

Issue No 7 / 2013-14 Friday 17 January 2014

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## Head of Junior School – introduction

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! Everyone returned to the Junior School last week having enjoyed a good holiday and term has begun really well. We were pleased to welcome new pupils into Years 3, 4 & 5 and it is good to see these girls looking very much at home already. Our new form leaders have received their badges and are getting to grips with their roles, and Liszka McKay has stepped in as House Captain of Street during Marina Ristuccia's term in New York.

Although we have already seen a lot of rain in 2014 it has been very mild and so, in between downpours, the juniors have enjoyed time out of doors – at work as well as at play. The most notable event this week has been the Year 5/6 Cross Country Teams' participation in the Bedfordia Cross Country 2014 Championships. This 2km run was hosted by Lincroft School in Bedfordshire. In spite of wet conditions underfoot in the 'farmer's field' where the event was held and the fact that there were a huge number of competitors, the two Junior School teams did exceptionally well. Congratulations to all involved and in particular to the A team who were placed third in the U11 event and Sarah Marshall whose individual position was ninth – a worthy achievement. The official netball season is now underway; the girls have been working hard in club time and training sessions and the U11s, U10s and U9s all have fixtures against St. Faith's next week.



*The Year 5/6 Cross Country Teams*

Meanwhile, back in the classroom, Years 5 & 6 have cracked into the first of their learning themes this term, 'Ahoy There' (seafaring and exploration in Tudor times) and 'The Newsroom' respectively. Using Halftone, a comic strip app, Year 5 pupils have presented their own theories as to why the Mary Rose sank and Year 6 have started their new theme by looking at the difference between tabloid and broadsheet newspapers. They have learnt about jumplines, the ear and plug, which appear on the front page of every newspaper and they have written their own headlines and captions which are eye-catching, snappy and include some amazing alliteration.

Year 4 began their new topic by working in collaborative expert groups and presenting their findings on 'Polar Regions' and Year 3 are reaching the final stages of last term's topic on 'Growing and Changing'. In Science the children have investigated growth by watching the progress of their bean plants, using the Explain Everything app and making video diaries. In Drama lessons they created forest landscapes and they made great use of the space in the Library for performances of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The topic has also been explored in History through finding out about growing up in Ancient Greece and this afternoon the year group is on a visit to the Museum of Classical Archaeology to further their understanding of this period.



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The New Year has seen Junior School students meeting exciting new challenges in Science. This term, we are looking forward to our first collaborative Science event with Dame Bradbury's School. This will take the form of a Science Investigation Competition, with teams of Year 5 & 6 students from both schools taking part. The competition is ideally timed to coincide with the 2014 Bill Bryson Science Communication Prize, in which the Junior School enjoyed success last year. The teams will be working on projects relating to the theme of 'Where is the art in science? Where is the science in art?' This will provide plenty of scope for students to combine creativity with scientific understanding in order to provide original responses to these questions via any of a range of media, including digital technology, video, animation, posters, songs and poetry. The teams will take forward their projects in their own schools and come together for a combined presentation event towards the end of term, at which the best entries will be judged. All of the projects will also be eligible for submission to the Bill Bryson Prize judging panel.

Science lessons have also seen much exciting activity, with students being involved in developing their skills in a range of different areas. Year 5s made good use of a brief glimpse of January sunshine to study the position and movement ("apparent movement" as they are keen to point out!) of the Sun across the sky by observing and recording shadows cast on the school netball court. Year 6 have been pursuing studies of more down-to-earth (quite literally!) physics, by making some very precise measurements of how long various toy vehicles take to roll down slopes of different steepness, nurturing an understanding of the interactions of the forces of gravity and friction. Year 4 have been exploring the world of the very small, using their imagination to picture the various things that happen to the particles of solids and liquids when they are mixed together. They have then utilised their growing understanding of practical chemistry to overcome the challenge of how to get solids and liquids apart again using filtering and evaporation. In the course of these studies, they have come to realise that these kinds of processes are happening all the time around us, from a coffee percolator at home to a disappearing puddle in the playground.

Today is the 133rd birthday of the Foundation so the juniors have been delving into the school's history and this morning they joined seniors for a fascinating assembly about Jacquetta Hawkes, former student, archaeologist, writer, film-maker and peace campaigner. Everyone is now looking forward to birthday cake at morning break!

