



From the
Headmaster

Outstanding 2021 senior school transfer results for St John's boys

Welcome to issue 243 of The Lamb in which I am delighted to share a summary of our Year 8 Senior School destinations for 2021. All the boys worked incredibly hard and we are very proud of them. Many thanks to all the staff for helping the boys to reach their potential during their time at St John's. I know Year 8 are looking forward to their residential trip to Devon next week and I look forward to hearing how they get on.

We have had some amazing assemblies in the past two weeks. Staff and boys shared their favourite books and creative writing as part of their English programme. Mrs McSween talked about celebrating diversity and Savaan, Mrs Shah and Rodrigo told us about their family history. It was very moving.

I enjoyed visited the Debating Society this week and sharing my thoughts on public speaking with the boys (you can read more on page 4.) Spring is in the air here at St John's – the duckling eggs have arrived in the Pre-Prep and all the boys have enjoyed watching the blue tit family in our nest box with their thirteen chicks.

I hope you enjoy the photographs from Year 2's PGL visit. They look as though they had a ball. Finally, many thanks to everyone who helped raise over £9K for the British Asian Trust's appeal.

Have a lovely weekend.



I am very pleased to report that our Year 8 boys have performed impressively in their senior school transfer examinations. All twenty-nine of them have been offered places at a senior school of their choice for September 2021. Fourteen have been offered places at more than one school with twenty-three receiving an offer from Merchant Taylors'; nine John Lyon; six Haberdashers'; four Aldenham; two St Alban's; one Berkhamsted; one City of London and one Mill Hill. This is a fantastic reflection on the efforts they have put in. Very well done indeed to every one of them! It is also an excellent advert for the school that Year 8 are likely to be moving on to ten quality independent senior schools. In particular fifteen Year 8 boys have achieved eighteen scholarships at 13+.

We wish them all well as they set off on their trip to North Devon.



THIS WEEK



National Share-A-Story-Month assemblies

Last week at St John's we celebrated the power of storytelling with our "Share-a-Story" theme in Years 3 to 8 assemblies. Several boys in Year 4 shared their favourite story with the Juniors in assembly on Tuesday and so did Mr Haley. He was a great fan of Fantastic Mr Fox when he was in Year 4 and loved telling the story of "The Boy who cried Wolf" when he worked in the Pre-Prep. Many thanks to the boys for offering their opinions and recommendations.

On Wednesday, 5M and 6V decided to bring the spirit of campfire storytelling to the Norman Hall with their assembly, led by Mrs Marsden and Miss Vale. Some very emotive performances from 5M brought the spooky 'Night Circus' to life, tempered by some more light-hearted tales about the beach and treasure-filled secret rooms! 6V then transported Year 5 and 6 to a plethora of different locations, including a creepy mansion, the pyramids of Giza and a couple of craggy-cliffed islands. Props were used to great

effect in this half of the assembly, with dramatic 'deaths' staged effectively by some groups. The boys had a wonderful time devising and presenting

Nominated young writers from Year 7 were asked to share extracts from recently written stories, showing the abundance of our creative writers in the Senior School. The imaginative scenarios and the elevated twists and turns fascinated Mrs Rizava and Mr Wilson-Spellward, who led the senior school assembly for Year 7 and Year 8. Ishaan, Amos, Blake, Ansh, Oscar and Joshua read extracts from their stories and explained what inspired them to write their stories and how they made them engaging. Thomas, Ansh, Benjamin and Albert helped with introducing the stories to the audience and supporting the assembly with all the IT. Excellent team spirit in Year 7! Marvellous stories! A great well done to all!





National Share-A-Story- Month cont...





Mr Robinson's visit to Year 7 Debating Society

Mr Robinson accepted Mrs Rizava's invitation to visit the Year 7 Debating Society Club to talk to our boys about public speaking skills. The Headmaster gave an insight into how he prepares for his assemblies and public talks.

Mr Robinson explained that his main aim is to make his audiences feel that they have gained something by attending a public event, so his most important advice to the boys was to be prepared. He explained that listening, observing and learning from others has helped him in his career. He named some of the people who inspired him and highlighted students present who had shown leadership in the school.

He told the boys what an amazing opportunity it is to be able to speak publicly and encouraged them to seize opportunities to have their voices heard. Mr Robinson finished his talk by explaining that his vision for the School is to have more schools involved in debating.



Year 8 quizzers are in good company

On Wednesday 12th May, six Year 8 boys competed in the Merchant Taylor's Company Quiz via Zoom. Neal, Alexander, Aryan, Vishwadrick, Yusuf and Xerxes were very excited to be defending the trophy, which we have held for the past two competitions. Due to Covid-19, we were not able to travel up to the beautiful Merchant Taylors' and the competition was run remotely. However, this did facilitate more of the Merchant Taylors' family of schools being involved, with teams from Northern Ireland, Liverpool, Wallingford and Macclesfield. Neal, 8B has written this report:

We were faced with 5 different rounds, each with different themes. For example, the opening round was the Alphabet Round, which involved a wheel of letters being spun. Then, the quizmaster gave us a question based on the letter the spinner landed on, for instance, "What E is the world's largest species of penguin?" (answer the Emperor penguin). Some of the rounds had extra features that affected our answers, such as one that deducted points for incorrect responses. Therefore we did not go for answers that we were not sure on, something we are usually encouraged to do. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learnt many new things and, even though we did not win, I would definitely give it a 'thumbs up'. Neal 8B.





