

Dear Parents and Carers

What a productive few weeks it has been at SPH; not just in term time but also during the school holidays with Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition and, slightly further afield, the inaugural school visit to our Rwandan school partners. Both were a tremendous success and I'd like to thank those staff and parents who gave up so much of their time to provide such rich and wonderful opportunities to our children.

Our Catholic Faith calls us to be people who build 'Community'. We must hold this central to all we do, particularly given recent political and economic events which can, on the face of it, divide and alienate. It is incumbent upon us to help our children interpret the world around them, giving them the strength and resilience to stand up for the vulnerable, be inclusive of the minority and marginalised and show others what it means to live out our Faith. It is not enough just to talk about it, we must take action. It is therefore so encouraging to see our students involved in so many worthwhile causes locally, nationally and internationally.

Very shortly we are to have a Mission Week (28 November – 2 December) at SPH. Whilst this is facilitated by the Sion Mission Team, it is a whole school community Mission – this means students, staff, parent / carer, parish and local community involvement. Please do read my recent letter about this, but more importantly, make sure you participate. There is an evening on Thursday 1 December at SPH which the whole community is invited to, so I hope to see you there!

In the meantime, best of luck to all our Year 11s about to begin their Mock Exams. They've worked really hard this term and I am sure they'll do us all proud!

God bless

*David Carter
Headteacher*



Forthcoming Dates for your Diary:

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| 14 Nov – Year 11 mock exams start | 02 Dec – Deadline for 6 th form applications |
| 21 Nov – Advent non-uniform day | 02 Dec – PTA Ball |
| 23 Nov – Y13 Parents' Evening | 06 Dec – Arundel Advent Service |
| 24 Nov – Staff Inset | 07 Dec – Carols by Candlelight |
| 25 Nov – School closed for staff and students | 08 Dec – Christmas Concert |
| 28 Nov – 2 Dec – Mission Week | 12 Dec – Senior Presentation Evening |
| 01 Dec – Mission showcase (all invited) | 16 Dec – End of term (12:40) |

Continue reading for more news...

The first visit of SPH students to our Rwandan partner school!

We have been enjoying a thriving partnership with ES Kagogo in north east Rwanda since 2012, and with St Joseph's, Kampala, Uganda since 2015. How exciting, then, for SPH Sixth Form students to experience life in Rwanda and meet their Rwandan and Ugandan counterparts!

Travelling with staff members Alison Baker, David Edmed and Sally Wallbridge, the early hours of October 19th found us at Heathrow with suitcases full of donations for our partner schools: stationery, sports equipment, copies of "Romeo and Juliet" and 110kg of football kit thanks to KitAid <http://kitaid.net/> and SussextoAfrica <http://www.sussextoafrica.com/>.

Rosie Edmondson, Ellie Whittingham, Molly Sivyer, Hanako Finn, Bruno Owers, George Myers, Sam Reynolds, Sam Leggatt and Nick Hopkins spent many months planning and fundraising to support our visit.



Our schedule was packed! We:

- visited Les Enfants de Dieu, a home for former street boys in Kigali <http://enfantsdedieu.org>
- visited a Moringa factory <http://asilioils.com/>
- spent time at ES Kagogo and GS Kagogo
- visited the new cathedral in Musanze and St Mark's Primary
- visited a tea plantation and Lake Kivu
- celebrated Mass at Regina Pacis Secondary School
- visited the Ubushobozi women's project <http://www.ubushobozi.org/>
- trekked in the Volcanoes National Park
- were joined by students from St Joseph's Kampala, our Ugandan partner school
- played football against Regina Pacis
- visited the Iby'Iwacu Cultural Centre <http://cbtrwanda.org/>

Les Enfants de Dieu – former stretchildren in Kigali

On our first whole day in Rwanda, we were located in the capital city of Kigali. In the morning we decided to visit a street kids' centre on the outskirts of Kigali. It was very clear from the moment we drove through the gates that they were pleased to see us and welcomed us with open arms.

We were ushered into the hall of the centre where we introduced ourselves. We were given a very heart-warming speech by both the head teacher and the 'head boy.' After being given an overview of the centre's aims and history, some of the younger and older street children performed an acrobatic routine for us. It was incredible! It just went to show that even though these children lacked homes, and family, one thing they did not lack was talent.

