



# SFX NEWSLETTER

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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

This half term has flown by, with year 11 working hard to achieve success in their mock exams and staff giving up lunchtimes and after school to support them with revision. A small group of students are also attending revision sessions at a slightly more unusual venue. The group of ten spend Thursdays after school until 5:30pm studying English down at the station café with Mrs Noone. Hopefully the hot chocolate will help them to improve their English grade.

The school community has been delighted to welcome Mrs Townsend and Mrs Scott to SFX. Mrs Townsend has already made a significant impact supporting our young people and parents.

As always the pupils at SFX always amaze me with their many talents and

with their positive approach to anything that is asked of them. One recent example was evident when pupils were asked to lead the prayers of intercession at the Christian Unity Service at Middlesborough Cathedral on Sunday 19 January. It was a great privilege to be invited and I believe that Christian unity is what makes our school distinctive. There could be no finer ambassadors than the students of St Francis Xavier.

Throughout this newsletter there are many examples of the various contributions that our students are making in school and beyond.



New Mrs Townsend Deputy Head Teacher

Finally: if you have not had chance to look at our website recently, you may have missed the letter from Nigel Laws MP congratulating the school on being one of the top 100 non-selective schools in the country.

This year's winner, Sachin Saggar was also an advocate for hard work and dedication rehearsing for six months to bring us a winning keyboard performance and demonstrating his musical talent and artistry. Everybody's performance was a joy to watch and included singers, dancers, a ventriloquist and some rather funny looking cheerleaders.



## SFX FACTOR

A big congratulations to all the contestants at this year's SFX Factor. Once again this popular event in the School calendar proved to be a great success in no small part due to the dedication of Mrs Martin and her team who ensured everything went well.

## SPORTS UPDATE

### Rugby

Well done to the girls (Laura Dixon, Sophie Pinkney, Natasha Dowd, Megan Nasby, Abi Lovel, Molly Hadfield, Lesedi Hodgson, Florence Hart, Katie Hodgson and Elle Mist) who represented the school in a Rugby match against Risedale to open Richmond Rugby Club. They all put in a tremendous performance against a stronger team winning 4 out of 6 games with outstanding performances from Molly Hadfield, Abi Lovel and Elle Mist.

### Gymnastics

January saw girls from every year competing in the local gymnastics competition. The squad was split into year 7 and 8 team (Emma Chapman, Tilly Hudson, Freya Simper and Leanne Burton) and year 9 to 11 team (Marianne Tait, Ruth Bernard, Chloe Swanwick-Jones, Chloe Mignon, Beth

Lambart, Caitlin McCauley). The girls put in brilliant performance coming 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. In the pairs discipline the school dominated. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Chloe Swanwick-Jones and Marianne Tait and 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Chloe Mignon and Ruth Bernard. On the separate apparatus competitions Marianne Tait came 2<sup>nd</sup> on floor, Chloe Swanwick Jones came 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ruth Bernard 3<sup>rd</sup> on vault. Individually performances saw Chloe Swanwick-Jones take 1<sup>st</sup> place and Marianne Tait 3<sup>rd</sup>. Well done to everyone.

### Cross Country

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 7 out of the 8 pupils selected for this stage attended the competition in Tadcaster, 4 of which got through to represent North Yorkshire (Laura Kirkham, 3<sup>rd</sup>; Willow Andrew, 5<sup>th</sup>; Niamh Jolly, 16<sup>th</sup>; Issie Starkey, 5<sup>th</sup>). A big well done to them and all the runners (Harry Robson, Will Smith and Issie Andrew).

### Basketball

On 28<sup>th</sup> January the year 9 Basketball team (Harry Gill, Andrew Miller, Richard Kirkham, Jack Hunter, Callum Watkins, Harry Robson, Jack Johnson and Shay Willis) attended a competition at Risedale. The standard was very high and the team were runners up after being narrowly beaten in the final. The won 5 and drew 1 game in the league round leaving them top of the table. Great effort boys.

### Football

Congratulations to Cameron Mooney, pictured here signing for Newcastle. We wish him every success and we will update you on his progress. Congratulations also goes to James Kavanagh who has been selected to be a linesman at Anfield for the FA National Youth Finals at the end of March.