THIS WEEK

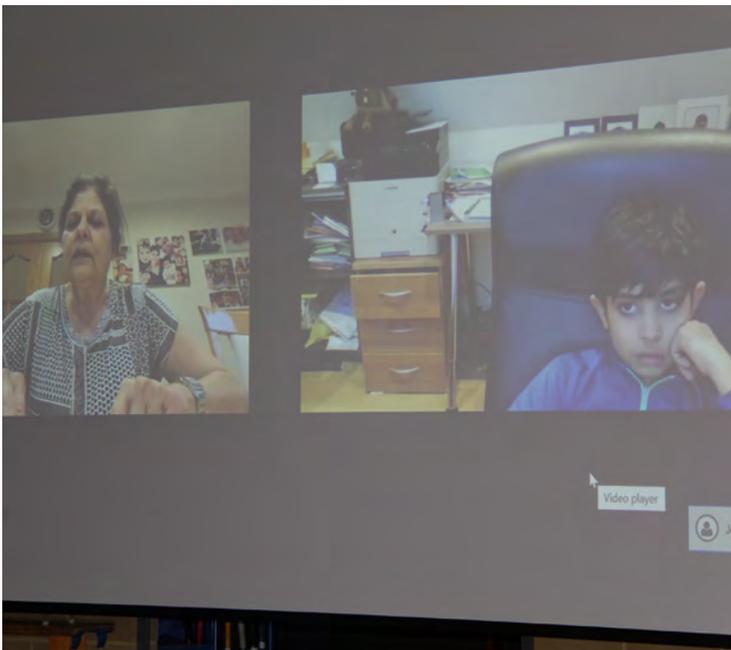


Celebrating diversity in this week's assemblies

This week in our assemblies we have been looking at diversity and we have taken a moment to celebrate the rich community of St John's. We have followed the journeys of three families who have come to live in Britain from other parts of the world. Mrs Shah explained the background of the political situation and why her family escaped Uganda as refugees in the 1970s. Savaan and Mehul showed an interview that Savaan had made with his Grandmother while

during lockdown. She gave an insightful recount of her difficult journey from Uganda as a fifteen year old. Finally, Rodrigo told us his fascinating family history and how his family came to live in Britain, coming from Brazil.

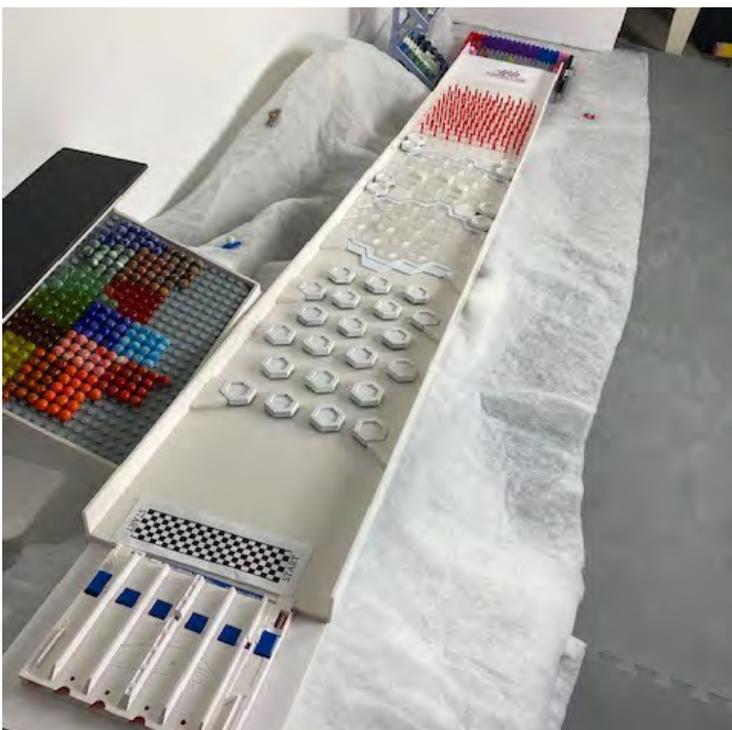
We would love to hear more stories like this if you would like to share them. How did your family come to live in Britain? If you would like more details, please get in touch with Mrs McSween vmcsween@st-johns.org.uk





Mikey's marble runs

During the last lockdown, my dad and I worked on building a marble run. We made a few trial runs before making the Snow Zone. We made it using foam boards, Gravitrax and rawl plugs. It took a long time but was worth it in the end. I made a video that you can see on YouTube. I edited some sound effects and used I-movie to make it. My dad then recorded my voice over. I hope you like it and subscribe. We are already making a new one! *Mikey 5C*