It was then our turn to take over the assembly and we used this time as an opportunity to donate to the children items of football kit that was donated to us by KitAid. The kit we gave them was that of Brighton and Hove Albion, our local team. We knew that donating this to children less fortunate than us would be a very fulfilling experience, but this was different, it was one of the best feelings there is. We were shown around the grounds of the centre and it was clear that the centre was full of incredibly talented musicians and talented artists.

It was an indescribable start to our trip to Rwanda, it was going to be a very hard experience to top.

Bruno Owers, Sixth Form



GS Kagogo Primary School

On Wednesday 26th October we went to a primary school called Gs Kagogo. When we got there the children were very excited and we got a huge welcome from the children who wanted to shake our hands and wave at us. We sat in front of the children and they sang and danced to us, pulling some of us up to dance with them which was very special. Then we danced the Macarena which I enjoyed very much as it was a fun experience. From a suitcase that Sam's mum collected gifts from her primary school for GS Kagogo, there were bubbles which the children were fascinated by and the bubbles caused a lot of excitement with the children which was funny to watch as they would try and grab the bubbles and pop them. After dancing and singing the children followed us to the secondary school Es Kagogo and held hands with us and sang while we went down the road to the secondary school.

Hanako Finn, Sixth Form



Bisoke Volcano

On Tuesday, the geography students and I did a walk up the Bisoke volcano which was 4km of walking with a lot of climb. We walked with a guide, rangers and a few soldiers, so we were able to split into different groups according to ability.

After 1hr 42 mins walk, Bruno and I reached the crater lake at the top of the volcano, and enjoyed some very beautiful views. After eating lunch and taking a lot of photos, we set off back down the mountain, this took us 1hr 24 mins and was far easier than the way up. Overall it was my favourite experience of the trip, and would love to do it again.

George Myers, Sixth Form

Please read more of the students' exploits in Rwanda and see our photos by visiting:
<https://rwandalink.wordpress.com/sph-students-to-es-kagogo-october-16/>

***We would like to thank our many supporters for helping to make our visit possible:
Arundel Catenians, Bognor Rotary Club, SPH staff, students, families and friends***

Arundel Catenians' Quiz Night

If you are free on Friday 11 November, why not go along to the Arundel Catenians' Quiz Night at the Cathedral Centre. £12 per person to cover the cost of a hot meal with dessert - Licenced Bar and Raffle too! If you are interested, please contact John at physics.scitutor@live.co.uk.

Arun Youth Council Meeting – 18 October!

SPH was very well represented with six students attending the first meeting of Arun Youth Council for this academic year. Oliver, Niamh and Mabel in Year 8, Jonny in Year 10, Betty and Dylan in Year 11 and Charlotte in Year 12 worked with other local schools in the Arun area to plan priorities for the coming year.

Visit to Downing Street - WorthLess Campaign



I went with Mr Carter to 10 Downing Street to hand a letter to Theresa May which outlined why West Sussex schools felt like they were being mistreated by the government in terms of funding. I learned that since the WorthLess campaign began the government did fund West Sussex schools with some extra money but this equated to less than £10 per child! This meant that a child's education in West Sussex was worth less than two return tickets to Chichester from Barnham!

The overwhelming majority of people in West Sussex understand that this is unfair and in our letter which we gave in to Downing Street we highlighted why the government was discriminating against schools here. Soon after I gave in the letter I managed to meet some MPs such as Nick Herbert and Tim Loughton who were campaigning for us in the House of Commons, I was also interviewed by ITV news and was on ITV Meridian. The interview was rather nerve-racking! All in all I felt extremely grateful for the opportunity to visit Downing Street as it was something I never imagined I would do.

Sibil Sabu, Sixth Form

The campaign goes on! Please do continue to put pressure on your local MP and keep in touch via the WorthLess? Facebook or Twitter feed.

