

Dear Parents,

This term has been a hive of activity: we have welcomed three new gap students – Emma and Siobhan to Pre-Prep and Sam to Main School. They have all settled in very well and are making an excellent contribution to Yarlet life. Form 6 pupils have also welcomed four Spanish pupils from Humanitas School in Madrid who are being well looked after by Yarlet families during their month long visit. Finally, this term has seen the return of OY, Tom Flowers, who has also been with us for a month before departing for Spain to complete his gap year. All our visitors commented on the warm welcome they received and they, in turn, are enriching the life of our school and educational experience of our pupils.

The dismal weather has not dampened the enthusiasm of our pupils to take part in sporting activities with our teams working hard during daily games sessions and in their weekly fixtures; we are very proud of all that they achieve. Our pupils are also working hard in the classroom, particularly those pupils in Form 8, who are preparing for examinations after half-term as a precursor to their forthcoming senior school examinations. Furthermore, and hot off the press, huge congratulations go to Max Raine and Alex Cartmail who have both won scholarships to Repton School! Outstanding achievements!

I do hope you all have a good half-term and look forward to seeing you when we return on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

*Ian Raybould*

## LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW



The Yarlet children could not wait to go outside and play in the snow and there was some outstanding snowman building skills from all year groups.

## FORM 5 FILMING UNDERWAY



Form 5 have read a short story in English, 'Spit Nolan', and have been having a great time recreating and filming their own version of this historical adventure.

## F6 TRIP TO WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY



Form 6 and our Spanish visitors travelled to Wolverhampton's Art Gallery to view Roy Lichtenstein's Pop Art exhibition which was on loan from the Tate Gallery. It proved to be a wonderful experience for our pupils who were able to get up close to these fantastic pieces of Pop Art and to see how Lichtenstein used Benday dots, simple blocks of colour, black outlines and diagonal stripes to create such iconic pieces of art. Following on from an informative guided tour, the pupils took part in a Pop Art workshop where they were able to express their own interpretation of Pop Art on paper. Our pupils entered whole heartedly into this activity, producing work that would not have looked out of place besides Lichtenstein's. After lunch the pupils were able to view some of the other art rooms that the gallery has to offer.

## MORETON HALL ART WORKSHOP



Form 7's annual invitation to Moreton Hall's Art Workshop took place on Tuesday 31st January. Once again this yearly event proved to be an enjoyable and informative experience for our budding young artists. Inspired by the costume of their surprise visitor, Shrewsbury's Town Cryer (who incidentally is the tallest Town Cryer in the Guinness Book of Records and a body double in the Harry Potter films), our pupils carried out observational drawings of intricate brass costume buttons, experimented with photo stencil screen printing and mixed media in order to create their pieces of art work. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all and a huge thankyou to all of the staff and pupils at Moreton Hall for their hospitality.

## FORM 4 HAS BEEN CHANGING STATE



Form 4 have been experimenting with changing state, learning how to dissolve salt into a salt solution then evaporate the water to return it to its original state. The class had an Ice Cube Challenge, to see who could melt their ice cubes the quickest, by using friction and body heat.

## FORM 7 PUPILS TACKLE LYING



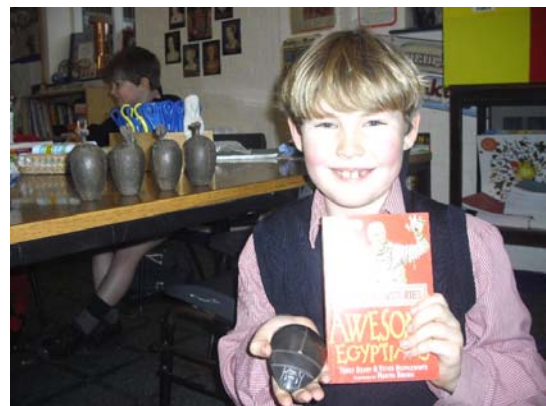
Form 7 gave an entertaining assembly to the entire school on the dangers and perils of lying. They showed this through three different interesting stories centred around the fable of the "Boy Who Cried Wolf". All pupils performed brilliantly and gave a clear, confident assembly highlighting their awesome talents and natural strengths.

## ROCKING THE CLASSROOM!



Pupils during Clubs period built and tested earthquake-resistant buildings. Using the TransAmerica building in San Francisco as an example of a durable building (pyramid shape for further strength, rubber base to absorb the shocks and crossbracing structure for added security), our three teams set to work. Their buildings were tested for durability and pressure, with the Golden Dragons (Alan and Harry) coming out victorious. Lots of fun was had, and some amazing facts learnt too!

