

Dear Parents,

As World Cup fever draws to a close on Sunday, along with Wimbledon, the conversation turns to the 'what if' or 'what could have been'. I am always interested in the tone and angle people take on such post-mortems. Are you a glass half full or half empty type of person? Before the tournament everyone would have been pleased with a quarter final performance by England and therefore they have surely accomplished their mission! However, and quite understandably, during the moment, things change and therefore so does aspiration and expectation. I am firmly in the camp of 'well done England, you over achieved and you have left me excited about the next time'. I think in school we are very much in the same position. I am starting to formally review the year that will inform and shape school improvement for next year. We started the year in a similar position to our football team and, in my opinion, have ended it in the same fashion. I am conscious of communicating with you how excited I am and how things are improving or how the staff team is coming together. Without a doubt all the signs are positive, but that is not enough for me or my team. We have had two terms of sustained improvement across so many areas, most significantly in the classroom. As I look towards September this is a totally different school for many good and right reasons. Therefore, the aspiration and expectation is greater and the challenge all the more stimulating.

You may have heard from National Press releases that schools received Year 6 SATS results for their pupils this week. Like all schools we are now beginning the process of checking the papers for mistakes by markers before releasing pupils' actual scores. We will give pupils their actual scores before the end of term although if we have challenged the marking we won't know until September whether that has been successful. We can confirm at this stage that Emmanuel pupils have done better this year in almost every category which is very pleasing - importantly there have been big steps forward in the progress pupils make and in the attainment of our most-able pupils. Well done Year 6! The reality is year 6 pupils only had the benefit from the work started in September. The current year 5 pupils will be in a far better position next year, just like the England team for 2020. There is also far greater collaboration with our feeder First Schools and input from Mrs Boyes and Mrs Jeffs, all of which improve the outcomes of our pupils in Verwood.

Years 5, 7 and 8 have completed end of year tests and we are hopeful of receiving the data back before the end of the year. All of which will be shared as way of demonstrating impact of the Single School Action Plan.

Mrs Thompson and myself visited QE on Thursday for their Arts Open Evening. It was lovely to see the A-Level work across the different Arts. Several of our former pupils' work was featured and it was even better to bump into a couple during the evening. It was a great reminder of the 'through' education we provide as three schools - First, Middle and Upper - rather than focus on what we do as three separate islands.

Following the Arts theme. I hope you see the excellence in the work produced by our pupils. In a world dominated by data and numbers it is refreshing to judge 'excellence' as a physical end product culminated from weeks of planning and development.

Congratulations to the Year 6 Cricket team who played and came second at the regional finals at Bristol Grammar School this week. They have performed with consistent excellence this year as a group. It is rare that we are in a position to field such a strong team with strength in depth. It has made selection a 'good' headache for Mr Foord. I also know how engaged parents have been and thank them for their continued support of the boys.

There were several notable performances from our year 7 and 8 pupils at Town Sports this week. A full report will be in the next newsletter.

Next week we will be returning to wearing ties in school rather than just to and from school. I have noticed a small increase in the number of pupils who have 'forgotten' to wear their ties. Please spend time over the weekend ensuring they have it for Monday.

Enjoy the sunshine over the weekend, no doubt see some of you at the beach.

Rob Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES



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As part of their French curriculum year 7 pupils held a French themed fashion show. Pupils were paired up and each pupil had to write and learn a script to introduce each other and then describe what the other pupil was wearing. The show was videoed and then evaluated in the next lesson for progress.