

bravely | faithfully | happily
fortiter | fideliter | feliciter

St. Aubyn's School



2020/21

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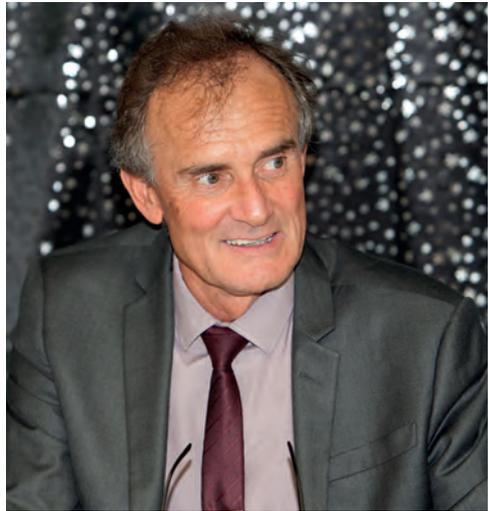


FROM THE HEADMASTER

The end of any academic year is always a good time to reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year. It also gives me the opportunity to update you on some important changes that will help us enjoy an even more successful 2021/2022! This has been a successful year, but it has been made strange due to a second lockdown and all the restrictions we had to put into place due to the pandemic. Firstly, I must thank all of you for your continued support of the School and for working in partnership with us to ensure that your child aspires and achieves. Without this working relationship, we could not have accomplished so much. This is especially true of the support we received during the nine weeks of lockdown. The teachers did well but you also did well, encouraging your children to achieve to the best of their ability.

There are always so many achievements by our pupils and staff that it is challenging to highlight only a few. Many of these are highlighted throughout the year in Mrs Madden's weekly newsletters. But some things cannot be fully appreciated from photos and articles. This can only be done by walking around, seeing and hearing.

- To all the 11+ and 13+ pupils who wrote entrance tests. You responded well to your teachers' advice and guidance and gave your best.
- To our parents who sent emails of encouragement during lockdown.
- To all our sports teams for the hours they spent on the field in all weather conditions.
- To the staff and pupils involved in virtual productions and the parents for allowing their kitchen and dining rooms as a backdrop.
- To the member of staff who has always done an activity year-after-year and never complained.
- To the pupil who is a good friend to another and knows and understands the St Aubyn's Promises.
- To our faithful LSAs who cared for the critical worker children during the lockdown.
- To all the teachers who taught remote lessons streamed live to many homes.



- To the SMT members who responded without reservation when called upon at all hours during the pandemic.
- To the admin staff who answered so many phone calls, phoned public health, sent emails out of hours, and were always available to help when called upon in an emergency.
- To the nurses who kept us informed of pandemic changes and sent constructive messages to keep parents informed.

I am pleased that places for Nursery and Reception continue to outstrip available demand. Admissions into the School are very healthy, with significant numbers applying across most areas of the School.

With a consistent roll comes an ability to invest. We have taken this opportunity to invest in a number of building projects in recent years: the dining hall, Nursery building, the additional changing rooms, the main building rear entrance, the PAC extension, the entrance to the School, and the astroturf have all added value to the overall education of our children.

There have been other, smaller projects that have made a significant difference to our practice and safety. An example of this is the the extensive fencing around the School's perimeter. The pond, maintenance facility, and the hardcourt playing area also gained additional fencing. We have a wall

art presentation outside the Art and DT room to complement the archive cabinets in the passage. In the summer holidays, we are refurbishing the science laboratory and replacing the windows in the old building at the rear of the School. Mrs Foakes, our Bursar and Mr Foster, Vice Chair of Governors and Chair of the Development Committee, act as the School contact with contractors to ensure the procurement procedures are sound and that each project runs smoothly. I am always impressed at contractors' meetings how well the projects are managed and the excellent relationship they develop with architects, builders, and engineers. Thus, it is appropriate to mention that Mrs Foakes will be retiring at the end of the Christmas Term after 15 years as the Bursar of St Aubyn's. We will celebrate more about her time here at a later date. In the meantime, we wish her an enjoyable final term.

As many of you know, sport is close to my heart. We do our best to provide opportunities for all our children when it comes to sport. We continue to focus on football, rugby, hockey, and cricket for both boys and girls, and it is wonderful to watch the profile of girls' football, increasing so quickly.

In the future, we look forward to the resurgence of all aspects of our creative arts. The music department is a vibrant place, but it will be wonderful to see normal activities and events resuming fully. It also provides another platform for us to enjoy the diverse musical talents of our pupils.

The onset of COVID brought about an enforced use and understanding of technology. Teams and Zoom have become part of our daily lives and routines; I sometimes wonder how we coped without this technology. I am excited about the potential for new technology to enhance learning in the years ahead.

Managing a school during COVID was by far the most challenging assignment I have had as a head. There was the fear of illness, bubbles, staff anxiety, children's wellbeing, technological implementation, bubbles, parents' concerns, fees, continuous updating of risk assessments, new arrangements and plans for drop-off and pick-up times, virtual parents' meetings, bubbles, signage, virtual open days, prospective pupil assessment procedures, prospective parent visits, children and staff isolating and the modifications to the 11+ and 13+ assessments by the local schools – the list goes on! Oh, and did I mention bubbles?!



The uncertainty and, at times, complicated guidance made our lives even more complex.

The support of our wonderful parents, especially during the second lockdown, was truly appreciated. I can't tell you what your positive emails meant to the staff putting themselves out there in your living rooms, kitchens, and dining rooms. I am grateful for the trust and confidence you continue to place in our teachers and the wider school community. Our SASS parent group, under Leone Demetriou, remains vibrant, and I would like to thank all of the reps for their continued enthusiasm; I know that you are raring go and ready to introduce some fun events to the community. I genuinely hope that this will be possible in the next academic year.

This is a perfect moment to highlight the extraordinary work of Mrs Sam Twomey, who has been indispensable these past 20 years. She is more than simply a Head of Department, she is the heart and soul of the Senior School, and I'm sure everyone will support me as we wish her well as the Headmistress of New Hall School. As a result of Mrs Twomey's appointment, allow me to extend a welcome to the newest member of the Senior Management Team, Mrs Bernie Wells, who joins the Middle School family as Head of Department in September – congratulations!

Many of our teaching staff had to push themselves out of their comfort zones, putting themselves out there into everyone's homes. It became part of their everyday routine, and, in no time at all, they were teaching the children as if they were in a classroom, ignoring the fact that they were possibly being observed and scrutinised. Teachers – you were fantastic, learning and adapting to new skills with consummate ease and getting on with what you do so well – teaching the children!

I also offer a big thank you to the admin staff in the office and maintenance staff for taking on additional tasks and

supporting the rest of the School.

I take this opportunity to thank the governors for their support and trust during the past 15 months. Their wisdom and understanding made my task so much easier, and allowed me to get on with managing ever-changing arrangements. The Health and Safety and financial committees especially were very busy; your time, support, and expertise in helping the School management prepare the School for the pandemic was a great source of comfort during the very challenging months.

Congratulations and thank you to our leavers, Year 6 and 8. I am sorry your last two years have been disrupted; I sincerely hope that your future lessons are without interference and that all the exam issues are sorted before your GCSEs. Please don't hesitate to pop back for a visit sometime in the future. You will always be welcomed.

*Leonard Blom
Headmaster*



WHY TEACHING MAKES US SMILE...

A Year 6 pupil asked a very sensible question about a pickled frog. 'Will the frog climb out?' (It has been dead for about 40 years and is floating in formaldehyde).

During lunch on one of our Careers Days, Mrs Twomey was asked why all the visitors were in school. She replied that they were here to talk about their careers. The pupil asked why 'career'? She said that it was good to learn about different jobs and how to achieve certain things. He replied that this had nothing to do with Korea!

An excellent Christmas question was posed. 'Do reindeers live in trees?'

A Year 6 pupil announced that 'Potatoes have bones.'

A teacher was forcefully told by a Year 8 girl that chickens are not birds.

A Year 6 pupil confidently answered a question in their geography exam, stating that the highest mountain in Wales is called 'David'.

A pupil become confused during the MUN Day – he thought he was representing Costa Coffee. He was, in fact, representing Costa Rica!

A Year 7 pupil recently told Mme Goodey that Bill Gates painted the Mona Lisa.

In Religious Education a class was asked where the idea of snakes being untrustworthy came from. They were quite confident in their response – that it was the Jungle Book!

You may recognise the beginning of this Year 8 'original' narrative 'Clock strikes upon the hour, as the sun begins to fade...'

PRE PREP

An Academic Year in the Life of the Pre Prep Department

September has arrived once again. Teachers are excitedly preparing for a new academic year, filled with the hope that learning will be uninterrupted. Changes are inevitable but positivity fills the air. The children's eyes shimmer as they return to their familiar and treasured playground and classrooms. Welcoming families, new and old, always evokes joy and enthusiasm as we begin the learning expedition for another year.

Bubbles remain and rows of forward-facing desks linger, staggered start times persist, but spirits are high. We are eager for the learning to begin. The starting points of this academic journey are diverse, but it is wellbeing that takes the lead. We nurture one another and encourage conversations about how we are feeling and endorse collaboration at every opportunity. Establishing a safe space and valuing each other's wellbeing engenders an environment where healthy minds grow and academic achievements flourish.

Children cautiously saying their goodbyes at the gate in the mornings, but this soon turns into a quick succession of kisses and dashes into the classrooms, ready for the day to begin. Empowering the children to walk into school bravely, faithfully and happily cultivates self-confidence and independence of the youngest children more swiftly than we have seen before. A courageous mindset permeates all aspects of their social, personal and emotional growth. Lessons with our Jigsaw characters Jenie, Jack and Jo support emotional resilience and provide practical strategies for optimal development throughout the year.

Celebrating individual successes, big and small, generates an ethos of camaraderie and determination enabling academic triumphs across the curriculum. Anticipation is elevated as children await the special moment when weekly certificate recipients are revealed in our virtual assemblies. And, what an exceptional honour to receive a Headmaster's Commendation for outstanding classwork! Children perch on the edges of their chairs, waiting keenly for the announcement of the playground cup; the class is declared and



cheers erupt – excited congratulations surge through the building – such a delightful echo to hear. Inviting small groups to share their triumphs in assemblies promotes a positive self-image, increases self-esteem and acknowledges self-discipline.

Charitable events begin with the beloved Pudsey Pyjama Day for Great Ormond Street Hospital. EYFS staff and children alike dress in their best nightwear and participate in activities. The coveted Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children arrives with the whole School proudly revealing creative seasonal pullovers. Red Nose Day for Comic Relief raises merriment in Pre Prep and EYFS, and indeed, the whole School community. Comical red noses, red socks, red tights, red hair ties and we must not forget the hilarious jokes told by all. An ‘Aerobathon’ for The Dream Factory motivates physical and mental health as we follow a dynamic routine led by Mrs McDowell. These are a few of our fundraising endeavours that stimulate learning about how to support the lives of others within the community and wider society. Generous donations from families, valued as ever, heighten awareness and

thinking of others, preparing our children to become respectful and considerate individuals who will make positive contributions across various facets of humanity.

Come Christmas, we all feel a little melancholy that no performances are allowed, but the shows must go on. The scripts have been written, parts have been assigned and the costumes arranged. We can do this – virtual plays for everyone! Collaboration at its best, the Performing Arts department takes control, and the Pre Prep and EYFS division embrace the challenge. Props are devotedly crafted, children are ecstatic to perform on outdoor sets and windy days. Strength of character and mind empowers everyone to achieve the common goal of an awe-inspiring Christmas film for all. Jubilant families, near and far, are able to see one of the most important moments of a child’s educational journey; the Nativity, the reason for the season, expertly told through the acting of the spirited and robust Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children.

