



Reflections

A REFLECTIVE LOOK AT THE DAY TO DAY LIFE OF THE STUDENTS AT ST HELENA SCHOOL

Happy Easter!



We have enjoyed a busy spring term, which once again has provided numerous exciting opportunities for our young people.

While our Year 11s have been focusing on their studies, making final preparations with a week of pre-public examinations, the rest of the school has been kept busy.

Highlights featured in this edition of 'Reflections' include: VEX IQ, Youth Speaks competitions, Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, World Book Day, the 'Volunteers Lunch' at the Town Hall hosted by the Mayor, Science Week, Year 10 Mock Interviews, Brilliant Club graduation at The University of East Anglia and auditions for the school production 'High School Musical'. Alongside this, our students have again been busy with sporting clubs and fixtures.

We continue to be involved with our partner primary schools, who have been visiting to use our sporting facilities. They have also submitted their entries for the Primary 500 Words competition. We hope to publish the results in our summer edition of 'Reflections'.

Finally, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all Year 6 students who have been offered a place at St Helena School for September 2018. We look forward to meeting you in July during our Induction Day.

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for a restful Easter break.

Zoë King

Zoë King - Executive Headteacher

Youth Speaks

I had the pleasure recently of watching some of our students participate in the Youth Speaks Rotary Competition.

Thomas Setchell, Georgia Setchell and Megan Whybrow all performed amazingly well and whilst we did not go through to the next round, their topic about Young Carers moved the judges and the audience alike.

The students were so inspiring a number of our students received an invitation from *Mayor Gerard Oxford* to a special Volunteers Lunch held at the Town Hall on 22 February, they were even featured in the local newspaper.

There was another incredible performance from students at the Town Hall following this, where *Intan Ahmed, Isobel Talbot and Emma Mitchell* spoke movingly about self-confidence and mental health.

It was a true pleasure to see them speak publicly and with passion and confidence. Whilst we did not win this heat I was extremely proud of all three of them - they represented the school well and performed wonderfully!

I was immensely proud of our students and they were inspirational to see!

Please congratulate them for their bravery and their achievement.

Mr Rosser, Teacher of English



OUR NEXT ISSUE:
June 2018

If you would like to contribute towards the next edition of 'Reflections', please email us at: contact@st-helena.essex.sch.uk



Reflections

FARADAY Challenge Days

Back in December, 12 Year 8 students from St Helena School took part in two IET Faraday Challenge days. The IET (Institution of Engineering and Technology) is one of the world's largest engineering institutions. The aim of Faraday Challenge days is to give students the opportunity to research, design and create solutions to every-day engineering situations – in turn, inspiring them to study and pursue careers in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths).

This year the IET collaborated with Thorpe Park in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Faraday Challenge. The challenge itself required the students to design and create a new attraction for Thorpe Park that is suitable for all. Our first team of students designed a rotating octopus ride and our second team designed a monorail overlooking the park. Both teams created working prototypes of their attractions using their knowledge of circuits and components – particularly motors and potentiometers.

Team one (left to right):

- Charles Greystrong
- Caitlin Wood
- Temoor Rana
- Emanuele Lazurca
- Sophie Kirk
- Paige Bright



Team two (left to right):

- Thomas Lloyd
- Amy-Jane Page
- Harrison Steel
- Elliott Whatling
- Morgan Graham
- Sinead Winsborrow



I would like to congratulate both of our teams on their excellent teamwork, communication, and problem solving skills used to overcome this difficult task. All of the students were a credit to St Helena School. They should all be proud of their achievements.

I would also like to thank both Clacton County High School and The Philip Morant School for hosting the challenge days. I look forward to see what next year's challenge has to offer our students!

Miss Grainger - Science Technician

Don't Forget!!!

• Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter



Brilliant!

A huge congratulations to the members of the Brilliant Club in Year 9.

These students have been working with a PHD tutor on a 2000 word assignment entitled "Can we grow Retina?". They have been working on this project for a term. The assignment was set at an incredibly high level in order to really challenge them and was marked using the university grading.

Recently myself and Mr McCarthy with the support of a group of parents, had the pleasure of seeing the students go through their "**graduation**" from the Brilliant Club at the University of East Anglia. Please be sure to congratulate the following students on their achievements.

- Eden Billimore
- Kelsey Brady
- Evie Chaplin
- Madison Convery
- Daniel Haynes
- Madison Filer-Sinclair
- Lily Heaton
- Harmonie Lawrence
- Shae Le Roux
- Evie Loyd
- Shania McNeill-O'connell

Miss Hall, Teacher of Drama and Brilliant Club Leader



Jumping for Joy

Year 5 and Year 6 students from St Georges Junior School, St John's Green Primary School and North Primary School have been enjoying some specialist trampolining sessions here at St Helena School this term.

