

St Helena School Newsletter



31 January 2020
Spring Term - Issue 1

Diary Dates

3 February 2020
Year 9 Girls Vaccinations

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4 February 2020
Year 9 Boys Vaccinations

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6 February 2020
Year 10 Parents' Evening

.....

13 February 2020
Year 7 Disco

.....

Half Term
17 February -
21 February 2020

.....

24 February 2020
Non Pupil Day



Message from the Headteacher

Since New Year and the start of the spring term, time has gone by very quickly and, unbelievably, we are almost half way through the first half term. The school year seems to pass by quicker each time. School life for all students and staff remains busy and the calendar is full of events, activities and exciting opportunities for everyone.



For our upper school students, we have celebrated and reflected on the achievements of Year 11 students from the PPE season prior to Christmas. I have been extremely impressed by the students and the focus, ambition and determination they are showing towards what is the business end of the year. We have redefined our after school revision sessions for the students and they have been selected to attend one Masterclass session on a Monday after school. During these sessions students have the opportunity to work in small groups with a subject specialist to go through key exam questions. Three weeks into the programme students are already telling us how successful these sessions are!

Undoubtedly the next few months will evoke an array of emotions from all students. For all students involved in exams, remember that staff are on hand and fully prepared to offer all the support and study assistance they can. Staff have been through this before, both as students themselves and then as teachers, they know and understand what it is like!

Students in Year 8 are also at an exciting time of their educational career as they will start to be selecting their curriculum offer for Key Stage 4. This year we have added even more subjects to the offer to ensure we provide all students with the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects, students will specialise in four curriculum areas alongside a comprehensive core curriculum offer.

As you read through the accomplishments of all our students I have no doubt you will agree just how busy they have all been. Whether students are completing their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, representing Team St Helena School at a sporting fixture, building robotics in VEX club or getting excited about the ski trip or visit to Disneyland Paris, life at St Helena school is busy or as a Year 7 told me this week 'I love being on Team St Helena Miss'.

As always thank you for supporting St Helena School.

VEX IQ Competition

On 18 December 2019 at St Helena School we pulled off our biggest VEX IQ competition ever.

It was an amazing day, our Year 8 team came 3rd in the finals and our Year 7 team came 17th out of 30.

Most of all, the competition was organised by our VEX EDR students who ran the event flawlessly and each took turns at comparing the matches, one every 2 minutes from 10am until 3pm and they managed to keep on schedule throughout the day.

Seb Jenson was awarded Volunteer of the year. I would like to thank Caitlin Wood, Jack Bastable, Damien Rusecki, Taylor Munsen and Conrad Clare who are all a real credit to our school.

The many schools that attended commented on what a wonderful day it had been and were most impressed by our students.

To read the article in the Colchester Gazette please go to the following web address -

<https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/18112829.robots-battle-regional-competition-held-school/>

Mr James
Senior Science Technician



Colchester Police Station Careers Talk



On Wednesday 22 January, Year 11 students visited Colchester Police Station to participate in a careers talk and to see 'behind the scenes'.

Students, who had previously expressed an interest in a career walking the thin blue line, were shown around the Station's Gym.

They were joined by Officers from British Transport Police who showed them inside a police vehicle, and even let them activate the blue lights and sirens.

Students met several Police Constables including a new recruit who discussed her own personal route into Policing and briefed students on what they could expect if they were put through Police training! PCSO Mark Hibben explained his important role in the community and the various powers that citizens and Police Officers have. He also welcomed questions from students.

Students enjoyed handling police 'kit' including a baton and were invited to try on handcuffs.

Volunteer Police Cadet Officer explained the role of the Police Cadets and welcomed applications from our students.

The St Helena School Careers Provision is looking forward to working closely with Essex Police on future events and projects.

Hollie Thorman
Careers Coordinator

Roman Thomas, Year 11, said:

"I found the visit very helpful - it has answered all my questions about becoming a Police Officer and allowed me to decide for definite my future career. I now know what I have to do to achieve my career goal and I have gained lots of confidence about my future."

Train to Teach in Suffolk & Essex



Colchester Teacher Training Consortium

Open Evening - 6 February

at Stoke High School, Maidenhall Approach, Ipswich IP2 8PL
4.30-6.30pm



Primary & Secondary Graduate Teacher Training

Book Via: Eventbrite

www.colchesterttc.org.uk

enquiries@colchesterttc.org.uk

01206 364728





Contact the **outstanding**
primary & secondary
graduate **teacher training**
provider in Essex & Suffolk

Open Evening

5 March 2020

4.30 - 6.30pm
Talk at 5.30pm



Held at:
Colchester Teacher Training Consortium
Colchester County High School for Girls
Norman Way, Colchester CO3 3US

Book via Eventbrite

T: 01206 364728

www.colchesterttc.org.uk

enquiries@colchesterttc.org.uk



Learning Resource Centre

Book Review

This week the spotlight is on an old YA classic, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. But Katniss has been close to death before and survival, for her, is second nature. *The Hunger Games* is a searing novel set in a future with unsettling parallels to our present. Welcome to the deadliest reality TV show ever...

