

## *The Headmaster writes...*

Many teachers and parents alike will have enjoyed the supplements in The Times this week: *"How to give your child a private education without paying a penny"*. Rather than make such schools financially accessible, the articles endeavoured to reveal "what the best schools do and how you can use their ideas at home". I was particularly struck by the article on Science which was introduced by Dr Stephen Spurr, the excellent Head Master of Westminster. Westminster is a fabulous school and clearly one for bright boys, but nonetheless it was refreshing to read that they made the decision four years ago to follow the IGCSE course as there was greater emphasis on scientific learning. "We believe that complex material cannot be avoided... it is up to the subjects' specialist teachers to make that scientific knowledge exciting", he said, clearly promoting challenge, rigour and excitement over results *per se*. His Science Department gave tips, and placed at number seven was one that jumped off the page: "Learn to ask questions". The curious child, the child that wants to learn uses questions to propel his learning, not merely answers. The child has to be an active agent in his learning. It is no coincidence that Einstein's mother is supposed to have asked her school-age son each day what good questions he had asked. "Education is not the filling of a bucket, but lighting a fire", as Yeats appropriately said, sufficient challenge and curiosity sustain this fire beyond the classroom.

## **Nestlé Cereal Box Tops for Books**

If your family eat Nestlé cereals, please cut out and bring in the 'Box Tops for Books' tokens. All tokens collected before the end of March 2012 will be used to obtain free Dorling Kindersley books for the School Library. You can view the range of books currently on offer at [www.dk.com/boxtopsoffer](http://www.dk.com/boxtopsoffer).

Thank You  
*Mrs Ellis*

## **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January Lent Term 2012**

### **Week 4 – What's On...**

*Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January*

**Saturday Football**, 9:00 – 10:30  
(Reception – Year 6)

*Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January*

**'Perform'** with the Pre-Prep  
**DAS** (Year 7 & 8), 4:00 – 6:00

*Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January*

**Year 6 Maths Competition**  
@ Eagle House, 2:00

*Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February*

**Freshwater Theatre**

French Storytelling, Years 1 – 4

**1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> XI v Belmont (A)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> XI v Belmont (H)**

**U'10 A VII v Caldicott (H)**, 3:00

**U'10 B VII v Caldicott (A)**, 3:00

**U'10 C VII v Caldicott (A)**, 2:30

**U'10 D/E VII v Caldicott (H)**, 2:30

*Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February*

**Year 7 @ Pitt Rivers Museum**  
**U'8 A/B/C/D/E VI v The Beacon (A)**

*Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February*

**Bacon Butties**, 8:00 – 8:30

**School Council**, 1:00

**Cross-Country @ Eagle House**

(Years 3 – 8), 2:00

**Year 5 & 6 Disco @ High March**

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## Sir Francis Drake

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January marks the anniversary of the death of Sir Frances Drake in 1596, the famous explorer after which one of our Prep School Houses is named. Studies have not been able to confirm the actual birth date of Drake, although it is believed to be February or March 1540.

Sir Francis Drake, Vice Admiral, was an English sea captain, privateer, navigator, slaver, and politician of the Elizabethan era, whose name in Latin was Franciscus Draco ("Francis the Dragon"). Queen Elizabeth I of England awarded Drake a Knighthood in 1581, after he carried out the second circumnavigation of the world from 1577 to 1580. He was second-in-command of the English fleet against the Spanish Armada in 1588, but died of dysentery in January 1596 after unsuccessfully attacking San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Drake's exploits were legendary, making him a hero to the English but a pirate to the Spaniards to whom he was known as "El Draque", "Draque" being the Spanish pronunciation of 'Drake'. King Philip II was said to have offered a reward of 20,000 ducats, about £4,000,000 by modern standards, for Drake's life.

<h3>Walk in Wellies</h3> <p>With the Met Office currently still uncertain what weather the month of February may bring, why not dig out your wellies for <b>Walk Once a Week</b>? "Walk in Wellies" is the first monthly theme for our WOW scheme, and should keep your toes nice and dry whether we get rain, sleet, snow, or hail!</p> <p>Please remove muddy wellies before entering the main school buildings, and don't forget your school shoes!</p> <th data-bbox="778 813 1385 1422"><h3>Bike Lights</h3><p>It's fantastic to see so many Prep School boys cycling home at the end of the day. With the days still getting dark at home time, however, this can give a difficult light for drivers to see cyclists, and there are a few boys who are cycling home at this time without bicycle lights. Please make sure that you are visible to traffic, by using bicycle lights and also wearing bright fluorescent safety accessories/clothing. Thank You.</p><th data-bbox="1385 813 1481 1422"><b>School Travel Plan</b></th></th>	<h3>Bike Lights</h3> <p>It's fantastic to see so many Prep School boys cycling home at the end of the day. With the days still getting dark at home time, however, this can give a difficult light for drivers to see cyclists, and there are a few boys who are cycling home at this time without bicycle lights. Please make sure that you are visible to traffic, by using bicycle lights and also wearing bright fluorescent safety accessories/clothing. Thank You.</p> <th data-bbox="1385 813 1481 1422"><b>School Travel Plan</b></th>	<b>School Travel Plan</b>
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## News from the Pre-Prep

We are looking forward to next week with both the Drama Company "Perform" and the French Theatre Company visiting. Congratulations to the following boys who were elected to be our new form reps in Year 2 for this term:

<b>2R</b>	Alexander Short	Ben Shackleton
<b>2MR</b>	Charlie Rose	Hugo Bogues

Please may I remind you to put **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February** in your diary as we shall be holding our Mini Open Afternoon, starting at **2:30**?

