



Form III Forensic Investigation

Father David's chaplaincy has not lasted long at Heathfield, as on Monday 3 October he was "murdered" in his own Chapel! This, of course, was all part of the Form III Forensic Investigation in Science where the girls have to find out "whodunit".

There are several staff listed as suspects in the case, and the students have taken statements and details of any alibis from each of them. They are now undertaking a series of tests to solve the crime, including investigating trace residue on a piece of clothing found at the scene, blood sample analysis of the suspects and victim, identifying bloody footprints from moulds made, pollen comparison and handwriting analysis of a note left at the scene.

The girls are encouraged to interview suspects in their own time and are writing up the investigation to determine who was responsible. The Crime Board in the Science Department details the whole investigation so far, and the answer will be revealed in Assembly after half term!



Form III Trip to The Living Rainforest

On Thursday 13 October Form II set off to visit The Living Rainforest in Hampton Norries, Berkshire, along with Mrs Donner and our two drivers. This was a combined Geography and Science trip to find out about the amazing adaptations of the tropical rainforest. The girls had already learned about the location, climate and aspects of the vegetation of the forest.

They received an informative tour of the greenhouses where they were told about how plants and animals have adapted to the hot and humid environment and nutrient-poor soils. The girls' favourites were definitely the Two-toed Sloth hiding in the branches, the Agouti and its relationship with the Brazil nut tree, and the pitcher plant which they learned traps insects and digests them in its attractive flower-like pitcher to acquire more nutrients.

The girls were impressive in sharing their knowledge and worked especially hard to find out information about the rainforest vegetation in their individual study time following the tour. Back at school, they are now following up their investigation by carrying out further research into the plants and animals and completing annotated sketches of them. Please come and view them in HUM2.

Lesley Worrall, Teacher of Geography



Duke of Edinburgh, Michaelmas Term

Heathfield girls took part in two Expeditions during the first half of this Michaelmas term; a Gold Assessed Expedition to Dartmoor with twelve UVI girls and an Assessed Bronze Expedition in the Chilterns with thirty Form V girls.

The Gold Expedition took place in mid-September. After lessons on Friday, we travelled to Dartmoor in minibuses and arrived in Princetown after a supper stop at 9pm. The girls stayed in a bunkhouse on Friday evening and were up bright and early on Saturday morning for a cooked breakfast in the café, followed by the completion of final kit checks and route confirmation. The girls were walking in two groups, travelling in opposite directions around North Moor. The weather for Day 1 was sunny and cool – ideal walking conditions – and the expedition commenced with excitement. A good day's navigation ended with the girls 'wild camping' on their first night by lovely Dartmoor streams. The second day dawned slightly misty but was another good day's walking which led to their successful arrival at the appropriate campsites. Monday morning started with heavy grey skies and rain, but the girls marched through with resilience and found a good spot again for their final night. The last day was sunny and warm and the girls finished sore and achy but in excellent spirits. It was a really successful expedition and the girls should be very proud of themselves.

The Bronze Expedition took place over the first weekend in October, in the Chiltern Hills. An early start at school consisted of final checks and route confirmation, loading into the minibuses and then we were off. Unfortunately the day was more than a bit wet, with some distant thunder, but all the groups arrived at the campsite by dark. Sunday morning dawned cold but clear and developed into a beautiful, sunny and warm autumn day. Some of the girls were walking by the Thames and had a thoroughly good day. All groups were back on buses by early evening and returned to school for the evening concert!

Everyone passed their Assessment and should all be very proud of themselves. Roll on next season!

Deborah Hunt, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Somerville Weekend 15 & 16 October

The weekend started off on Saturday 15 October with our busiest Open Morning ever, where the girls were excellent at guiding tours and answering parents' questions. Meanwhile, Forms I-III played Lacrosse against St George's Ascot, and St Catherine's, so by the afternoon everyone was well and truly exhausted!

On Saturday afternoon all girls in Forms I-III went to local supermarkets to buy non-perishable items which would be donated to a food bank in the East End. Each girl was set the challenge of buying £5- worth of food in under 40 minutes, enough to feed a notional family of four for one meal. By Saturday afternoon the Chapel was full of packets of pasta, rice and cans of beans, sausages and more. During the Harvest Festival service the following morning, Father David preached about the difference between cost and value, referencing the difference between the cost of a bag of groceries and value of such a bag to a family relying on a food bank.

