



# Quainton Hall School Newsletter

Monday 8 March 2010

No. 14

## The Chapel of Saint Francis

No doubt this coming Sunday morning there will be a lot of burnt toast! I remember it well. As a child, my attempts at making my mother breakfast in bed on Mother's Day seemed to end in a lot of smoke and a lot of mess. It was my attempt to say 'thank you' to my mum for all she did for me during the course of every year.

Each of us needs to say thank you to our parents for all they do for us. Mothering Sunday is a day when we can do just that. It also gives Christians a chance to give thanks for Mary, the Mother of Jesus and for her willingness to respond to God's call.

On Sunday evening we will be gathering in the School Chapel for a Sung Mass. At the end of the service flowers will be given to those children present so that they, in turn, may give them to their mothers. So I look forward to seeing as many of you as are able to come.

With all good wishes.  
Father Neil.

### SUNG MASS

For the Fourth Sunday of Lent  
~ Mothering Sunday ~

**This Sunday**  
**14th March**  
**@ 18.00**



(Followed by refreshments in the School Dining Room)

**Everyone is most welcome to our events  
in the School Chapel**

## Art Trip

On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March, Prep 6 went to the Wallace Collection in Central London to attend a workshop about the different techniques of making sculpture. They were accompanied by Mrs Nnochiri and Mr Still.

The workshop was led by an artist called Gili who was extremely interesting and very friendly. She showed the boys examples in the galleries of sculptures in bronze, clay, marble, wood and gold. They were allowed to handle some smaller precious objects as long as they put on gloves first.

During the morning, we made clay tiles in various shapes and pressed objects into the surface to make imprints and patterns. Next a clay wall was built around each tile so that the liquid plaster could be poured in on top of the negative design. After lunch, the plaster had set solid, the walls were removed and the positive plaster cast magically appeared to gasps of awe and amazement from the boys.

During the afternoon, we looked around the galleries at some of the famous paintings like 'The Laughing Cavalier' by Frans Hals (1624). Then we looked around the armouries full of swords, shields, guns and suits of armour all covered with the most incredible decorations.



Finally before we left, the boys were able to try on some different suits of armour and chain mail. Everything seemed to be going to plan until James managed to get his head stuck through the arm hole of the tunic he was trying on. After much pulling and tugging, we had to call in the cavalry. James finally emerged with a headache and rather pink ears. No wonder 'The Laughing Cavalier' had a smirk on his face!

Well done boys – you produced some lovely work and I look forward to seeing your plaster relief sculpture painted back at school.

Mrs Nnochiri.  
Senior Boys Art Teacher.

### **School Musical The Demon Headmaster**

Tickets for this year's school production - *The Demon Headmaster* - are now on sale. The musical will be performed on two evenings: the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. The production is expected to finish at 9:30pm with refreshments served during intermission at 8:00pm in the School Dining Hall. Tickets are £3 each and are available from the School Office. Please come and support the cast. We look forward to seeing you all there!

JLR and SMB

## Posterity

Last Wednesday Prep 3 and 4 set out to do 'their bit' for the planet and to hopefully leave a heritage for their grandchildren and beyond

The Woodland Trust have bought an 850 acre plot of land in Sandridge, just outside St Albans, and with the help of volunteers, are hoping to create the largest man made native forest in Britain. They are hoping to plant over 20,000 trees in a week on average 10 trees per child!

To the boys' delight and some staffs horror we tramped/slipped across a field and down a very muddy lane to the site of the new forest. Here we were handed spades and shown how to plant the saplings. After that it was a case of seeing how many we could get through. By the end of just over an hour and a quarter we had planted 224 oak and lime saplings!

We all had a great deal of fun and learnt some new skills at the same time. If you are interested in becoming involved and doing your 'bit' visit [www.treeforall.org.uk](http://www.treeforall.org.uk) and look up some of the family events being organised in the future.

### GEM



## Vouchers

It's that time of year again when our shopping in Sainsburys and Tesco is rewarded by vouchers, which can be exchanged for equipment for schools.

We are collecting the vouchers for both schemes, so please collect them – and perhaps even ask friends and relations to collect them too. There is a collecting box under the main noticeboards in the lobby, or you can hand them to Mr. Still, your form teacher, or even into the School Office.

Over the years we have redeemed vouchers for several thousand pounds worth of equipment, including 3 computers! Let's try to collect a useful total again this year!

Many thanks  
MJS

## World Maths Day – Stranger than Fiction!

Children from Prep 3 to Prep 8 have been rushing home for the last week or two to improve their mental maths agility ready for World Maths Day.

Believe it or not, our boys in these classes answered over 70,000 arithmetic questions in thousands of 1 minute timed competitions against children of similar ages around the world. The Day itself saw over 500 MILLION questions answered around the world, with up to 60,000 children playing at once!

Well done to all our boys who took part, particularly to Hashim in Prep 6 who answered over 12,500 questions correctly in the build up period, and to Bhavik, also in Prep 6, who managed a school record of 55 correct answers in just one minute!

MJS

## World Book Day – Junior School

We all enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book characters on World Book Day last Thursday. The day was a great success. We are looking forward to seeing you at our Pre-Prep Concert on Wednesday 17 March at 2.00pm.



Here are some of the photographs taken on World Book Day!