They have learnt the important safety aspects of trampolining, as well as performing many of the key skills with the correct technique. Well done to all involved!

Mrs Taylor, Teacher of PE



Ofsted 'GOOD'

On 12th and 13th December 2017 St Helena School welcomed a team of four Ofsted inspectors who conducted a full inspection of the school. I am delighted to inform you **the report shows St Helena School has continued to improve since its last inspection in June 2014 and retains its judgement of 'GOOD'.**

Below is a summary of Ofsted's key findings:

- *The school is well led. Senior leaders and governors are ambitious for the pupils and provide a good quality of education for them.*
- *Teaching and learning is consistently good across most subjects. Teachers plan engaging lessons, and give pupils useful feedback that helps most of them to make good progress.*
- *Staff know the pupils well and plan for their needs. The curriculum, pastoral care and ethos support pupil welfare and progress.*
- *Pupils attend school well and their attitudes to learning are positive. They have good relationships with each other and their teachers. Pupils are keen to do well.*
- *The school's arrangements for safeguarding are effective. Staff work well with pupils and parents to ensure pupils are safe.*
- *Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school. They understand the school's values such as respect and responsibility. The school is a harmonious community.*
- *Governors support and challenge senior leaders well. They have high ambitions for the school. Their plans help improve outcomes for pupils.*
- *Progress for some groups of pupils is improving. However, pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities need to make better progress.*

We are delighted that the school is continuing to go from strength to strength.

Zoë King - Executive Headteacher



Don't Forget!!!

• Year 7 Parents' Evening 26 April 2018 3



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VEX IQ Robotics

Triumph for St Helena School

St Helena School's Robotics Team took part in the 2nd VEX IQ Essex Regional Competition, held at The Stanway School.

The Team were:

- Tito Ahmed
- Grace Cottham
- Seb Jensen
- Taylor Munson
- Damian Rusecki
- Lexi Talbot

They totally stormed the competition, coming first in every category.

In the skills challenge they scored a massive 120 points. There was also the autonomous round (where the robot has to be programmed to score on its own) and finally the teamwork challenge, working with The Stanway School's team.

They were awarded 2 trophies and a place in the UK National Finals in Telford.

This result reflects the amount of time and effort the students have put in - two evenings a week and every lunchtime since the last competition in January. Last time they didn't perform as well, but came back full of ideas and bursting with energy to build a completely new, redesigned robot. Their success was well deserved!

Mr James, Senior Science Technician



Don't Forget!!!

• Year 10 Parents' Evening 10 May 2018

Year 7 Boys Basketball

The Year 7 Boys Basketball team had a successful afternoon finishing runners-up at the Colchester district schools basketball tournament recently.

After dominating displays against Manningtree, TLA, Colchester High and The Gilberd School, we made it into the final against St Benedict's. After a tight game, we conceded a free throw which unfortunately lost us the game.

Please congratulate the following students:

- Olufemi Edu (MVP)
- Philip Zigah
- Ewan Gordon-Clement
- Fabio Balog
- Hayden Chamberlain
- Freddie Emerson

*Mr Taylor
Teacher Of
Mathematics/
Physical
Education*



NEMO Maths Challenge

We hosted the **NEMO Maths Challenge** this term, which was a great event enjoyed by all students who took part.

We had two teams, they finished 8th and 15th, out of 19. 10 schools took part in the competition.

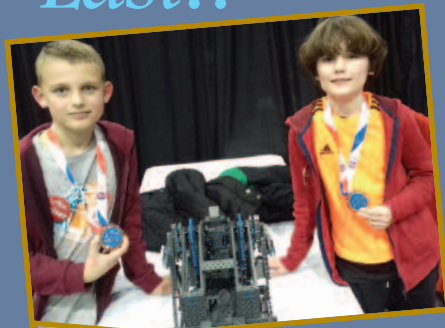
The Philip Morant School and St Benedict's Catholic College achieved joint 1st place. The winner of the tie was decided by an extra question.

It was enjoyable event, our students did their very best.

Thank you to *Mr Taylor* and *Mr Walton* and the admin team who supported the teams and helped with organising the event.

Mr Sanchez, 2ic Maths

The VEX IQ Robotics Team are 4th in the UK despite the Beast from the East!!



As previously mentioned in the article opposite, in February, students from St Helena School's VEX IQ Robotics team won themselves a place at the UK National competition held in Telford on Thursday 1st of March.

