

Dear Parents

We have had a very busy and successful term so far, and as we all now take a break for half-term, we would like to share with you the highlights of the first half of the Autumn Term:

### **BATTLE OF BRITAIN CHURCH VISITS**



Key Stage 3 pupils have enjoyed a busy programme of Church visits this half-term where we have enjoyed a “hands-on” experience of the topics raised about the Christian faith, the fonts of baptism, the altars and symbols of the mass, the stained glass memorials, the saints and the station of the cross.

We have also visited sites that have a connection with the sacrifices and tribulations of the population and servicemen of the area during the Battle of Britain, stimulated by the celebrations and fly-pasts commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the conflict.

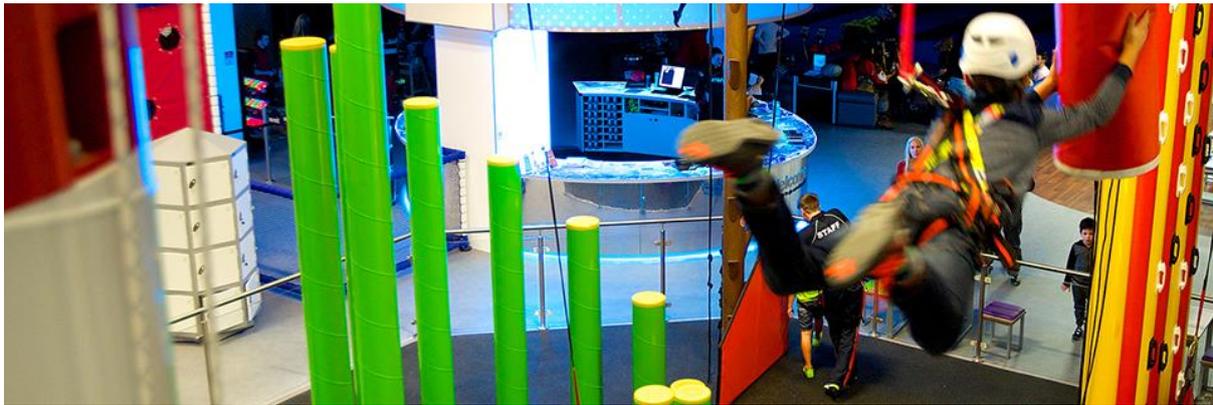
Amid the magnificent medieval architecture of the monastic Boxgrove Priory we looked at the superb memorial window and grade of airman Billy Fisk III of Chicago, the first American to be killed fighting facism with the RAF, even before this country entered the war.

The beautiful altar and surround in Petworth remembers the many evacuee children killed in the freak bombing of their school in this sleepy country town on Christmas night.

The many memorials at Ford, Clymping and Tangmere bear witness to the young men and civilians killed in the air and in the dive bombing attacks on both airfields and local villages in August 1940. Many young German airmen also rest in peace in Tangmere church yard and the colourful modern stained glass window inside the church pays tribute to those who lost their lives on both sides.

Binsted, Upwaltham and Madehurst have memorials to those pilots who crashed on the south downs and did not make it back to the safety of their home fields, and the multi-nation flag and memorials around Upwaltham commemorate the many nations who sent their sons to fight evil in the skies above Sussex in the summer of 1940.

## WEEKEND TRIP TO CLIP n' CLIMB.



On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, Mrs Monk and Mrs Mapp took a bus load of eager beavers to the Clip n' Climb adventure Centre at Rustington. All the boys had a fabulous time practising their climbing skills and testing their strength under the watchful guidance of professional instructors. On the way home we stopped in Littlehampton to walk along the beach followed by a further stop in Arundel to feed the ducks! All in all a very pleasant and busy afternoon for everyone.

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING VISIT TO VIRIDOR RE-CYCLING PLANT

Sustainability design is an important part of both the DT GCSE and BTEC syllabus, so Y10 GCSE students and Year 12 BETC students visited the Viridor recycling plant at Ford. Viridor handle all West Sussex's recycling. Our pupils learned about the importance of re-cycling and how it is done in this county. We had a classroom talk and were then kitted out with reflective jackets, hard hats and ear defenders (through which our host could still talk to us). We were then taken up to a platform in the facility where we were able to watch all the production lines in action. A very interesting and informative afternoon was had by all.



## **MAX BIRD (YEAR 11) WINS FINAL Karting Championships.**



Max Bird has been taking part in the Junior Karting Championship at the PF International kart circuit in Lincolnshire throughout 2015. PF International is the longest and fastest kart circuit in the UK and the only circuit able to hold International events, as a result it gets the largest and most competitive entries for the championship that they run. During the winter months Max took part in the winter championship at PFI in which he finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall and he has followed this up by winning the main championship that runs between April and November, with one round still to go he has amassed sufficient points that he cannot be beaten for the title of Junior Champion.

The competition throughout the season has been very strong with 4 drivers potentially in the running to win the championship, but with 2 wins, 2 second places a third and a fourth place and 5 fastest laps Max has achieved what he set out to achieve at the beginning of the year and won what will be his last karting championship before he starts to race cars.

Max is now fully focused on final preparations for the start of a new challenge racing sports cars. He will take part in his first car race at Snetterton in Norfolk on 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> November. This race forms part of the preparation for the 2016 season when Max will join 25 other 14-17 year old drivers taking part in the 2016 Ginetta Junior Championship that runs alongside the BTCC (British Touring Car Championship), the Porsche GB Supercup and British Formula Ford championships. The Ginetta Junior championship will take place at all the major circuits in the UK, including Brands Hatch, Silverstone, Thruxton, Donington, Rockingham, Oulton Park and Snetterton and will run between April and October 2016. The car he will race is a Ginetta G40 with a Ford 1800cc engine built in the UK which has a top speed of over 120 mph.

