

March 2009

Stoke College News

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Diary Dates

17th March
Year 6 & Year 7
parents' evening

20th March
PTA race night

27th March
Year 11 parents'
evening

1st April
Easter service
and end of term

20th April
Staff training
day

21st April
First day of term

A NOTE FROM THE HEAD

Welcome to news of another interesting and exciting term! The weather has certainly played its part, with boarders marooned during the snow, enabling them to spend time making one of the largest snowballs as a result. The rain then came, which was much less pleasing, especially for those parents who became stuck in deep flood water. We now look forward to the Spring and remember, as the aconites bloom, what a wonderful place the college is, in which to learn and grow.

Hobbies Week a Success

The Prep school was thrilled with the response of the children, when they were asked to present their hobbies to the other pupils, and to many interested teachers. There was an array of various hobbies, from swimming to Lego to dressing up. It was wonderful to listen to Sophie, aged 6, confidently explaining how to make greetings cards and listen to Alex informing of a gruelling training schedule, sometimes rising at 5am, to complete swimming practices before coming to school.

PTA Race Night

Friday 20th March at 7pm



Tickets £10 including
food and one tricast.

Nursery News

Stoke Nursery continues to go from strength to strength.

Suffolk County Council have awarded the Nursery a grant of £500 with which to purchase play equipment designed to develop the children's social and emotional skills; Mrs Letts will be trained in ways to put this equipment to the best possible use.

The children will finish term with cake baking and an Easter egg hunt in the Nursery garden.

Congratulations to Mrs Carla Willis on the birth of her beautiful daughter, Lily, born in December.

New Pupils and Boarding Assistants

Welcome to Tom, Jensen and Freya who all joined the College in Year 3 this term, also Jack and Taylor our new Australian boarding assistants. We wish them all a happy and successful time with us.

Examination Week

In view of the GCSE examinations affecting Year 10 this year, we have decided to hold the internal school examinations a week earlier than usual; this year they will take place during the week beginning 11th May.

This change will only affect the pupils in the Senior school, Years 4, 5 and 6 will have their tests in the week beginning 18th May.

Last week, Stoke College was host to the regional ISA 5-a-side football competition, with twenty schools taking part. Many thanks to our intrepid Year 8 ball boys Ben, Daniel and Edward, also Will, Matthew, Josh, Adam, Ryan from Year 11 and Tom and Robert from Year 10 for refereeing over 120 matches between them. Their help was key to the success of the event.

This week we are host to the national event with twenty four schools competing.

Trip to London

On Thursday 22 January all the pupils in the Prep school and twelve brave adults, set off for the Bloomsbury Theatre, London to see Jungle Book. The whole day was a wonderful experience for everyone, mainly due to the superb production. The pupils arrived back at school still “bubbling” over the exhilarating musical.

History Trip

This was the College’s third visit to Bletchley and once again we had a hugely informative presentation from David Whitchurch. Although snow covered, we were walking on hallowed ground where the highly sophisticated and seemingly unbreakable German enigma code was broken, giving us huge tactical advantages in many theatres of the Second World War. As more and more of Bletchley’s secrets were revealed, we realised we were walking in the footsteps of giants.



Vita and Clementine at Bletchley Park with the famous Enigma machine.

Ukulele Group

The ukulele is fast becoming the most popular instrument in the Prep school and “The Plinkers” is increasing in number almost daily! More Plinkers, please.

Mad Science!

Following a very entertaining assembly last term, Professor Chaos, the “Mad Scientist” is currently holding eight sessions of space science to Prep and Senior school pupils in an after school club. The activities, that are sponsored by NASA, include fun experiments such as exploding glucose and rocket making.

The club has proved to be so popular that it is hoped that we can run another later in the year.

Design Technology visit to Cambridge Precision

Pupils from Year 11 who study Design Technology benefited from a visit to Cambridge Precision last week. Richard Hobbs (owner and Stoke parent) along with Daniel Rogers (former Stoke Head Boy, who will take up a position with CP in September) led the tour. Pupils were given an insight into an engineering company and saw how CAD (Computer Aided Design) is used in the work place.

Next week, a second group of Year 11 students will visit the company, this time they will be the Business Studies students and the emphasis will be on the business management of the company.

We are very grateful for the continued support of Mr Hobbs.

