



From the  
Headmaster

**We have had** a busy start to this half term. Yesterday, the Young Shakespeare Company performed an interactive production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with the Year 5 and 6 boys. Much fun was had by all the boys while they learnt about this important play. I was thrilled to hear some of our very talented pianists at our inaugural Piano Festival on Monday. The boys played with real commitment and communicated beautifully with the audience.

Year 8 have started their Post Exam Curriculum. It was good to see them discussing their initial thoughts at the beginning of the Business Enterprise Course in their random groupings.

The Lambs had a visit from the police this week as part of their "People who helps us" topic whilst Reception have been working hard on words that contain 'oo'. It was a pleasure to share their ideas and descriptions. I am looking forward to seeing the Year 4 Dragons' Den presentations.

Many congratulations to our 1st XI football team who have won their first match, against St Paul's on Wednesday. Overall, it was a superbly balanced fixture for all five teams. Good luck to our U9A football team in their tournament on Saturday and to the musicians who will be performing at the Merchant Taylors' Hall on Monday evening.

Many thanks to all of you who have already completed the Parent Questionnaire. Your feedback is much appreciated.

## Playing for laughs: Shakespeare's summer comedy is really funny



**Years 5 and 6** enjoyed a fabulous afternoon with the Young Shakespeare Company yesterday. Aarush in 5V has written a report for us.

"The four actors began by introducing us to their story: 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. They got us to picture the stuffy, scorching city of Athens, a place that contained many secrets, most of them lying in the mysterious, magical forest. They helped us understand what seemed like a complicated plot, which consisted of not one, but four people in obsessive love with each other.

In the mysterious forest of Athens, magical creatures lay, waiting to play mischievous tricks on Athenians. But in extremely unfavourable circumstances, the four lovers, who had an endless quarrel over who loves who, ran away to the forest in which creatures abide. They were put under spells and tricked.

The Young Shakespeare Company succeeded in making us not only smile, but laugh out loud. Their interactive questions and ideas involved everyone in the play. Many people were giggling hilariously after their best friends were asked to propose to other boys. It was an exceptional experience."



## Playing for laughs cont...





## School Council 23rd February, 2022

**The School Council** met on Wednesday and we were pleased to welcome all the new Council members who were elected to start representing their classes from February half term. The main focus of discussion was new equipment for the playground and school lunches. The boys came up with some super ideas for the playground including a giant game of Jenga, mini figures for imaginative play and, of course, more football posts! Our Head Boy, Ansh, had commissioned

a survey of school lunches and was able to report on its findings at the meeting. He did so in a very eloquent and professional manner and made some interesting points. Mrs Savage will take the results to Mrs Foley, Head of Catering, for further discussion. All the members contributed effectively throughout and helped to make the meeting successful. Thank you, as ever, to Mrs Marshall for taking the minutes.

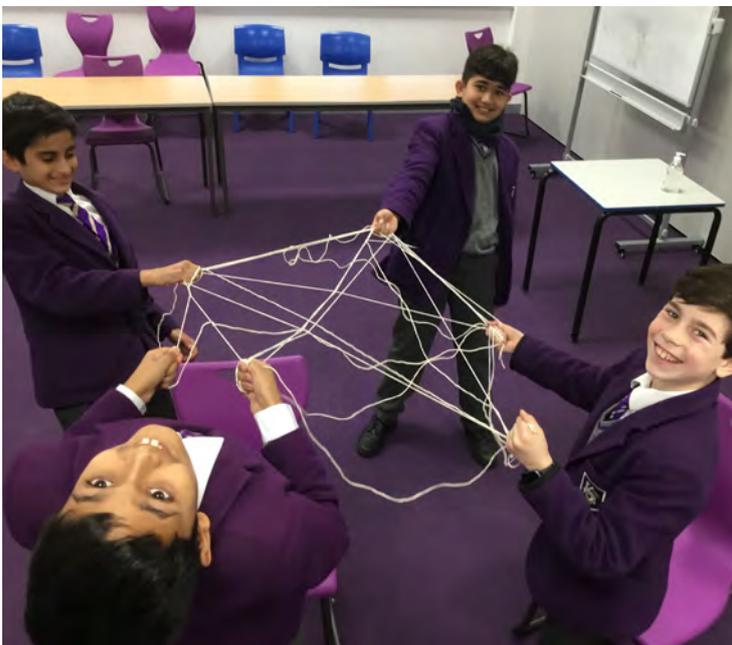




## Public Speaking in Year 6

As **part of** the English curriculum, students in Year 6 work enthusiastically in order to practise their public speaking and persuasive skills. Just before half term, all classes participated in a mock trial in their English lessons, where they learnt all the procedures of a real trial and had to argue for or against a character's innocence. The "shoe-stealing incident" mock trial is also linked to the study of 'Holes', which explores themes of crime, punishment and fairness. Moreover, the Year 6 Debating Society Club teams work laboriously in Debates