## LRC UPDATE

The Learning Resource Centre is undergoing a number of changes as part of a plan to develop resources and encourage even greater use and support for this important space in school.

Already small changes have seen a positive increase in the number of pupils using the space to study, read and meet with friends and, with the start of a new year, the Librarians have taken on new challenges to support progress. Each Librarian now has a specific role designed to achieve the main aim of the Learning Resource Centre, which is: 'to create a safe and friendly environment that offers the resources and opportunities to develop each individual socially, spiritually and academically.'

We now have two teams that work to improve the Learning Resource Centre and the Library. The Lending Team are responsible for promoting the Library, improving lending rates and reducing overdue books through reward schemes, new reminder mechanisms and a series of initiatives as well as managing the IT resources. This team already have plans to introduce a new merit scheme for books returned on time and high reading rates as well as tidying up the overdue notification procedure to reduce overdue rates. The Research Team are responsible for improving the Library by clearing out old, out dated books, sourcing books that pupils want to borrow and reviewing books to help pupils find the right read. They have already made a positive start sorting out books that no longer enhance the library stock whilst introducing new books

focused on writing series encouraging continued reading (see the carousel in the library for these titles or ask a Librarian).

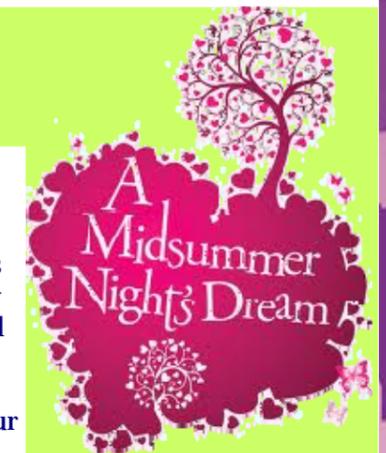
The homework club continues to offer the LRC as a great study space for pupils from all years. Open Monday and Wednesday until 4.30pm the space is supervised so that pupils receive support and guidance in a positive, study environment.

The LRC team is currently reviewing the access times for pupils from different years with the aim of creating a space that meets the needs of all the pupils. For three weeks the team has been trialling the scheme to see if dividing the time between key stage 3 and 4 pupils benefit all. This trial has seen the LRC available to key stage 3 pupils Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and to key stage 4 pupils Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Librarians are due to review the pilot on their return from the half term break and this is where you can help. We need your opinion. All you have to do is tick the box next to the access options you feel best suit pupil needs and return your slip to the vote box in the LRC.

Remember you must vote to make your views count

- Open access to all pupils Monday to Friday
- Access to different year groups each day – Monday year 7, Tuesday year 8, Wednesday year 9, Thursday year 10, Friday year 11
- Access to key stage 3 (year 7-9) Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, key stage 4 (year 10-11) Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
- Access to key stage 3 and 4 on alternate days – Monday key stage 4, Tuesday key stage 3, Wednesday key stage 4, Thursday key stage 3, Friday key stage 4

**VOTING SLIP**



## 16TH - 18TH JULY

Auditions are taking place as we speak for this year's school production of A Midsummer Nights Dream. We've had lots of interest from every year group for the school's first Shakespeare production in a decade. It is Shakespeare's most popular comedy.

Three different storylines all tangle together in one crazy midsummer's night - but was it real or just a dream? With love triangles galore, a little bit of fairy magic, some rather stupid workmen and a half-man, half-donkey, this play offers something for everyone and is still fantastically funny.

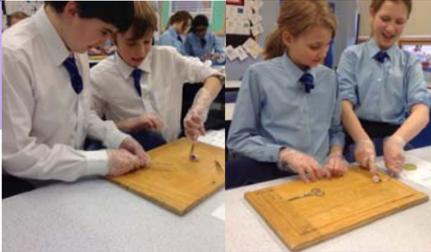
The students are up for the challenge and we look forward to seeing lots of friends and family in the audience in the summer.





ricular Science Club is great to see. As part of this club we have been exploring Random Experiments and Scientific Phenomena. Pupils have made ice cream, taste tested sherbet, made Cartesian divers and dissected a pigs eyes.

