



Reflections

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

Merry Christmas!



We only have a few days remaining before the end of term and as always, we have a huge amount to share

with you before we break for Christmas. Once again, we have enjoyed a busy and successful term. Alongside students' studies we have run trips, been busy with sporting fixtures and after school clubs, and been involved in fund raising activities including, the Poppy Appeal, the McMillian coffee morning and most recently we have been collecting donations for the local foodbank. Our students, have as always, been tremendously hard working and supportive.

This term we have also held Year 11, Year 9 and Year 8 Parents' Evenings, our Year 11 Exam Information Evening and Annual GCSE Awards Evening for past Year 11 students. These events have given us invaluable opportunities to celebrate our students' successes and to meet with parents/carers. A big thank you for your continued support.

We hope you find this edition of 'Reflections' interesting, and that it gives you a greater insight into life at St Helena School. We have much planned for next term and hope to see many of you at one of our Information, Performance and/or Parents' Evenings.

Wishing you all a restful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Zoë King

Zoë King - Executive Headteacher

It's Christmas!

It was an early 5.45 am start for us on Saturday 25th November to begin our journey to Lille. This involved getting the Euroshuttle with some very nifty driving skills from our coach driver getting on and off the train carriage!

We arrived in Lille around midday where we had some time to look around the centre of Lille. The town of Lille is a mixture of old and modern buildings and there were some very pretty sights including the huge lit up big wheel and Christmas tree getting us into the festive spirit.

Whilst there, we had a chance to visit the 'Village de Noel' (Christmas markets) as well as visiting some traditional French bakeries for some pain au chocolat and macarons (delicious!). Some of us braver students tried our French language skills whilst others were glad the locals could speak English!

There was so much on offer in Lille, the time flew by! It was no time at all until we were whisked back on the coach off back to England!

A very exhausted bunch of students returned to St. Helena School at 11pm and a great day was had by all!

Alma Cabra, Year 10



OUR NEXT ISSUE:
March 2018

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



Reflections

STEM Club Relaunch

The STEM club at St Helena School, run by the Science department, is a specially designed after school club available to all years, which provides students with an opportunity to gain practical, teamwork and leadership skills whilst improving their confidence in the STEM subjects – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

"I enjoy the variety of different subjects covered and like that you can work with your friends." Seb Jensen (Year 7)

The STEM club has been relaunched this year with a brand-new programme of exciting activities - with over 80 students signing up, STEM club has already been a massive success. The term kicked off with rocketry, where students built and designed their own rockets. On Wednesday 1st November, students were taken over to Hilly Fields where they launched their rockets, 32 in total! There was a fantastic atmosphere, and all students were able to celebrate their success.

"I really enjoyed the rocket launching; some were so high that we lost them!" Jude Moore (Year 7)

"I cannot believe that I turned a cardboard tube into a rocket, it is amazing." Tito Ahmed (Year 7)

More recently, students have been hard at work building catapults from junk! Students had to work to a budget and use their knowledge to determine the best design for their catapult. Each design was tested for accuracy, power and destructive capabilities – chocolate prizes were awarded to winners in each category! A special prize went to Caitlin Fraser in Year 7 for designing two catapults for under 100 STEM pounds!

The students have been fantastic this term and I look forward to working with them on future projects.

Miss Clark, Teacher of Science



Don't Forget!!!

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



Poets' Corner



Congratulations to Year 7 student Delphine Weindling who won the LRC's Poetry Competition this term. Her poem, 'Ashes' was selected by a team of Judges as the best from a group of well-crafted poems. They were particularly impressed by her use of vocabulary and imagery. Well done to all who took part including the runners up Natalie Ramsamy and Oliver Scott. Delphine's poem is included below.

Ashes

*Her reflection lost in rippling waves,
She looked back upon her past unscathed,
With the glimmer of life now gone from her parent's eyes,
She lay back on the ash-covered ground and waited for the sun to rise.*

*She stood alone
in the smouldering ruin that was once her home,
Dwelling on her life now torn,
She looked up to see the golden light of dawn.*

**Mr Callegari,
LRC Manager**

Year 5 & 6 Cross Country Relays

By popular demand, our Year 5 & 6 Cross Country Relays returned to Lower Hilly Fields in October. The children demonstrated great determination and team work as they encouraged each other around the course which included a fateful hill towards the finish line!

In the Year 5 races, St Georges Junior School ran away with the boys title and North Primary School took the girls. While in the Year 6 age group, Heathlands Primary School were victorious in both the boys and girls races.

A huge well done to all who participated, and also an extra special thank you to the Year 11 girls from St Helena School who gave up their lunch time to marshal.

Mrs Taylor, Teacher of PE



We Will Remember them

The World War 1 trip was a great experience for all the History students who attended. Our guide was an ex-serviceman so we were able to learn many interesting stories about the First World War.