Kind regards,  
Katie Milne  
Head of Junior School



Year 5 shadows



Year 6 forces



Year 4 filtering

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## Spring Term Concerts

Our busy programme of concerts continues this term. Parents from all parts of the Foundation are most welcome at any of these concerts:

### Chamber Music Concert

**Tuesday 11 February, 7.30 pm (Venue: Senior School Hall)**

A wide range of Chamber Music items will be performed; most small ensembles that rehearse on a regular basis in school will take part, as will the Senior School Chamber Choir.

### Years 7 – 11 Soloists' Concert

**Wednesday 26 February, 6.00 pm and 7.30 pm (Venue: Senior School Hall)**

Following the huge success of last year's soloists concert we will again perform this concert in two parts.

### Spring Concert

**Wednesday 19 March, 7.30pm (Venue: West Road Concert Hall)**

This is our biggest concert of the year and will include all of the school choirs, the Big Band, Concert Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra; there will be a performance of Saint-Saëns' Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso for violin and orchestra, with Katherine Read in Upper 6 as soloist.

Tickets (free of charge) will be available from reception after half-term.



### Lunchtime Concerts at Michaelhouse

Our series of Friday lunchtime concerts in Michaelhouse Chapel continues, with performances 31 January, 14 and 28 February, and 7, 14 and 28 March.

These concerts take place at 12.30 pm and last for 30 minutes – there is no admission charge and everyone is welcome.

### Parents and Friends Book Club

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 4th February, at 8pm (contact Adele Warner, 01223 365991). We will discuss 'The Grass is Singing' by Doris Lessing. We always have a lively discussion and are keen to welcome new members. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Martha Crouch for details (020 7638 6983, [martha.crouch@btinternet.com](mailto:martha.crouch@btinternet.com))

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## Inspire me: Stop drifting... start adventuring

We start the new year with four top adventurer speakers all under one roof to inspire everyone to take an adventurous approach to careers and life. Hear stories of exploration, pushing human boundaries, supporting others, and why they do it.

We are delighted to add alumna Roz Savage MBE to the line-up of speakers on **Wednesday 5 February** - Roz holds four world records for ocean rowing, including first woman to row three oceans: the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian. She has rowed over 15,000 miles, taken around 5 million oarstrokes, and spent cumulatively over 500 days of her life at sea in a 23-foot rowboat.

Our other speakers are Sasha Borodin, polar explorer (and also a parent of a current student); Fred Branson, who set up a charity helping girls out of poverty in Peru, and two of our 6th formers talking about their trip to Kenya.



**WATCH OUR TRAILER - CLICK HERE**

For more information on the event, our speakers, and pre-ordering books, please visit our [website](#).

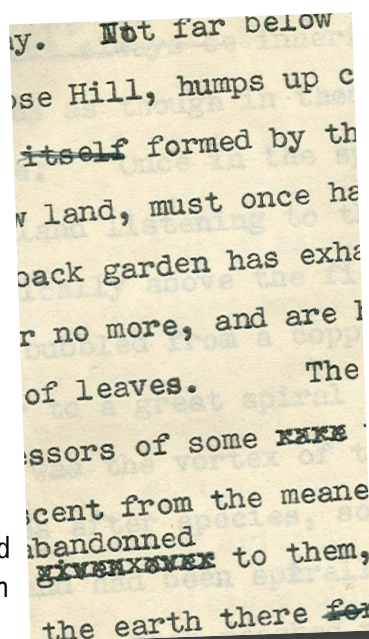
Please book your place for Wednesday 5 February through [office@stephenperse.com](mailto:office@stephenperse.com) - no tickets will be issued, but we will note your attendance.

## Private view - Jacquetta Hawkes and Deep Time

On the same evening as the above Inspire Me event, we would like to invite you to a private view of the inaugural exhibition in the new Senior School Library:

### Jacquetta Hawkes and Deep Time

The private view will offer a chance to explore the exhibition as well as the new Library. Light refreshments will be served, and if you are already booked for or planning to come to the Inspire Me event, we do hope you will be able to arrive that little bit earlier and come to the Library, or if you would just like to come to the private view and perhaps stay on for the Inspire Me event please do let us know. There is no need to book if you just wish to view the exhibition in the Library.



stephen perse  
foundation

The Stephen Perse Foundation cordially invites you to a private view of the inaugural exhibition in the new Library at the Senior School

### Jacquetta Hawkes and Deep Time

Wednesday 5 February 2014  
6.00pm - 7.15pm

Light refreshments

Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1HF