

Dear Parents,

Where did the half term disappear!?

When looking back it is easy to answer as we have achieved so much during the past 6 weeks. Highlight of my week was the periscope presented to me by Mrs Etheridge from a year 7 pupil who personalised it for me. Lovely gesture and typical of the lovely pupils here at Emmanuel.

I have also been impressed by the upper school pupil's response to jumpers. Now bear with me on this! Fashion fads are quick to come in and slow to disappear, the fact that I have not had to ask one pupil to untuck their jumper is heartening.

Year 5 enjoyed their Virtual Reality workshop on Tuesday and I hope many of them shared their experience and learning with you at home.

Year 6 pupils and staff alike will be shattered from their Mock exploits this week. Well done to all involved. Early results through show a healthy improvement in progress scores and many more pupils are completing the tests than previous which is also an important factor. In the sporting world this would be termed as building up match fitness! I will share results with you after half term.

It was not lost on me that there were a few pupils feeling under the weather, but they still came in to complete their tests. This kind of attitude is showing in our whole school attendance figures. Compared to last year we are improved and sit just below our target of 96%. Considering the nasty bugs circulating early in January this reflects the role you are playing as parents in ensuring the pupils make it into school. We would always rather pupils try to come to school if they are at all able.

Year 7 are starting to turn their attention to the French Trip beginning on 5th March. Great to see so many of you attend the information evening this week. The staff team of Mr Brenton, Mr Foord, Miss Fagge, Mrs Stocks and Mr Parker (Vice Chair Governor) will no doubt enjoy the adventure as much as the pupils. Mr Parker is even packing his running shoes; I wonder if any of the pupils will be up early enough to participate!

I have spent time this week talking to year 8 about being role models in school and how they set the tone for the rest of the school. Many of them fulfil this so well and I regularly see them with their year 5 Buddies. After half term they will be completing some lunch time registration activities.

Year 8 completed a lovely Worship activity on Thursday linked to Lent. On one side they wrote something they wanted to give up and on the other side they wrote about what they were going to do to help someone. These were written on some small, green, leaf shape pieces of paper. I know Mrs Thompson has her eyes on them for some form of installation. I will keep you posted.

I have added the year 7 football report below as it was too late to find its way into the newsletter.

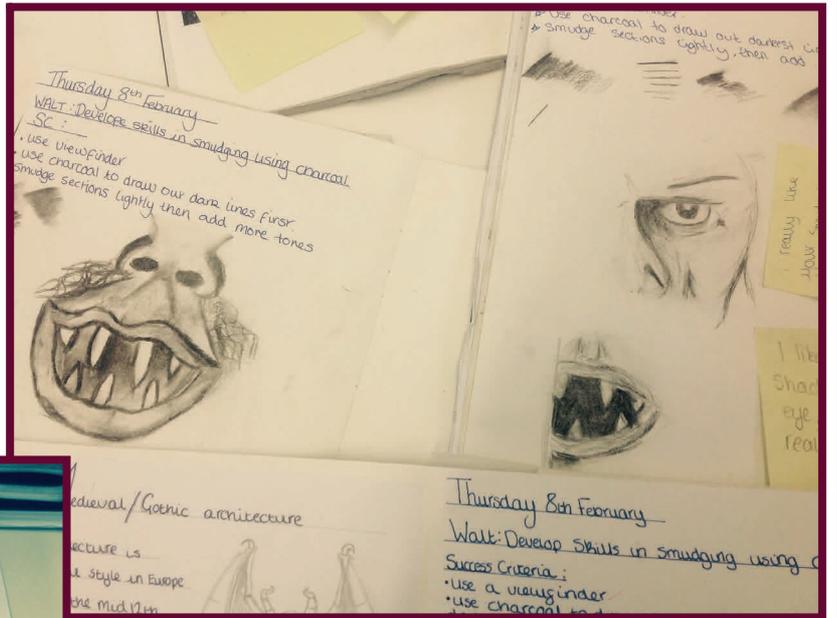
Year 7 football team (Current County Year 6 Champions) played in the PEDSSA knockout cup against St Michael's. The match was played in freezing conditions, but the boys worked hard and carved out a 1-0 lead going into half time. A deflected goal scored by Kian. The second half started brightly with us hitting the woodwork on more than one occasion, unfortunately St Michael's pushed men forward and with not much time left on the clock scored an equaliser sending the game into extra time. Emmanuel boys rallied together again to score a well worked goal by playing good one-twos around the St Michael's midfielders, where the ball fell to Kian again to slot home, putting EMS 2-1 up. Almost straight from KO, St Michael's scored again to make it 2-2. Penalties followed, each member of the EMS converted to win 5-4 on penalties. We play Purbeck school in the next round.

We have advertised for a Cover Supervisor role on the school website and Dorset for You. If you require any further details, please don't hesitate to contact me at school. We will also be having some Parent Governor roles to appoint. Once again, please contact me for further details.

I hope you all have a great break and those who are travelling I wish you a safe journey. We look forward to seeing pupils refreshed and ready for the second part of the Spring term.

Mr Rob Christopher

A WEEK IN PICTURES



Year 7 and 8 Art Work

