

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award



At the start of the year, 10 pupils embarked on the Silver DofE. We took the minibus up to the White Peaks to the town of Hartington. The first night we rested in the youth hostel, with a delightful dinner and our final night of luxury. In the morning we had a full English breakfast and began the expedition. The two groups set off at 9am from Baslow car park through heavy rain and with a cold morning start. The group were making good progress and the sun started to

break behind them. Followed by GPS trackers, they were on track and fast. We met at Chatsworth Manor, then at our first campsite. Facilities were basic, but the night was dry and the stars were clear. The next day the groups meandered along the Tissington Trail. The last campsite was busy with DofE groups but our candidates represented the school brilliantly with their attitude and organisation. The final day they set off at 7am with determination to reach the end of the expedition and in record time they reached the car park at the end. An excellent three days of walking, camping and resilience!

Christian Kiel

Headlines by Andy Hodgkinson

SNOW CLOSURE

Hopefully we will not have to contend with any snow in the immediate future; nonetheless it is getting colder so I thought it appropriate to update parents/carers on the snow closure procedure, in the unlikely event that we have to close the school. If we do have to make this difficult decision, we aim to post this on our school website by 7.45am (a reminder also that you may need to click the "refresh" button on our website to ensure the information is updated). You may also visit the Essex County Council website: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-closures.aspx> (or just search for: Essex County Council Emergency School Closures), as local radio stations no longer broadcast this information.

PRIMARY LINKS

Last Monday evening we hosted an event at school to bring together local primary teachers and teachers across a range of departments at Sweyne Park, to look at ways to strengthen curriculum progression and transition. Well over 80 primary teachers joined us for a really productive session and different department areas have come up with some interesting projects which, moving forward, will hopefully benefit both primary pupils and pupils at Sweyne Park.

Watch this space!

Parents' Time

A member of the Leadership Team will be available to see parents without appointment:

9:00am-9:45am Monday - Friday

5:00pm-5:45pm Thursdays



Book of the Week

BOY X

By Dan Smith

Ash wakes up to discover he has been drugged, kidnapped and taken to a remote tropical island. What is going on? Why have his senses all heightened and why has his Mum been infected with a deadly virus? Ash must escape to save her, but he has only 24 hours to do it and the jungle is filled with plants and creatures like no other, and his captors want him back.

An exciting, action-packed, adrenalin-drenched read!



SHORT-LISTED FOR THE
ESSEX BOOK AWARD 2016/17
WILL IT WIN?



The National Short Story Week Young Writer Competition 2017. The chance to be a published writer while still at school!

We are pleased to announce the launch of the 6th National Short Story Week short story competition for Year 7 and 8 students. Stories will be judged by a panel of readers and the finalist will be judged by a published author. **The top stories will be published in a paperback and ebook during National Short Story Week 2017. All royalties will go to the charity War Child. Our previous Young Writer anthologies have been bestsellers on Amazon!** Students who enter must write a short story of between 900 and 1000 words with the title "**The Decision**". What happens in the story is up to each young writer, but **it must be relevant to the title**. Please email your entries to Mrs Waghorn in the Library by **Friday 13th January!** (Please ask for the email address only when your story is ready to be submitted).

The best ten entries received by this date will be forwarded to enter the National Short Story Competition! Good Luck!



DUTY PUPILS

Thank you for all your help:

Neave, Tamer, Georgia, Sam (8CHO)

Zarah, Khushi, Nathan, Ruby & Thomas (8AHu)

Pupil Services

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7PM IN THE MAIN HALL,

6TH DECEMBER

TICKETS £3.00 ADULTS
& £2.00 CONCESSIONS



RAYLEIGH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Holy Trinity Church is once again hosting its annual Christmas Tree competition.

Many Year 7 pupils have contributed to our entry. In order to win (something we have never achieved yet!) we would like as many people (families, friends, pupils...) to visit the Church, enjoy the event and ideally vote for Sweyne Park's excellently decorated Christmas tree. It is based on *Christmas around the World* and will have SPS labels. I hope you can find the time to visit and vote between Thursday and Saturday this week.

Marie Taylor, Head of Year 7

Tanzania and Uru North



International Dimension

Marie Taylor reporting...

One World/Culture Week this year marked a year since we welcomed Mr Saiwa, Head of our partner school in Tanzania, to Sweyne Park. We took this opportunity to reflect on the success of our link since it began back in 2002. With so many unpleasant things happening in the world around us, this was the ideal time to demonstrate to our pupils and students that even small gestures can have a huge impact and lead to change. Our school should be very proud that we have youngsters who know what it is that makes us the same and respect what it is that makes us different.

The Kisarika School



Kisarika - before



Kisarika - before

The children of Kisarika & Uru North



2013

- Sponsored silences
- Homework tasks under water!
- Cake sales
- Sponsored bike rides
- Busking
- Sponsored hair cut!
- Inter-tutor football competition
- "Phreaky" sponsored run!
- Hand made cards
- Quiz books
- Sponsored handcuffed day!



2015



Rights Respecting School and we hold International School Award status