January arrives and lockdown looms. Remote learning begins again. Microsoft Teams lessons, morning welcomes and story times furnish a sense





of unity and the important virtual daily contact, so pivotal in upholding the inner fitness gained from being collaborative learners. The structure of the school day, albeit virtual, brings a familiarity to children, helping them make decisions and manage their own wellbeing. Teachers' faces and real-time interaction guide children through the tasks and supports learning in order to achieve. Friends see one another, smiling and working together as a virtual team.

It's March and we return to school. The priority is on keeping safe and healthy. Busy children fill the classrooms and their chatter resonates around the school. We are all grateful and glad to be back. Walking through the playground as restrictions lift, Reception children chime eagerly, "We can hug again!" while embracing their friends. This is heart-warming to watch whilst highlighting the benefits of social interaction and the influences on positive mental wellbeing, from the children's perspective. Year 2 finally visiting Epping Forest for their long-awaited trip for pond dipping, creature exploration and having fun outdoors.

Sports day is organised and parents are invited. The excitement is palpable. Children are passionately practising events and polishing

their sporting skills, ready to give it their all and impress the proud loved ones who have come to spectate a stunning show! Victory as cameras snap, applause reverberates and appreciation is unmistakable.

The year ends with transition day. New teachers and new classrooms are met with approval by amazed children, thrilled about the ensuing move up to the next year group. Teddy bears' picnics and final assemblies commemorate another remarkable year and more accomplishments. Pupils reminisce with friends about playing and learning, saying farewell but see you soon. Pre Prep and EYFS children bravely, faithfully and happily forge ahead in harmony.

The resilience of our children and community is extraordinary. Looking after each other is commonplace at St Aubyn's. Helping each other to nourish strong mental health and wellbeing is evident all around. Having an emotionally healthy experience at school sustains our confident, curious and children. Embracing our community's determination to persevere, irrespective of what we encounter will always be our strength. Together, we will succeed.

*Jennifer Butcher,
Head of Pre Prep*



NURSERY FUN



Toby Dorrans shows the class a beehive he found at home for National Bee Day



Adam Moi paints a seascape



Ducklings post their letter to Santa



Hana Hasan and Aiden Gillam role play as police after learning about people who help us



Nursery class exploring the pond

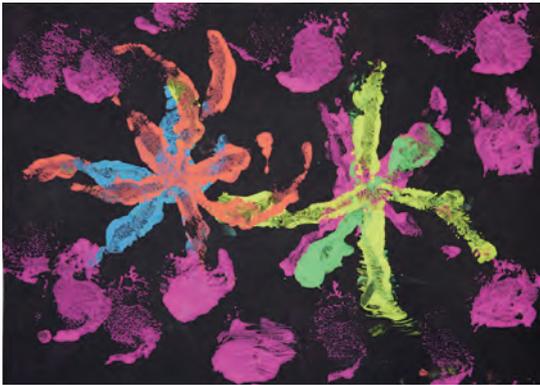
NURSERY ART



Bluebelle Sheen



Grace Tingling



Jasmine Kondogeorgis



Albert Tear



Rupert Williamson



Isaac Chung

RECEPTION ART



Aida Faisal



Aahil Naeem



RBW class



Mary Cawdery



Kassius Ryan



Ariya Astley

RECEPTION FUN



Isobel Ward and August Ahlstrom-Vij working together to design their planet for our Blast Off! topic



Myra Saindane and Evaani Kaushik exploring capacity



Alex Donaghy and the rest of RKO found an Easter egg in our Easter egg hunt!



RSL teddy bear's picnic



RSL making aliens out of allergy-free play dough



Ava Bishop and Aleeza Patel enjoying a story

YEAR 1

*The children watched *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs, which is a picture story, then retold the story using their own words.*

Once upon a time a tiny little boy jumped out of his bed. He looked out of the window. The whole world was covered up with snow. The boy was surprised and went and built a snowman. The boy used a tangerine for the nose and coal for the eyes. He put a hat and a scarf on the snowman. He went back inside. At midnight the boy woke up and crept downstairs. The snowman came to life! The snowman and the boy met each other and they went flying. They saw the Northern Lights and had a party with the other snowmen. They saw Santa. Santa showed the boy his reindeer. He gave him a surprise. It was getting dark so the snowman and the boy flew back home. The boy went to bed. The next day the boy went to see the snowman but the snowman had melted.

Sarim Hassan

*The children read *Yeti and the Bird*, by Nadia Shireen. The Yeti was sad and lonely because he looked scary, so the children wrote to him giving him advice on how to make friends.*

Dear Yeti,

I am writing to you because I am going to help you make friends. You could have a party and make a yummy feast and invite some animals so they get to know you. You could also give animals food if they are hungry. You could help old people cross the road. If someone's car broke down, you could pull it to the garage.

Yours sincerely,

Zakariya

Zakariya Malik

I would be friends with a Yeti because sometimes I get cold when I am in my bed but the Yeti would warm me up. The Yeti could get things I can read.



Emily Xu

The Yeti could play with me. The Yeti could give me piggybacks. The Yeti and I could build a huge house and tell stories in there. The Yeti could have a sleepover with me. I would have a picnic together and he would be the best hugger in the world. The Yeti could help reach high up places. I would not be lonely. The Yeti could show me where he lives and I could show him where I live.

Vivienne Booy

*The children have been reading *Naughty Bus*, by Jan Oke. They enjoyed the story so much that they wrote some new adventures for *Naughty Bus*.*

It was a sunny day at the park. Naughty Bus went to the park and he scared the children away. Then he went down the slide really fast and he had a go on the swings. Then Naughty Bus went to the kitchen and tipped all the party food on the floor. He beeped very loudly and woke up the children. The children were cross.

Vedant Sah

It was a sunny day and Naughty Bus was looking for a new adventure. Naughty Bus found a house and he opened the door and took all the snacks from the house. Then Naughty Bus drove at high speed to the forest. He woke up the animals and the animals were cross. He should have said sorry but he didn't say sorry. He drove away back home and went to bed.

Amelie Fan

Pupils used their handprints to create desert island paintings as part of the summer theme. They also created seaside pictures.



Rose McKenna



James Newton



Theo Hinton

*The children investigated the different ways we experience water and the noises it makes. As part of our investigation we read *Voices of Water* by Tony Mitton and the children used his poem as a prompt for writing their own poetry.*

Voices of Water

The water in the Jacuzzi says bubble, bubble.
The water in the sea says splash, splash.
The water in the ice says crack, crack.
The water in the bottle says drink!

Zarmeenah Khan

YEAR 2

Pupils in Year 2 completed their own animal fact finders about owls including what they look like, where they live and what they eat.



What do they look like?

Owls have brown, grey and white feathers. They have big, black eyes. Owls have big wings.

Where do owls live?

Owls live in dovecotes, hollow trees and cliff sites. Snowy owls live in the Arctic.

What do owls eat?

Owls eat voles, shrews, rats, mice and lots of bugs.

What other facts do you know?

Owls are nocturnal and some owls hunt in the day. Elf owls live in cacti. Barn owls make a screeching noise, not a hoo like tawny owls. Baby owls are called owlets. Owls can spin their head all the way around! A flammulated owl can camouflage! Grey owls hunt in the day! Snowy owls have lots of chicks.

Manahil Malik

What do they look like?

Owls have heart shaped faces and have white fur. They also have black dots on their skin and brown feathers. They have pointy beaks as sharp as a knife.



Where do owls live?

Owls live in a range of habitats including cacti, trees and snowy lands. Some owls even like to live in the Arctic.

What do owls eat?

Owls eat frogs, shrews, rats, voles and even small birds.

What other facts do you know?

Owls can camouflage in the trees and even snowy owls can camouflage in the snow. Owls even eat frogs and mice! Owls only hunt at night. They have black and white feathers. And they also have really sharp claws. Barn owls make hooting sounds. Some owls sleep in the day and hunt in the night. Owls like to sometimes live in cacti. Tawny owls make screeching sounds. Baby owls are called owlets.

Skye Samaroo

In Geography the children studied the British Isles and compared the Isle of Struay with Woodford.



Pupils were encouraged to “take a line for a walk” without lifting their pencil from the page. The resulting shapes were shaded in a range of colours and and contrasting coloured patterns were drawn over the top of them.



James Young



Khadija Hussain

Pupils created their own portraits in the Cubist style.



Ishaan Dembla

Pupils created their own space helmets and imagined their view of space. This activity was based on the book “Man on the moon” by Simon Bartram.

Left to right: Harrison Devadas-Chiu and Ariana Gandesha



MUSIC AND DRAMA

What an exciting and revolutionary year the Music Department experienced and it has certainly been a memorable one. Remote learning and restrictions on singing and performing posed huge challenges for music education, but the department managed to adapt to each of these adversities and created an achievable curriculum, alongside a calendar of busy performances and events which offer quality musical experiences for all of the children throughout the school. The department continues to be a vibrant place to learn. Indeed, it has thrived and grown even under the most difficult circumstances, with over 210 one-to-one instrumental lessons taking place each week.



When pupils have been able to be in school, we have encouraged continuous face-to-face instrumental learning with our team of dedicated staff. This approach has ensured continuous achievement and progression with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music examinations. There has been a 100% pass rate for all examination pupils, with an impressive 80% being of a Merit or Distinction level. Towards the end of the year, the School took a huge step forward and supported the addition of face-to-face cross-bubble instrumental ensembles. These groups managed to support pupils who have never played in ensembles before, as well as challenging those who have missed playing with others. It was the first time in 18 months that

ensemble playing was heard once again through the department. Ms Manser orchestrated and created several new groups; wind ensemble; upper string ensemble; lower string ensemble; guitar ensemble; Year 4 brass group and Year 5 brass group.

These events and opportunities could not have been possible without the adaptive team of staff in the department. Speaking personally, it has been a great pleasure to work with the entire team of 16 Visiting Music Specialists. Miss Mumford and Mrs McDowell have inspired and supported the wonderful musical learning that occurs at St Aubyn's. Their energy and enthusiasm about delivering quality arts events has been the driving force behind many of our online performances and in-school events.

We started the Christmas Term with a bang! Pupils throughout the school returned to familiar Kodály-led curriculum lessons with a slight twist. Singing is usually at the core of Kodály, but this term, to adhere to government restrictions, pupils had the opportunity to apply their musical skills to learn instruments in class. Soon the department was full of the sound of glockenspiels, shaky eggs and claves, as well as solo performances from children taking instrumental lessons outside of



the classroom. These performances were not just restricted to the department, again adapting to guidance and ensuring all pupils had their chance to learn and perform, Ms Manser took the department on tour and taught lessons in EYFS and Pre Prep classrooms! This musical sharing meant that other teachers and staff were soon tapping their toes to familiar sounds each week.



There was no time to rest, as soon we were in rehearsal mode for the upcoming Christmas performances. This year, in an addition to the usual Nursery and Reception performances, Year 1 also had their opportunity in the spotlight. With the assistance of Ms Manser, Miss Mumford chose repertoire for all the performances. Miss Mumford also composed the script for the Reception nativity performance with the three camels named 'Humpy, Bumpy and Cindy Lou!' It was a musical first for the department as all the children learned Makaton to sign all the songs. This performance was a real team effort from Ms Manser, Miss Mumford, the Pre Prep teachers and Mrs McDowell who recorded and edited together all three performances so that parents and the entire school community could enjoy the virtual production.