A lovely evening for Mountain Bike Club

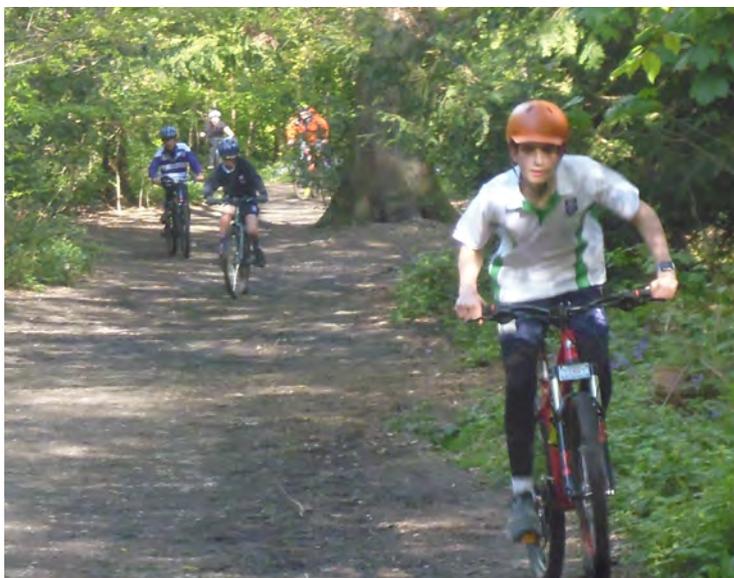


A warm evening (makes a change) welcomed us on Tuesday's MTB ride. The recent rain has made many of our favourite tracks tricky, but over the last few evenings of the club the skills of the boys have improved, making them less likely to crash!

Generally, we ride a loop of the top Oxhey woods and make our way down to Old Hangings and a spot just off Oxhey Drive close to the now defunct Little Furze School. Here there are some dips which we zoom down one side of and race up the other with some of the boys gunning it, others more cautious. It's good fun but on this evening we took a more circuitous route involving some very muddy

tracks. We negotiated some newly formed streams, testing out technical skills and eventually arriving at Lower Hangings. Over the years we have built up extensive knowledge of the woods and know most of the trails.

Getting to Lower Hangings is all downhill and what goes down must come up! So there is a uphill ride back and conversation is more muted proportional to the effort being put in powering the pedals. All good fun with some muddy feet and bikes. We're lucky to have such a great area on our doorstep. Sadly we're coming to the end of the Bluebells adorning the woods, which were intoxicating on such a superb spring evening. *Mr Newman*





Overwhelming response to Mufti Day charity

On Friday 7th May, all boys at St John's came to school in Mufti clothes to raise money and awareness for the British Asian Trust's Oxygen Appeal to support those in need in India right now. After witnessing the tragic accounts and COVID-19 scenes on the news and on social media, parents and staff worked together to create an emergency fundraising day where we could join together as a community and make a difference to those who need it.

We have been absolutely blown away by the generosity of the staff, parents and boys donating to the cause and we're thrilled to say that our closing total was £9,368. This is one of the highest amounts we have ever raised on a single charity day and we wanted to extend our thanks to everyone for their support. We know that the money will be put to good use and go a long way to helping the many thousands in need.



Zain kicks for charity goal

Zain in Year X reached his goal of 1000 taekwondo kicks in one attempt and by doing so raised almost £300 for the British Asian Trust. He was deeply affected by watching news clips of the suffering in India caused by Covid and a lack of oxygen and he wanted do what he could to help. He chose the British Asian Trust as they have responded to the crisis in India by partnering with local organisations to bring support to areas most affected by the pandemic.





Year 8 Boys Paddleboarding on the MTS lake

Eight boys in Year 8 have been spending their evenings paddleboarding on the Merchant Taylors' lake as one of their club options this term. Led by Mr Talboys (a Chemistry teacher at MTS), Miss Vale and Mrs McSween, the boys have raced round the islands on the lake and are now working on executing the challenging 'helicopter' turn. This has so far resulted in a number of the boys (and Miss Vale) falling, both deliberately and accidentally, into the freezing waters of the lake. Miss Vale takes no responsibility for the numerous soggy car seats this club has so far resulted in... You can take a look at some fanastic drone footage from Mr Smith here <https://youtu.be/2CF1X11ufQQ>



VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

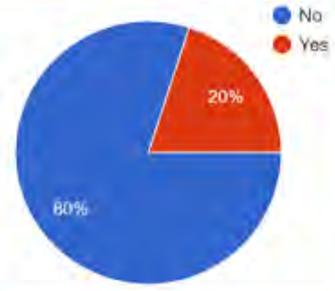
Thank you to everyone who voted last week on whether we take local elections seriously.

Last week's results are in!

Local elections do not appear to be taken seriously. I think it is important to exercise your right to vote. Perhaps the population needs to be informed of the importance of local elections and that they should vote. If you want to see change then it is important that you vote and have your voice heard.
Iraj Year 4



I think no because people are usually busy with all their university work or their jobs so they don't make time to vote for elections because they don't think it is important and they haven't had the time to research about the candidates. Also, in 2019, 21,000,000 people of age 18 and over were allowed to vote, but only 30% did vote. That is why I think people do not take elections seriously.
Aarnav Year 4



One of the **reasons** the team behind Mental Health Awareness Week chose **nature** as their **theme** was because, during lockdown, **45% of people** said that **going for a walk** in green spaces had helped **improve their mental health**.

