



### WHOLE SCHOOL NOTICES

#### *The Headmaster writes...*

I have seldom been quite so happy to see rain as I was on Thursday morning. When the Met Office page becomes your computer wallpaper, when the whole school has not gathered as one, when the Health & Safety meeting has to be postponed because it is deemed too unsafe, and when boys walk around with colourful woollen hats with dangly bits over the ears, you know it has been an unusual start to the term.

It has, of course, been a frustrating time for teachers, parents and boys alike. Though our improvised day last Friday, which started with an inter-house snowman competition, seemed to be enjoyed by the boys, they are itching to get outside to run around and to start the football season. For parents without childcare it has been extraordinarily difficult, particularly when a day or two develops into three or four. There were concerns about who will look after the boys at home, how can I get from our school to the next and what do I do about my employment? Parents may be interested to know that if we had not been able to start on Monday the boys would have been directed to the Intranet where we had prepared a week's work.

Every parent and every member of staff has a story to tell about his or her journey to work. Our staff similarly slipped, skidded and, I am afraid, even crashed. Tales of heroism were told but one hero, in particular, must be mentioned. Dan, our groundsman, lives on site to give Davenies a security presence after dark. He also got up regularly at three o'clock in the morning to clear paths and car parks before school started. On Monday the carefully prepared footpaths had, in fact, been cleared four times before seven o'clock. Aston, our Chef, waited anxiously for deliveries but even still he was able to provide breakfast for staff, hot chocolate for boys and meals for whoever and how many people turned up. We should never need reminding of the different roles people fulfil and our dependence upon them, but the snow did crystallise our gratitude. I am grateful too for the supportive comments made by parents. There are over three hundred families out there; your ability to adapt, to change your day and not to communicate your anxiety was greatly appreciated. Now we look forward to routine, the norm and even rain.

#### *The Bursar writes...*

#### **Lent Term School Fees**

May I remind all parents that Lent 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!

### ***Mrs Churchouse writes...***

All Music lessons and activities will run as normal from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, including the Music Technology extra-curricular.

### **National Youth Choir**

Very many congratulations to John Henry Kelly (Year 6), who has been accepted to join the National Youth Choir. This is a fantastic achievement as competition for places is fierce and we are very proud of John Henry.

### **Music Exam Successes**

Congratulations to Joshua Harris (Year 3) on passing his Grade 1 Piano exam with Distinction, also to Calum Stewart (Year 6) for achieving a Merit on the Violin at Grade 5. Very well done to both boys.

### ***Mr Affleck writes...***

### **FoD Murder Mystery Evening**

Tickets are now on sale for the FoD Murder Mystery Evening on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February priced at £10. Do please come and support the boys, and Friends of Davenies, by joining us for an evening of food and entertainment. The evening will be BYO. There are eight tables available, so if you would like to secure a table, then please be quick as tickets are selling fast.

### ***Mrs Rush writes...***

### **Puppies for sale**

Five adorable pedigree black Labrador home-reared puppies are for sale, ready to go to a good home on February 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> at 8 weeks old. If interested, please contact me: [jrush@davenies.co.uk](mailto:jrush@davenies.co.uk) for viewing.

### ***Mrs Ellis writes...***

### **Puffin Book Club orders**

Thank you to all of you who ordered books from the Puffin Book Club before Christmas. I hope you were delighted with your purchases. In total, books to the value of £520 were ordered, which enabled me to add a wonderful £260 worth of free books to the School Library! The next book club magazine is now available. If you wish to order any books please do come in and collect a brochure and order form from the School Office.

Please also remind your sons that all returned items (books or CDs) must be put in the returned books box. Please also see the note on the 'Library' page of the Intranet.

### *The School Office writes...*

#### **Second Hand Uniform Shop**

Please note the opening dates for the Second Hand Uniform Shop this term:

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> January    | 3:00 – 5:00 pm |
| Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> February    | 3:00 – 5:00 pm |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February | 8:15 – 9:30 am |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February   | 3:00 – 5:00 pm |
| Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March       | 3:00 – 5:00 pm |
| Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> March     | 8:15 – 9:30 am |

## **PRE-PREP NOTICES**

### *Mrs Rush writes...*

A Happy New Year to you all from the Pre-Prep staff.

Please may I remind you to keep a watchful eye on the Pre-Prep Intranet page? There are some pictures of our fun snow day last week as well as the topic web on the Sea for Year 2. The Year 1 topic web will follow next week. I have also uploaded a document for Reception parents regarding access to your child's developmental record. We aim to update the Intranet regularly and hope you find the information useful.