However, it looked like they were not going to be able to attend as the snow came down making the long journey to Telford even more arduous. Not only that, the robot itself was trapped in the school which was unexpectedly closed due to the heavy snow...

The caretaker Mr Gooding, volunteered to make his way in to school through the snow and ice enabling the robot to be collected, as the teams were still very determined to go.

At 7.30 pm the evening before the competition, it was decided that it was too risky to travel and the trip, involving students from The Stanway School, Thomas Lord Audley and St Helena School very regrettably had to be cancelled. All the students were devastated. They had been working on the robots for many hours a week for the whole of January, twice a week after school and every lunchtime.

Just as it was looking hopeless for the St Helena School team, one of the parents volunteered to drive two of the team to the finals himself. They set off at 4.00 am and arrived at 9.30 am just in time to register for the competition and they went straight into their first match.

The St Helena School team 17089A - *"We got Dis"* - Seb Jenson and Damian Rusecki, did their very best for the absent team members (Tito Ahmed, Taylor Munsen and Grace Cottham) and for the school.

The game VEX IQ Ringmaster involves the robot picking up coloured rings and placing them onto posts to score points. There are three stages to the game; skills, autonomous and teamwork. In skills, the teams get three attempts at achieving a high score on their own. In autonomous, the students have to program the robot to score by itself without using a controller. Finally, there is a tournament where teams from different schools pair up to play together. *"We got Dis"* teamed up with HBS Infinity from Henrietta Barnette School, London. They were just beaten by RobotIQ and HBS Robosapiens.... Leaving St Helena School in 4th place in the UK...a stunning result! The whole team can be very proud of themselves.

Setting off home, the journey back through Storm Emma, was an absolute nightmare and they didn't get home to Colchester until 12:20 am. It was a long, long, day, but well worth it.

We would like to thank *Mr Gooding* but most especially *Mr Rusecki* for their efforts to ensure our team could partake.

The new VEX IQ game for 2018-19 will be announced at the world finals in April and we are already looking ahead to another great year of robotics at St Helena School.

We hope to be able to get more VEX IQ kits this year with some of the money kindly donated to STEM Club by parents and staff through Parentpay.

This will enable more of our students to take part in this amazing activity and maybe next year we will get to the world finals in Kentucky USA.

**Mr James
Senior Science Technician**

Don't Forget!!!



Reflections

Rugby 7s



The Year 7 boys rugby team took part in the Mersea Island Rugby Sevens Tournament.

After an early defeat, the boys fought back to win their 2nd game convincingly. Two hard fought games against Colchester High School and TLA meant that we missed out on 2nd place on tries scored.

Special mentions go to Philip Zigah and Oscar Parks. Philip, for scoring 5 tries and for leading the team in an excellent manner once again. Oscar Parks, for his calm manner throughout the competition accepting all decisions from the referee and proving to be a positive influence on the team.

Results

St Helena School 0 - 5 TTC (lost)
St Helena School 30 - 15 The Colne (won)
St Helena School 15 - 15 Colchester High (draw)
St Helena School 15 - 15 TLA (draw)

Final standings

1st Tendring Technology College
2nd Thomas Lord Audley School
3rd St Helena School
4th Colchester High School
5th The Colne Community School
6th The Stanway School

Team

• Fabio Balog • Howard Boateng • Kody Burr • Charlie De'Ath • Philip Zigah
• Daniel Mowbary • Ted Powell • Oscar Parks • Ewan Gordon-Clement
• Hayden Chamberlain • Bobby Saunders • Zishan Hussaain

Please congratulate them on their successful rugby season.

Mr Staiano, Teacher of PE & Year 9 Director of Learning



Don't Forget!!!

• Half term w/c 28 May 2018

Rugby UPDATE

Recently on a cold and very wet evening, our Year 7 and 8 boys rugby teams took part in the area finals at Colchester Rugby Club. Both teams battled through the conditions and produced excellent performances.

YEAR 7

The boys were in confident spirit after finishing top out of the Colchester Schools to qualify. The Year 7's bounced back from two early defeats (the first time they had been defeated this year) to produce two excellent performances to finish 3rd overall.

Most improved: Charlie De'Ath for his continual improvement in every round and for scoring two important tries on the night.

Player of the tournament: Ewan Gordon-Clement. He never gave up, putting tackle after tackle in until the final whistle of the final game and for scoring a total of 8 tries in 9 games.