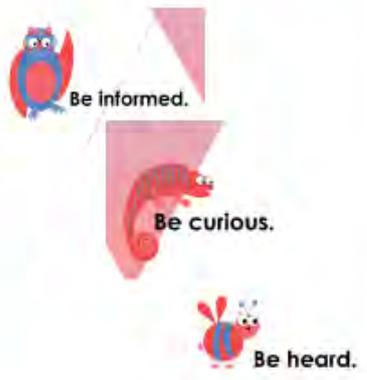
Next week we ask...



But can nature really improve our mental health? And, if it can, do we make the most of it, or do we take it for granted?

Vocab Check

Taking something for granted means that you do not appreciate it fully.



Outdoor learning in the Robins and Squirrels

The Robins and Squirrels have been learning in the outdoor areas. We have explored the forest, searching for creatures in amongst the beautiful blue bells and found lots of ways to travel on the new treehouse. In our outside area the boys have been painting baby animals, carefully threading pasta necklaces and trying to count all the orbeez going down the marble run. The boys noticed that the potatoes they planted are getting taller every day.



PRE-PREP



Year 2 boys had an amazing time at PGL

Last week the Year 2 boys were up at the crack of dawn for their trip to PGL. While they couldn't stay over, they had an absolutely amazing time taking part in all the activities. The giant swing was a big hit! The sensory trail was a challenge as the boys had to put their trust in one another to guide each

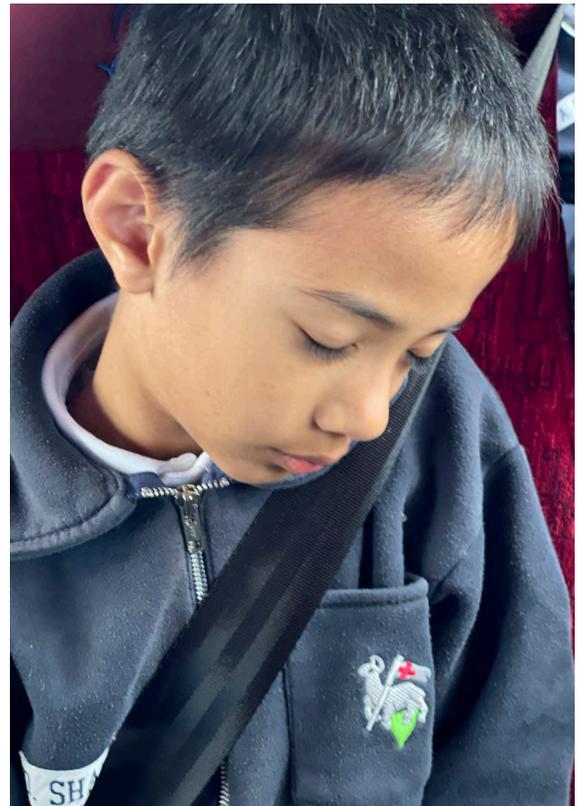
other over, under and through the obstacles while blindfolded! Their team work skills were put to the test during the problem solving activities, while their physical skills were put to the test on the climbing wall. The most challenging part of the day was staying awake on the coach on the way home!



PRE-PREP



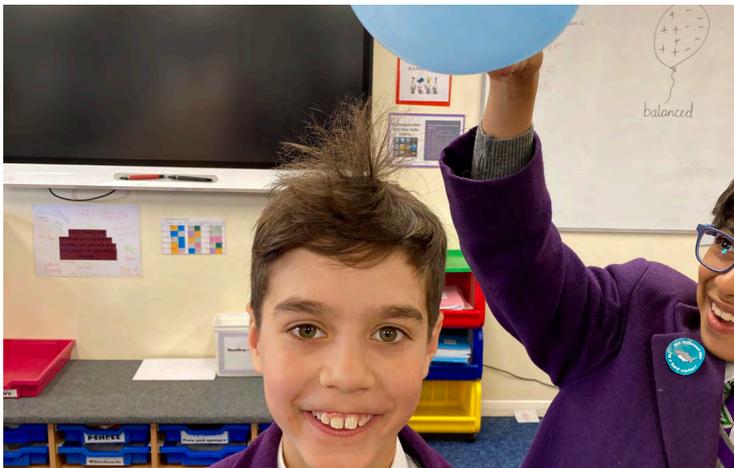
Year 2 boys at PGL cont...





Year 4 are studying static electricity

Things are rarely shocking and never static in Year 4. This is just as well as the boys are studying electricity at the moment. The topic began with static electricity and we will soon be moving on to circuits of varying degrees of complexity. Attaching Mrs Shah to a van der Graaf generator was a particular highlight but she very sensibly declined to be photographed. The boys made much better models and thoroughly enjoyed the lesson.