to prepare for the 2022 debating finals, which will be held in school after Easter. Year 7 students have devoted some of their time to coach and advise Year 6 students on a one-to-one basis. Tips on how to improve their already amazing public speaking skills were welcomed by Year 6 students. It was impressive to see how well the Year 7 students connected with the Year 6 debaters. We will keep on finding opportunities to involve our boys in public speaking, as it is part of their Common Entrance Curriculum.





# All in the line of duty

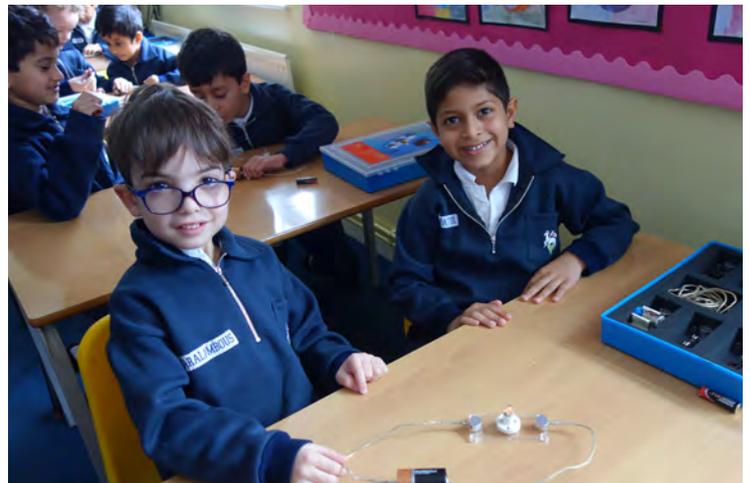
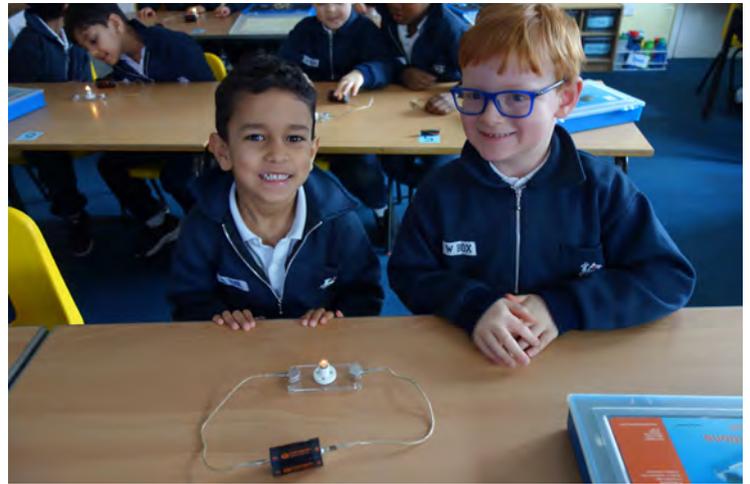
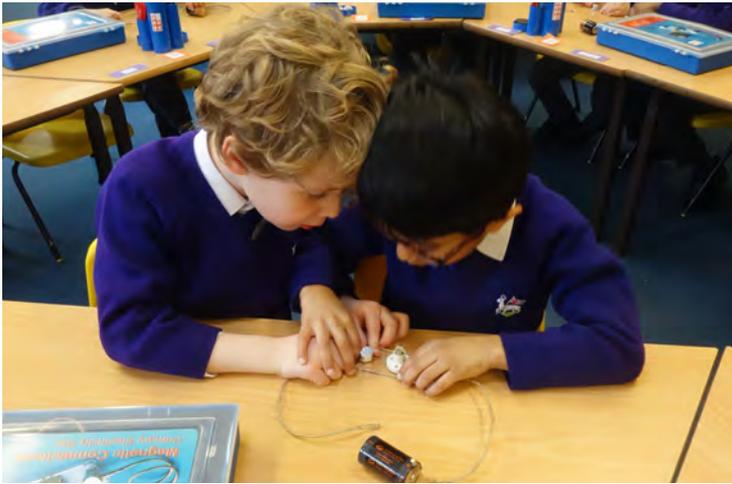
**The Lambs** have been learning about the emergency services and were very lucky to have some visitors from the Metropolitan Police Force this week. We learnt about what the police do and how they help us. We saw their uniform and the instruments they use - baton, camera, spray, radio, police badge and handcuffs.





