

St Egwin's C.E. Middle School



# Newsletter



July 2017

**Headteacher, Mrs Kennedy, writes:**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

It is with mixed emotion that I write my last letter to you as Headteacher of St. Egwins CE Middle School.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to lead and work alongside the most dedicated, hardworking, caring and fun team of staff, including teaching staff, Teaching Assistants, office staff, lunchtime supervisors and our caretaker, Grant Harrell. Our contract cleaners, caterers and groundsmen complete the team. It is not with nostalgia but with truth that I can honestly say the pupils that have passed through St.Egwins are some of the most delightful pupils I have met in my career. They treat staff with respect; have confidence without arrogance and each day show a maturity in their social interactions with each other, with staff and with visitors. I will miss walking along the corridors to the regular question, "Good morning Mrs Kennedy, how are you?"

Obviously some are still learning, but by the end of year 8, the vast majority are set to transfer to High School looking forward to a very successful future as independent, responsible and kind young people.

Since joining St Egwins in 2009, the school has seen many changes. For some, a place at this Middle School was the door into Prince Henry's High School. Now parents choose St Egwins because it is St Egwins; an Outstanding School in Ofsted terms and a school that enjoys great popularity both in the town and local villages. Our numbers have risen from 112 in a year group to 140 from September. Sadly, we have still had to turn some families away.

Over the last few years the school has invested in its buildings and facilities. We are proud of our IT equipment, including ipads, laptops and screens. Our amphitheatre is used well as are our DT and food technology rooms.

Staff turnover is low and this gives school stability. Regrettably, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Butler, who has worked here for 28 years.



She will be greatly missed. She has led the MFL department, arranging the residential French trip each year and more recently securing the International School Award for us. This was no easy task as she had to pull together the evidence to prove that St Egwins reaches out to Europe and the World, giving our pupils knowledge and experience of life outside the Vale of Evesham. We wish Mrs Butler a happy and fulfilled retirement.

I am looking forward to new challenges and opportunities. Living locally, I am sure I will be keeping abreast of developments at the school. I am confident that I am leaving behind a superb team who will drive the school forward to even better things and that Evesham families will have the benefit of a fantastic school for many years to come. I wish Mr Nick Pullan all the best as he picks up the reigns as Acting Headteacher from September.

Finally, I would like to thank past and present parents and carers for their support and in many cases, friendship.

My very best wishes

Carol Kennedy  
**Head teacher**

### **SIC LIT SLAM IT! YEAR 7 POETRY SLAM 2017**

On Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, our Year 7 pupils were treated to a workshop led by performance poets Spoz and Dreadlock Alien. St Egwin's students worked in groups to explore the idea of 'My Generation' and what being a young person in 2017 means to them, with 'Sic Lit' being chosen to represent the school at the Worcestershire Middle Schools Final.

The contest took place at the Palace Theatre, Redditch where we were treated to a wide variety of fabulous performances; themes ranged from Donald Trump to Environmental awareness. Our team - Matty Watton, Ajay Pocket, Lawson Sadler, Leon Hawtin, Niamh Humphriss and Lawson Walker – presented with enthusiasm to a packed audience and, although they didn't win, were a credit to themselves and the school. Well done rappers!

### **KS3 SPEECHES COMPETITION**

Year 7 Finalists: Harry Gorrill, Charlotte Watts, Lawson Sadler, Tabitha James, Tom Lord, Honey Jagger, Ajay Pocket, Josie Jones, Lea Kaneva, Stephanie Lippett  
Year 8 Finalists: Benji Hirons, Madeline Hedgecott, Josh Lane, Chloe Smith, Matt Pearce, Isla Breach, Caleb Murray, Mollie McConnon, Caitlyn Godfrey, Izzy Ritchie  
Runners-up: Harry Gorrill (De-forestation) and Caleb Murray (Will suffering ever end?)  
Winners: Lawson Sadler (Rugby) and Caitlyn Godfrey (Dyslexia)

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

As part of the PHSCE programme year 6 pupils visited the Lifebus. This is a converted trailer where pupils were taught about health related issues by a visitor. Important skills for life were taught.

Pupils in year 8 have enjoyed some input from our vicar, the Reverend Andrew Spurr. Thought provoking as ever the vicar shared some of his thoughts on Ultimate questions and the importance of story.

We invited in Jackie Morgan from Christian Aid as an example of how a Christian puts their faith into action. She presented an engaging lesson about the charity, with a particular emphasis on refugees.

