise together – even if it rains!

Mr Gibson writes...

Open Days

The Oratory School

Saturday 19th September, 9:30 – 12:00 noon

For further details please contact: 01491 683500

Pangbourne College

Saturday 26th September, 9:00 – 12:00 noon

For further details please contact Margaret Smith on: 0118 976 7415

Epsom College

Saturday 26th September

For further details please contact: 01372 821234 or admissions@epsomcollege.org.uk

Abingdon School

Saturday 3rd October, 10:00 – 2:30

For further details please contact: 01235 849041 or admissions@abingdon.org.uk

Mrs Ellis writes...

Clarinet for sale

My daughter upgraded her clarinet earlier this year; therefore, a Buffet B10, suitable from beginner to Grade 4 or 5 is for sale @ £95:00, including case. Please contact me via the School Office, or by email: kellis@davenies.co.uk.