## Electricity in Year 1

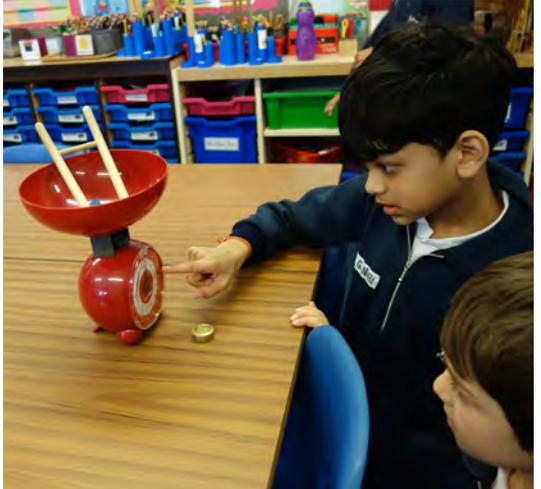
**Year 1** have been learning about electricity. The boys learnt that electricity is a kind of energy that can give us light, sound, heat and movement. To get electricity to flow from the battery to a light bulb, the boys made a pathway called a circuit. Working in pairs, they connected wires to the batteries and light bulb. Once there were no gaps, the boys were very excited to see the light bulb light up. They learnt that electricity cannot flow if a circuit is broken...no more power cuts please!!





# Year 2 have been learning about weight

Year 2 boys have been discovering weight this week. All boys waited patiently to feel the metal weights. They have enjoyed using scales to weigh things found in the classroom. They estimated and compared the actual weight of prepacked food items with actual weights hidden.





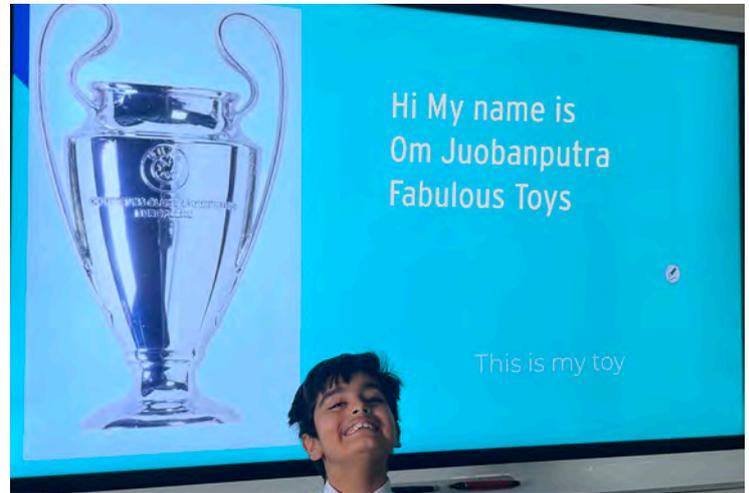
# Dragons' Den in Year 4

Year 4 are preparing for their Dragons' Den moment. They've designed toys using the scratch programme and are now preparing their pitch. Developing ICT skills combined with public speaking and the art of persuasion can only serve them well. Everyone is very much looking forward to the final presentation.





## Dragons' Den cont...



## Music Success for Lucas in 4L

In the recent Watford Music Festival, Lucas was awarded second place in the piano class, with a Distinction. He played two jazz and blues pieces and the adjudicator noted he played with a “lovely tone and beautiful narrative line”. He has also achieved a Merit in his Grade 2 Violin exam and Distinction with full marks, in Grade 1 Theory. Keep up the good work Lucas!