*Carolyn Gordon*  
**Head of Years 7 and 8 and Head of RE**

## WHAT MAKES EVESHAM SPECIAL?

Congratulations to all pupils who entered the town-sponsored 'What Makes Evesham Special?' poetry competition organised by 'The Vale' magazine and in particular to Year 8 pupil, Juliette Emond, who penned the beautiful, winning entry:

*Walking through the orchard maze  
Strolling through the trees  
Seeing buds of blossom emerging  
From the leaves  
Capturing a breath of the calming  
Country view  
Rolling hills with peaks beyond  
A scene in place for you.  
Breathing in the cool, damp air  
A beautiful morning scene  
The Battle trail covered in a blanket  
of dewy sheen  
The Avon's meandering ribbon flowing  
Through the core  
Fields upon fields of rich asparagus galore  
Our moments of history  
Give an ancient taste  
All of this and much more  
Make our home a wondrous place!*

***Mrs J Cropper, Head of English***

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL)

On Thursday 22nd June, actors from the theatre group, "Onatti Productions" visited St Egwin's to perform their play "Shipwrecked en France" for year 6 students.

The play was about an English boy, Tyler, who was on holiday in France with his parents. His dinghy was swept miles away along the coast, and he had to try to make his way back. As he was unable to speak French, he was assisted by several locals and a rather annoying French girl, all of whom spoke no English; and of course, by a number of "volunteers" from year 6. The children thoroughly enjoyed this amusing and inspiring performance, and hopefully learned some French too.

***Sue Butler  
Head of MFL***

## GEOGRAPHY

Earlier this term, six Year 8's who had shown considerable effort across the year were invited to attend a Geography workshop at Prince Henry's. Alongside the other Middle Schools, our pupils took part in a range of field work activities that allowed them to explore the outdoor surroundings of the site. Microclimate investigations, ground saturation rates and environmental analysis were just some of the areas they focussed on. All the pupils invited agreed that they had enjoyed their experience and were looking forward to the next step in their Geographical studies.

Thank you to Mr Cairns from Prince Henry's for organising the event and Mrs Jennings for supporting the students on their visit.

The St Egwin's Weather Station has been relocated and is now providing an uninterrupted data stream across the school and the internet. Earlier issues meant the data was being lost (often at times of interesting weather!) but has now been stable for two weeks. We were able to record a high temperature this year of 32.2 degrees Celsius and a high wind speed of 37mph. Look in the School Info section of the website to access the weather page.

The Weather Club will restart again after the summer holidays.

***Sam Jordan  
Head of Year 6 and Geography***

## IVOR GOODSITE COMPETITION



St Egwin's first attempt at this competition had great success and we were lucky enough to be awarded *runner up* school in this *national competition!*

We were sponsored by BAM Construction, who provided us with boards and paint. The aim of the competition is to raise awareness of the construction industry to pupils and to decorate building sites and make them attractive.

We were given a title of "Grandparents" as a theme. Some of Year 6 were involved and some students in Year 7 and 8 gave up their own time to design a board that portrayed aspects of a loved grandparent or elderly relative/friend.

The students worked really hard and their creativity was justly rewarded! We are going to be sent prizes to be given out at school and some students will be going to look at their boards in situ at the BAM construction site.



**WELL DONE TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART!**

## RUNNING A BUSINESS CLUB

Congratulations to the pupils who ran their businesses and amassed just under £200 this year. They have used this money to fund two trips designed to broaden their understanding of the business world. On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, they visited the Coca-Cola factory at Milton Keynes where they took part in a workshop on entrepreneurship followed by a tour of the factory. The pupils again impressed with their knowledge and understanding of how businesses operate.



In the final week of term, we will visit the Jaguar Land Rover factory at Castle Bromwich. The club will be running again next year, and more details will be available in September.

**Mr J Clabbon**

## AMPHITHEATRE NIGHT

Last week about 100 people attended our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual evening in the Amphitheatre. We were entertained by the school rock band who blasted out some tunes as people arrived, and Mr Langley fought away the rain drops to provide some quality burger action!

Sadly, the weather was not our friend so the dancing was moved inside. Three of Miss Quinn's dance groups performed some very well-choreographed routines before we moved back outside (in the slight drizzle) to enjoy the rest of the evening.

We listened to very dedicated students perform on the flute and clarinet; heard an all-boys choir; and got to watch a very funny and unique play about a random selection of children's film and book characters!