The trenches were first. They are located in Belgium and called the Bayernwald Trenches. Although they were not the original trenches, they were a close replica of them. These were the German trenches so they were made slightly differently to ours and less muddy.

We visited many memorials during our trip. There are 50,000 German graves at Langermarde and 12,000 British graves at Tyne Cot. There is also a memorial containing 10,000 graves, which is the biggest on the Somme. One of the best memorials we visited was the Thiepval monument. It was built by the British and is the biggest war memorial in the world. It holds 400 graves of unknown men. In the evening, there was a ceremony at the Menin Gate. The walls were covered with the names of those who fought and died in the area.

We also walked to Sunken Lane where the famous photo of the First Lancashire Fusiliers was taken before they went over the top on July 1st 1916 during the battle of the Somme.

Another outstanding place we visited was Hill 60. There is a bunker with poppies and flowers decorating it to mark the battle that happened there.

Overall, the World War 1 trip was a great way to understand more about what happened during World War 1.

Curtis & Emma Mitchell, Year 10 students



Don't Forget!!!

• 11 January 2018 – Year 11 Parents' Evening 3



Reflections

A Picture says it all...

Picture It: Your Environment photo competition

Students from St Helena School were encouraged to get creative with their camera and the outdoors in the **'Your Environment'** Photography competition.

The competition gave students and staff, the opportunity to enter their favourite photographs of nature, landscape and different outdoor environments.

Miss Mayne and the judges were very impressed with so many entries from across the school. There were some very creative photographs submitted and it was great to see such a high standard.

Our overall winner for KS3 was **Seb Jensen, Year 7** who has written this amazing article about the competition.

Miss Mayne



Seb Jensen

Don't Forget!!!

• w/c 12 February 2018 – Half Term

What the competition was about?

This was a nature and landscapes photography competition, where we could take pictures of any scenery, nature or landscapes.

Why did you want to enter it?

When I heard of the competition, I was immediately quite interested and wanted to give it a go. I like trying things out and this would be a great opportunity to do so.

Where and when was your winning photograph taken?

My winning photograph was taken towards the end of the summer holidays when I went on a holiday to the Isle of Man. It was taken at Milner's Tower in Port Erin, I was at the top of it and took the photograph looking over the side of the tower.

What did you like about your winning photograph?

I like that it was taken on top of a tower, so it looked as if it was taken in the air, giving it a unique aerial effect. As a result, it made that particular photograph stand out when compared with my other photographs.

How you feel about winning?

I'm really pleased with winning as the competition was a great experience and opportunity for me. I had no idea that I would be selected as winner and I'm really grateful for being chosen. It has definitely motivated me to take even more photographs and share them with others too. And additionally, I feel more interested in photography itself and I'd like to learn some more techniques and more about it in general.

Seb Jensen





Eden Billmore



Elise Donovan



Rosie Sprakes



Cinta Reynolds



Don't Forget!!!

• 19 February – INSET day – school closed for students



Reflections

Celebrating the Year 7 Rugby Team's Success



The Year 7 Rugby Team took part in the 2nd Round of the Colchester Central Venue Tournament, and won in style!!

Unfortunately due to absences we were down to a very thin squad. However, the boys pulled together brilliantly to keep their unbeaten run going and as result made it 4 wins out of 4.

Special mentions go to Ewan Gordan-Clement, Oscar Parker, Freddy Emmerson, Howard Boateng and Fabio Balog. Ewan and Freddy were outstanding and scored all of the evening's tries. Oscar and Fabio never gave up and continued to put tackle after tackle in. Stand in captain Howard Boateng kept the team thinking positively and lead by example on the rugby pitch.

Round 1

Thurstable 5 - 10 St Helena
St Helena 20 - 10 Gilbert B

Round 2

TLA 10 - 20 St Helena
St Helena 30 - 25 Gilbert A

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



Don't Forget!!!

• 1 March 2018 – Year 8 Pathways Evening

HOOPS!



At the beginning of the Autumn term the PE Department took 40 keen Year 9-11 GCSE PE students to watch a National League Cup basketball game featuring Essex Leopards vs. Nottingham Hoods at the Brentwood Leisure Centre.

This fantastic opportunity enabled our students to gain a further understanding of game rules and witness first hand a high standard of play to extend their subject knowledge of basketball.

Furthermore, there was also an opportunity for students to be coached by the Essex Leopards players prior to the game. The students fully engaged in the coaching session they received and have now taken their improved knowledge and skills into their GCSE PE practical lessons.

The match between Essex Leopards and Nottingham Hoods was exciting throughout with the scores level going into the final quarter.

Nottingham Hoods eventually won the game 79 -73. The students were outstanding throughout the day.