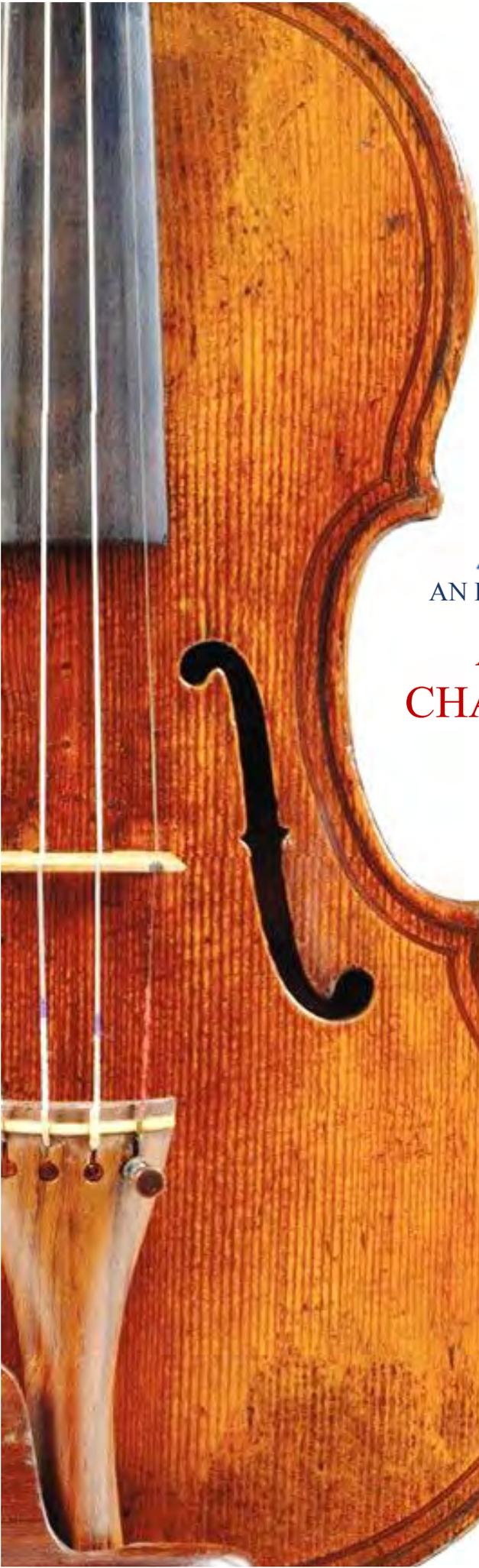




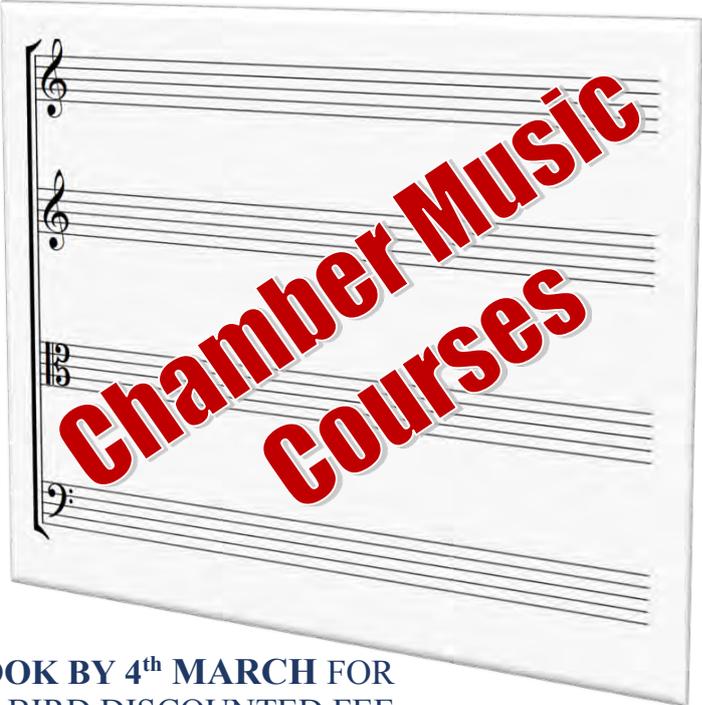
## St John's Piano Festival

**A huge congratulations** to every boy from Year 3 to Year 8, who performed at our inaugural Piano Festival. We were delighted to see the high levels of dedication, professionalism and commitment to performing varied pieces of piano repertoire. During the rehearsals all boys enjoyed listening to each other and provided constructive and supportive feedback ahead of the performance. We look forward to similar future performances – watch this space.