It was not just the pupils who had their time to shine! Staff were encouraged to take part in a lip syncing online performance of Shakin Stevens' *Merry Christmas Everyone* and what a memorable experience that was! Ms Manser and Mrs Sheikh teamed up with teachers, teaching assistants, cleaning staff, canteen staff, lunchtime



supervisors, the maintenance team, office staff and all of senior management in this wonderful project. It was a heart-warming performance that showcased all of the staff that work so hard at school and was a positive end to a busy term!

Lent brought the new challenge of remote learning, and once again music lessons were adapted to involve singing at home! Classic Kodály songs were revised and learned by both pupils, parents, siblings and sometimes pets, at home! Songs and singing included *Chirry Bim*, *Cherry Pie* and *Rabbit's Late Again* to name but a few. This time children in Year 2 were in the spotlight and worked hard to prepare their online performance of *Plastic Pirates* with help from both Ms Manser and Mrs McDowell. Yet again, this would be a St Aubyn's first with children learning songs at home and emailing in recordings of their catchy songs; *We Need You Polly*, *Pirate Code* and *We Love Plastic*. With a little editing magic by Ms Manser, they were able to sound like a virtual choir and really set the online stage alight!





Year 5 were also preparing for their production. Once again, Ms Manser had the wonderful job of creating an online virtual choir. It was a unique experience to hear children singing on their own and editing together vocal recordings so that by the magic of technology, they could then be included in the performance of *Sherlock and Cinderella*.

After two virtual performances, Ms Manser managed to create a further online performance showcasing the musical talents of children from across the school. The unique circumstances of online performances created the opportunity to include pupils from Pre Prep, Middle and Senior Departments – another first! Visiting Music Staff accompanied pupils performing solo examination pieces, which really inspired fellow pupils, with a pupil in year 3 exclaiming, “Now I have seen it in action, I really want to play the trombone!”



The Summer term brought new topics of investigation and with the use of the Performing Arts Centre, singing was once again possible! As we could not travel physically to other countries, Senior School children managed to travel using the sounds of Music from Around the World. Yet again, every opportunity was taken to involve pupils practically in music, and immerse them in unfamiliar sounds from different roots and heritage. Year 6 were able to play rhythms on the djembe and showcase their compositions to the rest of the class. Year 7 learned to play the keyboard together in class as part of their blues topic and later in the term, started to transfer these skills to the ukulele. Year 8 listened to and



analysed the sounds of Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald in their history of jazz lessons and had plenty of fun playing the colourful boomwhackers in their final lessons before leaving St Aubyn's. Year 3 and 4 continued to develop their own instrumental performances inspired by the orchestra and were encouraged to start playing in the many new ensembles that had been created later in the term.

This time it was Year 6 who took to the stage for their final performance of the year; *How to Survive a Shakespeare Play*. This play was adapted by Mrs McDowell and quite different from the previous musical performances. Again, an opportunity was seized to use the guidance to our benefit and concentrate on developing pupils' dramatic skills. However, no performance would

be complete without some singing, and so singing there was! Year 6 rediscovered their voices and raised them in the crowd-pleasing anthem *Brush Up Your Shakespeare* from the class musical *Kiss Me Kate*. All pupils performed with enthusiasm and energy and danced to the tunes inspired by *A Knight's Tale* as well as performer Eminem! Needless to say, the invited audience of parents and staff brought a much-missed element of excitement to the performances and all the pupils rose to the occasion brilliantly!



However, that was not the end of our musical delights for the year. Ms Manser embarked on a new project with the wonderful videographic and IT assistance of Mrs Sheikh. The Summer concert filmed a range of high achieving soloists (average grade 4 and above), and exciting performances of the many new ensembles that had been created this term. Performances included *The Theme of William Tell*, *Hot Chilly* and the classic cowboy song *Rocky Mountain*, which of course needed a big yeehaw at the end! The concert was once again released to parents and the whole school community and highlighted what incredible progress had been made during such a challenging year.



I have been extremely impressed by the resilience, adaptability and endurance of all the staff and pupils in the department. The department continues to move forward and produce some outstanding musical work from all ages. I look forward to hearing ensembles next year, including; Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Orchestra, Training Orchestra, Jazz Group, Guitar Ensemble, Brass Group, Keyboard Club and Music Appreciation club. These experiences have been missed from our usual calendar of events, but as you can see, we have not been short of activities to offer pupils, even during the most challenging of months. I very much look forward to seeing how the department develops again next year, and have enjoyed looking back at all we have achieved this past year.

*Penny Manser,
Head of Music*





DRAMA

Despite its challenges, it has been an exciting year for the Drama Department. Restrictions and rules required performances to be adapted to different styles and formats. This has allowed the opportunity for the children to create and partake in their own filmed performances. Parents, teachers, learning support assistants and Performing Arts staff have worked collaboratively to create costume, props and to film footage for remote performances.

Nursery and Reception

For Christmas 2020 the traditional school nativities were adapted into three short films for each year group. In Nursery and Reception, the children learned Makaton actions to accompany festive songs. Staff acted as film directors, capturing clips of the children dressed in costume and role playing as their characters. Their class teachers also recorded an audio narration of the story and this was edited together to create the movie. Reception children worked very hard learning their class narration off by heart and this was included in their performance.

Year 1

Year 1 rehearsed and performed an adaptation of the poem *Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Each class presented a section of the story. They acted as excited children, dashing reindeers, sugar mice and even Santa Claus himself! Parents provided appropriate festive costume for the children, as well as Christmas hats. As well as acting, they learned dances for well-loved classics such as *White Christmas* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. Their performance was filmed in the Performing Arts Centre and edited together so that it could be shared with families.

Year 2

At the start of 2021 we were placed in another national lockdown. This presented some challenges for the Year 2 play, but with the help of families a remote performance project was created. During their Drama and Music classes, the children rehearsed their lines, singing and dances for their performance of *Plastic Pirates*. The story centred around naughty pirates who liked to collect plastic and then dispose of it into the ocean once they were done. The sea creatures and sea birds communicated to the captain

(through his parrot Polly Styrene) why they should change their ways. As a result of this, the pirates decided to reuse, reduce and recycle! Parents and children created some amazing costumes for their characters. After rehearsing, parents were instructed to film their children performing as their character. Their acting, dancing and singing was edited together by the Performing Arts staff and the film was created.



Year 5

After half term we were still in lockdown and the Year 5 pupils were continuing to rehearse their performance remotely. Their play *Sherlock and Cinders* comically combined the story of Sherlock Holmes and Cinderella. In online classes, the children had the opportunity to explore acting for camera and how to film in the best conditions. Families worked incredibly hard filming their performances remotely – it was especially challenging making sure that their eye line was in the correct position! Thank you for persevering. Once the children returned to school, we filmed the remaining footage of their dances and this was edited together to create their very own movie. The performance was shared with families so that it could be viewed remotely.





Year 8 Play

After the Easter break, it was turn of the Year 8's to prepare their play *The Day the Internet Died*. The story centres around a town which struggles to cope when they temporarily lose their internet access. The themes in the story worked as a helpful talking point for discussions around healthy use of social media and the internet.

The pupils stepped behind and in front of the camera to film their production. As film makers, they applied their knowledge of camera shots, lighting and framing. Some pupils even worked as assistant directors! The film was shot in various locations around the school including the library, the dining hall, the bandstand and even Mr Shute's office!

Year 6 Play

Finally, came the opportunity for a live theatrical performance! In June, Year 6 pupils performed their play *How to Survive in a Shakespeare Play*. The story was a comedy about narrators teaching tragic Shakespeare characters how they could survive if they listened to advice. The performance included traditional dances, classical guitar and a hip-hop dance to a medieval version of Eminem's *Slim shady*.



The performance was presented to Middle and Senior pupils, as well as a socially-distanced performance for parents. They did brilliantly remembering their lines, cues and choreography. The children presented their parts with confidence and great expression. They took responsibility for organising their own props and set changes in a very professional manner. We are incredibly proud of their performance and think they did a superb job. Thank you so much for all the staff who volunteered to put the show on.

*Merriell McDowell,
Drama Department*



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Christmas Card Writing

At Christmas, children from across the school made Christmas cards to send to the residents of care homes. They produced some excellent artwork and spread some much needed Christmas cheer!



Foodbank donation

Over the last two years, St Aubyn's has launched an appeal at Christmas-time to support those in our community who are less fortunate. This year, as the country contended with the ongoing pandemic and more and more people were turning to foodbanks to feed their families, Senior School Council spearheaded a whole school initiative to collect food for our local community.

They asked all pupils to bring in donations of non-perishable food and toiletries to be donated to the Redbridge Foodbank, part of The Trussell Trust's network of 428 foodbanks across the country. Inevitably, our parents and pupils rose to the challenge and donated an overwhelming amount of goods. So much so that we were actually asked to delay making our second donation trip, so they had time to process all the items from the first!

Our small Senior School Council team worked incredibly hard to load the minibus and thank pupils for their donations. We are grateful to Mr Clarke for delivering the items to the foodbank. José Soares from the Redbridge



Foodbank Team commented; "Thank you for the amazing donation yesterday – we are truly blessed to be part of such a generous community."

Shoe Appeal

On the last day of the year, our pupils took part in one last charity event, in support on the Unicef ShoeSHARE appeal. The initiative is designed to transform children's lives by gathering old or unwanted shoes, which are sent for re-use. For every tonne of shoes collected, a donation is made to Unicef which goes towards education programmes and equipment for children around the world.

We were delighted with the support of our community and overwhelmed by the number of shoes brought in, estimated to be over 1,000, helping to ensure that every child around the world receives quality education.



ECO-COMMITTEE

Congratulations to the Eco-Committee on being awarded Eco-Schools Green Flag status. This is a culmination of two years' work and has been achieved despite two national lockdowns. Over the two years, the committee has focused on biodiversity, litter and energy and water conservation around the school. Pupils have also completed a number of eco challenges at home, during our period of remote learning.



Eco Challenges

During lockdown, pupils were challenged with a variety of eco-themed tasks. They became better Global Citizens by investigating the culture, and inevitably food, of a chosen country; created eco-themed artwork; designed a perfect park; and took a break from electricity, something both good for them and the planet.



DIGITAL BOOK WEEK

In a Library first, Book Week was hosted digitally this year, primarily on the Library Web App. Updated daily by Miss Cook, it featured online talks and workshops from authors, videos from pupil Reading Ambassadors and school staff reading their favourite stories, as well as information about World Book Day.

For our Book Week competition, the library challenged all of our pupils to recreate a book cover using only items found in their homes.

We had so many wonderful submissions that it was one of our hardest competitions to judge yet! Some children even starred in their entries alongside members of their families! Winners were awarded wonderfully bookish prizes and were featured on the Library Web App with their prize-winning art.

Thursday 4th March was World Book Day. Pupils were able to dress up as their favourite book characters using clothes and props found in their homes and some children recommended reads to classmates on Microsoft Teams.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

It is a very strange but exciting time for me to be writing for our school magazine this year. Having led Middle School for the last six years, I am thrilled to be moving on to head up the Senior School in September. I am so proud of the achievements of all the pupils that have journeyed through Years 3, 4 and 5 during my time in the Department, and of the staff that have enabled the children's successes. This year has shown me what immense courage, resilience and bravery our pupils possess. How they rise to the challenges set and how, even in the midst of a pandemic, they continue to care about their progress and to impress, amaze and astound me with their attitudes to school.

Looking back at the year, I cannot believe how quickly it has flown by. Perhaps a term at school, nearly a full term of remote learning and a final term back at school contributed to the speed of time passing. The last 16 months has given us all a different perspective on life and what is really important. It has focused our thinking on how we have a responsibility towards others and how we can educate our children in this respect. I hope that in reading this, it will give you an insight into some of the activities and lessons that shape our pupils into the thoughtful, caring citizens they become.