It is the chosen book of the Year 9-11 book group. If anyone is interested in reading it with the group, before half-term, please contact the LRC.



Accelerated Reader Review

Congratulations to 7A5 & 8Z1 who picked up the class prizes in November and 8Z2 who scooped the December prize. Below, Mr Goldrick and Mayliane & Ms Cann and Jared collect the prizes for their respective classes.



Poetry

Here is the poem **No Option** by Lola Y7, one of our Poetry Competition winners.

Dark in the East,
Dark in the West.

Mother on one side,
Father on the other.

Father calls me,
Mother calls me.

Who should I go with?
What should I do?

Useful Information

Essex County Council changes to SEND teams from January 2020

Please access the following link to watch an update from Essex County Council regarding their SEND teams. <http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/new-send-teams-2020/>

Road Safety - Polite Reminder

The yellow zig zag areas outside of school should be kept clear. Parents are asked not to use the school car park as a drop off or collection point. Thank you for your assistance.



Medication We are no longer able to issue any non prescription medication without prior **written** consent. If your son/daughter may need medication during the school day please could you send it in the original box with either a note or a completed medication consent form. Consent forms can be downloaded from our website or available from the Front Office or the Medical Room. If you have any queries please contact Ms Wild in the Medical Room.

NOTICE: School Nurses Text Messaging Parents

Information to parents

A reminder that School Nurses should not send text messages as their first contact with parents.

If you receive a text message requesting information about your child from anyone purporting to be a School Nurse, please **DO NOT** engage.

To check authenticity of the text message received, please contact the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service Single Point of Access on:

Mid Essex 0300 247 0014 (option 2)
North Essex 0300 247 0015
South Essex 0300 247 0013
West Essex 0300 247 0122

Extra Curricular Activities



The CLIP logo is displayed at the top, with the letters 'C', 'L', and 'P' in green, blue, and red respectively, and a yellow audio cable forming the letter 'I'. Below the logo, the text reads: 'IMPROVISING. SONIC EXPERIMENTS. PERFORMANCES.' followed by 'FIRSTSITE, COLCHESTER' and 'Every Term Time Monday, 5-8pm, FREE'. A paragraph describes the club: 'CLIP is a weekly meet up for anyone 14+ interested in music and sound. Play with synths, microphones and musical tech. Explore the boundary between sound and music and improve your musical listening. No experience or equipment required.' It then provides contact information: 'Find out more at www.firstsite.uk/clip or call 01206 713700.' Social media handles for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are listed as '@CLIPSOUNDANDMUSIC', along with the website 'CLIPSOUNDANDMUSIC.UK'. At the bottom, logos for Firstsite, Youth Music, and the Arts Council England are shown, along with a graphic of a keyboard.

**IMPROVISING.
SONIC EXPERIMENTS.
PERFORMANCES.**

FIRSTSITE, COLCHESTER
Every Term Time Monday, 5-8pm, FREE

CLIP is a weekly meet up for anyone 14+ interested in music and sound. Play with synths, microphones and musical tech. Explore the boundary between sound and music and improve your musical listening. No experience or equipment required.

Find out more at www.firstsite.uk/clip or call 01206 713700.

Facebook Instagram Twitter @CLIPSOUNDANDMUSIC
CLIPSOUNDANDMUSIC.UK

Firstsite **YOUTH MUSIC** **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



Extra Curricular Activities

Breakfast club every morning Mon – Fri 08.00am – 08.30am no registration required

| Monday | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Club | Times | Location | Who to see/ How to sign up |
| Lunch time | French Club | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | Room 27 | Mrs Longshaw |
| | Girls Basketball Years 9-11 | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | PE Department | Mrs Brown |
| After school | Homework club | 3.05pm-4.05pm | LRC | Mrs Wrobel or Ms Martin |
| | VEX Robotic | 3.05pm-5.00pm | Room 53 | Mr James <i>Sign up required</i> |
| | Netball Year 7 | 3.15pm-4.15pm | PE Department | Miss Taylor |

| Tuesday | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| | Club | Times | Location | Who to see/ How to sign up |
| Lunch time | Drone club | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | Room 53 | Mr James <i>sign up required</i> |
| | KS3 Band | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | Room 15 | Mrs Davis |
| After school | Warhammer | 3.10pm-4.30pm | Room 44 | Mr Johnson <i>sign up required</i> |
| | Arduino | 3.05pm-5.00pm | Room 56 | Mr James <i>sign up required</i> |
| | Rugby Years 7 and 8 | 3.15pm-4.15pm | PE Department | Mr Goldrick and Mr Wray |
| | Running club Years 7-11 | 3.15pm-4.15pm | PE Department | Mr Stammer and Mr Woulf <i>Per- mission slip required</i> |
| | KS3 and Group(s) 4 | 3.05pm- 3.50pm | Room 15 | Mrs Davis |

