



# TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

NORWICH'S FINEST PREP SCHOOL · FOR GIRLS & BOYS · 3-13 YEARS

Dear Parents

Friday 7th June 2019

Year 8 pupils have been busy sitting externally set Common Entrance exams this week, which are shared with their chosen senior schools. In most cases Common Entrance is a graduation assessment that no longer determines entrance, though some national schools still offer places conditional on the results. Scores from internally marked papers are encouraging so far and we wish Year 8 children all the best for their results. Next week, they enjoy an education of a completely different sort as they embark on their adventure and activity trip to the Lake District.



Year 4, meanwhile, have had a fantastic three days at Horstead. For many this has been their first time away without family, one of the landmarks children reach as they grow up. It has been good to see the pictures coming through on the @townclosetrips Twitter feed and I am sure the children will enjoy talking about their adventures later, though I imagine some will be quite tired!



With the Year 7&8 exams taking place, Prep pupils have had only one assembly this week. Mr Parker introduced a range of teachers and pupils who spoke about the recent "teamwork" project undertaken by Year 5-8 tutor groups. When asked to present their posters, it was striking how confidently and eloquently the children spoke. Such soft skills, absent from league tables, play a vital part in enhancing future life chances. Mrs Laing led Pre Prep assembly, introducing children to six science books from the Royal Society, which we have been invited to judge. Bird Families talked about democracy and voted for the new Top Birds, while Prep pupils not in exams competed in a House "welly wanging" competition on Tuesday, won by Upton.



On Monday, Year 1 pupils started the new half term with a fantastic trip to Gressenhall, where they participated in a range of activities relating to life in the Victorian era. I spent three lessons with Year 2, categorising things that help our planet and things that harm it, writing half term holiday news with reader interest in mind and looking at fractions of numbers. I also saw many of these children honing their cricket skills on Monday. This week included the usual array of cricket fixtures while our athletes have been competing in today's regional championships at Bedford. On Wednesday I saw coaching sessions for Year 5-8 children not in matches and it was lovely to see skills being refined.



Elsewhere, I visited Year 5 creating pop-up books in DT, and Year 3 creating buildings. Year 6 visited Year 2 to share maths games with their younger counterparts and a number of impressive Year 6 D Day models have gone on display in the Pre Prep entrance area, to mark this week's 75th anniversary.



Today has been an exciting day for Year 6 pupils competing in the Greenpower Goblin electric race-car event at Scottow, winning the event! Mr Buck was instrumental in its launch three years ago and, once again, the Year 6&7 pupils have gained a great deal from building the kits and racing the car. Mr Buck has also helped launch Norfolk's first F24 event at Lotus tomorrow. Members of our Year 8 Club have helped build and refine this higher-spec electric race-car ready for tomorrow's practice session and the two ninety-minute races. Spectators are welcome at the event, which will hopefully be just as exciting as this weekend's Canadian Grand Prix! This weekend also sees Town Close pupils competing in the IAPS National Swimming Finals at Stratford and three groups of cricketers competing in tournaments.

Next week sees Reception's trip to Bressingham Steam Museum, Year 3's Eye Heroes workshop, Little Acorns' trip to Twinkle Town and the Year 7 French trip meeting for current Year 6 pupils and parents. As ever, a full calendar is on the parent portal.

I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend.

With best wishes

*Nick Bevington*