In September we welcomed the children back to school with open arms and a well-prepared, bubble-led curriculum. For many of the pupils, it was their first taste of 'proper' school for a very long time. Life in Middle School was different, yet the same, and children adapted very quickly to the new routines and expectations. It was clear to see that the children were, as always, excited to be in school and the teachers were so happy to have them back. Although some elements needed adapting, lessons were planned to the highest standard so that the children could experience the richness and diversity of our curriculum.

A priority for us in September was the election of our House Captains and House Vice-Captains. Using technology at its best, candidates were able





to upload their speeches for all Middle School pupils to watch. The children's passion and drive were seen in abundance! It was clear that so much care and consideration had gone into the preparation of their videos. The new School Councillors were duly elected and, led by Mrs Luscombe, they were able to meet both online and in person. Their ability to work together as a team has been incredible.

With 'Education for Social Responsibility' in mind, the School Council considered ways in which they could make a difference to people in our community. Thinking about the effects of the pandemic, they decided that all children in the school would write to a person in a care home at Christmas time. The impact of these messages cannot be measured in monetary terms but instead in care, compassion and kindness towards



others. In addition to this, £915 was raised for Haven House and Great Ormond Street Hospital through our Onesie Day when children came into school in their pyjamas, as well as collecting £1,216 for Save the Children by wearing a Christmas jumper on the last day of term. In the Summer term, all pupils took part in an exciting Aerobathon, raising £1,320 for The Dream Factory, a local children's charity. The year ended with another fantastic event. Pupils brought in their old school shoes which were taken to a local Clarks shoe shop to be donated to Unicef's ShoeSHARE initiative, helping children in the UK and around the world. This is another example of how we have shown care for others, in an alternative way.



Throughout the year, pupils have taken part in some wonderful lessons and activities. In the Christmas term, Year 3 had the opportunity to design and make a soft toy in their DT lessons, raising awareness of endangered animals. Year 4 used recycled materials to make their own desk tidies and wrote a television script for a David Attenborough documentary on food waste. A traditional event, our Christmas tree decorating competition, had to be changed this year. Pupils still made their decorations but they were hung up in their classes and they were made out of recycled materials. All of these activities, as well as developing skills, also underpin our education for social responsibility, teaching the children about issues that need care and attention. Finally, Year 5



were excited to audition for their play, *Sherlock and Cinders*, with all pupils taking part in the process. I was fortunate to see them all perform their pieces to such high standards, making the casting very difficult!

And then we went in lockdown. Undeterred, teachers taught live lessons and pupils responded so well. The care and well-being of the children was paramount and the introduction of end of day Teams sessions allowed the children to have fun in their virtual world. From chats in break out rooms (an idea from School Council), to 'Bring your pet', play a musical instrument and informal talent shows, the pupils were given the opportunity to have fun.

Learning at home presented some challenges and new opportunities to study in a different way. Science lessons for Year 5 saw them making

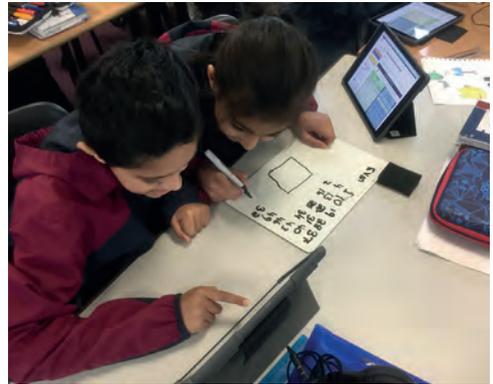
their own Newton meters, quite a task but not as big a challenge as putting together a virtual performance of *Sherlock and Cinders*. What they achieved, under Mrs McDowell's guidance and with the valued help of parents, was quite amazing! All the year groups kept up their fitness with online daily PE sessions as well as taking part in book week by dressing up and appearing on teams in their costumes at home. I was also very proud of our dedicated Reading Ambassadors in Middle School who recorded themselves reading a story and these were then shown to our nursery children. The videos were remarkable and showed how much the pupils cared about making a difference to younger children in our school community. With great relief, the children returned to school on 8 March. We were thrilled to have them back! The rest of the term saw



continued hard work and dedication then a well-earned rest for the Easter break.

The Summer term is always crammed full of exciting events and this year has been no different. During lockdown last year, I decided to grow sunflowers in my garden and share their growth and development with the children. It was lovely then this year to be able to provide Year 5 with seeds from my sunflowers that they could then use as part of their science investigation on germination. With the improved weather and loosening of restrictions, pupils have been able to return to competitive sports with fixtures restarting. The excitement of the children was palpable! This feeling was even more evident when we held our sports day. Although parents were not at the event, the atmosphere was magnificent. Sitting in their bubbles on the field, the children cheered each other on with gusto and enthusiasm. They care deeply about their Houses and each and every child longs for their House to win the shield. Congratulations go to Hayton this year!

With restrictions affecting residential visits, we decided not to book our usual Year 5 trip for this summer. Instead, the pupils had three exciting days out, building memories to cherish in years to come. From erecting hides in the forest at Suntrap, to team building at Lambourne End Activity Centre and finally a long walk from school to Connaught Waters, the children loved being



outside in the fresh air, having the freedom to laugh and simply enjoy the days together.

Now, as I sit here reflecting on the year, I can honestly say it has been a journey of a different kind. I am grateful for the children we have the privilege to teach, for the dedicated staff who always go that extra mile and for the endless support from our parents. The last 16 months has shown us that we can do things differently, we as a community are courageous and resilient. We care. Our pupils deserve the best education, not only academically, but in teaching them how to be kind, thoughtful human beings. To quote the Dalai Lama, 'When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts.' Our pupils have the biggest hearts and the strongest drive to achieve.

Carol Porter, Head of Middle School



YEAR 3

As part of their geography, pupils completed their own independent research about the main animals that live in Kenya.

The Lion

Size: 1.8 – 2.1 metres

Lifespan: Female 10 – 15 years and male 8 – 10 years

Habitat: They live below the Sahara Desert.

Food: Lions eat zebras, giraffes, pigs, Cape buffalos, antelopes and wildebeests.

Special features: Mane, whiskers, eyes, mouth, nose, ears and head.

Amazing facts: Lions are the only cats that live in groups. Female lions are the main hunters.

Saanvi Zutshi

The African elephant

The size of an African elephant is 3.2 metres

The mass of an African elephant is 6,000 kg

The lifespan of an African elephant is up to 60 – 70 years!

Habitat: African elephants live in sub-Saharan Africa, the rainforest of central and west Africa and the Sahel desert in Mali.

Food: Elephants eat roots, grasses, fruit and bark.

An adult elephant can consume up to 300 pounds of food in a single day!

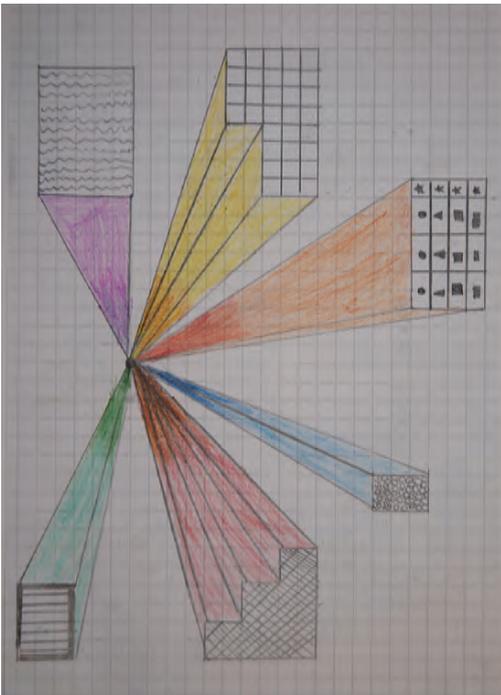
Special features:

- You can tell the two species by their ears
- Their tusks are actually teeth
- Their trunks have mad skills

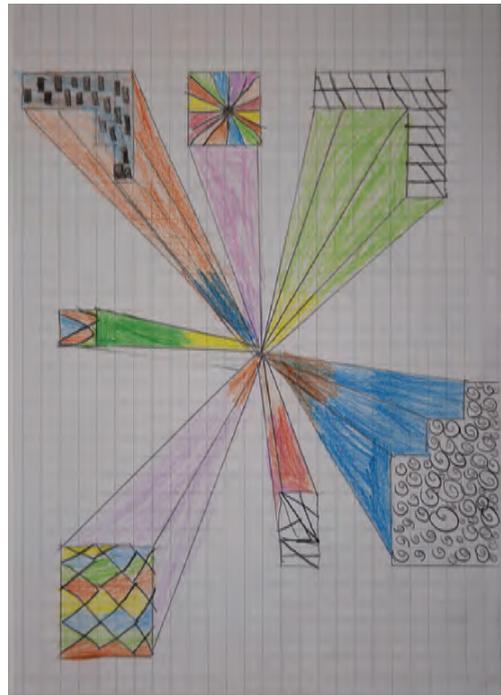
Amazing facts: They communicate through vibrations.

Amara Saeed

In Maths, pupils identified the vertical, horizontal, perpendicular and parallel lines. Children drew shapes with these lines, then chose vanishing points and created 3D effects.



Maria Bavisi



Vera Wilton

Pupils developed their understanding of colour theory by creating abstract art.

They created landscapes through foam printing and created their own modern art landscapes.



Aina Vas



Isla Tosar



Harry Duke



Amara Saeed



Joshua Frootko

YEAR 4

Pupils in Year 4 practised their writing by trying to persuade us to ban circus sideshows. This was inspired by work they completed around Philip Pullman's novel *I was a Rat*.

Sideshow Horror!

Hundreds of innocent people have been humiliated at sinister circus sideshows; you must put an end to these appalling actions!

For decades and decades, citizens of Britain have marvelled at the disabilities and disfigurements of the 'freaks'. To their misfortune, this act of cruelty hasn't come to a conclusion! There are several reasons why this must come to an end.

First, let's look into the poor pay of the victims. There is a lack of respect in what the proprietor gives to these innocent, truthful human beings. The average wage of one of your 'freaks' is less than a chimney sweep's hourly pay! This entertainment must be banned as it is never right to exploit people!

Sihaam Bhatti

Children in Year 4 also read stories by Terry Pratchett and wrote their own based on his style, thinking carefully about characters, events and mood.

Do you remember the two brave policemen? I bet you do! Landanffunfafagettupagogo really needs them, what with it being the most lawless town in the British Isles – and possibly the world! This is the story of how they stopped the greatest criminal plot in Wales.

It was a hot summer's day and Bryn Bunyan and PC Gorsebush were sitting near an ice cream van. Sergeant Bunyan was busy scoffing a Frozen Fruity (his favourite) and Gorsebush was performing his duty by licking six Chocolate 'n Cherry Chomps at once. Police dog Blodwen was licking up all the melted ice cream that they dropped.

Suddenly a Warren's Whopping Lollies van pulled up next to the Hopper's Scrummy Yummies. 'Oi, you! My schedule says I should be here alone, not sharing with you!' shouted Mr Dylan Hopper.

Isabel Geuther

Year 4 enjoyed creating their own pop art in the style of Andy Warhol.



Etienne Fan



Archie Xu

In History, Pupils learned about Windrush and the experiences of the first Black immigrants in the UK.

Dear Diary

Monday

I arrived in London, excited to explore! I first went to apply for a job as an assistant for a primary school and then went to the market to get some plantain for dinner. I couldn't find any so I asked the seller and he said 'Sorry, fruits like that aren't sold here.' and gave me a nasty look. My expectations were too high. I decide to go to the house the government gave me, that I was sharing with another family.