Form III then attended a yoga class, and on Saturday evening Forms I and II hosted a social with Sunningdale Prep school, which was organised by Lydia and Ellie from Form V. After supper they ran games in the foyer of the SMaT to further break the ice, which was followed by the disco. For two hours the dance floor was nearly always full, and Form V lent a hand by serving drinks and sweets to the younger girls and their guests. It was a wonderful evening which everybody enjoyed!

On Sunday Form IV attended a performance of Hamlet at the Windsor Royal Theatre while Forms I-III had a Textile workshop, organised and run by staff member Nicci James. The girls made and decorated their own felt key rings, and for many in the younger years it was their first time on a sewing machine.

Somerville House Captains Natasha and Kitty hosted a Movie Marathon in the SMaT on Sunday afternoon, to which all Forms were invited, and Form III organised and completed their own tennis tournament. Winners were Sophie and Florence. A wonderful weekend full of dancing, exercising and reflecting.

John Doyle, Head of House – Somerville

Introducing David Mitchell, Director of Studies

Heathfield School is delighted to introduce our newly appointed Director of Studies, Mr David Mitchell. Mr Mitchell was officially named as Director of Studies this month, having been acting in the role since Mrs Gardiner Legge took up her headship this summer.

Mr Mitchell has been at Heathfield since September 2015, and explained that it is completely different from any other school in which he has worked previously. He comes from a state school background, and this is also his first experience of a boarding school. He loves Heathfield for how completely immersive it is, and that there is so much support for students

and staff alike, and the teams he has worked in have been excellent.

In his new role, and being involved in the Senior Leadership Team, he has been shown a completely different aspect of the school. Mr Mitchell explains: “The girls get one chance at this, and we need to ensure this is an excellent school where excellence is expected”. After such incredible results last year, and having been named 9th in The Telegraph’s Top Ten of Small Schools League Table, he is utterly dedicated to making sure we continue to rise. However, this is not just on the academic front. He says: “I understand that my position is a very holistic, rounded role” and his main priority is always to ensure that there are happy girls at Heathfield.

Mr Mitchell encourages the girls to drop in at any time they like. His door is always open because he believes that as Director of Studies he is here to support, facilitate and serve. Mr Mitchell is a strong believer in “servant leadership”, which applies to the students as well as the staff.

Mr Mitchell’s passion for Heathfield and his role resonate strongly: “I come in every day looking forward to working” he tells us, and he feels honoured to have been appointed as Director of Studies and thoroughly looks forward to fulfilling the role as best he can. We agreed that this Confucius quote summed things up nicely: “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life”.



Talk by Seamus Malin

On Monday 17 October, Forms IV-LVI were spoken to by Mr Seamus Malin, a former Harvard student and an Independent College Counsellor who specialises in helping international students apply to the top US colleges and universities.

The focus of the talk was on the differences between the admissions process here in the UK and in the United States. Mr Malin explained how US colleges tend to look beyond academics, and also consider extra-curricular involvement, personal development and

entrance essays on topics such as “tell me about a time in your life when you experienced failure, and how you got through it?”.

The talk was extremely interesting and informative, and perhaps opened up the eyes of a few students who had not yet considered further education across the pond.



EPQ at Heathfield

Ms Meeson heads up EPQ at Heathfield and I had great pleasure in attending one of her LVI classes recently. Girls were instantly engaged, discussing time management and the practicalities of getting on with their chosen subjects. This evolved into critical thinking with Ms Meeson encouraging the girls to question all of their own thoughts and perceptions, looking at them from new and different perspectives. The girls paired up and presented their thoughts on their subjects so far to the rest of the class, providing further interesting and thought provoking topics to discuss.

The EPQ gives pupils the chance to develop their skills and knowledge and impress universities at the same time. It provides valuable proof of a pupil's capacity for independent learning, as well as their passion for the subject they want to study at a higher level. It can also prove to future employers that you're a self-motivated character with useful skills in your chosen field.

Anna Morgan, Director of Marketing & Admissions

Charity Cabaret

On Sunday 2 October, Phoebe and I held a Charity Cabaret Concert to raise money for Youth at Risk. We had a range of performances including the title song from the 1966 musical *Cabaret* and some Disney Classics such as *Arabian Nights*, *Colours of the Wind* and *Under the Sea*. The Charity Cabaret was a great success and we raised just over £400!

