



Godstowe Symphony Orchestra



A letter from the Headmistress

Sitting eating lunch yesterday it was certainly a 'first' in my time as Head, to be surrounded by a plethora of onesie's, dressing gown designs and a fine array of PJs! Thank you for going to so much effort and it was fun to see the girls and boys enjoying this opportunity to be in their loungewear all day! It has been a super International Week at Godstowe and we started Monday with a celebratory assembly with the start of the Lunar New Year last Sunday and Burn's Night on Wednesday. I really enjoyed my time up at Lodge on Tuesday morning and sharing the international menu for the week with the children, and reminding all that we are proud to celebrate our differences, cultures and traditions in our school community. It has certainly been one of the most well-received weeks amongst the children, which I think speaks volumes. As we break today, I am looking forward to the finale of the week on Sunday, having been invited to the Highlands, Walker and Turner Asian Fusion Lunch Feast and a round-the-world presentation afterwards. I believe this involves much dancing and singing and I know they have all been working hard on this over the last few weeks.

We have been working on some new ideas for collaborations with other schools and the first took place at Queen Anne's on Wednesday, where the Godstowe orchestra girls were given the chance to meet the orchestra at Queen Anne's. We shall share the photographs shortly, but what an opportunity for our girls to play, sit and work alongside older musicians as part of a larger orchestra. It is so important to inspire, motivate and challenge our girls to be all they can be and opportunities such as these, show them what they can be part of, given the opportunity. Well done to all involved!

Have a lovely weekend everyone.



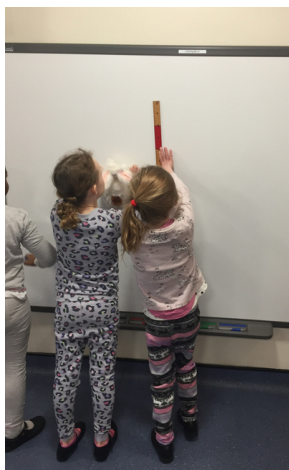
Lodge have enjoyed celebrating International Week this week. It has been lovely to experience food from Spain, Italy, Thailand, Poland and America, and to see the different flags up in Lodge hall. We also loved the assembly led by Miss Bailey on Tuesday, where we explored the celebrations of Chinese New Year and Burns Night. There was great excitement on Thursday as Lodge came to school in their pyjamas for the sleep-themed Mufti Day in aid of SKSN in India.

This week Nursery have really enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year. They made Chinese dumplings in cookery and were very excited to use a wok to cook the ingredients. On Wednesday we were very lucky that Evelyn's family came in to share how they celebrate Chinese New Year and shared some lucky red envelopes with all the children. For our sound of the week 'd', the children made dragons and dinosaurs. The children have also enjoyed trying lots of exciting and interesting foods from around the world at lunch time, as part of International Week. Thank you to Chef Adrian and team.

This week in Beginners we introduced our topic Dinosaurs. We have been busy learning the names of the dinosaurs and their special features. We have retold the story of Harry and his Bucketful of Dinosaurs using puppets and enjoyed thinking about what we would like to keep in our own special buckets. We have also been busy making fact files about our chosen dinosaur. In Maths, we have been revising the concept of fewer and introducing the concept of subtraction. Our phonics sounds are 'th' as in 'this and that' and 'ng' as in 'ring'.

As part of International Week at school Kindergarten have enjoyed continuing to learn about and celebrating Chinese New Year. The children have enjoyed re-telling the story of 'The Great Race' and the creation of the Chinese Zodiac. In both Art and DT they have been constructing lanterns and exploring the use of specialist brushes, within Chinese art. A special thank you to both Anqing and Anya for sharing their experiences with both classes.

In Transition this week, in our Literacy lessons, we have been comparing the traditional tales of Hansel and Gretel, and Baba Yaga, which fitted in well with our International theme. In our Art lessons, we had fun starting to create our own Baba Yaga collages, using fabric. In our Maths lessons, we have started a new topic on measuring length. We have been finding objects in the classroom which are more than, less than or approximately equal to one metre.



Main School

This week in Main School we have been focussing on International Week and celebrating our diversity and cultures.

In our Monday assembly, Miss Bailey spoke about Lunar New Year and how we are now in the Year of the Rabbit. She explained that in Chinese culture, a rabbit is seen as a symbol of hope. Wednesday's assembly we welcomed Pete Gill from Indiability into the JK. He showed the girls a video of the children at SKSN receiving their washbags and using all of the items inside. Mrs Rosie Lake made a triumphant return to talk to the girls about our next fundraising project and how fortunate the Godstowe Girls are to have beds and nice bedrooms. On Thursday the whole school, including some staff, took part in a sleepover themed mufti day to raise money for the Dormitory Refurbishment. We are currently counting the donations and hope to share with you soon the total amount raised.

Friday was our celebration assembly with a twist. Mr Emm spoke in assembly about Holocaust Memorial Day. He explained that January 27th 1945 was the day that the Soviet Army liberated Jewish and other minority prisoners from Auschwitz. We held a moment of reflection and a prayer was beautifully read by Rebecca S. We then celebrated our Sport Stars, Readers, Boarders and Form Is with certificates as well as some extraordinary musicians.

We can't wait to see what next week brings!

Artwork of the week

Another impressive collection of Artwork from Fourths this week.

Congratulations to Mila B, Poppy S and Scout C.