Tuesday

I got a letter in the post saying that I had got the job and would be starting today. I quickly got dressed and walked to the primary school that I was working at. When I arrived other teachers were being racist towards me and some other Black assistants. The children gave me a hard time and talked while I was explaining the 2x table. It was just awful.

Kayjha Ryan



Isabella Levenfiche



Aadit Sharma

Using Jackson Pollock as inspiration, pupils created their own pieces of abstract expressionism.



Hayaan Malik



Maelee Rasheed

YEAR 5

Suleman Sheikh wrote a poem inspired by Pax, a novel about war.

The Night of Slaughter

The night of slaughter,
I was forced to witness man killing man... it was inhuman,
I saw men flooding my forest, sprinting across the blizzard of shells,
Fires blazed and scorched the land bare as Mordor,
On the night of slaughter.

The night of slaughter,
The crackle of rifle-fire and the death-rattle of machine guns pierced my ears,
The thundering boom of mortar gunners filled the battlefield,
Tremors in the ground deceived (deceived?) the oblivious to believe earthquakes were present,
On the night of slaughter.

The night of slaughter,
My tongue being overrun by the bitter taste of war,
My eyes scrunching up in distaste,
I almost felt sick, it was overwhelming,
On the night of slaughter.

The night of slaughter,
The nauseating scent of gunpowder smoke lingered, blindfolding the battle,
I was choked; it was like poison was conquering my veins,
The scent of deception and hatred was contagious,
On the night of slaughter.

Trees burnt, my home was obliterated and all I could do was watch.

James wrote a powerful speech to persuade us all to help save the Wild Dog from extinction.

Let's Save the Wild Dog

I'm sure we can all agree that the beautiful African wild dog is unfortunately one of the most

endangered species on planet Earth. Eye-wateringly, there are only 1,409 of these small hyenas left to roam the grassy grasslands and the scorching plains of the deserts, scattered around Africa. This is all because of our species, humans. Now, unless you don't want to change our cruel ways, join me and the WWF, which are creating protected areas and working on reducing human conflicts with the wild dogs, in saving this breathtakingly endangered animal as a team!

Maya and Amna wrote newspaper articles describing the rescue of Shackleton's crew from Elephant Island.

Shackleton Saves Sailors!

Ernest Shackleton saves crew from hunger and dehydration By Amna T Mehmood

Yesterday, Ernest Shackleton and a small crew of five sailed many miles to rescue the rest of his ravenous and dehydrated crew from a barren wasteland called Elephant Island. The small group sailed on a gargantuan ship called the 'Yelcho' and Shackleton found his crew weak, frail and desperate for help.

Shackleton and his small squad set out to sail to South America, fighting through the frozen blizzards and the over 100 miles of water.

Savior Shackleton Is Back!

Shackleton and five others, after finding help, come back for the rest. By Maya Robinson

Having being left on Elephant Island, 22 of the crew members living on ice under upturned boats, were losing the will to live. Frank Wild (the second in command to Shackleton) was left in charge to make sure everyone was on task, even in harsh weather.

Every day a person from the crew looked out to see if Shackleton had returned. A few days later not a single person thought Shackleton and the other crew members would come back. 'Look, look. They're here!' shouted Wild, crying and laughing at the same time.

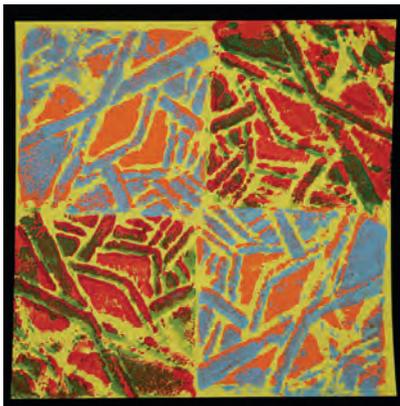
Year 5 pupils learned about repeat pattern and reduction printing in Design Technology. They were inspired by nature to create an image that could be used as a tile for interior decoration.



William Skinner



Isabelle Yates



Louis Roberts

Elis produced this piece based on the Henri Rousseau's painting *The Surprise*.



Elis McCarthy

Year 5 made Giacometti inspired sculptures.



Milan Pavan



Alisha O'Donnell

PRIZE GIVING

Even though certain restrictions remained in place for the year, it was with great pleasure that we welcomed the parents of our Year 6 and leavers to enjoy Prize Giving in person. As well as celebrating each pupil's individual successes, they were also able to enjoy a rather humorous speech about the history of prizes and awards from Mr Blom.

"Last year we enjoyed a shortened version of the Prize Giving as a result of the pandemic. Thank you all for being here this afternoon as our pupils celebrate their many achievements.

25 centuries after the Greeks began awarding prizes for art, the world is awash with prizes of all sorts, from Nobel to Pulitzer, from BAFTA to the Oscars, and on to the wonderfully named Darwin Award for those humans who have been judged to have helped natural selection by removing themselves from the gene pool. Darwin Award winners have included those who have; used a cigarette lighter to check for flammable liquids (Brazil 2003), juggled live hand grenades (Croatia 2001), and used a semi-automatic pistol to play Russian Roulette (US 2000).

This summer, the Olympics are scheduled to go ahead in Japan. For me, watching the event on TV will be enlivened by studying research highlighted by the Ig Nobel Awards. Each year, these awards credit strange scientific research, its stated aim being to honour achievements that first make people laugh, and then make them think." For example, in 2011, the Physics prize winner determined why discus throwers become dizzy, but hammer throwers do not. I particularly like the Ig Nobel Prize-winning research on the subject of procrastination that stated, "To be a high achiever always work on something important, using it as a way to avoid doing something that is even more important." At the start of my career, I would have found that advice really useful! Something to look out for during those hours of Olympic TV coverage!

I was also intrigued to discover that globally, around 9,000 film prizes are awarded annually,

roughly double the number of feature films made. More exciting still, and perhaps only to be found in America, is an awards recognition Association which hands out awards for the best awards. It reminds me how some organisations, including schools, hold meetings to plan for more meetings.



AWARDS

Mathematics

Hayton Cup (Year 6) – Varanan Nirmalan
Jones Cup (Year 7) – Yunus Choudhury
Smalley Cup (Year 8) – Iveta Daskalova

Science

Fox Cup (Year 6) – Ellen Barbaneagra
Garkal Cup (Year 7) – Emmie Huff
Wilkinson Vase (Year 8) – Afiyah Ashraf

Latin

St. Aubyn's Cup (Year 6) – Ezra Uguz
Allen Cup (Year 7) – Aisha Tahir
Pothalingham Cup (Year 8) – Rafza Faraz

Religious Education

Waldron Cup (Year 6) – Adam Taslim
Crump Cup (Year 7) – Zayaan Khan
Ladbrooke Cup (Year 8) – Kyle Frimpong-Manso

Information Technology

Year 6 IT Prize – Uzair Chowdhury
Ellis Cup (Year 7) – Louis-Sandi Edwards
Jackson Shield (Year 8) – Reem Shaikh



English

Dowler Cup (Year 6) – Leila McCloskey Raafat
 Lancet Cup (Year 7) – Ted Goldenberg
 Stafford Cup (Year 8) – Reem Shaikh

French

Garkal Cup (Year 6) – Zita Isienyi
 Denne Cup (Year 7) – Irem Gunduz
 Luke Wilson Cup (Year 8) – Alayna Saeed

Geography

Walton Shield (Year 6) – Frederick Bayntun
 Barlow Cup (Year 7) – Aliza Saeed
 Mackenzie-Grieve Cup (Year 8) – Rafza Faraz

History

Wrightman Cup (Year 6) – Janset Ercan
 Frederick Cup (Year 7) – Emmie Huff
 Thwaite Cup (Year 8) – Emerald Oteng

Design and Technology

Morris Cup (Year 6) – Ellen Barbaneagra
 Collins Cup (Year 7) – Sophie Duffee
 Montgomery Cup (Year 8) – Iveta Daskalova

Art

Year 6 Prize – Disha Shah
 Year 7 Prize – Zayaan Khan
 Thomas Cup (Year 8) – Reem Shaikh
 Skinner Cup for Art – Simrun Dhaliwal.

Scholars (boxed medals)

Music – Sam Allan
 Academic – Aarush Baghla
 Academic – Haris Bano-Burns
 Academic, Art & Music – Ellen Barbaneagra
 Sport – William Carberry
 Sport – Hadia Harif
 Academic – Frasier Mann

School Awards

Colman Cup for Poetry – Leila McCloskey Raafat
 Lomax Shield for Drama – Alice Richardson
 Virk Cup for Good Citizen – Charlotte Middlehurst
 Don Cameron Silver Plate (Thinking out of the box) – Zachary Ullah

Sport

Sportswoman of the Year – Hadia Harif
 Sportsman of the Year – Aran Ara
 Sam Pinching Sporting Endeavour – William Carberry
 Elworthy Cup for Sporting Endeavour – Adetayo Orimoloye

Music

Foakes Musical Instrumentalist Shield – Ellen Barbaneagra
 Acton Cup for Senior Music – Sam Allen
 Tulloch Cup for Musicianship – Camilla Karamatova

All Rounder Awards

McIlwaine Cup – All Rounder (Year 6) – Ami Gurjar
 Colley Cup – All Rounder (Year 7) – Emmie Huff
 Garkel Cup – All Rounder (Year 8) – Alayna Saeed

Headmaster's Award – Iveta Daskalova

SENIOR SCHOOL

What makes the Senior School at St Aubyn's such a special place to learn? What do our pupils miss when they leave? Set aside the place itself, the green spaces, the sports facilities, the drama facilities. Lay aside the power of the listed main building of the school, the achievements, the enterprise, the back-catalogue of progress and excellent exam results. One always comes back to the people. It is the people that make a school. Without them, schools are little more than an empty hulk, a Marie Celeste, empty, adrift. Our children bring the school to life, filling it with fun, hopes and dreams.

Over my 20 years at St Aubyn's, I have known a good many teachers, for longer or shorter, for better or worse: some arrive and then move on, some (like me) persist for decades. I have been fortunate to work with some incredibly talented people who never cease to inspire their pupils and colleagues. However, our pupils are what we are truly made of and I have long since lost count of how many I have taught. Our pupils are an intrinsic part of the school, its nature, its substance. We encourage our Senior School pupils to epitomise our core value of respect and to live according to our St Aubyn's Promises. Our pupils are St Aubyn's. Not just because they say and do the right things, but because of how they choose to live their lives, how they come and go among us, because of what they bring and give. Without them, our Senior School would simply be less itself.



Whilst looking through this year's magazine, I was proud of the fact that, whilst there are entirely appropriate references to the pandemic and many of the challenges associated with it, these certainly did not manage to steal the show. Our Senior School pupils, as ever, worked to support their friends and their wider communities through this year. In addition, they have continued to excel academically, performing incredibly well in the entrance exams and adapting comfortably to the required changes to their routines. You will see from the photographs that we enjoyed a variety of events and activities. This year has exposed us to new things, to events we never dreamed possible. Our pupils have learned that there can be no passivity, no hiding place, and this knowledge will stand them in excellent stead for the future.

To those who leave us this year, I wish them the very best with their new adventures. They have played a unique part in the history of this fine school.

Fortitier, Fideliter, Feliciter.

Samantha Twomey, Head of Senior School





Year 6 explored the sculptural work of Antoni Gaudi. They looked at shape, form, pattern and texture. Using recycled objects, they constructed artist-inspired chimneys during lockdown and later worked on relief, pattern and embellishment in class-based lessons.