Golden time is special in the Juniors

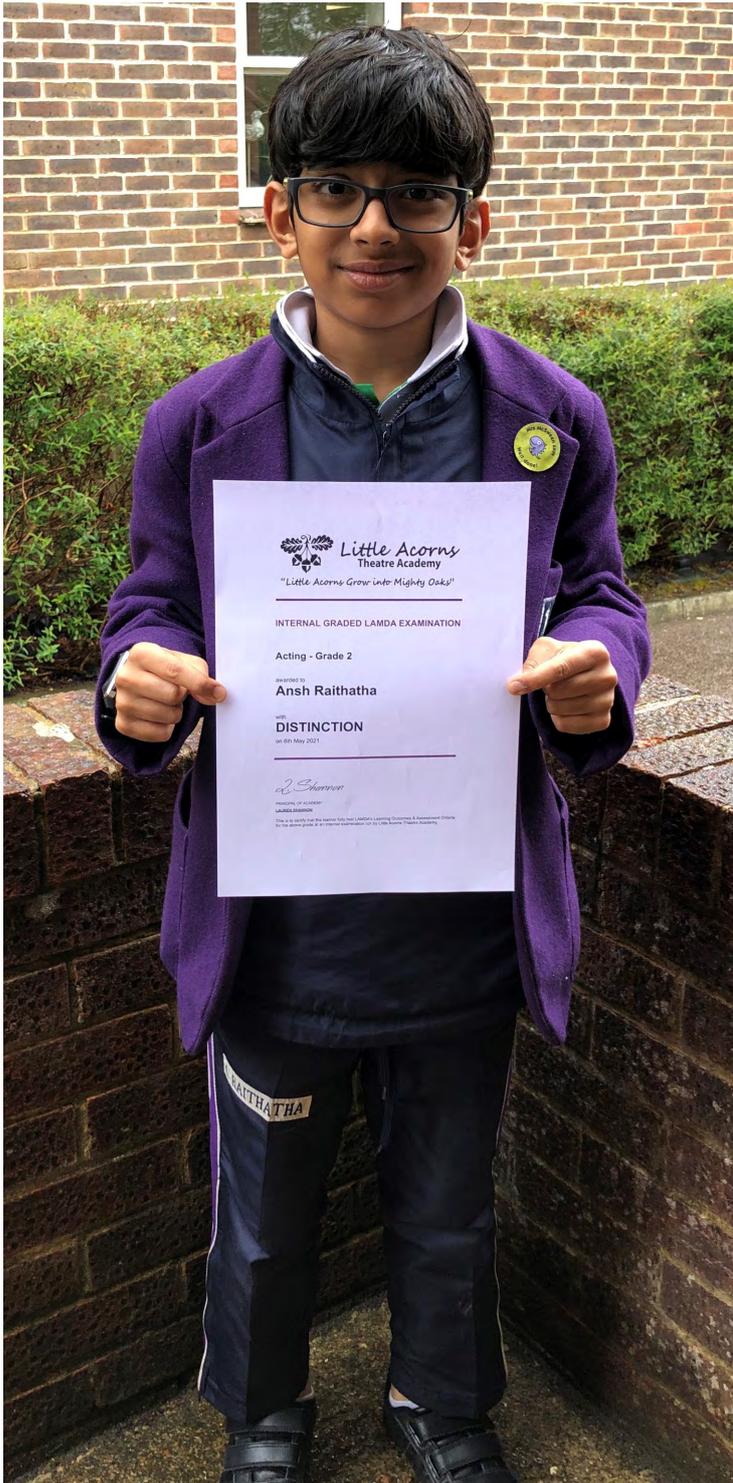
Golden time is a special time of the week when, the last lesson on a Friday afternoon when the boys play games with their friends.





Music and Drama Awards for Junior boys

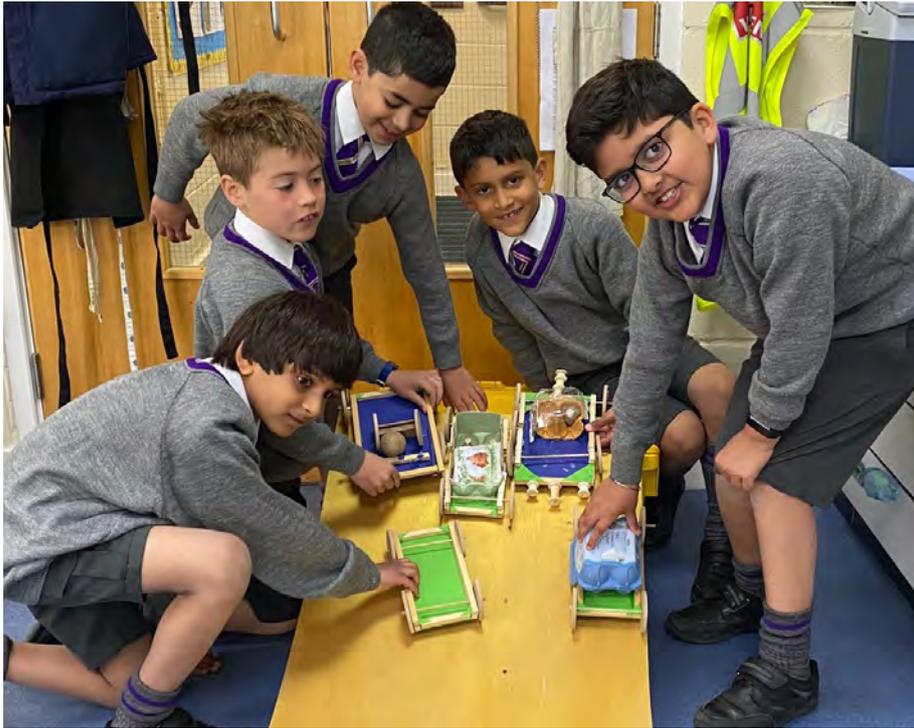
Lucas in 3W took part in the North London Festival of Speech and Drama recently and was awarded a distinction in the Piano Solo Age 7 and 8 Class. Ansh in 4S has gained a distinction in his Grade 2 LAMDA Examination in Acting. Very well done to you both.