**Leading Notes**



**Chamber Music  
Courses**



**BOOK BY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH FOR  
AN EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTED FEE**

**A 3-DAY NON-RESIDENTIAL  
CHAMBER MUSIC COURSE FOR**

**IMPROVING**

**STRING PLAYERS**

**(MINIMUM STANDARD - GRADE 4)**

**EASTER COURSE**

**11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**2022**

**Scan the QR code to apply, or email to  
request a link to the application form:**

**[leading.notes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:leading.notes@hotmail.co.uk)**

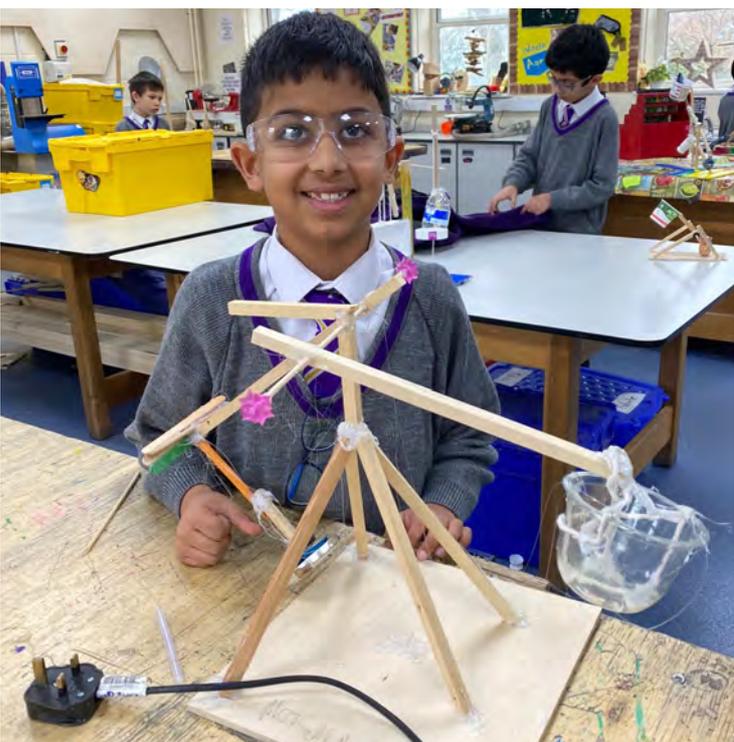


**MERCHANT TAYLORS'  
School**



# Splendid shadufs and brilliant bookends

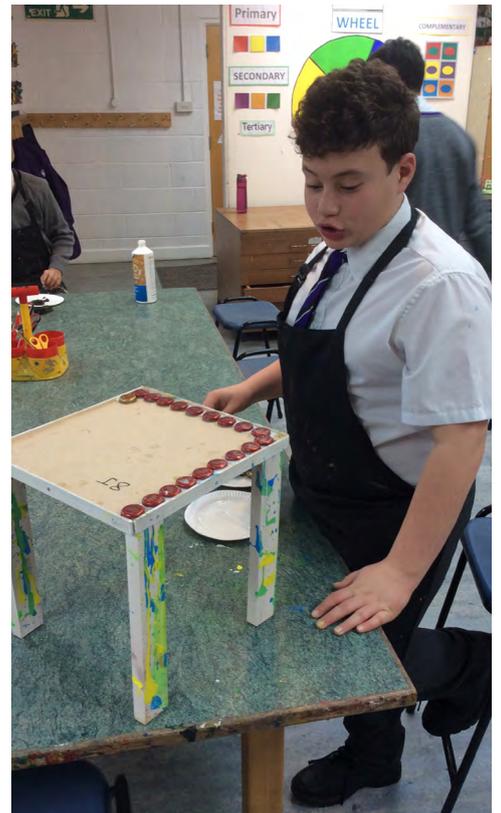
A wonderful week of creativity as we work on our finishing techniques in the D&T workshop this week. Mrs McSween would love to add photos of you designing and making at home. Please share your pictures sending them to [vmcsween@st-johns.org.uk](mailto:vmcsween@st-johns.org.uk) All pictures chosen for the 'Wall of Fame' receive a House Point.







# Mosaic coffee tables in the Art studio





## Senior football vs St Paul's, 23rd February



### 1st XI Won 2-1

On a blustery day down by the Thames, the 1st XI played their third game of the season against St Paul's. The team started well, quickly adapting to a new system and maintaining their shape. As a result we were able to press for the ball and create chances for our strikers. Unfortunately, we were unable to convert this early pressure and, completely against the run of play, St Paul's broke down the right and scored. The boys did not let this affect them and continued to press and push for a goal. Right on the stroke of half time, Shane won the ball on the edge of the box and fired in an excellent finish to give us our first goal of the season, and the first ever goal scored for the St John's 1st XI! In the second half we continued to press and our midfield did well to limit any momentum that St Paul's tried to build up. This pressure resulted in a second goal for Shane, putting us 2-1 up. Both teams had chances for further goals, but neither team

was able to convert these into goals. Man of the Match was Emerson for his fantastic work rate. Special mentions to Shane and Sahib for their impact on the game, and to Blake for coming to support the team even though injured and unable to play.