Left to right: Aran Ara, Teresa Issling, Leila McCloskey Raafat, Disha Shah, Zack Phillips, Camilla Karamatova

Year 7 pupils have been drawing natural forms from direct observation.



Maria Malik

Year 8 pupils studied the creative work of William Morris. They learned about the processes he used then working in a similar way themselves in typography, a pastiche and a portrait drawing. Finally, pupils delivered an oral presentation of their work to their peers.



Alayna Saeed



Iveta Daskalova

Year 8 DT designers have created prototypes for lighting designs. They trialled a range of materials and processes before creating their own piece.



Reem Shaikh



Rafza Faraz



Trip to Connaught Water

On Tuesday 29 June, Year 6 and 8 went on a little adventure! They walked over 11 miles, venturing from school, down through the forest, to Connaught Water. On the way, they slipped and slid through some very muddy patches (with a few falls along the way) as Mr Lawson told them about the River Ching, which lakes were man-made, and showed them some rocky remnants of the original London Bridge!

Once they arrived at the lake, they all got involved in a den building competition. Mr. Lawson judged a group of Year 6 girls to be the winners.

Then it was time for lunch on the tables outside Butler's Retreat and off to buy extra treats at the Holly Trail Café – which resulted in some even wetter children. A biblical downpour hit as we arrived, meaning the passing traffic sent water soaring over the heads of the pupils in the queue.

The route back took us another way, along the path of the river and through some streams. The pupils were so enthusiastic and eager to explore – even the rain didn't dampen their enthusiasm!

The pupils loved every second and the day was such great fun. In the words of one Year 6 boy, it was, 'Awesome!'



LEAVERS

Dear Leavers,

So...it's that time of year again. We're at the end of another school year. The last year has been one of ups and downs, as well as challenges. But we made it. We have reached the end of the road and the end of an era. And this time, I will be leaving along with you.

The Leavers' Dinner is an event that evokes different feelings and emotions: excitement in anticipation of what will follow; sadness in leaving a place that has nurtured you for many years; trepidation in contemplating what lies ahead; for some, there will be regret for what could have been; and for others, joy and satisfaction for what has been achieved and will be in the bright future they see ahead.

Many of you have spent much of your lives at St Aubyn's. I have spent a lifetime here. Sending in an application form to be a Year 4 teacher, more than 20 years ago, was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I still remember vividly walking up the driveway and seeing the daffodils alongside the pond. I felt it was a sign (you know, being Welsh!) and I can still remember the games being played on the playground and the first child that I spoke with (Marcus Fraser, in case you're interested).

You have probably been asked many times, at least enough times to find it annoying, 'What are you going to be when you leave school?' And I'm sure you have and will receive a great deal of very sensible advice: which courses you should take, which universities you should apply for, the jobs you should pursue. And I believe that you should listen respectfully to this advice, but always remember that it is your life. You are the one who must live it. Therefore, you need to take responsibility for it and be willing to deal with the consequences of your decisions. More important than anything else is to feel secure and to feel happy.

We live in a society that is constantly seeking true happiness. Don't get me wrong, personal happiness is important, but I do believe that it is



often a by-product of something else. I believe that 'something else' is to contribute to society in positive ways. Giving to others is a way of creating a sustainable happiness. What do I mean by that? Well, we can't always get into the school we desire, or into the university we dreamed of attending, or find the job that never seems like work, or marry that one true love, or earn enough to buy and do whatever we want. But we can always find ways to help productively, and support, and care for others. In doing this, you will find happiness.

Whilst I, like you, am incredibly excited for the future and all of its possibilities, I am also incredibly sad to leave behind a place which has been a home to me for so long. St Aubyn's has prepared us all for the road ahead and I know that we will all look back on our time here with smiles on our faces. I wish you the very best with this next exciting phase of your life. Look back with fondness at the time you have spent here at St Aubyn's, and know that you will always be welcome.

Look out.

Look beyond.

Live your dreams.

*Samantha Twomey,
Head of Senior School*



SPORTS DAY

Senior School Sports Day is always an exciting event and the rescheduled day took place in fantastic sunshine. There were some excellent individual performances, with the highlights being a new Under 12 Girls hurdles record set by Kamiyah Ryan and a new Open Girls Javelin record set by Emerald Oteng. Well done to all the athletes and congratulations to Grove, the winning house.

The individual competition between pupils was very close and the most successful over a number of events were rewarded with the title of Victor or Victrix Ludorum. They were:

Under 11 Boys	William Carberry
Under 11 Girls	Hadia Harif
Under 12 Boys	Colin Dalgleish
Open Boys	Adetayo Orimoloye
Open Girls	Kamiyah Ryan

The final table of House results was:

1st	Grove
2nd	School
3rd	York
4th	Hayton

50 Metres

U11 Boys: 1st Z. Phillips, 2nd A. Ara, 3rd B. Dawson, 4th M. Haven

U11 Girls (Balcombe Cup): 1st A. Gurjar, 2nd J. Ercan, 3rd C. Ryan, 4th A. Richardson

Open Boys: 1st At. Orimoloye, 2nd K. Frimpong-Manso, 3rd Ad. Orimoloye, 4th L. Sandi-Edwards

Open Girls: 1st K. Ryan, 2nd C. Middlehurst, 3rd Z. Khan, 4th R. Faraz

75 Metres

U11 Boys: 1st W. Carberry, 2nd Z. Ullah, 3rd A. Taslim, 4th B. Williams



U11 Girls: 1st H. Harif, 2nd L. Saeed, 3rd A. Gurjar, 4th S. Ercan

55 Metre Hurdles

U11 Boys: 1st W. Carberry, 2nd B. Williams, 3rd B. Rogers, 4th S. Shivashanker

U11 Girls: 1st H. Harif, 2nd E. Barbaneagra, 3rd A. Robinson, 4th G. Reynolds

Open Boys (Young Cup): 1st Y. Choudhury, 2nd J. Bell-Harrison, 3rd J. Middlehurst, 4th C. Dalgleish

Open Girls: 1st K. Ryan, 2nd E. Oteng, 3rd S. Duffee, 4th I. Daskalova

200 Metres

U11 Boys: 1st G. Cueva Martinez, 2nd B. Dawson, 3rd Z. Ullah, 4th W. Carberry

U11 Girls (Botha Cup): 1st H. Harif, 2nd J. Ercan, 3rd L. Saeed, 4th A. Robinson

Open Boys (Metson Cup): 1st At. Orimoloye, 2nd J. Bell-Harrison, 3rd K. Frimpong-Manso, 4th Ad. Orimoloye

Open Girls: 1st E. Oteng, 2nd C. Middlehurst, 3rd Z. Khan, 4th I. Gunduz

400 Metres

U11 Boys (Perpetual Cup): 1st H. Garwood,
2nd G. Cueva Martinez, 3rd Z. Phillips, 4th A. Babic

U11 Girls: 1st E. Barbaneagra, 2nd M. Ailioaie,
3rd S. Ercan, 4th D. Shah

Long Jump

U11 Boys: 1st H. Garwood, 2nd Z. Phillips,
3rd A. Madden, 4th A. Ara

U11 Girls (Wales-Cummins Cup): 1st E. Barbaneagra,
2nd A. Gurjar, 3rd L. Saeed, 4th E. Toweh

Open Boys (Tholander Cup): 1st J. Bell-Harrison,
2nd At. Orimoloye, 3rd K. Frimpong-Manso,
4th T. Mughal

Open Girls: 1st A. Saeed, 2nd R. Faraz,
3rd I. Daskalova, 4th K. Ryan

Standing Triple Jump

U11 Boys: 1st H. Harif, 2nd S. Ercan, 3rd D. Shah,
4th A. Gurjar

U11 Girls: 1st Z. Ullah, 2nd B. Williams,
3rd H. Bano-Burns, 4th J. McGhee

High Jump

U11 Boys: 1st A. Ara, 2nd G. Cueva Martinez,
3rd B. Williams, 4th Z. Phillips

U11 Girls: 1st L. Saeed, 2nd E. Barbaneagra,
3rd M. Ailioaie, 4th J. Ali, A. Robinson and
G. Reynolds

Open Boys: 1st At. Orimoloye, 2nd L. Sandi-
Edwards, 3rd K. Frimpong-Manso and N. Engstrem

Open Girls: 1st K. Ryan, 2nd I. Gunduz, 3rd R. Faraz,
4th E. Oteng

Cricket/Rounders Ball Throw

U11 Boys: 1st H. Garwood, 2nd S. Sivashanker,
3rd B. Dawson, 4th J. Bokhari

U11 Girls: 1st A. Robinson, 2nd A. Richardson,
3rd E. Bell-Harrison, 4th D. Shah

Open Boys: 1st N. Engstrem, 2nd K. Frimpong-
Manso, 3rd S. Khan, 4th Ad. Orimoloye

Open Girls: 1st I. Daskalova, 2nd A. Saeed,
3rd R. Faraz, 4th R. Shaikh

Shot Putt

U11 Boys: 1st A. Taslim, 2nd S. Sivashanker,
3rd K. Rajakumar, 4th D. Sohal

U11 Girls: 1st E. Uguz, 2nd E. Bell-Harrison,
3rd A. Kabir, 4th M. Ailioaie

Open Boys: 1st Ad. Orimoloye, 2nd At. Orimoloye,
3rd C. Dagleish, 4th J. Bell-Harrison

Open Girls: 1st A. Ashraf, 2nd I. Ayub,
3rd I. Gunduz, 4th E. Huff

Javelin

Open Boys: 1st C. Dagleish, 2nd Ad. Orimoloye,
3rd J. Middlehurst, 4th L. Sandi-Edwards

Open Girls: 1st E. Oteng, 2nd A. Saeed,
3rd C. Middlehurst, 4th E. Huff

Turbo Javelin

U11 Boys: 1st W. Carberry, 2nd J. Bokhari,
3rd M. Haven, 4th A. Ara

U11 Girls: 1st E. Uguz, 2nd C. Ryan, 3rd E. Bell-
Harrison, 4th G. Reynolds

Relay

U11 Boys: 1st Grove, 2nd School, 3rd York,
4th Hayton

U11 Girls: 1st Hayton, 2nd School, 3rd Grove,
4th York

Open: 1st Grove, 2nd Hayton, 3rd School, 4th York



SPORT

ATHLETICS

At the Avon House Athletics Festival, eight athletes from Year 5 took part in a sprint, vortex throw, long jump and long distance throw against Year 6 pupils from 12 local schools, with 52 girls and 52 boys competing. Congratulations to James and Maya who finished first boy and girl respectively out of the St Aubyn's team. Fantastic performances all round, with the hard work and sports day preparations paying dividends.

FOOTBALL

After a year without competitive sport due to COVID restrictions, our Under 11 and Under 13 Girls football teams made a welcome return to the football pitch in the Summer term, competing in a number of matches and tournaments.

Under 11 Girls Football

As preparation for the ISFA South Regional tournament the Under 11 Girls played against Gatehouse and Chigwell. Against Gatehouse they played very well, working hard at keeping possession, passing, and moving into space to

create several scoring opportunities. As the game progressed the girl's confidence began to grow and their pace of passing increased. We ended up winning 6-0, and the whole team can be immensely proud of the performance and result of the first game. We also beat Chigwell to set us up nicely for the ISFA tournament with the hope of making it to the National Finals again. After comfortably winning our first two games with impressive score lines, we didn't continue our momentum and lost the final two group matches meaning we were unable to get out of the group stages.

The following girls achieved their colours for regularly representing the Under 11 team:

Year 5: O. Brooks, F. Brooks

Year 6: A. Gurjar, L. Saeed

Player of the Year: Alice Richardson

Breakthrough Player: Ami Gurjar

Top Goal Scorer: Hadia Harif

U13 Girls football

As preparation for the ISFA South Regional tournament the Under 13 Girls played their first

match against local rivals Chigwell. As the game progressed the girls' confidence began to grow and their teamwork improved leading to a 2-1 win.

