

3 February 2012



Dear Parents

Several children in Year 8 have been away this week at Senior Schools undertaking scholarship exams and I congratulate them on all the hard work they have put in with their preparation. We wish them every success.

The Year 2 to Year 3 Transition evening for parents was a lovely event on Thursday evening over a glass of wine in front of a roaring fire in the Drawing Room. My thanks go to all the parents who braved the arctic elements to learn about life in the prep school and to Miss Hume and the birthday girl Mrs Pullinger who were keen to talk about Year 3 in particular. A special thank you to a number of the boarders who volunteered to act as tour guides and did a first rate job.

This week's Radiators of the week were Ryan M and Jack VP, both of whom have been courteous and helpful and this has been commented upon by a number of staff and parents.

Sport

Congratulations to the Under 9 Girls' netball side this week who kicked off their netball season in style winning 10-7 in a thrilling fixture on Wednesday. Over 100 pupils were in action this week, or they would have been had ice not prevented the 1st and 2nd team boys' hockey sides from playing at Wisbech. A full round up of all the results can be found on the website, including a report on an exciting swimming match against Hethersett and the Cross Country event at The Norwich School.

Girls <http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/category/children-news/girls-sport/>

Boys <http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/category/children-news/boys-sport/>

More Sport <http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/category/children-news/more-sport/>

Sporting dates this term

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/children-news/more-sport/spring-term-2012-tournaments-14939/>

Congratulations to Louis C and Jack A, both of whom have been selected to represent ESKA at the TSK UK Junior National Karate Championships on 25 March. Well done boys! Jack R was also presented with a Player of the Day award for his hockey skills at his local club and was delighted to be presented with this award again in Friday's assembly. Well done Jack! Gemma P and Claudia VP were both successful in a recent swimming "mini-meet" at the UEA where Gemma picked up a staggering 4 golds in all four strokes and a silver in the medley and Claudia also gained a gold in the breast-stroke and bronze medals in front-crawl and back-stroke. This is a fabulous medal haul and both girls should be extremely proud of their achievements.

Last weekend's staff/parent football side battled valiantly but were defeated 4-2 by a side who were younger, fitter and skilful as a team, all the things we weren't in truth, but great fun was had and my thanks go to Mr Hamilton for the organisation and for shouting the first round in the pub afterwards!

Music and Drama

Today's EDP, page 12 has fabulous pictorial evidence of just how much the pupils enjoyed the drama performance on Thursday by the French Touring Theatre Company Onatti. Next Thursday's Bullard House Music Competition will take place at 14:00 in the Sports Hall and parents are very warmly invited to observe proceedings from the balcony.

Pre Prep

In the Pre-Prep this week, children have been tasting fruit and juices to see which they preferred. With the book 'Handa's Surprise' as their inspiration they have painted animals and fruit, from which they also made clay models. Although it has become much colder the children have been making dens in the woods using branches, logs and natural resources fastened with string. They also used magnifiers to see signs of winter up close.

Nursery

Nursery 1 children have been looking at Nursery Rhymes this week – there has been lots of singing especially as the younger children joined in with Mr Dodd. They also made models of Humpty Dumpty, Baa Baa Black Sheep and mice for the clock in Hickory Dickory Dock. Nursery 2 children joined in with the 'Little School Bird Watch', learning about different types of birds and their names. They have enjoyed the story of 'The Owl Babies' and made chocolate nests. As well as playing 'Duck Duck Goose' inside, the children wrapped up warm and went for walks in the woods to spot the birds using binoculars they made themselves. Afterwards everyone warmed up with some hot chocolate!

Boarding News

The children enjoyed the annual Burns Night celebrations in their 'Scottish Castle', ending the evening with some energetic dancing in Big School, dressed in a variety of tartans. The evening began with a welcome to our top table speakers and guests – Tom, Louisa, Ben, Mr Hamilton, Miss Pennell and Mrs Marles. After the Selkirk Grace by Ben, we enjoyed fabulous Cock-a-Leekie soup made by Debby and then the haggis was piped in. Mr Hamilton gave the address to the haggis before everyone tucked in. After the "Topsy Laird" we all enjoyed the speeches and gave toasts with Irn Bru. It was a fabulous evening, thoroughly enjoyed by all. There are photographs on display on the Boarding Noticeboard and on the website.