### U13B, Lost 3-1

In the first half of the game we kept the pressure up. Our defence was quite narrow, pushing St Paul's out wide, making sure they couldn't come in. Unfortunately, they broke through our defence, creating a one on one with the keeper and they scored. We did not lose our motivation and Lucas, Sahib, Amos and Hamza created breakthroughs. Again, St Paul's worked very hard off the ball and scored two more goals. In the second half we took our chances more and kept the pressure up, making the most of our tackles. Yash was giving options out wide and passed to Hamza who scored. After that we played very aggressively in their half but, unfortunately, we weren't able to score. MOTM was Amos. Well played boys. Amos 8J





## Football vs St Paul's cont...

### 3rd XI, Won 2-1

On Wednesday, the 3rd XI played against St Paul's in blustery conditions. It was close in the first half, with St John's giving away possession quite easily and St Paul's countering due to our mistakes. During half-time we discussed our weaknesses and changed our game plan and we then executed it perfectly. We were more aggressive in the tackle and started to take a touch and control the ball before passing which enabled us to find space and create attacking threats, helping us to score great goals. It was an excellent team effort from all, well done, keep it going. Scorers: George and Ansh. MOTM: Benjamin



### 4th XI Won 1-0

This was a close, nail-biting match. We started slowly and played a possession game until Joshua's pace broke through and set us off. Our first chance came from a cleared corner which landed at the feet of Mihir who smashed it into the crossbar. St Paul's had chances, but Kian J made some great saves and swept up any St Paul's breaks. Kian P made an amazing off-the-line clearance to save an almost certain St Paul's goal. Joshua and Remika made some good runs down the wings and created many chances. Unfortunately, we did not manage to capitalise on these. Late in the first half, we had yet more great chances, but did not score despite James C and Ansh A's mammoth tackling performances in the midfield. In the second half Ahaan, Vihaan and Mihir made some really good tackles. Then Joshua and Remika started making good runs and the pressure started to build. The goal came when Remika crossed the

ball in, the keeper fumbled it and Kian P was there to finish it off. Finally we had scored our first goal! After this, we played very defensively giving St Paul's only one or two chances and fortunately we kept them out. Once the final whistle blew, we were all elated. MOTM was Kian P for his goal-line clearance, work rate and match winning goal. Thank you to the injured Satyen whose shouts from the side-line encouraged the team all game. Match report by captain Kian J.

### 5th XI, Won 1-0

This was an even contest with both teams having their chances. The midfield players, Aarav, Jamie and Niam played well as a unit and worked hard to break up the play. Anek linked well with the forwards and on one counterattack played the ball to winger Rian who slotted the ball past the keeper. By half time we led one goal to nil. St Paul's had more of the ball in the second half and put us under some pressure. The defence, including Aayan, George R and James and led by Albert, did well to block shots and thwart attacks. Albert also made some precise passing with his left foot and was instrumental in turning defence into attack. Captain and winger Michael had a good game on the right wing and led by example. Man of the Match was goalkeeper George G, who saved every shot, showing great kicking ability, launching his goalkicks over the halfway line. In the end we won 1-0. Leo also played a good game in the first half. A great effort from everyone. Well done.



## Under 11 Hockey Tournament at Abingdon

**The day started** with the pool stage of the competition. Having arrived in good time, the boys were well warmed up and ready for their matches against Beachborough, Cranfield House and The Beacon. As expected the standard of hockey was pretty strong and unfortunately every keeper we went up against seemed as impassable as a brick wall. Against Beachborough and The Beacon the boys were much the better team with passing, movement and team play as excellent as any Under 11 hockey team St John's has fielded in the last seven years. We just could not score. In the Plate Competition we were narrowly defeated by The Manor which meant an early trip home. The boys conducted themselves superbly throughout and were a credit to the school.



## Tennis advice from a Grand Slam Champion



**During the half-term** holidays, I went to the J.C. Ferrero Academy in Valencia to train. I was very excited! World top twenty tennis champions Pablo Carreno-Busta and Carlos Alcaraz train here. I was also nervous because I am 10 years old and most of the players are older than 12 years. They are training to become professional tennis players and they live at the Academy.

On my first day, I started the fitness and did mobility, stretching, stamina and speed/reaction exercises. I impressed Pablo, the fitness coach, because I beat an elite 13-year-old at the speed/reaction exercise and at running. Suddenly J.C. Ferrero walked into the gym! He is a Grand Slam tennis Champion and a former World Number 1 tennis player. He watches all his athletes. My fitness coach informed J.C that I have lots of potential. He asked me, 'Do you have a compact forehand?' I replied, 'Yes.' He was impressed as not many players my age have that. Then he said, 'Do you have a strong backhand?' 'Not yet.' I replied.

