



## St James Newsletter - May 2022

### Ten Tors



We were absolutely delighted to learn that Ten Tors could go ahead this year, especially as it is the 60th anniversary of the event. We started training last September and we were allowed to enter three 35 mile teams, which meant that everyone who had trained was able to take part. Age restrictions were lifted this year, allowing two of our ex-students to complete the event, at last!

On Saturday morning we woke up at 4am to head to the start line and make the formation of a 60 for the anniversary – all 2400 young people plus staff were involved! The event was started by Polar Preet – a British Army medical officer who completed a solo expedition across Antarctica to the South Pole and an inspirational young woman. The cannon was fired, and off they went!

The three teams performed brilliantly with Team A arriving just before midday on Sunday and the other two teams arriving in the early afternoon. Training had been hard all winter with rain, wind and freezing temperatures which really tested the stamina and resilience of the students. However, they got through it and were rewarded with nice weather for the event. The three team leaders, David, Millie and Robbie, did a fantastic job and it was a pleasure to see them all over the finish line cheered on by proud parents. In the process they learnt navigation, camp craft and team work and all students achieved their Silver National Navigation Award.

This event would not have happened without the excellent training and support provided by Ben and his team at Haven Banks and with the incredible support of a few dedicated staff who gave up their weekends to help. Big thank you to Nat, Kirstie, Robyn and our parent helper Simon.



*1 - A huge well done to all students and staff who participated in Ten Tors this year. What an incredible achievement!*

## Athletic success for St James students



On Tuesday 3rd May, I had the pleasure of taking a group of students to the Exeter and District Athletics trials, where they competed against schools such as St Peters, Tiverton, Clyst Vale and Blundells. The students behaved impeccably and did themselves and the school proud. The following students were successful in being selected for the forthcoming Exeter squad to take on East Devon. Should students perform well in this round, they will go on to represent East Devon against the other county teams. Well done to all involved! Mr Chalmers.

Corey Lewis – runner up in the 400m.

Alfie West – runner up in the Shot Putt.

Alistair Smith – winner in the 400m, winner of the 1500m and runner up in the 800m.

Jacob Hay-Laing – winner of the 100m, winner of the 200m and winner of the long jump.

## Home Languages GCSE



Did you know that many of our students are able to take a GCSE in their home language? This year we have candidates for Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Greek, Japanese, Persian and Polish! Pupils can take the exam in Year 11 or in Year 10. If you would like to know more, please contact Ms Savvas, your child's tutor, or Mrs Webster.

## News from Performing Arts



This cycle, Year 10 dancers have been focusing on the production 'Rosas danst Rosas' by Anne Keersmaecker and therefore have performed in many different site specific areas around the school. They have taken on this challenge very well and are preparing for their final performance exam in this style. We wish them all the best!



## Enrichment at Haven Banks



Mrs Stevens and Mrs Nixon have very much enjoyed taking 30 students to Haven Banks for their elective on a Wednesday. So far, they have taken part in team building exercises, orienteering and canoeing; with sailing, climbing, kayaking and paddle boarding to look forward to in the coming weeks.

All the students have been a credit to the school and have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get out on the water in the warmer weather.



*2 - Fun at the quay for the Haven Banks elective*

## Jubilee Bunting for the Lord Mayor



During enrichment, St James students have been working on bunting for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, hosted by the Lord Mayor. We received this message of thanks from the Lord Mayor's office: "Thank you so much for the bunting, the children clearly worked very hard, it's fantastic and I cannot wait for everyone including the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor to see it. Please pass our thanks to everyone involved and hopefully we will see you all on the 2nd of June. It is going to be an amazing day of celebration in the city centre." Follow this link to see what's happening in the city for the Platinum Jubilee celebration: <https://www.visitexeter.com/whats-on/platinum-jubilee-celebrations-in-exeter>

## Royal Albert Hall Trip - A Pupil Report



It was a long and diverted drive to London, but before we know it we saunter into the Natural History Museum, with its simulated earthquakes and cryptic escalators. An hour later we walk briskly to the Royal Albert Hall, the beating heart of British music and host to titans such as Bob Dylan and Bowie, Pink Floyd and the Proms, and after taking in a few moments to soak up the sight in all its glory, we take our seats in the Rausing Circle and wait for the concert to start. What follows was an experience that was nothing short of incredible, featuring an eclectic mix of instrumental and vocal pieces lifted from the all-time greats of 20th and 21st century cinema, with what felt like nary a minute to catch one's breath in the interval before plunging straight back into the sights and the sounds of a world-class orchestra in a world-class venue. A fantastic day packed full of amazing experiences. Thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who went. E Finch, Y10.



