

"Sister Act"

Lisa Charge reporting...



On 24th November, 13 pupils who are currently completing their Bronze Arts Award had the opportunity to watch "Sister Act" at the Cliffs Pavilion. As part of their qualification, the pupils have to critique the performance, taking key notes of various aspects including the music,

acting, lighting and set design, highlighting how important they are in contributing to the storyline. The performance was outstanding, with the leading role being played by Alexandra Burke. It was an upbeat, energetic and entertaining show which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Your weekly link with the school 762

Book of the Week

MOTH GIRLS (YA)
by Anne Cassidy

Mandy is still haunted by the night her two best friends disappeared five years ago. The house where they were seen is finally being demolished, and this has sparked memories for Mandy, memories with some disturbing details. She has to find out what really happened; Mandy must finally learn the truth.

An emotional thriller by the much-acclaimed author of *Looking for JJ*.



20th January 2017

DUTY PUPILS

Thank you for all your help!

- Bethany & Courtney (8LAs)
- Evie D & Evie G, Chloe & Xavier (8DGa)
- Sophie & Julian (8SJa)
- Teigan & Robyn (8JBo)

Pupil Services

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WINNERS OF THE SPS 17TH JANUARY DRAW:

- 1ST** ROSEMARY LAKE
- 2ND** RICHARD BRADLEY
- 3RD** JACKIE PHILLIPS

Headlines by Andy Hodgkinson

YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING
Please can I remind families of pupils in Year 11 that Parents' Evening is on Thursday 26th January. We very much hope you will be able to attend as this is such a vital evening.

ACTING HEAD WEEK
Next week, as I have a number of meetings and commitments out of school, Katharine Dines will be Acting Head, as part of her Professional Development. I am sure she will do an excellent job as always.

PREMISES UPDATE
Despite austerity, we are continuing to do our best to improve the school's

infrastructure and buildings. We are currently working on improvements to the boys' dry PE changing rooms, as the renovations made to the wet changing rooms, two years ago, proved so popular. In addition, we have completely renovated the literacy support room as well as having made other improvements to lighting and décor across the building. There is no question that times are tight, but the School really has never looked better and we will continue to make sure our buildings are a pleasant place in which to learn.

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



My name is Daisy and I am a pupil in Year 10. On Thursday 24th November I went to the Farmers' Club in London. It came as a complete surprise when I was awarded with a trophy and certificate for "Most Improved" for my skills in young handling of cattle. I have always had a passionate interest in farming and agriculture. My ambition for the future is to continue to develop my knowledge of farming and eventually run a successful farm.



A LEVEL RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

This year has seen the launch of our new A Level in Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics! The course covers a wide range of religious, philosophical and ethical issues and enables students to really question the world around them. Concepts covered so far include the nature and existence (or not) of God, the validity of religious experience and the "true" essence of morality, including the study of different ethical systems proposed by philosophers throughout history. Our current students will soon be attending a study conference in London with Dr Peter Vardy; a leading figure in the world of philosophy and ethics. Exciting times indeed!



CPRE



YEAR 7 VISIT TO HOLY TRINITY

On Monday 19th December Year 7 pupils attended a Christmas Celebration Event at Holy Trinity Church in Rayleigh. The event involved the singing of songs and hymns, reflections on the meaning of Christmas, both religious and otherwise, and readings by both pupils and staff. Maisie, Charlotte, Noah and Luke all read with great clarity and confidence and contributed to a fantastic event. Miss Wigg and Mr Mitchell also gave readings about their own experiences of Christmas and what it means to them, both with important messages about love, generosity, empathy and respect. Ellie, in Year 12, read us all a poem reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas, while Katie, Year 10, gave a wonderful musical performance. The Sweyne Park Choir performed several classic Christmas songs beautifully too, which really helped to set the scene. The event was a great success and enabled pupils to see one of the many ways in which religion plays an active role in the community; a fitting way to end the year! **Adam Thomson**

YEAR 9 - FIRST GIVE

This term Year 9 pupils will begin the First Give scheme as part of their CPRE lessons. The scheme, which was run last year, will give pupils the chance to choose a cause that they feel passionate about, identifying a local charity who work for the cause and researching the work that they do. In teams, pupils will have to develop key employability skills as they research, communicate, evaluate and present information on their chosen charity, simultaneously strengthening their own CV while benefitting their local community. The scheme runs as a competition, meaning that each class will have one winning team. These winning teams will then proceed to a prestigious final event, where a judging panel will decide on the three overall winning teams. First place will receive £1000 for their charity, while the two runners-up will receive £250 for theirs. This certainly promises to be an exciting time for Year 9!



RIGHTS RESPECTING GROUP

At Sweyne Park the Rights Respecting Group, which is made up of pupils from across all year groups, work hard to ensure that the rights of all children, both at SPS and further afield, are looked after. Over the past year the Rights Respecting Group have embarked on several projects to raise awareness of children's rights across the school. One such project involved decorating the recycling bins in classrooms to remind all young people that children have a right to a clean and healthy environment. As well as having this message put onto the bins, each one was decorated in the theme of the subject taught in that classroom! The group are now focused on their next project, which involves creating a series of posters to educate everyone on the rights that children have. Look out for these around the school in the coming months!