Year 7's exploring the explosive reaction of sodium in wallpaper paste



Pupils learn how to dissect a pig's eye

ble under UV light) can travel around people through contact. This term Miss Alderson has visited East Cowton School to look at Separation Techniques and Chemical and Physical Reactions.

It is fantastic to see so many students engaged in learning about Science and the world around them. In the next issue we will have details of the ongoing progress of our Forensics Club.



Year 6 pupils at Richmond Methodist School exploring organisms

Miss Alderson has been sharing her enthusiasm for Science with some primary school children, visiting Richmond Methodist School last term to explore microorganisms. Year 6 pupils looked at how an organism (represented by a powder detecta-

## SCIENCE

It is always a delight to showcase the hard work and efforts of our staff and pupils. At the top and bottom of this article are some brilliant examples of the efforts made by year 8 pupils showing the solar system through drawings, models and baubles.

Everyone in school have been working hard and the number of pupils subscribing to the extra cur-



## CALENDAR DATES

Dates for your diary:

### FEBRUARY

**Friday 14th**

School closes for half term

**Monday 24th**

School opens

**Thursday 27th**

Year 11 concerns evening 5pm

School progress checks issued

### MARCH

**Thursday 6th March**

Year 10 parents evening

**Thursday 14th March**

Year 9 reports issued

**Monday 31st**

Strasbourg Trip

### APRIL

**Friday 4th**

Year 8 reports issued  
School Closes for Easter Holidays

**Monday 21st**

School Closed

**Tuesday 22nd**

School Closed, training day

**Wednesday 23rd**

School open



## BE MY VALENTINE

Do you have an unloved gift gathering dust in the back of your cupboard? Not sure what to do with it?

## DONATE YOUR UNWANTED GIFTS TO SFX

The Xaverians (Parent & Teachers Association) will use them to raise much needed funds to support the Midsummer Nights Dream production and future projects enhancing every child's school life

For more information contact [kspensley@sfxschool.org.uk](mailto:kspensley@sfxschool.org.uk)  
Pupils can drop donations into the LRC.

THANK YOU



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Charlotte Robinson is a talented artist. Something that has now been recognised by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. Charlotte won their art competition in the 12- 18 category by painting this haunting picture called *Flight from Fear*. The age group focused on Forced Journeys and Journeys of Escape for their subject matter. The winners and runners up are currently exhibited at the A-side B-side gallery in Hackney, London. Charlotte says "My piece of art is on *Kristallnacht* – the night of broken glass. You can see the synagogue burning in the background. There are three people escaping – a mother, a daughter and a son. They are all Jews who have seen the streets glitter with glass and the synagogue burn. They are all wearing the Star of David which was enforced during the Nazi period.

*These Jews are all carrying suitcases full of the valuables and food they might need on their journey of escape. The dawn in the background is the colours of the German flag to show their location but also to show a new age of the dictatorship of Hitler."*

To see more information about the competition or the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust please visit their website at [hmd.org.uk](http://hmd.org.uk).

## OXBRIDGE HOPEFULS

It is always great to hear from past pupils and even better when we hear how well they are doing. Two past pupils, Katherine Wingate and Hannah Burgess have both been offered provisional places at Oxford University. Hannah is going to study English and Katherine is studying French. Good luck to them both and to every past pupil planning to move on to the next big thing in their lives.

The RE Department also commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day on 27<sup>th</sup> January by holding workshops with students across KS3.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day was that of journeys. They discussed the case studies of the people who journeyed in a variety of ways to escape persecution and plotted their journeys as flow charts.

Students considered the experiences of Hannah Senesh from Hungary, who bravely challenged the Nazi treatment of the Jews. Hannah was even parachuted back into Hungary to help find her Jewish mother and defeat the Germans. Unfortunately, Hannah was executed for her defiance. Students designed newspaper articles on why the Holocaust was evil and should never be forgotten. Students created some powerful "wordles" of Holocaust concepts.



As a reflection, students made a pledge on a luggage label about how they would deal with people who were struggling with prejudice and discrimination today. They also linked this to our concept of performing random acts of kindness, which is a theme covered during our school year. The luggage labels are on display in our School Chapel, as we offered our pledges to God.