A great week in the D&T workshop

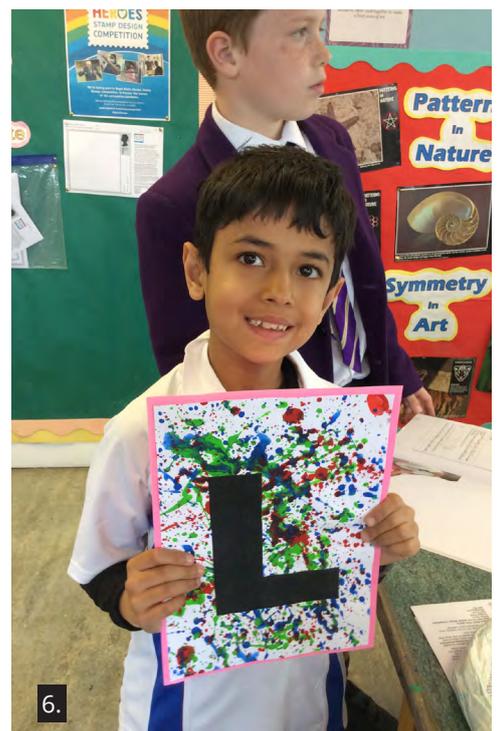
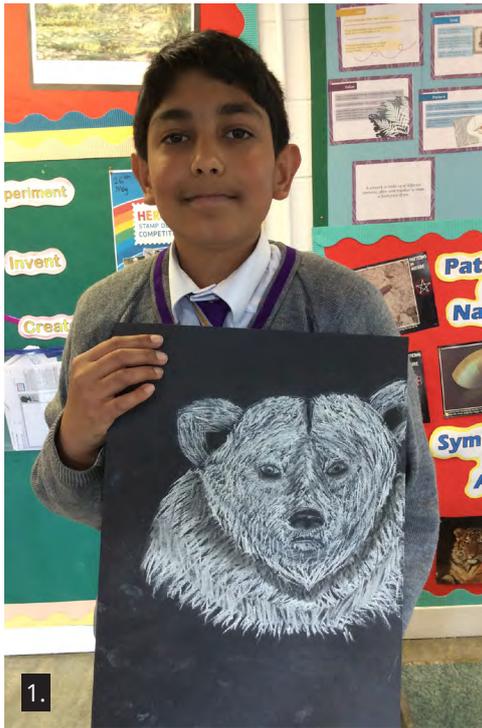
Great progress was made on the practical front in the D&T workshop last week. Year Three found out about the importance of testing. In their case, the vehicle for Humpty, but also the stringent testing it takes for a car to become an Audi. Year 6 have been constructing the main structure for their fairground rides. We love it when a plan comes together Kush and Ahaan!





Our busy artists have been hard at work

It has been a busy week in the Art room with a variety of projects on the go. 1. Ansh drew this chalk polar bear, in Portfolio club. 2. In Junior Art Club, Liam H and Arnav are painting ice-creams onto canvas. 3. Year 4 have started to make letter sculptures using paper, tin foil and mod roc. 4. This is Cyrus's mosaic table, so far. 5. Emerson in Year 6 is working on his nail and string art piece. 6. Laksh in Year 4 has finished his Jackson Pollock picture.





An epoch of 'Bo Diddley' at St John's

Hot dang, St John's has entered an epoch of 'Bo Diddley'. The music school and indeed the grounds have been ringing out with the pounding rhythms pulsating from twenty drum skins being beaten simultaneously! The trademark 'African shuffle' of Bo Diddley has captivated music lovers for the last 60 years and the pupils at St John's are no different. Bo Diddley (Born Elias McDaniel in McComb, Mississippi in 1928) first achieved fame

in 1955. He was recorded in Chicago on the legendary rhythm blues label 'Chess records'. Famous for including his own name in his song titles the late 50s and early 60s saw him release singles with titles such as: 'Bo Diddley', 'Go Bo Diddley', 'Diddley Daddy' and so on. Interestingly, the St. John's boys lapped up the rhythm, easy peasy, but found the maracas part MUCH more challenging. Next week is Beatles week! *Mr Vince*





Cricket season gets underway

U11C vs St Benedicts Away Fri 30th April Won by 6 runs

On Friday we travelled to St Benedict's to play our first fixture in over a year. The boys were very excited to play a competitive fixture and showed it through their performance. St John's batted first and we scored an excellent score of 104 against a good bowling attack. Rafi and Leo batted very well together to create a good start for the team. Shane also came in and hit the ball very hard putting the bowlers under pressure. It was now St John's turn to put additional pressure on with our bowling attack. Aarav and Armaan bowled extremely well securing 2 wickets each. A special mention goes to Arthur for his phenomenal fielding during the game hitting the stumps on two occasions from a direct hit. Well Done boys, great performance. Keep it up!