On Australia Day the children enjoyed a feast of meat pies and Lamingtons. It was agreed that Lamingtons were brilliant cakes and they would be good to make again on a Wednesday cookery night. After some interesting Aussie facts from Mr Worrall the children gave some great performances in groups, acting out Australian songs.

For a summary of boarding events in the Spring Term

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/children-news/boarding/boarders-spring-term-events-14922/>

Parents Forum Group (PFG)

In November we introduced the Parents' Forum Group as a further enhancement of the school's communication channels between parents and the school. We would like to remind parents that each member of the PFG can be contacted via email and their details can be found on the attached list which also indicates which Year Group each member represents. In addition, there are PFG post boxes situated in the Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep School areas, where notes/comments for the group can be posted. Details about the PFG can also be found on the school's website in the password protected Parent/Teacher section (the password can be obtained from the School Office). All parents who wish to provide feedback, comments and/or ideas on school events, information evenings or general school matters can forward their suggestions to the relevant Year Group representatives.

The next meeting for our Parents' Forum Group is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 8th February 2012**.

For this particular meeting the PFG welcome feedback on the following 3 topics in particular:

1. Current variety of after school hobbies/clubs on offer.
2. Usefulness of the school's website – are news articles and information published noticed/read/used by our parents?
3. Feedback re the type of social events parents would like the school to provide.

I waxed lyrical about the joys of fishing, which my poor PA is clearly fed-up of listening to, in my assembly on 'hobbies' for the Pre-Prep this week. When I asked what else I might find by the school's stretch of the Wensum River I was offered 'sharks' and 'crocodiles' – I hope not!

I hope everyone has a relaxing weekend.

Mike Crossley
Headmaster

Calendar

Further advance dates can be found on the school website here:

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/calendar/>

and specific events here:

<http://www.taverhamhall.co.uk/forthcoming-events/information-evenings-14930/>

Mon	6/2/2012	14:00:00	Spring Team Photos
Tue	7/2/2012	17:00:00	Year 6 Parents' Evening
Wed	8/2/2012	08:30:00	Parents Forum Group
		Boys	
		14:15:00	U9 Boys A&B v Gresham's (A)
		14:30:00	Boys 1st XI v Langley (A)
		14:30:00	Colts A, B,C & D v Town Close (A)
		Girls	
		14:30:00	Girls U13a, U13B and U11A v Gresham's (H)
		14:30:00	Girls U11B and U9A v Gresham's (A)
Thu	9/2/2012	08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
		14:00:00	Bullard House Music Competition (Sports Hall)
		16:00:00	Karate Grading for Pre-Pre
		16:30:00	Y3 and Y4 Boys and Girls B Team Swimming v Hethersett
		19:00:00	Boarders' Valentines Evening
Fri	10/2/2012		E&A Grades Home
			Non Uniform Day for Unicef
Half Term - 11 to 18 February 2012			
Tue	21/2/2012	08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
		17:30:00	Dublin Tour Parents Forum
		18:00:00	Boarders' Shrove Tuesday Celebrations
Wed	22/2/2012	Girls	
		14:30:00	Girls U13A and U13B v Brandeston (A)
		14:30:00	Girls U11A and U11B v Brandeston (H)
		14:30:00	Girls U9A v Glebe (H) (Indoors)
		Boys	
14:30:00	Boys 1st XI v Framlingham College (A)		
Thu	23/2/2012		Maths Association Team Comp at Framlingham College
			Book Fair for All (Talks for Y5 and Y6)
		08:30:00	Circuits (Parents)
		12:00:00	The Middle School Cross Country League
		16:30:00	Y5-8 Boys and Girls B Team Gala v Hethersett
Fri	24/2/2012	15:00:00	House Hockey and Netball