ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, COOK!

St Nicholas’ pupils in Years 5 to 7 enjoyed a Fun Food Show one afternoon presented by Chef Fay from the Chartwells team.

After an introduction from Chef Fay on the importance of healthy eating, two teams of two girls and a member of staff were chosen to compete in a ‘Cook Off’. The red and the green teams had fifteen minutes to create an Asian-style stir fry from ingredients such as chicken, Quorn, rice, noodles, ginger, garlic, pak choi, courgettes, spring onions and various spices.

While the young chefs were busily producing their tasty meals, other pupils were invited on stage to act as food critics and to see how both teams were progressing.

Some lucky pupils were chosen as judges and asked to sample the tasty meals. Then, all of the audience voted, by holding up either a red or a green card.

The winner was the green team with a vegetarian option – Quorn and noodles flavoured with peppers, honey, garlic and chilli.

“We would like to thank Chef Fay and the Chartwells team for putting on the event, and showing us how we can all produce something delicious and nutritious in just 15 minutes,” said a school spokesperson.
ST NICHOLAS’ HOSTS CAREERS’ EVENING

Senior students and their parents were given a chance to talk to former pupils about their experiences and career paths at a recent Careers’ Evening. It provided a valuable insight into the next stage of their education, such as university life and the world of work.

The former St Nicholas’ pupils have forged careers in areas as diverse as medicine, law, human resources, public relations, physiotherapy, aviation, business development, project management, fashion, graphic, website and games design, robotic engineering, finance, research and government Cabinet Office. Others have shown their entrepreneurial skills by starting their own businesses.

It was most inspiring for the present students to be able to talk to the former pupils as they understand the challenges and dilemmas which they will face when they leave school, and to hear their strategies for overcoming them. It was also pleasing to see how many are working in areas they enjoy and how diverse the opportunities are when you work hard.

ROTARY YOUNG CHEF: DISTRICT SEMI-FINAL

Year 10 student Kitty Grosse recently competed in the District Semi-Final of the Rotary Young Chef competition at South Thames College, Merton Campus, in Morden, Surrey.

The competition was judged by Omero Gallucci and Sonia Duncan, both distinguished chefs and members of the ‘Craft Guild of Chefs’. Kitty won first place, beating eleven other competitors with her stunning three-course meal.

Kitty will now take part in the District Final which will be held at The Weald Community School, Billingshurst.

ROTARY YOUNG SPEAKERS

The School recently entered a team in the annual Aldershot Rotary Club’s Youth Speaks competition. Year 10 students Bethan Gwynne (Speaker), Harriet Ross (Chair) and Sophie Dudfield (Vote of Thanks) gave a presentation on the topic of ‘Mental health in teenage girls’. The standard was extremely high and they narrowly lost out to a place in the next round. The girls acquitted themselves very well and were presented with certificates.

THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE

GCSE drama students took part in a practical acting workshop with Ashley Sean-Cook and Paige Round, two professional actors who were appearing in Blackeyed Theatre’s national tour of ‘The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’.

As well as learning acting techniques and group exercises, the students were able to use their performing skills to rehearse and then perform extracts from the actual play. The actors were impressed with the girls’ sensitive handling of the text and confident work throughout the afternoon session.

It was followed by an evening trip to the Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke. The students saw Ashley Sean-Cook and Paige Round, along with two other cast members, in the actual production. A dark, sinister and claustrophobic atmosphere was created by excellent use of physical theatre, multi-rolling and a beautifully composed score. The students came away with lots of ideas to use in their own practical work.
A MOVING APPRECIATION OF STILL LIFE

Year 7 pupils visited the National Gallery to study Still Life, the theme for their art lessons in the autumn term.

The visit gave the pupils the opportunity to see a range of artists’ work. They saw the famous George Stubbs’ painting of ‘Whistlejacket’, in Room 34, where the James Bond film ‘Skyfall’ was filmed, Henri Rousseau’s painting with the tiger ‘Surprised’ and Vincent Van Gogh’s famous depiction entitled ‘Sunflowers’.

Members of the National Gallery’s education department talked to the pupils about various Still Life paintings and their rich symbolism, such as the Dutch painter Kalf’s ‘Still Life with Drinking Horn’ and Hans Holbein the Younger’s ‘The Ambassadors’.

TEAMWORK PAYS OFF

Year 7 pupils enjoyed an action-packed few days at PGL’s Osmington Bay centre, in Dorset. They participated in a number of activities, such as the giant swing, the trapeze, aeroball, climbing wall and zip wire.

The pupils also spent half a day at Weymouth sailing centre where they did some raft-building. They worked as a team to overcome individual challenges and also enjoyed a coastal walk along the beach at Osmington Bay. In the evening, there was a scavenger hunt, with quiz questions. On another evening, they enjoyed a campfire.

The girls approached each activity in a positive way, challenging themselves to overcome their fears. They all supported each other throughout all the activities undertaken and this allowed them to bond together as a team very well. The girls tried everything with a smile and came back tired but happy!

SPLASHING ABOUT IN THE RIVER

Year 8 pupils spent an enjoyable day in the River Loddon, near Basingstoke, as part of their geography studies.

They investigated how aspects of the river change downstream by measuring at different points along the river. They also looked at the biotic index of the river to show whether or not the river was a clean environment.