Key Dates for next week

30th January

- Godstowe I I + Scholarship assessments, all week
- ISEB Pre-tests for Headington and Bradfield at Godstowe
- IV's French speaking mock exams, all week

31st January

- 3.30pm U9 A-C Netball vs Pipers Corner (home)

1st February

- 8.15am Positive Parenting, Sports Hall Gallery
- 3.50pm Doodle Maths session, JK Theatre
- 3.15pm U11 A-D Netball vs Pipers Corner (away)

2nd February

- IV's Spanish speaking mock exams

3rd February

- IV's Spanish speaking mock exams
- FoG Cake Sale for Lodge and Main School, Sports Hall Gallery

4th February

- U8 and U9 Netball Tournament at Lambrook (away)
- U11 Netball vs The Marist School (home)
- 11.30am U12 and U13 Lacrosse at Heathfield (away)

Boarders' Corner

This week at Godstowe, we are celebrating International Week. With around 30 nationalities represented across the school, this is a great opportunity for us to celebrate, appreciate and learn more about each other's countries, cultures and traditions.

We have all enjoyed sampling Spanish, Polish, Italian and Thai dishes at lunch and dinner this week. The boarding community will finish the week with an Asian Fusion Feast and performances from around the globe. We will be joined by members of the SLT team and teaching staff to celebrate the nationalities represented in our boarding houses.

The boarders have been working hard since the beginning of term to put together presentations, dances, songs, programmes and decorations. Several evenings a week, the girls have got together to share ideas and it has been a joy to hear them talking so proudly about their own countries. They are looking forward to sharing this with each other and our guests on Sunday, and the rest of the school in assembly on Monday. Keep an eye out for the Boarders' Corner and Boarders' Video next week to see a round-up of all the exciting action!



Sports Snippets

Swimming

On Monday 23rd our U8, U9, U10 and U11 took part in a friendly gala away to Maltmans. It was great to be able to have 46 girls from across the four-year groups competing and taking part in individual and relay events. With a very energetic atmosphere from all those involved the girls produced some excellent swimming clocking up wins along the way. This resulted in a good Godstowe win with Maltmans relishing the competition. Well Done Girls!

On Tuesday 24th the U10, U11 and U12 travelled to Lambrook for a friendly gala. All girls put in excellent swims and able to swim a variety of strokes throughout. With all the races swam and scores tallied it was a great result with Godstowe edging the gala to win.

On Wednesday 25th January the U9 and U10 took part in an invitational gala at St Georges Ascot. With 5 other teams, all the girls showed their ability throughout. The U9's narrowly missed out on a top three finish and the U10's producing an excellent display to win the overall trophy on entering the event first time. Well Done to all the girls who took part.

On Thursday 26th the U9, U10 and U11's took part in the Div 10 round at St Helens. All the girls put in great performances and showed excellent team spirit throughout. It was a great finish to a busy week of galas. Well Done to all the girls who took part.



Netball

The U12A&B teams played Wycombe Abbey on Wednesday. The A's got off to a slow start but soon found their rhythm. Using all the space created on the court the girls capitalised on their chances to score some spectacular goals. Although we lost this was the best performance to date.

The B team game was a showstopper! There was nothing between the two sides as the ball whizzed up and down the court. The girls had more opportunities than Wycombe Abbey but the ball just wouldn't go in the net! Unfortunately they came out victorious and we played brilliantly.

12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off; streaming services for shows and movies on demand; games consoles; smart speakers; phones; laptops ... the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident; and making the recovery from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE

The longer, less common and predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 'three random words' guidelines are ideal for creating a long password which is easy to remember but hard to guess.

2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS

When you use the same password across different logins, your cyber resilience is only as strong as the security of the weakest site or service you've signed up for. If cyber criminals gain access your username and password for one site or service, they'll definitely try them on others.

3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

A good way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you simply need to remember the master password. LastPass, Dashlane, 1Password and Keeper are all excellent password managers.

4. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Keep a copy of your data using OneDrive, Google Drive or another reputable cloud-based storage solution. If it's extremely important or sensitive information, you could even decide to keep more than one back-up version - by saving it to a removable USB drive or similar device, for example.

5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone (to receive a code, for example) or another source to confirm your identity. This makes it far more difficult for cyber criminals to gain entry to your accounts and your data, even if they do manage to get your username and password.

6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY

Some services let you set 'recovery questions' - such as your birthplace or a pet's name - in case you forget your password. Take care not to use information you might have mentioned (or are likely to in future) on social media. More unpredictable answers make cyber criminals' task far harder.

7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS

Some services provide the facility to add secondary accounts, phone numbers and so on to help with potentially recovering your account. Make sure you set these up: they will be vital if you're having trouble logging in or if you're trying to take back control of your account after a cyber attack.

12. STAY SCEPTICAL

Cyber criminals commonly use various methods, including emails, text messages and social media posts. Be cautious of any messages or posts that are out of the ordinary, offer something too good to be true or emphasise urgency - even if they appear to come from someone you know.

11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED

Download official software updates for your household's mobile phones, laptops, consoles and other internet-enabled devices regularly. Security improvements and fixes are a key feature of these updates - so by ensuring each device is running the latest version, you're making them more secure.

10. CHANGE DEFAULT IOT PASSWORDS

Devices from the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), such as 'smart' home appliances, are often supplied with default passwords. This makes them quicker to set up, but also less secure - criminals can identify these standard passwords more easily, so change them on your IoT devices as soon as possible.

9. CHECK FOR BREACHES

You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by entering your email address at www.haveibeenpwned.com (yes, that spelling is correct!). It's useful if you're worried about a possible attack - or simply as motivation to review your account security.

8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH

Consider our tips in relation to the gadgets and online services your household uses. Protect yourself and your family, and don't let the bad guys win: devices are not only integral to modern life but also a lot of fun - so as long as you keep safety and security in mind, don't stop enjoying your tech.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



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