

Dear Parents,

What a fantastic finish to the week! The weather forced us to change the format for Sports Day but I am sure for those of you who attended across the two mornings, this was a winning formula! The atmosphere on Thursday was buoyant, a festival of sporting activities well supported by family and friends. The pupils worked incredibly hard for two straight hours before break and then another hour afterwards. Many could have used the weather as a legitimate reason to not try or not even get to the start line. The quality of performance was impressive, but the attitude shown by the pupils, matched one of our quotes about excellence being an attitude, not a skill. Our pupils showed it in bucket-loads!

The highlight of the day for me was watching the end track events and our Year 8 Sports Ambassadors running alongside the younger pupils, encouraging them to keep going was literally a tear-jerker. Speaking to many of you I know you felt the same way. This is one of the magical things about EMS, how the pupils all pull for each other, irrespective of being best of friends or a relative stranger bonded by the will to succeed. Having recently held our Year 4 Information evening for transition, top of the worry list is the 'big, bad year 8 pupils' and the fear of being in their company. What we saw today showed why the Middle School system works for pupils. Having worked for 10 years in a Secondary school I can tell you this does not happen on Sports Day.

Today's more traditional events went to plan and it was great to see some fine individual performances and slick relay team runs. The pupil feedback was also very positive regarding the House names other than the house colour. This is a great start to a sense of belonging and identity as House groups.

A huge well done to the Year 6 Team and pupils. We submitted our writing assessment to the STA alongside Teacher Assessment across the three core subjects - English, Maths and Science. I have had the privilege of watching this year group grow throughout the year. The progress made, evidenced through their books and in conversation, has been remarkable. I know Mr Jenkinson was hugely impressed when he looked through a large proportion of books this week.

Year 8 enjoyed another part of Upper School transition by visiting QE on Wednesday morning. A huge emphasis placed on 'first impressions count'. I am pleased to say both pupils and staff returned having had a positive experience which hopefully settled a few nerves. Whilst with Year 8, work in the background organising ROA and leavers events is taking shape. We have the guest speaker confirmed, someone we have had before and provided the pupils with some fantastic words of wisdom and the importance of memories made and relationships developed.

The Year 7 French trip is quickly filling, the response has been great and we are confident of filling the 50 plus spaces available. I know the pupils speak fondly of the experience and it is a great opportunity for the pupils. A perfect mix of culture, education and fun!

Speaking with many of the year 5 pupils I know they are excited about transfer day. Suddenly not the little ones in school and a move to another part of the school. Staff are working behind the scenes talking about both pastoral and academic hand-over of information. Many have sat tests over the past couple of weeks and end of year reports are being written. I am sure there will be no delay this time round with sending these out to you.

Enjoy the weekend and the settled weather we have. We look forward to seeing many of you tonight at the Summer Fair and I thank you in advance for your support in raising funds that come straight back into supporting the pupil's education. Don't forget to follow us on twitter for additional information about what we get up to. Follow us: @emmanuelmiddle

Rob Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES



Sports Day



Shipwrecked Diaries:

We've been cleaning water on the Island and using different methods to see which will give us the best results. Water has been taken from all our known sources on the Island. Some has been collected from rain, some from a muddy puddle, some from the sea and some from a little lake.

We have filtered and boiled and distilled, but it didn't stop there! As we're all Scientists here, we wanted to be sure of our results and compare the different methods. So we've made some Agar plates and been testing for microbes . . . what will we find? You will have to wait for the next instalment of 'Shipwreck Diaries'.