The pupils carried out a series of tasks to gain enough data to be able to calculate the total discharge, or amount of water flowing in the river, once they were back at school.

GCSE POETRY LIVE!

Year 11 students attended GCSE Poetry Live! at the Hexagon theatre, in Reading. The event gave them the chance to see and hear performances from seven AQA Anthology poets, including John Agard and Simon Armitage. An experienced Chief Examiner also provided essential advice on how to tackle the unseen poem and how to gain the best grades in GCSE English Literature.
OPEN DAYS

Our recent Open Days have been well-attended.

Sampling the delights of the Global Café

Enjoying a Mandarin calligraphy lesson

Making tasty treats in the Food Technology Department

SENIOR CAROL SERVICE

THE JUNIOR NATIVITY PLAY: ‘STRAW AND ORDER’
DRESS UP WITH A DIFFERENCE

Junior pupils took part in ‘Big Me Day’ and raised £77 for ActionAid by bringing in a £1 donation.

The girls dressed up as their future selves and had fun participating in various ‘Big Me’ activities. They discussed why they had chosen their particular career as well as completing some worksheets and written assignments to help them explore their aspirations.

CHECKMATE!

The Junior girls enjoy mixing fun with strategic thinking at Chess Club. The lunchtime club that is run by Mr Nicholas Pert is not only great fun, but it is also fantastic for helping little brains grow in great ways. It helps develop all sorts of skills including memory, problem-solving and concentration and even uses both of sides of the brain!

‘FREEDOM’ WAS THE THEME OF THIS YEAR’S NATIONAL POETRY DAY

BUGS GALORE!

Pupils in Year 2 enjoyed a Bugs Day. The aim of the day was to show them what life is like in Year 3.

The day began with the children participating in various theatre games and then performing ‘Centipede’ poetry in groups. Afterwards, they played a selection of lively ‘bug’ sports, including bug yoga! Then they designed ‘Bug’ art, making beautiful, colourful collage butterflies.

In the afternoon, the children learned that a ‘bug’ in computing is an error in a computer program, and also completed a variety of bug-related computer coding activities. Then, the children enjoyed creating a variety of rhythms based on the names of different bugs, which were performed on percussion instruments.
IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE WOODS TODAY!

Pupils in Years 2 and 3 enjoyed a Bushcraft day with Mollie and Nick from the Field Farm Project. The Bushcraft day, held outside in the woods, was part of a joint infant and junior school project.

The children had the opportunity to help light a camp fire, using flint and kindling, on which they later cooked pastry. They were also able to make a memory stick and some paint from red berries which they had crushed.

Inspired by artist Andy Goldsworthy, the children worked on various art projects, using natural materials which they had collected.

ANIMAL MAGIC

Year 3 girls made some new friends when they visited Finkley Down Farm, in Andover, as part of their Science topics, ‘Teeth and Eating’ and ‘Animals and their Habitats’.

The girls found out about the habitats and diet of various animals, and met some carnivores, herbivores and omnivores at the farm, learning about the different types of teeth that these animals have.

The girls were able to hold some baby rabbits, groom ‘Freckles’ the Shetland pony, and feed some sheep and rather greedy goats! They were also able to hold a snake whilst visiting the farm’s reptile house. The girls spent time with the birds of prey and held one of the owls.

PUPILS STEP BACK IN TIME

Year 6 pupils attended a Victorian Day at Reading Museum. In an authentic Victorian classroom, they were able to experience life as a Victorian schoolchild. They wrote on slates and wore pinafores as Victorian girls and waistcoats as Victorian boys.

In the afternoon, they took part in a Victorian Christmas workshop where the girls were shown toys and gifts that Victorian children might have received. They then had the opportunity to perform the pantomime ‘Aladdin’.
It has been another busy term for the children and they have enjoyed a number of activities.

**EDUCATION**

Ed Jackson from Aldershot Town Football Club delivered a taster session one afternoon for some girls in Years 3 and 4. This was part of a new initiative from The Shots Foundation to increase participation in girls’ football. A great time was had by all, despite the rain!

**SPORTS DAY**

The U16 girls (Years 10 and 11) basketball team won their semi-final game of the district cup competition in fantastic style by 80 points to 10. They remain undefeated and, with just the final to play next month, we wish them good luck and hope that they bring home the cup!
SPORTING SUCCESS

NETBALL
The Year 9 netball team remain undefeated in their league and, with just two games left, are hoping to stay top of the league and win the title at the end of the season.

The Year 6 netball team played Hook Juniors in their latest league game. The girls played superbly from start to finish, working well as a team and showing good application of their skills and knowledge. The game finished with a resounding WIN of 17 goals to 2. Well done, team!

CROSS COUNTRY
Lydia Carter (Year 10) has qualified for the inter-county cross country competition where she will represent Hampshire.

She finished 13th in her age group of all Hampshire athletes in the county. Well done, Lydia!

CHARITIES
Senior pupils raised £242.50 when they sold cakes and hot chocolate to join in the World’s Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Pupils raised £440 for the Children in Need Appeal and a further £157 on St Nicholas’ Day which was divided between the Brain Tumour Charity and Step by Step.

SWIMMING
We have had two swimming trials, this term, with over 50 girls across the junior and senior school trialling to represent the school at galas after half term. We wish the chosen teams good luck!