U11D vs St Benedicts Fri 30th April Away Won by 8 wickets

Fantastic to finally get back to fixtures! St Benedict's won the toss and opted to bat first. Captain Arjun opened the bowling strong, taking two wickets. James Co followed with the third wicket in the second over. A perfect start by the Colts D team. Everyone in the squad got to bowl. Top bowling honours got to Arjun 3 / 4, Rahul 2 / 3, James Co 2 / 8 and Neel 1 / 8. St Benedict's were all bowled out for 65 at the end of the 13th over. Neel and Arjun opened the batting with a settled start and St John's only conceded their first wicket in the 5th over. The focus was to get as many boys to bat as well. Ten overs was enough for St John's to clinch victory by 8 wickets. Promising batting by Marcus, Rehaan, Abdullah and Neel. Boys who did not get to bat, will open the innings against St Paul's. We wish you the best of luck. Top fielder of the day, Adam M with his one-handed pick and throw straight onto the middle stump to force a run out. Well done team!

U11B vs Radlett Preparatory School, home Fri 7th May Won by 103 runs

A solid start to the batting innings from the openers, however a few singles were left out there, due to not backing up and having the intention to sneak a single. This is work in progress. Some excellent stroke play from the middle order saw the run rate increase significantly to post a good score 142-5 from the 20 overs. George bowled with speed and accuracy frequently targeting the stumps. figure 2-6 off his two overs. He was however left in the shadow of a fabulous bowling spell from Danyal who turned out figures of 2 overs 2 maidens and 3 wickets. Hrishi bowled equally well picking up 2 wickets for 1 run in his 1 over. The bowling attack is certainly going to strike fear into opposition line ups this season. Overall the team fielded well and backed up the bowling attack.





Cricket season gets underway

U11A vs Radlett Prep, Fri, 07 May 21 at Home

Radlett won the toss and elected to bowl first. St Johns lost the early wicket of Ahaan but went on to build solid partnerships throughout the innings. The highlight of the innings was undoubtedly a maiden 50 from Rian which he scored at blistering pace off just 37 balls. He timed his innings brilliantly and the running between the wickets was exceptional alongside some great shots to the boundary. Cameos from Darsh, Kian J and Kian P helped advance the total to a very respectable 166-2 off 20 overs.

St Johns started well with the ball and bowled in great areas from the outset. Mithil took 2 wickets in his first over and finished with figures of 2-4-3. Everybody bowled well and wickets got shared amongst the bowlers. Kabir bowled his leg spin beautifully taking 3 wickets without conceding a run finishing with figures of 1.2-0-3. The fielding was of a high standard, the energy, enthusiasm and sportsmanship was fantastic. Radlett were dismissed for 32 off 10.2 overs.

A great start to the Colts A season and the standard has now been set. MOTM - Rian.





Cricket season gets underway

U11C vs St Paul's Fri 7th May Away Lost by 5 wickets

St John's were looking forward to playing St Paul's, coming off a win the previous week. Captain Krish elected to bat first and opened with Leo, who both saw the first over out well. Our first wicket fell in the 2nd, putting Aarav in who managed to split his bat in half mid stint. From the 10th over onwards we lost a wicket an over with a very professional-looking stint from Marcus, until Neel and Bailey came in to see out the innings with a total of 56 runs, giving us work to do with ball-in-hand. Arjun bowled a double wicket maiden after some tidy bowling and continued his wicket taking form with a direct hit to the stumps to run out their last remaining opening batter. Despite some attentive fielding from Krish and Ayaan, along with further wickets from Rahul and Roshan, as a result of a superb diving catch from Aubrey, their 7th batter was too much for us to handle and saw out the game. Unfortunately, St Paul's reached 59 runs in just 12 overs despite some tidy bowling. Well played everyone, hopefully we can show some more aggression next game.



U11D vs St Paul's School Fri, 07 May 21, Away

Tough day at the office after a very strong win against St Benedict's the week before. I know the boys enjoyed the coach journey to Barnes as well as the match. Their competitive spirit was great. In the end, untidy bowling and therefore conceding too many extras off only 12 overs gave St Paul's an easy win here. St John's tried hard with the bat. We couldn't quite angle the solid shots through the gaps where St Paul's were able to find the boundary on three occasions. We must play straighter with an open faced bat when facing some accurate bowlers. Good feedback and targets to work on for the next few coaching sessions at school. Well done to the squad!

U11 D2 vs St Paul's, Fri 7 May

St John's chose to field first and made an excellent start with several low-scoring overs bowled, including a two-wicket maiden from James and maidens from Harry and Ananda. Ahmed was consistently quick with his reactions in the field. At the crease St John's did really well with the experience of pairs cricket from Games lessons coming into play. Vineel and Aidan made very quick runs and communicated well at both ends, and others replicated this style. Harry and Vineel each scored several boundaries. The boys enjoyed the match and their effort and performance impressed.