Extra Curricular Activities

| Wednesday | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Club | Times | Location | Who to see/ How to sign up |
| Lunch time | Keyboard Club | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | Room 16 | Miss Cann |
| | PlayFootball Years 10 and 11 | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | PlayFootball | Open session, bring your own ball |
| | Boys Basketball Years 7-9 | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | PE Department | Mr Goldrick and Mr Wray |
| | Film club | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | Art department | Miss Mayne |
| | Horrible Histories Club | 1:25pm - 2:05pm | Room 39 | Miss Mulhern |
| After school | Homework club | 3.05pm-4.05pm | LRC | Mrs Wrobel or Ms Martin |
| | STEM | 3.05pm-4.15pm | Room 50 | Miss Clark sign up required |
| | Girls Basketball Year 7 | 3.15pm-4.15pm | PE Department | Mr Blaydes |
| | Netball Years 8-11 | 3.15pm-4.15pm | PE Department | Miss Leppard and Mrs Brown |
| | Football Years 7-9 | 3.15pm-4.15pm | PE Department | Mr Goldrick and Mr Wray |
| | Theatre Club | 3.05pm-4.05pm | East Hall | Miss Hall |
| | Girls Football Club All Years | 3:15pm—4:15pm | Playfootball | Mrs Browne |

Extra Curricular Activities

| Thursday | | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|----------------|--|
| | Club | Times | Location | Who to see/ How to sign up |
| Lunch time | Playfootball Years 8 and 9 | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | Playfootball | Open session, bring your own ball |
| | Year 9-11 Exam PE students (Practical Sports) | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | | Miss Leppard |
| | Art club Years 7 and 8 | 1.30pm- 2.00pm | Art department | Miss Adams-Beales <i>limited spaces</i> |
| | Keyboard Club | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | Room 16 | Miss Cann for KS3 only |
| After school | Drone club | 3.05pm-4.30pm | Room 53 | Mr James <i>sign up required</i> |

| Friday | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Club | Times | Location | Who to see/ How to sign up |
| Lunch time | PlayFootball Years 7 and 10 | 1.25pm- 2.05pm | PlayFootball | Open session, bring your own ball |
| After school | Choir | 3.05pm-4.00pm | Room 16 | Miss Cann |
| | Girls Basketball Years 7 and 8 | 3.15pm-4.15pm | PE Department | Mr Blaydes |

Collected at St Helena School

Do you have spare/used school uniform/school PE kit in good condition? Please bring it to reception and we will ensure that it reaches other pupils in need of it!

Any excess school uniform will be donated to a local charity.



School Blazer

Grey Trousers

Grey Pleated Skirt (with logo)

White Shirt

School Tie

School sweater

Useful Links



<http://www.go4schools.com>

On Go 4 Schools you can see your child's reports, progress, timetable, homework and attendance. To register the site you must have an email address registered with the school.

<https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>



ClassCharts is an online system which teachers and school staff use to track achievement and behaviour.

<https://www.parentpay.com/Parents/Login>

ParentPay is our online payment system.



Term Dates 2019/20

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| <u>Autumn Term</u> | 3 September 2019 (Year 7 only) 4 September 2019 (Whole School) | 19 December 2019 (School will close at 1:25pm) |
| Half Term | 28 October 2019 | 1 November 2019 |
| Christmas Holiday | 20 December 2019 | 3 January 2020 |
| <u>Spring Term</u> | 6 January 2020 | 3 April 2020 (School will close at 1:25pm) |
| Half Term | 17 February 2020 | 21 February 2020 |
| Easter Holidays | 6 April 2020 | 17 April 2020 |
| <u>Summer Term</u> | 20 April 2020 | 17 July 2020 (School will close at 1:25pm) |
| Bank Holiday | Bank Holiday Friday 8 May 2020 | |
| Half Term | 25 May 2020 | 29 May 2020 |

There are five non-pupil days:

- 2 September 2019
- 29 November 2019
- 24 February 2020
- 20 July 2020
- 21 July 2020