With just a few weeks of preparation left before his first car race Max is working out at a local gym, cycling, practising on an X-Box and in the car. He has received support from local companies, including Artec Engineering, Cars for Students and Southern Tyres and hopes to attract further local sponsors before the start of the 2016 season in April.

In order to be able to achieve success in the motor sport Max is looking for sponsors who he can work with now and for the future as he makes his way towards racing in the World Sports car championship and competing at the Le Mans.

You can follow Max's progress at [www.maxbird.co.uk](http://www.maxbird.co.uk) or on Twitter @maxbird35 or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/maxbirdracing>.

### Let's go PAINTBALLING!

Always a very popular trip, our visit to the Paintballing Adventure Centre at Clymping was a huge success with everyone returning home in one piece, albeit a little bruised and battered. Mrs Crutchley and Mrs Sargeant loaded the boys into the bus and set off on a bright and sunny Saturday morning to get the boys kitted up in readiness for their afternoon of paintballing fun. Following a very serious safety briefing from one of the professional instructors the boys were all given 400 paintballs and off they went! Although there were many other teams at the centre our boys chose to remain an autonomous team and a good time was had by all. Although they had brought a packed lunch with them, all the fresh air and "combat" had rendered them all ravenous so the minibus parked in Littlehampton and everyone enjoyed fish and chips on the prom! Just what the doctor ordered.



### GREENPOWER INTERNATIONAL FINAL – ROCKINGHAM MOTOR SPEEDWAY.



This year, for the first time, the Greenpower Electric Car final was held at Rockingham Motor Speedway Circuit in Corby, Northants. Our Greenpower team with its top car, *Relentless*, qualified

on 30<sup>th</sup> position for the final in which only the top 75 cars that qualify can race. Mr Paul Burbidge, Head of DT and Hamish Ilton, Greenpower volunteer technician, along with Charlie Barton (Year 12), Alfie King (Year 12), James Wane (Year 11) and Jaz Still (Year 9) set off from Slindon on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October and stayed overnight, close to the circuit so they were up and ready for a bright and early start to race day on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>. Having spent most of the year improving the car, and with some brilliant teamwork and skilled driving on the day we were delighted to finish in 16<sup>th</sup> position. Mr Quick our Headmaster, even drove all the way up to Northants, setting off at 5am, to support us on the day as did Alfie King's Mum. The icing on the cake for our team was the reunion at the end of the day with Greenpower Team USA who stayed at Slindon College for the finals at Goodwood two years ago. A great weekend was had by all and we look forward to next year's Greenpower season.

### **Halloween Fun!**

Once again, Lorraine in our kitchen, pulled out all the stops and created a fantastic display in the dining room and lunch hatch area for Halloween. We had numerous bats and spiders, skeletons and tomb stones, ghosties and ghoulies all around us for the week and our Halloween menu on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October was as follows:

Morning break: Haunted clockmaker's popcorn and treats

Lunch: Cauldron curry soup; Halloween baked rats in blood sauce with worms; Vampire Ribs; Bat wings; Slindon Tombstones with rancid fruit!! Thank you Lorraine for such a sterling effort!



### **D of E Weekend Expedition Fri 16<sup>th</sup> October**



On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October, eight boys set out from the College in two groups of four, destined for the South Downs Way and a tiring but satisfying trek through the beautiful countryside. After meeting with their leaders at Bignor Hill the individual groups then had to navigate their way to Duncton, Lavington and ultimately Graffham camp site. Here they practised their camp craft and cooked a wide range of interesting (and possibly nutritious) meals. After a well-deserved sleep the boys set

out again on Saturday morning, navigating their way back to Slindon via East Dean partially along Monarch's way. Dr Caplen and Mrs Mapp had another interesting and busy day keeping up with the two groups and trying to help them not to get lost! Everyone arrived back safe and sound, tired but feeling proud of their achievements.

### **Launch of new Motor Mech course.**

This term Mr Burbidge, Head of DT and Greenpower has taken over the running of the College Motor Mechanics Department. He is assisted by Mr Sargeant. This term the department has purchased a Fiat Punto and a 125cc motorcycle for the motor mechanic pupils to work on.



### **Slindon Bodger!**



Jordan Wickens, for his Year 11 DT GCSE project, is designing and making a pole lathe. To get practical experience of using a pole lathe, Mr Burbidge, Head of DT and DT helper Hamish Ilton took

Jordan to the Amberley Museum and Heritage Centre to spend an afternoon having one to one tuition with Mr Colin Wells an experienced pole lathe teacher. Jordan spent a couple of hours learning the ancient art of pole lathing. Bodger was the term used to describe craftsman of years gone whom worked in the forest with their pole lathes making items such as chair legs. When Jordan's pole lathe is finished he will become our very own Slindon Bodger!

### **Horticulture and Cookery Departments visit to the Tomato Nursery**



This term we visited Eric Wall Ltd., a family run nursery operating from a 28 acre site in Barnham. They are one of the largest tomato growers in the country. They are a LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) demonstration farm and are committed to sustainable farming practices. The boys enjoyed a detailed accompanied tour of the site, learning how tomatoes are grown, harvested and packaged for two of the major supermarkets. This visit forms a valuable part of the pupils' education for BTEC studies in cookery and horticulture. The boys were well prepared and asked a number of very interesting and topical questions including cutting energy use and sustainable waste management. A very enjoyable and interesting day.

Finally, may I wish you all a very happy and restful half-term break.

David Quick  
HEADMASTER.

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015.

