

# the avenue

summer 2014

## From the Head

In reading the articles for this edition, I am immensely proud of the variety of activity and all the hard work which has gone in to make it all possible, not only this term but throughout the year. All years, from the very youngest to the oldest in the school, have engaged with the experiences provided within and beyond the classroom. There have been many highlights for me throughout the year but this term in particular, the new-style Sports Day, when staff and students spent a day together competing, team-working and enjoying our lovely green space in the June sunshine, was a favourite and a welcome relief to Years 7, 8 and 9 after four days of examinations. The recent Musical Soirée revealed some new talent and we were treated to a nice range of vocal and instrumental performances. Our Year 11s and Sixth Formers have completed their final examinations, the culmination of years

of hard work, so that they may now enjoy the summer before taking up the next phase of their education. Our Year 10s are completing their first experience of the workplace and we look forward to hearing from them on their return to school. Yet even as we draw one busy school year to a close, we are already engaged in detailed planning for September and the next year. This is the remarkable and wonderful thing about a school, it is a living thing, always changing, always moving forward with each new intake and each year of development. I am honoured at the way in which the staff, pupils and parents have worked through this year with me and supported me in my first year as Head; they have ensured that Friends' School continues to provide excellent education and a happy and peaceful environment in which to learn. I look forward to next year and wish you all a pleasant summer.

Anna Chaudhri



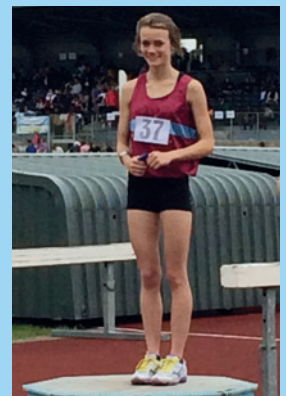
Gii, 2013-2014

## Hannah and Skye Storm Home at Essex Athletics Championships

After qualifying at the North West Essex trials at the beginning of May in Braintree, Hannah Irwin put in a stunning performance at the Essex Schools Athletic Championships on Saturday 7th June at Melbourne Park, to win the Inter-girls 1500m event in a personal best time of 4:56. Hannah (Year 11) ran an extremely mature race by staying with the break away group throughout the race, and attacking with just 150m to go. She showed what a talented runner she is when she moved away from the rest of the athletes to cross the finish line in 1st place and become Essex champion.

Skye Wicks (Year 7) also qualified to compete at the Championships in Chelmsford. Running in the 100m, she qualified for the final after a solid performance, finishing 2nd in her heat. Sky came in 5th place in the highly competitive and close 100m final.

The girls faced some fierce competition at this event, but they kept their nerve and ran brilliantly. Both Hannah and Skye should be delighted with their performances; we are so proud of them both.





## From the Junior School Head

The summer term has truly flown by and seems to have been action packed with a whole host of activities, visits and superb learning opportunities. The cricket team had a tremendous season culminating in their winning the Kwik Cricket league. The Great Westgarth Run was a superb event with a huge number of participants from the Junior School. Staff, parents and children all made a superb effort and raised a significant sum of money for the MNDA charity. Well done to everyone. The rounders and athletics teams have played well and it was fabulous to see so many children participating in these events from a number of local schools.

Reading has continued to be a focus this term. The children have participated whole-heartedly in the Read for My School challenge as well as attempting to read their height in books! Reading tea-times this term were held in the forest which added to the magic and it was fabulous that so many parents were able to join us for these events. The new Read Write Inc. phonics scheme has been hugely successful with the children making great strides with their reading and spelling as a result. Keep up the good work!

Our summer concert was very well attended and the weather was glorious allowing us to have drinks outside. A big thank you to all the staff especially Angie Leslie, Gavin Greenaway and Sally Meyrick for co-ordinating the event so successfully. On a musical note, the Year 5 and 6 production of 'Shakespeare Rocks' was a magical ending to this term's activities. The children performed well and clearly enjoyed all the songs and acting. Thank you to all the staff for their hard work.

I trust all the children will have a restful holiday and come back in September raring to go.

Ruth Darvill



## Friends and Families Day

Our annual day of celebration, which involved all of our school community, was again a great success. It was a pleasure to host our guest speaker, Michael Thorne, Vice Chancellor of Anglia Ruskin University and to hear from our Quartet during the speeches. In spite of changeable weather, picnics went ahead, various lively activities took place and afternoon tea with some live music provided a lovely finish to a fabulous day.



## Year 6 go to the Globe and enjoy an Elizabethan meal!

Year 6 spent a wonderful day at The Globe Theatre in London, learning about Elizabethan theatre, other forms of entertainment, and life in London during the time of Shakespeare. A workshop, themed around the play 'Romeo and Juliet', required them to create emotional statues and act out the anger between the Montagues and Capulets. The tour of the actual theatre took them back in time so they could imagine what it might have been like in Shakespeare's day. Continuing with the theme of all things Elizabethan, Year 6 spent the following morning creating a two-course meal using only ingredients used by the Elizabethans. Under the expert guidance of Emma Brookes Year 6 made a batch of very tasty potato and thyme pasties and some gorgeous gooseberry fools for pudding.