At the ISFA Regional finals in May it was fantastic to see so many girls take part in competitive football after such a long time away from the game. Results didn't go our way, but the girls represented the school well, showing resilience and determination. A special mention to Emerald who played as goalkeeper for the first time and was superb.

CRICKET

Enthusiasm for cricket has been strong especially as last season was written off due to lockdown. We have been able to compete in a number of competitive cricket matches.

Under 13 Boys

Two early games with Normanhurst School provided the boys with the opportunity to practise the skills they had been honing in lessons. In the first game, the boys hit 86 runs for 6 wickets from 18 overs. Strong bowling and decisive fielding restricted the Normanhurst batting attack to 40 runs for 7 wickets from their 18 overs giving the us our first win of the summer.

The following week, in the second game against Normanhurst, confidence was high and after a fine batting performance from the captain, James, hopes were high for a good score and the boys aimed to reach the magical 100. However, the lower batting order wobbled and the boys finished on 73 runs for 7 wickets from 18 overs. This wobble continued as the boys took the field and lapses in concentration and forgetting the basics of teamwork and discipline allowed Normanhurst to win the match by three runs.

Against Chigwell the boys quickly set about delivering a fine bowling and fielding performance and restricted Chigwell to a score of 95 runs for 8 wickets. A fine opening run-rate saw the boys match Chigwell in the opening seven overs with fantastic shots from Saif and good support striking from Colin. However, the boys could not continue the run rate and finished 61 all out.



The last match of the summer term saw the visit of Keble. Electing to bowl first, we quickly took control of the terrier's style game, restricting Keble to 48 runs for 5 wickets from 14 overs. A fantastic 26 from Nicholas and simple batting shots with quick running ensured the boys finished as winners after scoring 168 runs for 4 wickets from 14 overs.

Congratulations to all those boys who have represented the 1st XI and thanks to Mr Solomonides for his efforts with the team. Overall they played four matches recording two wins and two losses.

The following boys achieved their colours for regularly representing the 1st XI:

Year 7 – T. Goldenberg (Vice-Captain),
C. Dalgleish, T. Mughal, A. Rumnah,
L. Sandi-Edwards

Year 8 – J. Middlehurst (Captain), S. Khan
(Vice-Captain), J. Bell-Harrison, N. Engstrom,
K. Frimpong-Manso, At. Orimoloye,
Ad. Orimoloye



Top All Rounder: James Middlehurst
Breakthrough Player: Colin Dagleish
Top Batsman: Saif Khan
Top Bowler: Kyle Frimpong-Manso
Top Fielder: Jude Bell-Harrison

Under 11 Boys

The Under 11 cricket team have benefitted from a number of strong individual performances this season. Whilst the match format has varied, the boys have always worked well as a group and recorded wins against local opposition Chigwell, Normanhurst, Woodford Green Prep and St. Edmund's.

In the game against Chigwell the boys elected to bowl first and with accuracy and pace they restricted Chigwell's options to score. The boys then defended well when batting, patiently waiting to score by playing shots into space to win by 10 runs.

In their final game of the summer, they faced St. Edmund's in a thrilling and enjoyable pairs cricket match. Choosing to open the bowling the boys restricted St. Edmund's to an opening score of 155 for 8 wickets. Taking to the field

to bat the boys recognised the need for simple cricket, keeping the scoreboard ticking over and taking the opportunity for a boundary score if it presented itself. Strong shots from Monty, Aran, Varanan and Henry saw the boys finish on 165 for 5 wickets. Many of the boys had started their sporting careers with a Year 2 cricket match and winning their final game proved a successful way to finish their time at St Aubyn's.

Overall, the Under 11s played five matches, recording one loss and four wins.

The following pupils achieved their colours for regularly representing the Under 11s:

Year 6 – A. Ara (Captain), W. Carberry (Vice-Captain), S. Allan, A. Babic, F. Bayntun, J. Bokhari, B. Dawson H. Garwood, M. Haven, S. Murray, Z. Naeem, V. Nirmalan, S. Shivashanker.

Top All Rounder: Aran Ara
Breakthrough Player: Varanan Nirmalan
Top Batsman: Monty Haven
Top Bowler: William Carberry
Top Fielder: Henry Garwood

Under 11 Girls

The Under 11 Girls cricket team enjoyed two matches this summer season. One was a development match against Woodford Green Prep where all Year 6 girls had the opportunity of playing. The second was against St Edmunds, which ended up in a draw. The girls have worked very hard this season on their bowling and batting skills and should be very proud of how far they have come in the sport.

Top All Rounder: Ellen Barbaneagra

Breakthrough Player: Laila Saeed

Top Batsman: Alice Richardson

Top Bowler: Hadia Harif

Top Fielder: Ami Gurjar

Under 10 Boys

The Year 5 boys were able to compete in three cricket matches this season. With much of their development hindered by the pandemic the aim this summer was solely to get them playing and progressing towards the 11-a-side hardball format. The highlight of the summer was their performance against Chigwell. Despite playing a technically stronger and more experienced team, the boys managed to take three wickets with James taking two wickets in one over.

Overall, the Under 10s played three matches, recording two wins and one loss.

Top All Rounder: James Ducat

Breakthrough Player: Puvannan Prabakaran

Top Batsman: Aarav Mehta

Top Bowler: Aryan Patel

Under 10 Girls

Unfortunately the weather and COVID restrictions took its toll on the Under 10 girls fixtures with them limited to playing cricket in lessons and the Under 10 Haileybury Tournament. Despite this, their enthusiasm for cricket has been great to see and their individual skills and team tactics have improved in preparation for their matches in Year 6.

In perfect cricket weather, the girls enjoyed

some close scoring games at the Haileybury tournament. Special mention goes to Olivia Brooks who won 'Best Cricket Moment' for superb catches as wicket keeper. We hope this opportunity will inspire the girls' to play more cricket over the summer and prepare them for more fixtures next year.

Top All Rounder: Olivia Brooks

Breakthrough Player: Maryam Patel

Top Batsman: Simrun Dhaliwal

Top Bowler: Gabrielle Szlezinger

Under 9 Boys

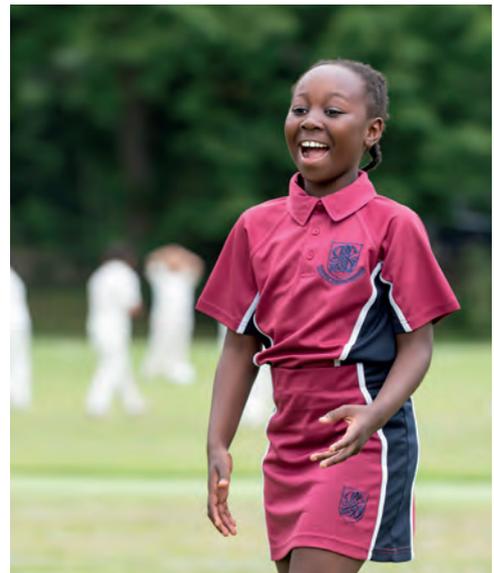
The Year 4 boys also managed to play three matches, winning them all. Enthusiasm for cricket was high and the boys have had fun in lessons learning and developing their individual skills and team tactics. Regardless of ability, the aim has been to provide a sporting cricket environment that would allow the children to improve further.

Top All Rounder: Rafer Dawson

Breakthrough Player: Jack Joslin

Top Batsman: Eesa Ahmad

Top Bowler: Hayaan Malik





HOUSE SPORT

Pupils from Years 3 to 8 have taken part in a variety of House Sports Tournaments including football, badminton, basketball, netball, rugby, table tennis and cricket. The spirit of the House events is to develop teamwork.

The total points for each House, based on their positions in each tournament, are added together. In Middle School, Hayton finished in first place whilst in Senior School, School finished in first place. Congratulations go to School House as the overall winners.

Badminton

The Senior Badminton competitions saw a fierce rivalry between the Year 7 and 8 pupils from Grove, Hayton, School and York. Congratulations to Nicholas for winning the Singles Badminton event for York House.



Table Tennis

In a tense final, William beat Gabriel to win the Year 6 House Table Tennis event. Well done to all the Year 6s for taking part.



PE VIRTUAL CHALLENGES

It was a strange Lent without the normal noise and enjoyment of inter-school fixtures due to lockdown. However, there were several virtual sporting challenges taking place as well as organised challenges during virtual PE lessons.

Pupils in Middle and Senior School took part in several 60 second challenges in PE. These challenges were part of the Youth Sport Trust commitment to getting children active during the pandemic. They were a fantastic way to be active and challenged.

To be creative and to bring an exciting change to traditional board games, pupils in Middle and Senior School were able to play adapted versions of Monopoly and Scrabble. Adapting the rules of each game allowed the pupils to engage in high intensity exercise.

As part of the IAPS Virtual Sports Championships pupils in Middle and Senior school took part in several challenges. The challenges included a crossbar challenge in football, a shooting challenge in hockey and a catching challenge in basketball.

The annual London Mini Marathon that takes place on the same weekend as the full 26-mile event was cancelled. However, undeterred the

race sponsor set the challenge of running 2.6 miles in a week. There were fantastic performances from all the children who took part. Well done to everyone.

The London Youth Games is one of the largest sporting events for Under 18's in Europe and involves all of the boroughs of London. As part of this year's event Middle and Senior pupils represented Redbridge Borough in several competitive virtual challenges. Year 6, 7 and 8 took part in a cross-country race sponsored by Nike, whilst Year 5 competed in a hockey speed dribbling competition. At the end of the school year, Redbridge finished in eighth place out of 26 competing boroughs.

To celebrate the Tokyo 2021 Summer Olympics, pupils, staff, and families across the St Aubyn's School community took part in a 'No-Screen' Challenge. Together, the community covered over 9,354 miles in seven weeks either walking, cycling, or running. Over the weeks, we 'visited' London, Paris, Berlin, Moscow, Tashkent, Kathmandu, Beijing, Osaka, and Tokyo. Using the community Padlet web page a huge number of fantastic photos displayed the distances, cities visited and our adventurous challengers. Well done to everyone who took part in the challenge.



INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Year 3 Middle School PE Award

Grace Fayinka & Oliver Bayntun

Year 4 Middle School PE Award

Eesa Ahmad & Sihaam Bhatti

Year 5 Middle School PE Award

James Ducat & Olivia Brooks

Sportsman of the Year

Aran Ara

Sportswoman of the Year

Hadia Harif

Elworthy Cup for Sporting Endeavour

Adetayo Orimoloye

Sam Pinching Trophy for Sporting Endeavour

William Carberry

SASS

As the new academic year began, we would usually have been preparing for our annual Fireworks display. As with many activities, due to ongoing restrictions this was unable to go ahead. However, we were still able to organise an art competition and the children were asked to design a fireworks picture. We displayed these on the outside of the school shop during the week leading up to the usual display and the winner received a fantastic advent calendar. The artwork provided a timely reminiscence of our past displays and we looked forward to the return of this exciting event next year.



We then focused our attention on the end of term Christmas gifts. We made an extra effort and our lower school pupils received personalised gifts. I think you'll agree this was quite the logistical feat! School staff stepped into our usual Christmas costumes and delivered presents to all children in the school. The SASS team made efforts to get the gifts to the children isolating too as something we hoped would brighten their day.