<i>St Helena School</i>	0
<i>The Gilbert School</i>	15
<i>St Helena School</i>	10
<i>Clacton County High School</i>	15
<i>St Helena School</i>	5
<i>Tendring Technology College</i>	0
<i>St Helena School</i>	15
<i>The Stanway School</i>	0

YEAR 8

The Year 8 students, after waiting patiently in the rain for 90 minutes got their final underway. With the finals games running behind schedule the games were cut down to 6 minutes. The boys battled on, under the guidance of their captain *Blake Grace* to finish 4th overall.

YEAR 9

Year 9 just missed out on the finals this year finishing 3rd overall in Colchester.

Thank you to *Miss King* and *Mrs Browne* for giving up their free time to come up and support the boys on a very wet evening.

Also, thank you to *Mr Taylor*, *Mr Bidgood*, *Mr Mackenzie* and *Mr Parkinson*. It was a real team effort to get the boys to the finals through your hard work in lessons and giving up time at lunchtimes and after school. We have played a total of 20 rugby games this year across Year 7, 8 and 9, winning an impressive 13, drawing 1 and losing 6.

Mr Staiano, Teacher of PE & Year 9 Director of Learning

BOOK Doctors



The St Helena Book Doctors returned for Book Week. They helped students discover new titles and authors. They helped various nervous patients move on from *Wimpy Kid* and *Dork Diaries* by listening and then writing a range of book prescriptions.

Many Thanks to all our Book Doctors especially *Dr Thorpe* and *Dr Pinder*.

Term Dates 2018

Easter Holidays

30 March 2018 to
13 April 2018

Summer Term

16 April 2018 to
20 July 2018

Half Term

28 May 2018 to
1 June 2018

World Book Day

Staff and students at St Helena School enjoyed world book day recently. Mr Callegari arranged for each student to receive a book, which was funded by the school. Also every member of staff received a book purchased from the St Helena Hospice Shop.

Students were very excited and keen to discuss the best dressed teacher and there was much discussion about favourite and recommended books throughout the day.



Bookfair

At St Helena School we take every opportunity to get a book into a student's hand. This can be via book loans from the LRC, Book Prizes or the chance to buy a book. During our Book Week we gave students the opportunity to buy books by hosting a Book Fair. The Books were provided by Scholastics one of the biggest suppliers of teen books in the country, so students had a choice of many of the latest titles. Over four sessions the sale raised £150 with students and staff using their World Book Day Vouchers to get a discount on each purchase. Scholastic also donated £25 worth of vouchers, which were used as prizes for our 'Phot-Quote' competitions. Due to the success of the Fair St Helena School has earned Scholastic book rewards which we will be able to use later in the Year. The Book Fair was only a success due to the actions of the students who promoted and ran the event. Many thanks, therefore, to all involved especially the Year 7 book group 'Paige Turners' and the members of 'Hidden Chapters' especially Year 9's Ollie Scott and Kieran Clewley and Year 10's Sophie Bland, Serena Curtis, Liberty Greenslade-Wiggins, and Molly Heath.



Mr Callegari, LRC Manager

Don't Forget!!!

• Sports Presentation Evening 28 June 2018 7



Reflections

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Executive Headteacher: Zoë King BSc (Hons), PGCE, MBA, NPQH

Teaching Awards Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate **Mrs Wrobel** who recently received the Highly Commended Teaching Assistant of the Year Award at the Essex Teaching Awards 2018. This is in recognition of all her support and hard work with our students.

Well done Mrs Wrobel.



Year 10 Activities

This term Year 10 students have been involved in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge and Mock Interview days.

I was fortunate enough to be able to see students in action during both events and was blown away by the way the Year 10 students represented themselves and performed.

Massive thanks to **Miss Templeton** (who organised the Jack Petchey day) and **Miss Thorman** (who organised the Mock Interview day); and to all the staff members who supported both events.

Our students were a credit to themselves, the year group and the school. We are incredibly proud of them.

Mrs James said *"I visited the mock interviews and was able to observe students behaving very professionally. I also spoke to some employers who were very keen to enthuse about the way in which students had conducted themselves."*

Well done year 10."



Mr Mackenzie - Year 10 Director of Learning

Don't Forget!!!

• Achievement Awards Evening 12 July 2018

Road Safety Ambassadors



This term, some of our Year 10 Youth Health Champions became Road Safety Ambassadors as part of the Safer Essex Partnership.

They met with Donna Bond, our Essex coordinator, to understand the overall aim of the scheme, that of reducing road casualties and deaths on Essex Roads.

27,130 people were killed or seriously injured in Britain between June 2016 and June 2017.

Our students' role will be that of supporting future local and national campaigns and raising awareness at St Helena School throughout the school year. More information is available at saferessexroads.org

There will be more from our Road Safety Ambassadors in future editions.

Mrs Wild,
Health and Welfare Officer