## FORM 4 EGYPTIAN INSIGHTS



Fraser delighted his class with an array of very old, very important and truly fascinating Egyptian artefacts. He showed us how Canopic jars were used to preserve the vital organs of a dead Pharaoh, and even some hieroglyphic writing on a Scarab statue. We are studying Ancient Egypt presently so it was an amazing insight into some of the weird and wonderful practices that the Egyptians held. Thank you Fraser and family!

## FARADAY CHALLENGE



We were privileged to be selected as the host for this year's Faraday Challenge designed to stretch our gifted and talented Form 8 pupils in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Teams from Yarlet, St Dominic's Priory School, Stafford Grammar, Walton High School and Walton Priory were introduced to the challenge by a member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology. Teams were given the challenge of programming using microbits and designing a product to assist the Land Rover BAR race boat team to win the Americas Cup.

The children worked well as a team, each child having specific roles such as an accountant, designer and product manager. Each team had a budget to work to and could buy resources from a shop. They then presented their product and ideas to the rest of the teams. Congratulations to Stafford Grammar for winning this heat, they now qualify for further heats in this national competition.



## SPORTS NEWS

### U13 FOOTBALL

The Under 13s Football team have had a fantastic term so far and have remained unbeaten when at full strength to continue their 100% win record since September last year. Victories against Stafford Grammar (3-0) and Shrewsbury Prep (9-0) again highlighted what a talented group they are, with Joe Archer, Max Raine, Sam Archer and Greg Beardsmore looking excellent prospects for the future. Also showing some great ability at times have been Jon Cunliffe, Ben Eden, Jack Farrington and Charlie Belfield, who have all contributed to the goal tally this term. The strength in depth of the squad has been seen with Mackenzie Tart, Oliver Heath, Toby Morris Roe, Ed Cartwright, Alex Cartmail and Jamie Cartwright all showing improved form and great effort during practice sessions, such was their desire to be selected for the fixtures. This type of attitude and competition for places has been great to see and has ensured we have progressed as a team this year. Very well done lads.

### U10 & U11 RUGBY

The U10 and U11 rugby teams have had a busy half term. They have risen to the challenge with enthusiasm, determination and just the right sprinkling of aggression. I really must say that I am incredibly proud of the teams and the efforts they have made, both in training and during fixtures. The ultimate outcome from the few matches we have played is learning to play with heart and determination. Our skills have improved as the term has progressed. In our final matches, we have shown the skill and maturity we have developed over time, with sound passing and strong running being of particular note. Thank you to all of you who played. We hope you have been inspired and come back again next year with even more love and enthusiasm for the great game of rugby!

### U8 & U9 RUGBY AND FOOTBALL

We have started this season with some fantastic wins and I am very proud of the boys' continued efforts. Their first football match this season was a resounding win for both the U8 and U9 teams, with some terrific management from captains including William C, Henry and Izaak. The boys recently played St. Anselm's, again with astounding success for both sides. This is down to a variety of factors: great footwork skills from Angus, Reuben, Harry and Zak, wonderful defence from Oscar, Robbie and excellent keeping by Fraser and William B. The U8 boys played their first tag rugby match against Birchfield two weeks ago, which was another great victory for them. Spurred on by their captain, Robbie, the boys ducked, weaved, dodged and evaded their foes to score touch-down after touch-down. With continued effort, enthusiasm and teamwork, we will have a truly memorable season of football and rugby!

### U12 NETBALL

The U12 squad have been strong in training all season but faced tough opposition in our very first and only fixture against Terra Nova given that they had 2 club players. Terra Nova dominated the first quarter of the match but we battled on with Kirstie scoring some excellent goals to keep us in the game. We soon realised that we needed to add height into the shooting third and changing the positions of some of our players proved to be a good strategy enabling Kirstie to score another four goals. However, despite our resurgence, we could not make up the lost ground and the final score was 16 – 12 to Terra Nova. The Terra Nova game allowed us to explore our positions and strategies and we're raring to go on future fixtures.

### U11 NETBALL

The U11s have had a busy start to their 2017 Netball season, braving the wettest half term so far with a smile on their faces! Firstly, the girls had a challenging match versus The Ryleys which finished 4-1 to the opponents, but were victorious against Shrewsbury High Prep (5-4). The girls then had the challenge of learning High 5 rules to participate in a fixture with Flash Ley. Despite new rules and positions, the team triumphed with a win of 6-0! During each fixture the team made superb, quick passing between the defence straight up to the shooters giving Sophie Beech and Ella Nash lots of chances to score. Both girls received the ball just inside the D making it hard to shoot, however they both made it look easy! Within the centre court we had Ellen, Tilly and Scarlet keeping possession with short, sharp passing which was lovely to watch. The ball was moved into space by Ellen Clark to Sophie Beech, which is an excellent skill to observe. In defence we kept control between Amelia, Raphaella, Purdy and Scarlet who marked all the teams tightly and had great spring in their legs when jumping to intercept a pass.