## Fantastic Footballers - St James U15s



Last month, St James U15 girl's football team competed in the county semi-finals at Devon FA. The girls played three games in their group stage, not conceding any goals within this time with excellent goalkeeping from Edie and Esther. They drew 0-0 in all of their games and they qualified 3rd within their group, meaning that they played for 5th/6th playoffs. The girls played their hearts out in the



final game, with Hayleigh scoring our only goal of the day. They truly were a credit to the school! The final score was 1-1, which meant that we went to penalties. Two excellent saves, from Esther and goals from Erin and Hayleigh saw us placed 5th in Devon. An excellent day and result from St James Girl's Football. A brilliant season, completing our undefeated run this year. Well done all! Miss L Leatherland

## Mock Trial



Year 9 and 10 students became legal experts for their elective, the Magistrates' Mock Trial. This elective – which culminates in a national competition – challenged students to examine a realistic criminal case and understand the relevant points of law. St James students transformed into lawyers, magistrates and witnesses as they took roles in the trial to represent their client, hear the case or face a grilling under cross-examination. Students spent weeks preparing speeches and rehearsing in role to be ready to face the opposition.

On Thursday 5th May, we joined a zoom call along with schools from across the country. Going against one school from Cornwall and another from Manchester, two trials were conducted under the watchful eye of a real-life magistrate. Our students exhibited superb confidence as they delivered their speeches and held their nerve as they were questioned by the opposing team. This was a fantastic introduction to law and the legal process for students in Years 9 and 10 - we are incredibly proud of all those who took part.

Camila Schwarz, Year 10, has written her account of the event:

" We really enjoyed this experience as it gave us the opportunity to come together as a community to explore this wonderfully rich and challenging subject. For me, one of the highlights was writing my closing speech with my friend, Marina, as we kept giving each other ideas and were inspired by each

other. Although it was challenging at times, it gave us new analytical skills. Furthermore, my team mates and I were excited all the way through the elective as we began to embody the spirit and atmosphere of the court trial -from witnesses to lawyers. I hope this elective continues to be available for all as I definitely recommend it. "

### A Rising Volleyball Star!



Year 9 student Derin has been training at the Exeter Volleyball club, Torexe, and also has been taking part in monthly training sessions lead by South West Volleyball Coaches. As a result of his hard work and determination he was chosen for the South West squad. He is one of 12 students selected out of a training group of 40. Derin will be competing in Inter Regional Championships in Leicester in the coming weeks representing the South West Region. A massive well done!

## Refugee Relief Efforts







*3 - Ved Jan Kumar, a Year 10 MP, who is one of our students that has been collecting during his breaktimes.*

The St James School Parliament have arranged donations of clothes, sleeping bags and blankets which have been sent to the Polish/Ukraine border through the Red Cross. Photos show Briar Spreckley and Emily Grey loading cars during our Wednesday enrichment activities. The student MPs have also raised money through a small change collection, this will be donated to UNICEF. Alfie Johnston in year 7 deserves a special mention, as he has raised over £200 for the UNICEF collection by selling his old toys and collecting from neighbours. So far the students have raised over £400 and we hope this will increase further by the end of term.

We must also congratulate students for raising £574.60 for the Charity BLISS at the RD&E on the last day of the Spring Term.

## St James Celebrates Its Diversity Through A Cultural Day





Our Diversity Prefects have been working hard to provide their community with opportunities to learn about the different cultures represented across our school.

St James is one of the most diverse schools in Exeter, with an incredibly rich community. On Wednesday 4th May, which coincided with the last day of Eid, students were invited to wear traditional dress that represented their culture.

There were opportunities for students to discuss the cultures represented by their costumes and what it means to them and their family. Cultures represented included Mexican, Afghani, Indian, Sri Lankan, Libyan, Saudi Arabian, Egyptian and many others. In addition, students and families who celebrated Ramadan and Eid received a small gift from the school.

Miss Skinner, Headteacher, said "We are so incredibly proud of our students and diverse community, we think this is part of what makes us special and so it felt completely natural to celebrate this by sharing some of the traditions from the many cultures represented within our school."

And the activities were welcomed by parents. Abdallah Alharbi, a parent tweeted: 'What a kind gesture from my son Mohammed's school. Thank you very much for your hard work to provide students with opportunities to learn about the different cultures...#EidMubarak' Parent, Naji Almotarie contacted the school to say: 'Thank you, St James School, for the community activities. You are pioneers in your work and make everyone happy.'

In keeping with the tradition of Eid, students decided to raise money for those in need. Mrs Kirkbride, Assistant Headteacher, said: "As part of the day students organised a cake stall with a difference. Sweet treats and cakes from their cultures were available to buy, giving all students the opportunity to try something new. As students enjoyed these treats, the prefects were on hand to explain the origin of the goodies. This proved very popular and over £100 was raised for the charity Children of Peace. This charity works with children caught up in the conflict in Gaza. It is a non-political charity that aims to make the lives of all the children, no matter their background, better."

## Arts At The Heart



We are really pleased to announce that Edie Webb, one of our Year 9 Art students won the 11-17 age category for designing a membership postcard for the Exeter Phoenix. Edie submitted a design from her coursework. A process involving collage, drawing, monotype printing and digital manipulation. The judges felt Edie's artwork was a hands down winner in her category. What a brilliant achievement!

<https://exeterphoenix.org.uk/design-a-postcard-competition-winners-announced/>