



Friday 14 December 2018

Christmas Markets

On Saturday, 1 December, thirty pupils aged between 12 and 17 travelled to Cologne in order to experience the adventure of train travel and the delights and assault on the senses of the many Christmas Markets situated in and around the city. They enjoyed first class travel from Ebbsfleet to Brussels at no extra cost due to being upgraded. Whilst in Cologne, almost all the pupils went skating on the outside rink at the Haymarket and had fun whizzing around and trying out some fancy moves. Altogether, they visited seven different markets, each selling different items and food from decorated huts. They tried many new delicious dishes as well as ones they knew already – being outside in the fresh air made them hungry. The pupils studying German gained in confidence throughout the trip as they practised ordering and asking for information. Visiting the Lindt Chocolate Factory by the edge of the River Rhine their tour guide gave them a potted history of chocolate and some interesting statistics and information, before allowing them to sample some chocolate. The markets looked particularly appealing in the dark, with sparkling lights shining from the huts and from the trees. Many of the pupils bought Christmas presents for their families and friends. Cologne Cathedral, which took over 600 years to build, is an imposing Gothic building in the city. Many brave pupils not afraid of heights managed to climb right to the top (almost 600 steps) whilst the others went ice skating again. The journey home was memorable as we managed to catch the right trains in time and arrive safely home without too much delay.



'DNA'

Year 10 & 12 took part in a studio production of *DNA* last week. This popular GCSE text was brought to life with extraordinary performances from the cast of eleven. The result is a story about students of a similar age experiencing peer pressure, a longing for connection, and the corrosive effects of guilt. The writing is impressively taut and constantly surprising, with the themes of death, grief and the relationship between the individual and the group emerging from the distinctive characters inherent in the text. An ominous foreshadowing of events unfolded in front of the audience's eyes through the Greek Chorus inspired scenes of Jan & Mia (Lucie & Daisy) whilst the harrowing plan of Phil (Charlie) began to take shape. The whole cast should be proud of their part in this production. Marie beautifully conveyed Leah's decomposition throughout the play as well as consistently found the balance between comedy and tragedy in her moments, with comical interpretations coming from Bailey and Ingrid. Imogen and Oli each captured the heart of the action in the group scenes whilst Isabelle carefully traced the regression of the character of Bryony into a child. Charlie captured Richard's shifting status amongst the group of peers with absolute precision whilst Alexander had seized Adam's sense of confusion and injury and in a beautiful monologue. A stand-out cast and a wonderful interpretation of this text.

PARENTMAIL

Whole School - Carols at Christmas
Senior School - Choir Rehearsals
Middle Division - Community Service
Year 8 - Geography Trip
Junior Division - Journal
Whole School - Ice Skating
Prep School - Mr Coakley's Weekly Letter
Year 10 - Media Trip
Year 10-13 - Computer Science Lessons
Senior School - Christmas Jumpers
Year 10 - Retreat
Year 9 - Retreat
Prep School - Activities Booklet

News

Prep School

Early Years performed their lovely Nativity Concert to parents on Wednesday 5 December. The children had learnt all the songs as well as the actions and sang loudly throughout making everyone very proud.



On Thursday KS1 and Reception performed 'Mary's Knitting'. They acted and sang beautifully which was a lovely addition to all the festivities. In the afternoon it was KS2 Carol Concert in the Chapel. The children performed brilliantly and their singing was so full of energy. The focus in the poems and songs was the true meaning of Christmas.

Father Christmas also made a surprise visit to KS1.



FRIENDS OF BEECHWOOD

Thank you for all the support you have given Friends of Beechwood this term. Look out for more events in the New Year and as always new members are welcome at any of our meetings.

Reception and Year 1 had a lovely trip to the Llama Park, where they visited Father Christmas in his grotto and saw a reindeer in training to pull a sleigh and enjoyed seeing other animals as well as the Llamas.



WEEK 1

SUN 6	Boarders return
MON 7	Spring Term Begins 9.00 Year 11 Mock Examinations Begin
TUES 8	8.15/3.15 Second Hand Uniform Shop Open
WED 9	9.00 Year 10 Media Studies trip to Bfl 2.30 U11 & U10 Tag Rugby v SH Wadhurst (A) 2.30 U11 & U11/U10 Netball v Radnor House (H) 6.30 New York Trip Information Evening
THUR 10	9.00 Year 13 Mocks Begin
FRI 11	
SAT 12	

Sport News

Netball

Due to the weather, the match against Skipper Hill was played indoors in the Auditorium. The netball court in there is smaller than the courts outside so the girls had to adapt their play. Fortunately, any mistakes made due to the size of the court were made in our warm up activities. We played two teams from Skippers Hill - Blue and Red and alternated between them each quarter. When Beechwood started playing, they focused on quick, sharp and direct chest passes which helped them maintain possession of the ball for the majority of the game. We led from the start and were clearly on top form. Shooting and attacking were our main strengths with very few shots being missed. After winning the first quarter 11-3, we changed a few positions around. We continued to astonish our supporters with our exceptional play and won the second quarter 10-0; Amelie was unstoppable! Further position changes were made but we remained strong and Florence helped us win the third quarter 3-0. In the final quarter, there was just no stopping the girls. There was a real buzz on court and we won the last quarter 5-0. In total, Katie-May scored 10, Amelie scored 16 and Florence scored 3 - they really were amazing! Savannah made sure our centre pass routines were tight and Emily was fantastic at leaping and intercepting. Lilith, Sophie and Holly worked well at clearing the ball and directing it to our attacking third. The parents, supporters and Teacher from Skippers Hill all commented on how impressed they were with the standard of play from the girls. What a way to end the term and possibly even a Beechwood Prep record for number of goals scored in a game - 29! Wow! The final score was 29-3 (14-3 against the Blues and 15-0 against the Reds). A fabulous game girls and well done.

Bullying Workshop!

Beechwood hosted a day long anti-bullying workshop run by The Diana Awards team. Representatives from other schools attended along with fifteen of our students and four staff. It was a great day and we now have fifteen trained student ambassadors who will work together to ensure that Beechwood is a happy and healthy place to live and learn. They are already actively planning some exciting events which will involve the rest of the school community.

Community Service

Junior Division spent their community service day wrapping shoe boxes of presents for people who will be alone at Christmas and we delivered them to St Augustine's Church along with food to replenish the food bank. Middle Division visited Oakley School and Popenbury while Sixth Formers went Carol Singing.

WEEK 2

SUN 13	
MON 14	9.00 Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Examinations 7.00 Friends of Beechwood Meeting
TUES 15	9.00 13+ Entrance & Scholarship Day
WED 16	2.30 U13 Rugby v Radnor House (A)
THUR 17	2.30 U9/U8 Tag Rugby v Fosse Bank A 2.30 U9/U8 Netball v Hilden Grange A
FRI 18	6.30 Year 12 Etiquette Supper
SAT 19	