## A Taste of the Old Days for Year 5

Dressed in Victorian costume, given a Victorian name and attending a Victorian school all added to the trip back in time for Year 5 this term. The School House in Stibbington provided a fascinating insight into Victorian times, along with games from the era, not to mention the use of inkwells and quills!



## Summer Soirée

The Summer Soirée provided another standout evening for the Music Department this year. Musicians and singers from across Years 7 to 13 delighted a packed audience and all those who performed did a wonderful job. All acts showed great musicianship and confidence including pieces from the formidable Senior Saxophones, Chamber Orchestra, Brass and Percussion Ensembles and our very talented Year 10 GCSE musicians. Years 9 and 10 entertained with their ukuleles and the 30 strong Senior Choir concluded the evening with an impressive rendition of John Legend's hit 'All of Me'. We look forward to the forthcoming Music Tour to Paris in 2015. Thanks to Gavin Greenaway and the peripatetic teachers for organising such a superb evening.





## Bring Back Our Girls

On Friday 23rd May a group of Year 7 girls took action to support the missing school girls in Nigeria. It was an article in 'The Day', a daily news service used by the school, which sparked a discussion among the class about the abduction of over 200 girls straight from their school in Northern Nigeria. Our Year 7 girls felt very strongly about the issue and, wanting to show solidarity with the girls, made a huge #bringbackourgirls sign and organised a photograph of all the girls in the school. The girls wanted a visual reminder of those students who were missing, so gathered 137 women and children together, still significantly less than those who were abducted.

Head, Anna Chaudhri, expressed her support for this action; "It is so important that young people speak up for female education and I am impressed at the social conscience and strong ethical sense of our pupils, both boys and girls. We continue to hope for the safe return of all the girls to their families".



## Comedy of Errors

Year 10 Drama GCSE students entertained their families and staff members with an outdoor performance of Comedy of Errors. An entertaining rendition performed in the lovely evening sunshine, with the school fields as a backdrop, made for two hours of wonderful theatre. Dressed in black and using only masks for props, the casts' acting talent was clearly evident, as was their enthusiasm for the comical language that brought the play to life.



## Year 1 Visit to Wimpole Farm

Year 1 enjoyed a sunny adventure to Wimpole Farm earlier this term finding out more about living creatures and their young. The weather was fantastic; we were very lucky given the rain on the days either side! Seeing the cows being milked and observing all the other animals with their babies made for an informative yet fun-filled visit.





## Sports Day

Sports Day followed a new, and what proved to be hugely popular, format this year. For the first time the PE department ran an all-day event, with a Top Team Competition in the morning followed by traditional track events in the afternoon.

The morning activities, which ranged from wheelbarrow water challenges to target throwing, were designed to encourage teamwork with House teams of students from Years 7 to 10. They not only had to hit the target, or untangle themselves, but they also had to work together to be able to earn maximum points.

The track events in the afternoon brought the usual excitement to the day with a large number of closely fought races. Congratulations to George Clarke who ran a superb race in the U15 boys' 800m to set a 'new' record of 2:24 and to Richard Hall who set a 'new' 400m record. Well done to Tuke, who were victorious for the second year running and congratulations to all who took part in what was a brilliant Sports Day.



## County Representatives

Congratulations to our students who have made county honours this year.

Edward Candler played representative hockey for Essex and William Turnbull and Barnaby Deller have represented Cambridgeshire, also in Hockey. William Turnbull and Edward Candler have been selected for the Junior Regional Performance Centre.

## Chess Champions!

Alexander, Lorenzo and Giulio represented the Junior School at The Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge 2014 Mega Final. The boys played extremely well and after a long and tiring day of matches both Giulio and Lorenzo made it through to the next level. A wonderful result; we wish them the best of luck for the next round!.



## Students chosen for Cambridgeshire Basketball

Zak Charlton and Jimmy Roberts (Year 11) were recently selected to represent Cambridgeshire at the U17 East of England Basketball Tournament. They worked hard to make the final 10 man squad after an initial trial of 35 boys and the three training sessions of the final 20 players.

The tournament was at Oakmont College in Hertfordshire where both Zak and Jimmy performed brilliantly.

James Morris and Josh Batcheler (Year 9) attended a trial and subsequent training sessions for Cambridgeshire. Both made the U15 team and played in the U15 East of England tournament. Although the opposition were very strong they learnt a great deal from the experience.

All four boys have another year in their age group; we wish them the best of luck for next season.



## The Great Westgarth Run

The Great Westgarth Run, held on Sunday 8th June saw over 200 runners take part in either a 5k or 1k run to raise money for the Cambridgeshire branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Our own Hannah Irwin won the Ladies 5km with a time of 20:13, which was a fitting and emotional tribute to her former running teacher, Sue Westgarth. Other Friends' students who made notable performances were Zachary Deller who came 3rd in the Mens' race, Barnaby Knight who won the 1km Fun Run and Lily Godfrey who finished 3rd in the Fun Run.

It was wonderful to see members of the wider community on our beautiful site and to welcome actor Jay Griffiths to present all the awards and prizes. The event raised a staggering £3000 for MNDA. Sincere thanks to Stef Godfrey and the PTA for organising such a great event and to all those who came out and supported this worthy cause.



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