

9th March, 2009

Dear Parents,

Netball – League Winners!

A close-fought match on Wednesday saw our netball team clinch victory by 6 goals to 5 in the last league match of the season, against Heathrow. Undefeated in the league this season, we are league champions for the third year running!

Further Cross Country Success

Following our success in the District Cross Country last week, there were some very good performances last night at the Borough Cross Country Finals.

Isabella Sibley from Yr 4, who was our only girl to qualify for the finals, ran an excellent race and finished in 4th place, narrowly missing out on a bronze medal. A total of 78 girls ran the race from schools across the Borough and most of these girls were in Years 5 and 6. Indeed all the girls in the top three were in Year 6, so Isabella has done fantastically well.

Myles Manning from Y6 was our strongest boy runner finishing in 16th place. Our boys ran well in difficult windy conditions and came a very respectable 8th overall in the team event. A total of 11 boys' teams ran the race, with some 92 boys taking part.

Musicians Shine at Ruislip Music Festival

The Senior Choir and Recorder Consort both took part in the Ruislip-Northwood Music Festival at The John Lyon School on Saturday. The choir treated the audience to beautiful performances of 'Adiemus' and 'Singing in the Rain', and received a Distinction grade from the professional adjudicator. The recorder players' renditions of 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' and 'Lord of the Dance' were equally well performed, and the consort was awarded a Highly Commended grade. No other choirs or recorder groups took part, and so our musicians won their sections by default and were presented with two very impressive trophies!

Data Collection Forms

To ensure the data on our management information system is correct, we enclose a printout of your child's school record which you should check carefully, amend/update where necessary, and return to school as soon as possible.

Currently some children only have one emergency contact; every child should have at least two. Please ensure that all sections on the form are completed. If addresses, telephone numbers or personal details subsequently change, please write to Mrs. Douglas via the school office.

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Registration

We wrote to all parents earlier this term with details of how to register as a VLE user, thus allowing you to access educational resources and the school diary, and to receive messages from school. We would be grateful if you would register as soon as possible; if you experience any difficulty, please email Mr. Lewis at mlewis@sthelenscollege.com. From September, all newsletters and routine mailings will be sent electronically via the VLE.

School Plays

We shall be introducing some changes to the pattern of school plays from next term, as follows.

- Years 1 and 2 will perform plays at the Summer Concert at the Winston Churchill Hall in July.
- Year 6 will continue to have their major musical production at the Compass Theatre in July.
- The Lower School classes will continue to perform a Nativity Play (Reception) and Christmas Assemblies (Nursery and Year 1) at the Lower School in December.
- Years 3 and 4 will combine to perform the Christmas Concert at the Winston Churchill Hall in December, with Year 4 children taking the main parts.

Preparing for main parts in a big production inevitably cuts into lesson time. As Year 5 is such an important year of preparation for entrance examinations for grammar and independent schools, we have decided that there will not be a major production in Year 5 from now on. However the children will continue to have plenty of opportunities for drama. They will have weekly drama lessons, a class assembly each term, and will provide the drama for the Harvest Festival in October. Also, the Y5 drama club will perform a mini-production at school during the Summer Term.

Year 3 will have been looking forward to performing in the Summer Concert next term and, although they will now be taking the main parts in the Christmas production in December, we still want to give them an opportunity to perform next term. The two classes will therefore perform extended class assemblies at school next term.

Lower School Parking

May we remind Lower School parents not to park or turn in the church forecourt or car park. The licence which we have with the church does not permit parent parking, and manoeuvring while young children are entering and leaving the school is very dangerous.

Yours faithfully,

D.A. Crehan

Mrs. G.R. Crehan