As a charity, *Youth at Risk* looks beyond criminal and antisocial behaviour, and instead sees the vulnerable young person whose future is on the line. There isn't one specific

problem or issue that this charity supports; they deal with a number of highly traumatic themes such as abuse, suicide, alcoholism and homelessness. *Youth at Risk* does not criticise, judge or patronise people; they simply dig deeper to find out what's really happening and what the individuals truly want from life.

The evening kicked off with Phoebe performing the song *Cabaret* from the musical of the same name, which set the tone and a high standard for the evening. Thank you very much to Charlotte, Holly, Maya, Asuka, Jasmine, Angela, Lucy, Tansy, Form I (soloists Lucy and Thea), the Heathfield School Band, Wind Ensemble, the wonderful Miss Reynolds and the very talented Miss Kong who all performed at their best to provide great entertainment for those watching.

We were delighted to have the comedian Julien Hurst as our MC. He was witty and charming, and he had the audience following his every move during his magic 'bandana/banana' scene which left the audience in paroxysms of laughter.

We are also extremely grateful to those who worked behind scenes: our lighting crew (Millie, Evie and Ms O'Connor), and Mrs Dance and Miss Kong from the Music department. A big thanks as well to Sasha who designed the stunning programme and not forgetting the brilliant Brookwood who provided beautiful and delicious canapés to end the triumphant evening. We are so grateful to all who came, and we look forward to the next event.

Holly Allen and Phoebe Parker, former Head of Choir and Charities Prefects



Sport Roundup

On Monday 10 October, the U12, U13 and U14 swimming teams competed in a gala against The Marist. Heathfield narrowly lost by fewer than 10 points, but a big well done must still go to the following girls who all came first in their races: Ksenia (Butterfly), Juana (Backstroke), India (Breaststroke and Front crawl) and Impi (Front crawl). Congratulations also to the Junior FC relay team consisting of Ksenia, Caoimhe, India and Sienna for placing 1st.

On Wednesday 12 October, Form I played Netball against The Marist. All the girls played very well and put up a tough fight from start to finish, and the final score ended at 7-5 to The Marist. Congratulations to Juana who was picked to be Player of the Match for a stellar performance.

For Lacrosse, the U13, U14, U15, 2nd and 1st teams played against Downe House on 12

October. The U13 team played a fantastic match, winning 11-1 and the U15B team played an extremely exciting end-to-end match which ended victoriously for Heathfield at 7-6. Every girl played excellently, and the Players of the Match were named as Scarlett, Eugenia, Minty, Carolina, Minna, Georgie & Honor.



Equestrian

On Saturday 8 October Matilda, Evie WD, Evie and Minna competed at the NSEA Eventers Challenge held Coombelands Equestrian Centre. Well done to all the girls, especially Matilda who had a great clear round in the 1.05m class. For Evie, Minna and Evie, it was their first time competing for Heathfield and they performed admirably in the 90cm class.

Emma competed at the retraining of Racehorses Championships on the same day, and overall she came an incredible 2nd out of a class of 30!



Intake 99, 10 Year Reunion

The Heathfield Class of 2006 celebrated their 10-year reunion in London on October 13. They had a wonderful evening of catching up with classmates and teachers alike, including Mrs Ingram, Mrs Mason and Liz Curtis. It is lovely to see classmates still in touch after so many years, and it makes us wonder where the upcoming Class of 2017 will be in 10 years' time.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Emily Shepherd (2015 leaver) who has just secured her first job as a Pastry Chef at Coworth Park, a great achievement. Emily gained her Superior Diplôme de Pâtisserie this year at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris.

Independent SCHOOLS Show LONDON 2016		200 of the UK's leading schools Saturday 12 November Sunday 13 November Tickets are free if you register before 30 September schoolsshow.com
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Visit us at the Independent Schools' Show in November

Heathfield School will be exhibiting at the Independent Schools' Show, 12 – 13 November, in Battersea Park.

You will find us at Stand 502, and Mrs Gardiner Legge will be talking in the Education Theatre at 15:45 on 12 November (*check website schedule for any updates*).

Please visit the Independent Schools' Show website - <http://www.schoolsshow.co.uk/> for full details about how to get there, parking and other venue details.

House Weekends

Dates to Remember

21 October-1 November - **Half Term**

11-13 November - **Exeat**

26 November - **St Nicholas' Stalls**

26-27 November - **Optional Exeat**

15 December - **End of Term**



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