Please may I remind Year 2 parents that the boys need their white shorts and white ankle socks in school from Monday for their weekly PE lesson? Please ensure all the items are named and that they are in a separate named plastic bag.

Thank you for your generosity, we raised £500 for the 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' after both our Nativity performances, which is fantastic.

Lent Term Captains and Vice-Captains:

|                    |                   |              |                  |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| <b>Kingfishers</b> | Alexander Timms   | Vice-Captain | Patrick Meigh    |
| <b>Penguins</b>    | Rhys Jones        | Vice-Captain | Daniel Hetzel    |
| <b>Robins</b>      | Edward Hilditch   | Vice-Captain | Jay Patel        |
| <b>Swallows</b>    | Sebastien Maxwell | Vice-Captain | Christopher Egan |

The Year 2 Art Club will resume on Wednesday afternoon. The boys will be brought to the Sainsbury's Gate at 4:15pm.

We are hosting our open afternoon for this term on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February from 2:30 – 3:20 pm. We hope as many of you as possible will come and see the classroom displays.

# PREP SCHOOL NOTICES

**Mr Gibson writes...**

## **Ski Trip – Easter 2010**

Can I please have all remaining Medical Forms and Payment 1 cheques by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January? Can I also remind you of the note sent by ParentMail last week, that there will be a presentation by Ski Astons, the company we use, on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 4:15 pm in the English Room.

**Mr Tennant writes...**

## **Extra-Curric.**

Next week sees the first full week of the extra-curric. programme. Please keep an eye on the extra-curric page of the Intranet for any pertinent notices.

## **Davenies Cricket Nursery**

Information with regards to the ever popular Davenies Cricket Nursery has been sent home via ParentMail. This course takes place in the final week of the Easter holidays, from Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 10:00 – 3:00 daily. Places are limited to 50, and are allocated on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

**Miss Auster writes...**

## **Half-Term Maths Fun Days**

The Maths Fun Days are back over the February half-term. Please collect a form from me or contact me via email to secure a place, which will be allocated on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. The day will include lots of fun maths activities, a free swim and treasure trail! The day will start at 10:00 am and finish at 3:00 pm.

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Years 3 & 4 | Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February    |
| Year 5      | Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February   |
| Year 6      | Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February |

**Mrs Newell writes...**

## **Rotary Youth Speakers – Year 8**

Congratulations to Cameron Chritchley, Louis Kos and Paul Phillips who have been selected for the Rotary Youth Speaks Public Speaking Competition, which is being hosted by Davenies on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 6:30pm. Please feel free to come and listen.

## **Times Spelling Bee – Year 7**

Congratulations to James Raeside, Harry Oliver, Graeme Miller and Charlie Figuero who have been selected to represent Davenies at the Times Spelling Bee Competition. I shall post dates for this event later this month.

### **RS Projects and Church Trip – Year 8**

Please make sure that your front page and background history to St. Mary's Church have been completed by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January for the compulsory extra-curric session that afternoon. Please remember that Year 8 will be walking down to St. Mary's Church in Beaconsfield that day. I would advise boys to bring a labelled camera and a Dictaphone to school, which can be left in the office after the trip for safekeeping. Please note that all preps/notes have been published on the Intranet and I would advise boys to check this site regularly.

### **Year 8 Exams**

A reminder to Year 8 that exams commence on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February, with revision week starting on 8<sup>th</sup> February. The exam timetable is on the Intranet.

### ***Mr Scriven writes...***

#### **SAP Potholing & Caving Weekend to Cheddar, Somerset**

Details of this exciting, subterranean trip will be sent home early next week. Spaces are limited to 12 boys, on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. Please send in return slip with full payment to Mr Scriven.

#### **SAP SCUBA Diving Holiday to Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt**

This trip, geared towards boys in Years 7 & 8, will take place in the last week of the Easter holidays; details have already been sent home. Places are restricted to a maximum of eight boys. Interested parties should return the consent slip, with initial payment, to Mr Scriven.

#### **Year 7 SAP – Monday afternoons**

A four-week aquatic personal survival and lifesaving course begins for boys on Monday between 4:10 – 5:15 pm. Dates are as follows:

**7S** 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 8<sup>th</sup> March  
**7N** 25<sup>th</sup> January, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> March

Boys will need to bring to school the following items of 'wet kit' each week: **Swimming trunks, towel, long trousers** (tracksuit bottoms with a drawstring are ideal, or light fabric trousers with a belt – no jeans!), **trainers** and a **jumper**.

#### **Year 8 Leavers' Camp to Thorpeness, Suffolk**

As a light at the end of the tunnel, boys may rest assured that our trip to the seaside is now approved, booked and paid for. All you need to do now, chaps, is get Scholarships and Common Entrance out of the way!!