### U9 NETBALL

The U9s have shown great character, determination and sportsmanship in Netball Games sessions and especially in their match versus The Ryleys. During the game there was some lovely passing in the first quarter between Raphie, Katie and Freya, which meant Yarlet kept possession. The Ryleys and Yarlet identified key strengths and knew where to work harder for the second quarter. Yarlet's GA and GS, Amelia and Louiza, had opportunities to score but no matter how hard they tried the ball would not go through the hoop. During the third quarter, The Ryleys scored 2 goals spurring Amelia and Louiza on to try and score. Emily, Hannah and Ava put a stop to The Ryleys scoring any further goals with much tighter marking. Having taken a deep graze to her knee Amelia was taken off court, however she later returned to the court in the final quarter to score a goal for Yarlet making the final score 2-1. Well done girls you played so well!



Dear Pre-Prep parents and families, a happy new year to you all. It's been a cold start to the year so far but a busy one nonetheless. We have welcomed our two gap year students, Miss Emma and Miss Siobhan to Pre-Prep. They have settled really well, but have suffered from our pesky colds and coughs and can't wait for the weather to warm up a bit. I hope you enjoy reading about all the activities we have been enjoying this half term.

## KEY STAGE 1

It's been a busy half term up in Key Stage 1, with participating in live lessons on the interactive whiteboard about story writing, chapel services to prepare for and all our wonderful lessons to keep us busy. Form 1 have continued to be inspired by all the new topics in the National Curriculum and it is very hard for them to decide which is their favourite subject. Is it Geography, learning all about the UK? What about Science where we have been investigating light and dark and using our own torches in the dark Centenary Hall? History then, looking at the lives of children in the past? I think it would probably be Art, where we have been looking at landscapes and cityscapes. The children have been in awe of the impressionist and post-impressionist painters and our new interactive whiteboard has been put to very good use. Seeing their little faces when they first saw Van Gogh's *Starry Night* was absolutely priceless, as they lit up with excitement at the colours and composition and all declared it to be their favourite picture! Kung Hey Fat Choi! Form 2 have just celebrated Chinese New Year on their China Day. We all dressed up in Chinese traditional clothes and invited Mr Smith to come in and share his photographs of his recent visit to Beijing. Amongst other activities we tried eating noodles with chopsticks, made a lucky dragon and finished the day with a parade making as much noise as possible to frighten away all the bad luck. In fact much of this half term has been spent learning and thinking about China. The children have been fascinated by this huge, colourful country and thoroughly enjoyed all the tasks. We even set about making a miniature terracotta army this week! Of course we have been busy with all our other subjects too, especially experimenting with many different materials in our Science topic and 2D and 3D shapes in Maths and learning to write stories. We actually found we could connect them with our China topic too! There's plenty more planned for the second half, so rest up and we'll see you all after the break. The Key Stage 1 team

## EARLY YEARS

We have had a very busy half term in Nursery and we have been delighted to welcome our new friends, Finlay, Keira, Mayan and Sebastian. Our topic has been about 'Under the sea'. We have made jiggly jelly fish, cereal octopi, walruses, shape fish and learned that it is better to share, just like the rainbow fish! We have also been talking about how people help us and have enjoyed pretending to be a dentist and fire people in role play. The scattering of snow at the beginning of term gave us the opportunity to make our very own 'Olaf' too! Kindergarten have loved this half term's topic catching up on all our favourite traditional tales. We have been re-telling and role-playing the different events and characters from the stories. We loved using the masks and acting out the dialogue to parents at the recent chapel service. The children rose to the occasion and were fearless - well, almost! We look forward to our next chapel service to parents which will be celebrating Easter. The topic allowed us to look at pairs of objects, length and quantities in maths and at feelings in PSE. We have used craft materials to make everything from beanstalks and bridges to patterned socks and gingerbread men. We have started our music lessons with Miss Howell-Jones and the children are making pleasing progress with their musical skills. We practise our phonic skills daily, recognising letters and their sounds, building words from letter sounds, continuing rhyming strings and even having a go at forming some of the letters. And as for counting... well, we count the segments in our tangerines, the sections an apple can be cut into and how many slices one banana can be cut into. We have used dice to total up two groups of objects and to take away amounts. Well Reception have had the most fantastic half term being dino crazy! We have made, dug and hunted for fossils, we have made a volcano erupt and all discussed long and hard about the type of dinosaur we think we would like to be.

So that was the fun bit.... Naturally we have worked very hard, learning half past and o'clock and the different types of coins we can use. As well as continuing to work on our super phonics and writing... there's no stopping us!

Wishing all our pupils and families a lovely half term, and look forward to seeing everyone again next half! Ms. Green