David Carter, Headteacher

SPH bid for 'World Class School' status

On Thursday the 20th of October, Niamh Duggan, Lukasz Sacharzuk and myself went up to north London as part of SPH's bid to earn 'World Class School' status. Before being invited to take part in an assessment centre in a primary school in North London, 15 SPH students were involved in completing a 'self audit'. This meant proving whether our school was 'world class', in 64 categories across 6 areas, including whether we "have an awareness of how science, mathematics and technology shape our material, intellectual, and cultural environments", and that students "love learning". After we heard our audit was successful, we were given a week to begin planning for their allocated project. This was to create a mural and plant/design 3 planters, to brighten up a newly built primary school. Together with 6 students from 2 other schools, we created designs and stencils, seeking advice from childcare professionals, and created plans and schedules for the day. We arrived after a long drive in Mrs Schaeffer's car, and after meeting all the other schools for the first time, worked to a tight schedule, painting a mural and decorating the 3 planters. The primary school children helped us, so at 3.00pm everything was finished and everyone was covered in paint! The day was a really great experience, and we enjoyed working together on something that would make a real difference to the lives of other children.



Lucy Owen, Year 9

Year 9 artists display their work in Arundel Cathedral



During the last weekend in September work by our Year 9 students was displayed in Arundel Cathedral as part of the Gift Art Trail. The exhibition was a huge success with a large number of visitors. The work on display was a series of stained glass pieces designed with inspiration from different Religious Architectural structures and with a variety of Religions in mind.

Art trip to Tate Modern

At the end of last term Art students in Years 10, 12 and 13 took a trip to the Tate Modern to see a ground breaking exhibition of Georgia O'Keeffe's work. While we were there we also had the opportunity to visit the newly opened Switch House gallery, a recent addition to the Tate. Students were impressed by the variety of work on display and enjoyed seeing O'Keeffe's work in person.



Photography students visit Photographers' Gallery in London

The A' Level Photography students visited the Photographers' Gallery at the end of last term. The Year 12 students participated in a Camera Obscura workshop and the Year 13 students went to Canary Wharf to take photographs for their developing coursework projects. A highly informative day for all involved.

Miss K Hudson, Head of Art

SPH hosts Deanery Schools Mass

Alongside supporting each other in development of teaching throughout the Deanery Schools, the staff have opportunities to share in spiritual and social support for each other. During the first half term each year, one of the schools hosts a special Mass for all the staff of all four of our Deanery Catholic schools, and this year it was the turn of SPH. Led by Fr David and Fr Chris from Bognor and Fr Charles from Storrington, it was a welcome chance to reflect on our role as educators and supporters of the children and young people of the area as they grow and develop.

As we held all our students, their families, carers and friends in our prayers during that Mass, we ask that you all continue to pray for all the school staff as we do our best to serve and teach your children throughout the coming year and beyond.

Celebrating Our Feast

October 19th is always a special day in life of the school, as we celebrate our patron saint, and reflect on how his life can inspire us in our own lives and faith journeys. All students had the opportunity to celebrate Mass, before spending the afternoon putting our faith into action with our annual fundraising fete. The weather was kind to us again this year, and the playgrounds were full of a huge range of stalls and many, many examples of students sharing their talents and giving generously to support Chestnut Tree House.

As co-patron of the Diocese, the feast of St Philip Howard is also important throughout the diocese, and this year for the first time, Bishop Richard calls together young people from all the secondary schools across to Diocese to take part in a pilgrimage walk to celebrate together at the Cathedral. A small group of representatives from Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form went with Mrs Careless to take part in the celebrations whilst the rest of us gathered back at school for our own celebrations. It was a lovely occasion, and very special to be able to join with young people from across the Diocese to celebrate someone who is so important to us as a school community.

Year 7 Inaugural Mass

The final Friday afternoon of our first half term once again played host to our celebration of our new Year 7 intake. With Fr Paul Turner leading us, we celebrated Mass together to thank God for the excellent start our new Year Group have made to their life here at SPH, and to pray for his blessing on their time ahead of them. Each tutor group was involved in some way, as readers, altar servers, taking part in the offertory procession, writing and leading the bidding prayers, creating a reflective opening procession or sharing a beautiful post-communion reflection. It was wonderful to welcome so many of their friends and family to celebrate with us and make it truly an occasion to remember.

COMING SOON: MISSION WEEK! – 28 November – 2 December. Please read Mr Carter's recent letter for all the details.

Clare Long, Chaplain

Tickets selling fast!

SPH Christmas Ball

Friday 2nd December 2016

7-11pm Adults Only

£25.00

Bubbly on arrival

Three course meal

Raffle

Live music and DJ