Cricket season gets underway

U11E vs St Paul's School Friday 7th May Away, Won

St Paul's batted first during the pairs cricket match at St Paul's. St John's bowled and fielded very well and made it very difficult for them to score runs. Some great fielding by the St John's outfield stopped a number of boundaries. At the end of the first innings St Paul's had scored 255 runs. St John's batted and we lost 2 wickets in the first over. Thomas, Mehul batted very well. However, St Paul's bowled many wides and extras which enabled us to get many more runs. At the end of the innings St John's scored 306 to win the match. A great team performance.



U11F vs St Paul's School 7th May Away Lost by 10 wickets

A useful experience for the boys, St John's elected to bat first and approached the task with some quite defensive shots, resulting in a fairly slow scoring rate. Many of the balls were hard to hit as St Paul's bowlers struggled to find their line and length. After the twelve overs, St John's had set a target of 51 for St Paul's to win. The home team started their innings in quite the opposite manner, reaching the required total in just four overs. However, with wickets deducting five runs a piece from the total, the match continued until St Paul's had batted for their allocated twelve overs. Unfortunately, St John's did not manage to take any wickets despite some much improved bowling and the match finished with St Paul's reaching 115 runs. It was great to see the boys really enjoying the experience and never giving up, despite the obvious quality of the opposition. Well done all.

U11D1 vs St Paul's School 7th May Friendly

The St John's development team had a lovely trip out to St Paul's for their first fixture of the season and had a very impressive performance. The boys showed all the skills and feedback they had absorbed throughout their training sessions through some excellent batting and bowling performances. With St Paul's in to bat, we had some great wickets from Kayhan and Ebi. However, the rest of the team did well to bowl some difficult balls to keep the opposition's score low. St John's made a great effort in trying to chase a respectable score put up by St Paul's. We had some cracking shots by quite a few boys, most notably from Vivek who scored our only 4 of the day. Leo B also showed his great game sense with his aggressive running, sneaking in quite a few extra runs as a result. While we did not win the match, it was an enjoyable experience for the whole team as they got to participate in their first match of the season whilst putting out a performance to be proud of.





Success for St John's boys: Daniel Barnett

After captaining the 1st XV at St John's, Daniel Barnett joined Berkhamsted in 2017 as a sport scholar. For those of us who taught him or played with him his passion for rugby was clear to see. He simply adores the game and is passionate about every part of it.

I am delighted to report that Daniel's rugby has been progressing well at Berkhamsted and in January 2021 he was

promoted to the Wasps U18 squad for matches this month against Yorkshire, Newcastle, Gloucester & Sale. Last Saturday, he made his debut for the U18 Academy against Yorkshire Rugby at Broadstreet RFC. This is a photograph of him just after the final whistle. It is always so good to hear how old boys are getting on and we look forward to hearing further news from Daniel.



Mithil & Ahaan

Mithil 6M and Ahaan 6V played their first cricket match for U12 Hillingdon Borough cricket team on Bank Holiday Monday (3rd May). It was their first opening game of the season as Hillingdon Borough U12 players. Happily, the Hillingdon borough team won against the Richmond team. Here they are wearing their Hillingdon kit.

OUTLOOK



Calendar & important dates Contact details

Calendar and important dates:

Monday 17th May: Walk to school week all week

Year 8 Residential Trip departs for Devon (7.50am)

Tuesday 18th May: Academic Information Meeting (Years 2-4) (6.00pm)

Wednesday 19th May: Cricket v Haileybury: U12 A, B (a) (2.15pm)

Friday 21st May: Year 3 swimming 1.10pm – 3.00pm

Year 8 Residential Trip Returns (c. 4.30pm)



Photo of the week: James in 6M took this amazing photo of a rainbow ending over St John's. Has anyone found the crock of gold?

Updates:

Please continue to visit www.st-johns.org.uk for all the latest information on sports fixtures and results. The website will have announcements in case of emergency.



You can also follow us on twitter @stjnsnorthwood and our sports department @StJohnsNwSport

Mailings: If you have received The Lamb from someone else and would like to be sent your own copy direct each week, please email: Lamb Editor. Let us know your contact details and you will be added to the list.

Photographs: We cannot always be on hand every event with a camera and rely on photographs from parents and supporters. Do please continue to send in pictures to lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk for inclusion in The Lamb. Many thanks.

Notices and reminders

Exam revision Guides for Year 5 to 8: These are available to view on the Parent Portal.

Mufti Day for crisis in India Friday 7th May: We raised the amazing total of £9386 for the British Asian Trust's Oxygen for India Emergency Appeal with our Mufti day on Friday 7th Many, many thanks to you all on this amazing achievement. *Mrs Walker*

English Department: On Tuesday 18th May 5.30pm – 7.00pm Philip Pullman will be "in conversation" with Michael Rosen in a free online seminar. The details and registration information are in this link. <https://www.gold.ac.uk/calendar/?id=13567>

Stem Den: We look forward to opening our doors in the Summer holidays for our educational, fun STEM based activities. See website for more details: www.stemden.co.uk Hands On! Minds On! Book early to guarantee your place.

House Music Festival: Second rounds are taking place at lunchtimes in the Norman Hall Friday 14th May to Friday 21st May. Results will be announced before Half Term. Good Luck boys.

Votes for schools: see page 10

House Points: 1st Lincoln 104.63, 2nd Lawrence 102.11
3rd Churchill 99.50, 4th Oates 98.54

Have a super weekend.