J.C Ferrero told me to work on it because it would help me in the future. Receiving advice from a Grand Slam Champion feels like receiving an infinite amount of everything I would like. I did lots

of tennis drills, serving and footwork exercises. The fitness was very important too. One exercise was cycling for 20 minutes and if you drop the speed under 50 revolutions per minute, you had to do 20 press ups! I made lots of improvement to my tennis. On my last day, I played a tennis match and won 6-1! I made lots of friends with the players who are from all over the world like Russia, Brazil, Germany and of course Spain, and I learnt a little bit of Spanish. I shouted 'Vamos' a lot. There are lots of coaches. My favourite was Pablo, the fitness coach, and J.C. Ferrero who told me how to become a better tennis player. Leaving the academy was sad because I was just settling in. It was really exhausting, but I wanted to train more and more. I played well for St. John's tennis team in Year 4 and I think I will be a much stronger team player this year. I really, really wish to go back to the academy but for now I will still fight to become a better tennis player. Gracias for reading! *Zachariah, 5C*



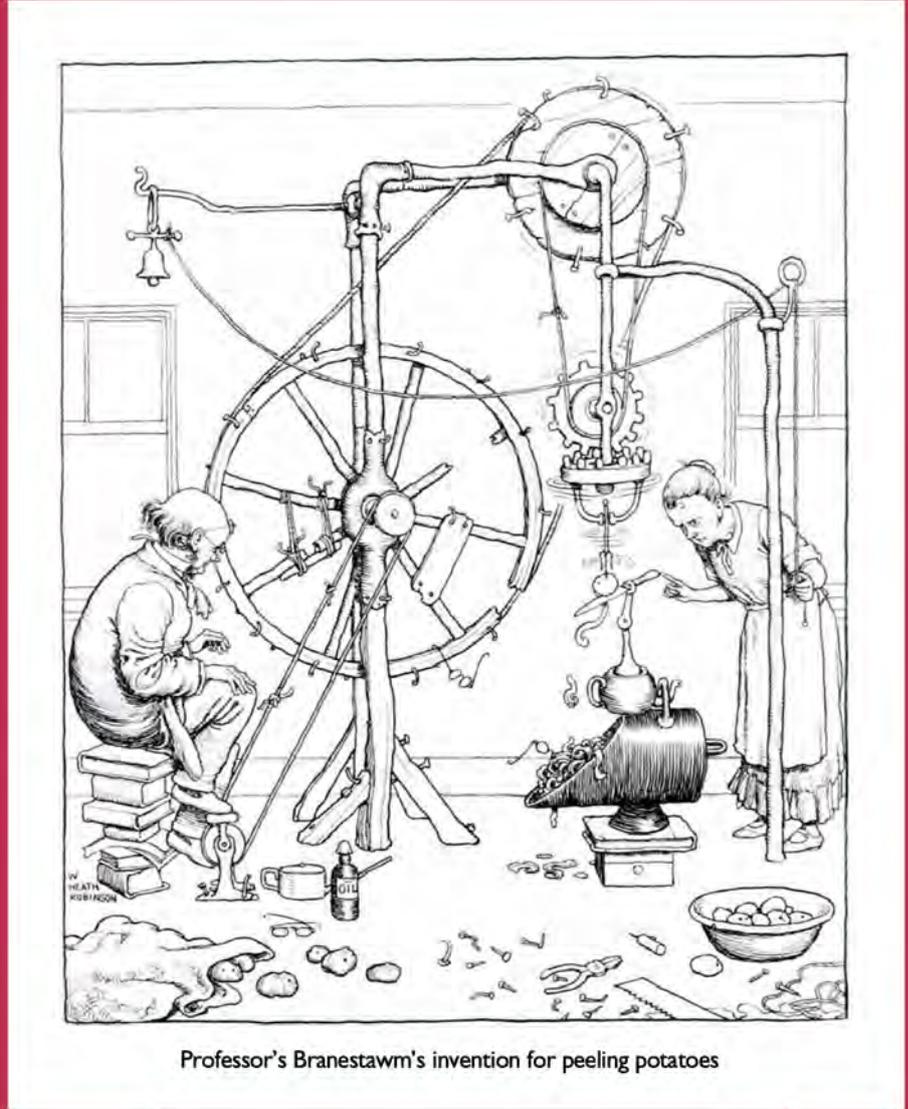
# Heath Robinson 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Competition