Zoom meetings were held over the winter months, then outdoors when regulations allowed. The team talked optimistically about our future plans. As event planners, we had to adapt to short deadlines and ongoing flexibility. This was ultimately tested when we decided quite last minute that our annual Camp could go ahead. Preparations that would usually be done months before were pulled together in a few weeks.

The event was held totally outdoors with some social distancing expectations. The weather was (luckily) scorching and the energy was fantastic. The event was a total success. Children and parents were delighted to be able to attend. Lambourne End did an amazing job with their organised activities.

Unfortunately, the David Walliams outdoor theatre at the school had to be cancelled, due to rising COVID cases. We hope to run this event at a future date.

Our second-hand uniform shop has continued to thrive. We are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. We are very proud of the shop. It embodies the current ethos of reusing and



recycling and saves many an item from landfill.

This year's profits from SASS have been used to buy some playground equipment. Other initiatives currently under consideration are art supplies, equipment for a new food tech department, awnings, benches, as well as funding an international fair, to name but a few! We hope to return to our usual schedule of activities in 21/22 and to creating more happy memories.

Thank you to all the current committee members for your hard work. It has been a pleasure to work with you all during this challenging year.

Any new parent wishing to join the committee or who would like to put forward any initiatives is welcome to get in touch with us at sass.staubyns@gmail.com.

Leone Demetriou



STAFF NEWS

It is also the time of year when we say goodbye to staff and welcome new staff. For the past few years, St Aubyn's has benefited from a very stable management team. The most recent appointment was in 2018 when Miss Singleton was appointed as the Deputy Head (Academic). I have been most fortunate to work with a committed team, each of whom have contributed to the success of their Departments and the School as a whole. I am proud to announce that Mrs Twomey has now been appointed Head of New Hall Prep. This is a well-deserved appointment. She has built a thriving Senior Department here and her years of experience placed her in good stead when she applied for her new position. On behalf of the community, I wish her every success in her new role.

Her departure leaves a vacancy and Mrs Porter, with her years of experience and understanding of the 11+ system, will be the new Head of Seniors from September. You all know her well; she has an excellent reputation and will fill the void left by Mrs Twomey. The Middle School will be headed up by Mrs Wells who is also well known



in our school community. She brings a wealth of experience to the role, having enjoyed 12 years as a deputy and two years as a Head. We congratulate her on this well-deserved promotion. We congratulate Mrs Macneill who now replaces Mrs Wells as Deputy Head of Pre Prep and her Year 1 teaching role will be filled by Mr Hicklin. Mrs Foakes is retiring at the end of the year, after

22 years' outstanding service to the School. The School has appointed a suitable and capable candidate to fill the post from January 2022.

Other departures include Mrs O'Flynn who is moving to the Midlands to be close to her family. She is replaced by Mrs Solanki, an experienced EYFS practitioner who worked in the Nursery before taking maternity leave. Mrs Skinner's departure leaves a vacancy in the Art and Design Technology Department, but we are fortunate that Mrs Luscombe is eager to take on the role and is an experienced and well-qualified Art and DT teacher. Her teaching role will be filled by a new appointment, Mr Burn. In the Middle School, Miss McGetrick is taking maternity leave and another new appointment, Mrs Ellis, will take up her class teaching for the year. Mrs Poster is moving and her new job will be closer to home. She will take up her new role in September and has been replaced by Mr Milton.

In the Senior School, Miss Gordon will replace Mrs Slade who takes a year off to have a child and Mr Cameron has decided to move on after eight years.

Mrs McDowell is also leaving to complete her PGCE (Secondary Drama) and is replaced by Mrs Beckley. Miss Pegg has taken on a promotion at Highgate and will be replaced by Miss Baughurst. Mrs Anthony leaves to be the librarian at Trinity. Mrs Tomas-Bouil has decided not to return and is replaced by our current maternity cover teacher, Mrs Senhadji. Mrs Mumford has taken the decision to retire and is replaced by Mrs Cocks.

We have also made other internal appointments. For the past year, Ms Penny Manser, has acted as Head of Music and I am pleased to announce that she has been offered the position permanently. Mr Markham has become Acting Deputy Head of Middle School and Mr Glover, Acting Deputy Head of Senior School.

Last but not least, we welcome back Mrs Morris-Murinde who returns as the Head of Additional Learning after her maternity leave.

*Leonard Blom,
Headmaster*

STAFF LEAVERS

Merriell McDowell

It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Mrs McDowell over the past three years. She has totally transformed the Drama department and Performing Arts has never been so strong here at St Aubyn's. I remember the first performance that she directed: the Year 2 *Bee Musical*; and what a musical this was! She approached it with such energy and enthusiasm and demanded high standards of performance from each pupil. They loved it and I still have the songs from that show BUZZING around my head! Her production of *Mary Poppins* was superb and challenged the Year 6 and 8's to memorise a hefty script as well as producing some wonderful dance numbers to well-known tunes. Recently, she has tackled the world of IT and video editing to create wonderful virtual performances; Nursery, Reception, Year 1 Christmas performances, Year 2 *Plastic Pirates*, Year 5 *Sherlock and Cinders*, Year 8 *The Day the Internet Died*, the list is endless and impressive. Each performance unique and personalised for our pupils. Her last production of course being in front of a live audience of parents; *How to Survive a Shakespeare Play* for Year 6 was a triumph. Children performed with such confidence and with her help, navigated some tricky Shakespearian language.

I shall always treasure her constant enthusiasm and encouragement when seeing her work with each child. She draws the best out of every pupil and has raised the standard of performance here at St Aubyn's. She leaves a thriving and vibrant department behind her and I wish her every success with her teacher training for next year. Well done Merriell, you will be missed.

Carol Mumford

I have known Carol for only five of the 15 years she has been employed at St Aubyn's and throughout this time, she has encouraged and developed music teaching in Pre Prep. Her vast experience when teaching this year group often means she introduces me to amazing songs which

she brings to life using her brilliant repertoire of actions and movements. The catchy *Being a Spider* is a favourite song in Reception followed swiftly by the classic; *Tiny Caterpillar* in Nursery! She is a keen pianist and always includes her piano playing in each lesson to really encourage even the most timid of singers.

Not many people are aware, but Miss Mumford is a creative composer and writer. She wrote the words and melody to the School Song which is now a true anthem for all children at St Aubyn's. She also penned many of the Pre Prep scripts and songs for productions, including the fun Reception Christmas Nativity with those famous camels named 'Humpy, Bumpy and Cindy Loo'!

It will be sad to see Carol retire from her classroom teaching role at St Aubyn's, but she will still be involved in the department as a much-loved piano teacher. I wish her well with her future plans, she will certainly be missed.

Solène Thomas-Bouil

Solène has been teaching French Pre Prep since 2019 and pupils have enjoyed lessons full of songs, puppets and lively activities. More recently, she helped Senior pupils develop their speaking skills with great success. She is leaving us to go and teach in a French school as a class teacher, a lifetime ambition of hers. We wish her all the best and we will miss her greatly. Bonne chance!

Aindrea Skinner

Mrs Skinner took over a thriving Art department and has worked tirelessly to build upon this success. She has a tremendous love for her subject and believes in the potential of each and every child to be able to create something of which they can be proud. The children respect her and her commitment to helping them achieve their best. We will miss her and wish her all the very best in her new post.

Nicola Anthony

Nicola joined the library team in January 2018 and quickly settled into life at St Aubyn's. She enjoyed working in the library and was particularly

passionate about working with the Senior School pupils by supporting their novel study lessons and discussing current affairs. We wish her all the very best in her new adventure as Librarian at Trinity Catholic High School and would like to thank her for all of her hard work in the library. Good luck for the future Nicola!

Katy O'Flynn

Katy was an excellent addition to our Reception team. Her knowledge and understanding of teaching young children provided the children in her class with an engaging and challenging learning environment. She nurtured a classroom ethos where children developed their self-confidence, resilience and worked collaboratively with each other to achieve success. We are fortunate that Katy taught at St Aubyn's for two years, supporting the children in their educational journey. She is moving out of London to be closer to her family. We will miss her and wish her all the best for the future in her new adventure.

Pauline Sansom

Mrs Sansom has worked at St Aubyn's since the mid 1980s! Initially she worked as an assistant in Before and After School Care and at lunchtimes. In recent years Pauline worked in our Dining Hall clearing and cleaning the tables every lunchtime. She hasn't gone far though. Being married to Mr Sansom means that she lives on site, so we do still see her from time to time. We wish her all the best for her retirement.

Andrew Cameron

Mr Cameron came to St Aubyn's as a pupil and returned to start working in the Senior School in 2012. During his time with us he taught History, Latin and Religious Education to Senior pupils. Pupils enjoyed Mr. Cameron's lessons. He was able to promote intelligent debate, encouraging all pupils to offer their opinions and have a voice.

Caroline Poster

Caroline began teaching at St Aubyn's in September 2014. From the outset, she proved

herself to be a warm and nurturing teacher and the pupils in her care thrived. She was always supportive of her colleagues and was a proactive and helpful Maths lead. She also liked to support colleagues out of the school environment and took a lead role in organising some very enjoyable and memorable staff socials! Caroline leaves us to take up her new post at St Nicholas School in Harlow. As well as a new job, she is also moving house and looking forward to the birth of her second child. We wish her every success for the future.

Hayley Pegg

Miss Pegg joined the Physical Education department in September 2020. An excellent teacher and sports coach, it was a shame that COVID restrictions meant that we were unable to organise any fixtures until the Summer term. However, Miss Pegg enthusiastically created online videos for remote PE learning in lockdown and even taught some RE lessons to help out. Miss Pegg has deservedly gained a promotion to a management position in a big PE department. We wish her well with that and with her upcoming wedding.

Fiona Yeo

Mrs Yeo worked at St Aubyn's for 27 years. Originally she was a Teaching Assistant in Pre Prep. In 2008 she took over the running of Before and After School Care. Mrs Yeo was always very organised running a smooth operation with the safety and happiness of the children her primary focus. We wish her all the best for her new ventures.

Ashton Payne

We employed Miss Payne to assist with the teaching of PE and girls' games. Just before she was about to start in April 2020 we went into lockdown. Undeterred Miss Payne came into School every day to supervise critical workers' children with their online learning. Over the next year she was a great help when delivering PE

lessons, Games lessons and after school activities. We wish her well on her journey to become a qualified teacher at Felsted School.

Samantha Twomey

Mrs Twomey arrived at St Aubyn's in the Summer Term of 2001 when she was appointed as a Year 4 teacher in Middle School. As Sam said herself, this was one of the best decisions that she ever made. Being Welsh, she also clearly remembers walking up the driveway and seeing the daffodils lining the pond. This made her feel that her appointment was simply meant to be. It wasn't long before she moved to the Senior Department. Sam has had a number of roles in the Senior Department; Head of Maths, Head of English, Deputy Head of Department and finally Head of Department. As Head of Maths, her greatest achievement was instilling confidence in once-reluctant mathematicians who would often remark that it was now their favourite subject. As Head of English, her enthusiasm for the subject was infectious and would often be mirrored in her pupils' similarly enthusiastic approach to their work.

Before moving up to the Senior School, pupils would often describe Sam as "the very strict teacher." This is true. As a Head of Department, she was very proud of her Department and the pupils in it, and wanted their standards and behaviour to reflect this. However, once pupils had been taught by her, they soon realised that she was very funny, passionate about her subject and their biggest supporter in any time of crisis. In fact, she was always the member of staff who would get emotional at the Leavers' Dinner! The number of pupils who have kept in touch or returned to see her over the years is testament to this.

Mr Blom described Sam as the heart and soul of the Senior School. She leaves us to take up her well-deserved appointment as Head of New Hall Prep. I have no doubt that before long, she will have established herself as the heart and soul of that school too.



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