Thank you to Mrs Browne, Miss Hibben and Miss Guille for attending the trip to allow the students to attend. GCSE PE contains a 30% practical element where students are assessed in 3 sports.

Therefore, the PE Department are looking into further opportunities in the near future for students to extend their subject knowledge in other sports.

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

MEDIA matters



On Monday 4th December, a group of four GCSE Media students went to Colchester Institute to take part in a Film production Workshop where they discovered the truth behind the films and TV programmes you watch at home.

They learnt about cameras, green screen, visual, audio and recording work, as well as the HUGE number of jobs involved around the media. Did you know there were 1800 people behind the making of one Star Wars movie?

Each student had a different role in creating their own News Show. For example, editing, sound, visuals, actors, runners, cable person and lots more!

Around 60% of the making of any programme or film is post-production. For example, editing, music, CGI etc.

We have gained a huge amount of knowledge from our day at Colchester Institute.

If you would like to be one of the many people who are involved with projects like this, Colchester Institute have multiple courses that you can apply for.

Chloe Gregory,
Head Girl

'Jingle' ...All the Way!



Miss Hibbern's Form group have been getting in the festive spirit by writing a Christmas jingle, writing 2 lines per day. One of our students decided to write a jingle all of his own. Please see his brilliant work below. *Well done Thomas!*

Ho Ho Ho It's Christmas time
This is the AHL form rhyme
Christmas is a time for presents, food and fun
but what are you going to do when this rap is done,
join along to sing the words,
because this is the best rap you ever heard...
This is AHL ... "word"

Advent calendars side to side
This is the countdown to Christmas time
Each calendar contains whatever
But you want to see the 25th of December
That is when the real fun starts
Family around the table, hand on hearts
The best Christmas dinner ever
Full up to burst now it's winter
Cold and icy it may be
The warmth of the indoors is as it should be
When you come down it's snow outside
Your family is singing a Christmas tide

MERRY CHRISTMAS they say but you do Christmas your own way.



Thomas Setchell, Year 8

Welcome to Year 7s

As a Welcome to all our Year 7s we gave them all the chance to choose a free Michael Morpurgo book.

Reading is fundamental in school and in life and we hope to provide a platform to their reading development here at St Helena School.

The School provides the opportunity to try two of the key elements to reading development, namely book ownership and Library borrowing. However, reading development is something we can all contribute to, so if you could support your child's reading it will make a difference to their reading confidence. Just 20 mins. a day reading adds up to 60 school days a year.

All our Year 7 students were delighted to receive their book and some were even planning to swap books when they had finished reading them.

Mr Callegari, LRC Manager

Don't Forget!!!

• 26 April 2018 – Year 7 Parents' Evening 7





Reflections

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

Return to St Helena School



Brian Bakowski

Dave Ollie

Chris Keays

St Helena School 1961 to 1968

In July 2018 it will be fifty years since I left St Helena School.

I will be returning, with two more ex-pupils in May to meet Miss King, and tour the school. Fifty years seems an appropriate time to reflect, revisit, indulge in nostalgia and see how the school has changed.

I was in the first intake after the desegregation of boys and girls. I remember the older pupils being almost afraid of straying into the girls' side of the field and probably feeling very daring when they did.

There were air-raid shelters in the school grounds left over from times of war but only used as storage. I remember, when I was about twelve, being part of a working party whose job it was to remove what seemed like hundreds of chairs from the shelters. Later they were demolished.

When Mr Boyle arrived as Headteacher, he surprised everyone by wearing a gown, introducing Latin and starting a sixth form. I had been a Prefect since my second year and as I went into sixth form I was made Head Boy. I can honestly say that my secondary schooling shaped my love for various disciplines of learning. I wish I could tell Mrs Vickers, Deputy Headmistress, who taught A level history how much more I now know.

When I look at the current website for the school I realise much has changed since my day but I hope that current pupils will take away many happy memories and be positively shaped by their experience as I was.

Christopher Keays, ex-student of St Helena School

Master Chefs

Here are photos of the amazing food our Year 11 students have created in their controlled assessment practicals where they had to "demonstrate skill" as part of their NEA 2 task. Students had to make fresh pasta and fillet fish.

Miss O'Donnell, Subject Leader Food Technology



Don't Forget!!!

• Winter Music Concert - 16th January 2018, 7.00pm

Readathon Rewards



Congratulations to Myeisha Khan, Molly Heath and a somewhat shy Lily Heaton. During Readathon last term, individually, they raised the most money for charity.

As a thank you, they all received a National Book Token. Their efforts and all those who also contributed helped to raise **£360.46**.

The money collected will go to help children in hospitals and won the School vouchers to buy books.

Thank You Everyone.

Mr Callegari, LRC Manager

Term Dates 2018

Spring Term
4 January 2018 to
30 March 2018

Half Term
12 February 2018 to
16 February 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