**Submission deadline**  
15<sup>th</sup> May

**Age categories**  
5-7yrs  
8-10yrs  
11-14yrs  
15-18 yrs

Submit entries (1 per person) via email (good quality image of 2 to 4MB) to:  
[learning@heathrobinsonmuseum.org](mailto:learning@heathrobinsonmuseum.org)

For Entry form and full terms and conditions see  
[www.heathrobinsonmuseum.org](http://www.heathrobinsonmuseum.org)



Professor's Branestawm's invention for peeling potatoes

Heath Robinson was known for his humorous illustrations which commented upon issues in every day life or invented madcap contraptions to solve everyday problems. We want you to do the same on the theme of :

“What would Heath Robinson make of life today?”

Shortlisted art will be exhibited in the Museum over the summer and prizes of art materials will be awarded to the winners in each age category.

**St Johns PTA presents.....**

**VIRTUAL**

**\* PRIZES \*  
TO BE WON \***

# **FAMILY QUIZ**

## **Night**

**SATURDAY 19th MARCH**

**5 - 6 PM**

**£15 Entry per household**

**To register for the event please click on  
the hyperlink below**

**<https://stjohnsassociationportal.square.site/>**

**\* BONUS \***

**UPTO 20% DISCOUNT  
ON THE NIGHT AT THESE RESTAURANTS  
WITH EVERY TEAM ENTRY**



# OUTLOOK



## Calendar & important dates Contact details



*Cato in 5W-S went to Florida at half term and had the opportunity to swim with manatees. He says, "Manatees are one of the largest herbivores you can find in the sea. They are sometimes called Sea Cows because they are so huge."*

**Saturday 26th February:** U9A Football Tournament at Haberdashers' (9.30am)

**Monday 28th February:** House Music Festival Rounds Begin

Joint MTS and St John's Concert at Merchant Taylors' Hall (6.45pm)

**Tuesday 1st March:** Football v Haberdashers': U9 A, B, C, D, E (a) (2.30pm)

Year 4 Parents' Meeting (6.00-8.00pm)

**Wednesday 2nd March:** Year 6 visit to Merchant Taylors' Hall and Docklands Museum

Football v Thorpe House: 1st, 2nd XI

(h), 3rd, 4th XI (a) (2.30pm)

**Thursday 3rd March:** World Book Day St John's Invitational U11 Cross Country (4.15pm)

Year 4 Parents' Meeting (4.30-6.30pm)

**Friday 4th March:** Sports Photographs for Years 3-6

Football v St Paul's: Colts A, B, C, D (a) U10 A, B, C, D (h) (2.30pm)

Second Hand Uniform Sale in the Norman Hall (2.45pm-4.15pm)

**Saturday 5th March:** U10A 6-a-side Football Tournament at MTP (9.30am)

**Updates:** Please continue to visit [www.st-johns.org.uk](http://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

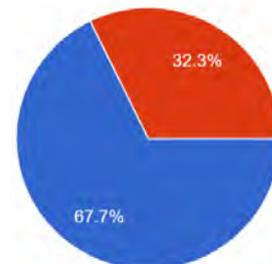
**Mailings:** If you have received The Lamb from someone else and would like to be sent your own copy each week, please email: Lamb Editor. Let us know your contact details and you will be added to the list.

**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](mailto:lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk) for inclusion in The Lamb. Many thanks.

### VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

This week's question: "Do punishments work?"

- 68.4% No
- 31.6% yes



Next week's question: "Is it useful to keep up with the news?"

## Notices and reminders

**World Book Day Thursday 3rd March:** Don't forget to dress up as a book character.

**House Music Festival:** The first rounds for St John's Young Musician of the Year start on Monday 28th February. Please make sure that your son brings his instrument and music into school on the days that he has a class music lesson during the weeks beginning 28th Feb and 7th March.

**House Art Competition:** The theme this year is "Our Beautiful World." The information about this year's competition are on Google classroom.

**St John's Association Quiz Night Sat 19th March 5.00-6.00 pm:** Please see the poster and booking link on page 19

**Heath Robinson Art Competition:** To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Heath Robinson's birth, the Heath Robinson Museum in Pinner has set up an exciting art competition for children and young adults. If you are interested, please see the poster on page 18

**House Points:** Churchill 1st 83.76, Lincoln 2nd 83.73, Oates 3rd 79.64, Lawrence 4th 77.73

Have a great weekend.