Here are the star results for the first fortnight of term:

<b>Penguins</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>Swallows</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>Robins</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>Kingfishers</b>	<b>259</b>

## Sports News

### Cross Country @ Caldicott

The rain stopped, but Burnham Beeches did not disappoint with its undulating terrain and muddy footpaths! We counted out 80 gleaming white, excited runners in both U'11 and U'13 races and we counted back in 80 mud-spattered, slightly bedraggled runners, all of whom ran sensibly and finished strongly. Highest ranked individual runners from the Davenies' Teams were Alex Coleman (25<sup>th</sup> – U'13) and William Murray (16<sup>th</sup> – U'11). Congratulations also to the four, year-young runners who all did fantastically well against a very strong field. Overall, Davenies finished a respectable 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from the 9 competing schools in the U'11 and U'13 races. Well done, everyone!

### Misbourne Fun Run

If there are any more entries for the Misbourne Fun Run on 10<sup>th</sup> March, please get in touch with Mr Thomas. Remember, it is an 'All Welcome' event for boys in Years 3 – 6. The team entry will be sent off by the end of next week.

### Cross-Country @ Eagle House

Are you all organised for **Eagle House** (Years 3 – 8) on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February? Please see the Team Sheet on the Intranet.

### Swimming v Crosfields

Crosfields Galas rarely fail to excite, and yesterday was no exception. Years 5, 6 & 7/8 turned in some very creditable performances against 'tall' opposition, despite many not having swum since 2011! There were individual wins for James Bell (U'11 50m Freestyle and Backstroke), Calum Inchbald and Ben Fallowfield (U'10 25m Backstroke), Alec Shackleton and Archie Buchanan (U'10 25m Breaststroke), James Baldwin and Dominic Brown (U'11 50m Breaststroke). Three of the four 'all in' relays were won by Davenies, including the 'last gasp' 12 x 1 length freestyle cannon relay. These were excellent team performances. Well done, everyone!

Results:	Davenies	Crosfields	
U10	39	41	Please look ahead in the calendar for forthcoming galas, it's a busy swimming term.
U11	39	41	
U13	34	46	
<b>Overall</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>128</b>	

### Second-Hand School Uniform Shop

...will be open, upstairs in the Newton Building:

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 3:00 – 5:00  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 8:30 – 9:00  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 3:00 – 4:00

### DAS Paintballing

DAS will be on, as usual, on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January from 4:00 – 6:00. Please can parents of boys in Years 7 & 8 reply to the letter regarding Paintballing so that final numbers can be confirmed? Thank you.

## House Points

At the end of the first 3 weeks of the Lent Term, the average House Points per boy per House are:

<b>Shackleton</b>	<b>36.09</b>
<b>Scott</b>	<b>36.23</b>
<b>Drake</b>	<b>36.92</b>
<b>Cook</b>	<b>41.93</b>

## Football Results

Teams	Score	Result	Scorers
1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Oratory	3 – 0	W	R. Julta (2), C. Goodliffe
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v Oratory	5 – 0	W	K. Nemoto (2), B. Cooper, O. Custis, W. Gordon
3 <sup>rd</sup> XI v Oratory	3 – 0	W	J. Fryer, T. Galvin, J. Lister (Pen)
4 <sup>th</sup> XI v Oratory	5 – 1	W	T. Dickson (2), C. King, S. Lowe, J. Ward
U'10 A VIII v Ridgeway	3 – 2	W	J. Chapples, F. Goodliffe, J. Hernandez
U'10 B VIII v Ridgeway	3 – 0	W	O. Daily, B. Fallowfield, J. Iliffe
U'10 C VIII v Ridgeway	2 – 4	L	O. Galvin (2)
U'10 D VIII v Ridgeway	1 – 1	D	M. Woodward
U'10 E VIII v Ridgeway	2 – 1	W	A. Rose, M. Woodward
U'8 A VI v Moultsford	0 – 7	L	-
U'8 B VI v Moultsford	5 – 0	W	M. Beyer (3), B. Kucera, J. Ramus
U'8 C VI v Moultsford	5 – 0	W	O. Stalder (3), E. Reuter (2)
U'8 D VI v Moultsford	0 – 2	L	-
U'8 E VI v Moultsford	4 – 3	W	S. Read (3), S. Brochen

## Valentine's Pop-Up Shop

Beautiful cards, gifts, flowers and cakes for Valentine's Day, and every day

Pop in to our unique pop-up shop, at home,  
on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February** 2012 from 10:00am to 5:00pm  
@ 60 Sheepfold Lane, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9EJ

**Deborah, Emma & Co**

*(Daughter of Davenies member of Staff)*

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