



Displays for learning

Julia Tennent has been supporting the school over the past few weeks in renewing the school learning displays. It's always a pleasure to see students work displayed around the school. You will see from the images below we have a lot of talent to share. Our most recent displays showcase our Year 7 French work completed with Sue Dickinson



Before the summer holidays, Jenny Caudlier worked with Year 7 (now Year 8) on a range of Textiles and Art work and their creative work has made an excellent presentation. In the day to day of education it is important to celebrate the whole child and all they can achieve out of the classroom. With the above displays of work, gymnastic performances and the up and coming House music the school feels rich with creativity and I would like to say a big well done to all students involved.



"This work was done by the current Year 7 as part of their transition from year 6 to Year 7. I taught them a French lesson in their Reading primary school and two lessons during their induction here. I set them the task of researching a country or region where French was spoken, but not necessarily France itself, because I wanted the students to understand that French is widely spoken around the world and that is why we learn it here. These posters were the result of that work. They brought them to their first French lesson. I have to say I was quite pleased with the results!" **Sue Dickinson**

In gymnastics our girls have been showcasing the skills learnt over the past term by creating their own gymnastics performance. They developed a routine combining a range of movements where they had to demonstrate their abilities to work as a team, play to each other's strengths and apply themselves as individuals. They all should be really pleased with themselves, they have made great progress. As a school we would like to thank Stuart Hill for all his hard work as our community PE organiser in arranging such a great opportunity for our students, it's been a great success.



"This term we have been doing gymnastics in PE. We have learned good teamwork skills and our body has become more flexible. We have been using our core strength. This has been our favourite PE activity so far." **Rose Robertson**

IFS

IFS Certificate in Financial Studies has arrived at the Stoke Poges Campus! Many other Focus Schools already offer this qualification and since it has proved successful in other schools, it has been introduced at Stoke Poges. It is a Level 3 qualification and carries the same amount of UCAS points as A Level Maths or FSMQ. The course is conducted through IFS University College and its virtual learning environment (VLE). It supports our Self-Directed Learning programme and allows the pupils to increase their ability to work and learn independently.



The Certificate in Financial Studies (CeFS) develops the knowledge & skills required for young people to make informed financial decisions by introducing them to the risks and challenges involved with personal finance and the tools for effective planning. It is designed to provide students with a challenging qualification covering the core disciplines of financial capability. Learners are encouraged to become responsible borrowers, sensible savers, and have an appreciation of the need for financial planning throughout their life.

The course will be overseen and supported by Mrs Glover, Business/Accounts teacher.

Year 12 and Year 13 attend Chicago Super Seminar 2015

On Wednesday the whole sixth form had the privilege of attending a business seminar, with the aim of preparing us for the business world and supporting us in the CAP programme. Don Peppers, one of the guest speakers gave us a very interesting and informative talk about earning the extreme trust of customers and employees. He presented us with a stunning fact; every 20 years computers get 1000 times more powerful, which in turn means that we interact 1000 times more with others. The more we interact, the more trust and transparency we demand. The world of technology is constantly changing and in turn this heavily influences the commercial sphere. It is also forcing businesses that want to survive and grow to embrace these changes.

Another very interesting statistic was that 65% of employees would rather have a new boss than a pay rise and that the 50% of employees who don't feel valued, plan to find a new job in the next 3 – 4 months. This emphasised the importance of treating your employees in a way that makes them feel they are indispensable to the business. A variety of business related questions were asked to a panel of highly successful business owners from around the world, covering such topics as cash flow forecasting, marketing and closing sales. The event was extremely inspiring and gave us an exceptional insight into what we will be facing when we enter into business. **Casey Markham**

Training Day 22nd October

Next week, the school will be closed on Thursday for our regional training day. The staff will be working with Wilton Campus to develop teaching strategies for SDL, learning how to resource Moodle to improve learning opportunities and looking at how to implement the new assessment system developed by the Focus team at exchange. I look forward to feeding back on our training day in the next parent update.

Head of Sixth form

We recognise as a school the need to ensure our post 16 students are fully supported in their studies and coping with the pressure of 'A' Levels. To this end the CMT team have agreed to make an internal appointment for a Head of Sixth form who will work directly with our students and support them in developing the key skills required for self-study and succeeding at examination. They will also work closely with the ACT team to ensure there is good communication between the school and the CAP program for the benefit of our students. Interviews will take place next week and the successful candidate will take up their post at the

start of next term.

Development of the Library

I am very pleased to say that we are looking into developing the main non-fiction library in school; this is our opportunity to ensure that resources are up to date and that all students, in each subject, have all the resources that they need. We would like students to be able to access hard copies of texts alongside the online resources that they are able to access.

Thank you to Beverley Birks and Celia Mumford for their assistance and support in this, we are looking forward to seeing our library resources grow and develop, especially as SDL takes off. Bev Birks.





Student of the week.

Lower School: Courtney Robertson for continued hard work and being a good citizen to others.

Upper School: Mathew Gulley for continued effort in his studies



House Music

This is a last reminder to put House Music in your diary for Friday 23rd October. Parents are welcome to come and along for a 12.25 pm start and enjoy the fantastic musicianship that will be showcased. We do appreciate that the timings of this event make it difficult for some parents to get to the primary school to collect younger siblings. Unfortunately our adjudicator's prior commitments meant we were unable to change the timings this year, but we will take this into consideration for next year's event.

Future dates for the diary

- Extended school day – Tuesday 20th October
- Regional Inset Day - Thursday 22nd October (school will be closed to students)
- House Music - Friday 23rd October 2015
- UK Senior Maths Challenge – 5th November 2015
- Prize giving/ Motivational Awards Event – 6th November 2015 (parents are invited to attend)
- Launch of the 'Young Enterprise Challenge' - Tuesday 10th November

Wishing you a warm and happy weekend with your family and friends.

Sarah Hutt
Headteacher

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