Despite the weather, it was a great night. Thank you to all the pupils who took part; the parents who attended; and the staff who supported behind the scenes.

*Mr S Jordan*  
**Head of Geography and Head of Year 6**

## ♪ NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT ♪

On 6<sup>th</sup> June, the Music Department was again most pleased to welcome Mr Bullas (Head of Music at Prince Henry's High School) to judge our annual Music Festival. Throughout the day we were treated to an outstanding selection of vocal and instrumental performances from musicians in all year groups as they competed in their chosen categories. The culmination of events was then celebrated at our Winners' Concert a week later, where an open invitation was extended to all to share a fabulous evening of musical enjoyment. Special mention must go to Juliette Emond who was successful in gaining the 'Musician of the Year' award.

Opportunities for our talented musicians continued in Evesham's Town Music Festival where pupils from St Egwin's were selected as overall winners in both the junior and senior judging categories of Evesham's Young Musician of the Year:

- Mollie McConnon Yr8 (solo clarinet) - winning the senior section (for ages 13-18)
- Kiaragh Brown Yr7 (solo voice) - winning the junior section.

As part of the Evesham Music Festival, all four Middle schools were also invited to take part in the Schools Together Concert at The Arts Centre on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. This was a wonderful opportunity for all schools to showcase musical numbers that extra-curricular clubs had been working towards and for all choirs to perform collaboratively on stage. A truly enjoyable evening was experienced by all and Miss Thompson would like to say an enormous 'Thank You' to all members of the choir and orchestra for their effort and enthusiasm and to Mr McEwan for his continued support.

**Miss Thompson**

## CHARITY

St Egwin's chose The Midlands Air Ambulance Charity as their local charity and have been fundraising through the year. The final event for the year was held during the week of the 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June, where merchandise from The Midlands Air Ambulance was sold and the staff held a week long cake bake and sale. The whole school got involved with a cake bake and sale on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, and by the end of the week £325 was raised.

When this was added to the funds already raised throughout the year, the fantastic total came to £1058.05! Well done to everybody who helped raise this wonderful amount of money and a big THANK YOU on behalf of the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity who SAVE LIVES BY SAVING TIME.

**MRS V VIGGERS**  
**LOCAL VOLUNTEER FOR MAAC**  
**TA/LIBRARY MANAGER**

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We have seen some excellent achievements within the department again this year starting with our boys year 8 football team finishing as runners up in the district league. The winners, Pershore, came as no surprise to us as their previous year 7 team won last year fielding a very strong team with some players contracted to WBA youth. We also took part in the year 7 district league.

Our KS3 boys badminton team and KS3 girls badminton team both won the district, Level 2 rounds at Prince Henry's to earn their place in the plate playoff Level 3 county finals at Perdiswell Leisure Centre back in October. This is always a great achievement for us as the competition is open to year 9 as well!

At the county finals, our boys team came home with the silver medal being beaten by only 2 points by a year 9 team from a large Worcester Secondary School.

Our dance and performing arts festival this year was a real step up from previous years especially in the area of girls dance with both Karen Robinson and Laura Quinn entering some excellent dances, some of which were performed at the Voices and Visions district performance. Parkour performances were strong again with some of our girls receiving Parkour lessons in PE for the first time.

Our Young Leader team have performed very well again this year supporting many first schools with their sports days. This year for the first time, St. Andrews First School had groups of less able PE performers transported across in our mini bus to St. Egwin's where our Young Leader team helped to train them in the fine art of orienteering. Off the back of this, St. Andrew's entered these pupils into the district year 5 Orienteering competitions at Prince Henrys. At the year 8 version of the same competition, two of the three teams that St Egwin's entered came in first and third and won their place at the county level 3 finals in June, where one of our teams came in with bronze medals.

During the winter/spring season our year 7 boys rugby team played in the rugby 7s competition at the host school in Oxford. Competition is strong but the boys put up a valiant fight under the supervision of Mr. Langley and Mr. Jordan, many thanks for their help in coaching those pupils. We are certainly a generous staff, willing to give time above and beyond the classroom and into OSHL, the PE department would be a lesser place without the help of such a good number of staff.

During November, we entered the district cross country running competition held at Prince Henry's. The year 5 aspect of this was marshalled by our year 8 Young Leaders, much to the appreciation of the younger runners and their teachers who are unfamiliar with the large and daunting course set out at the high school. Our leaders also lead at the County finals for netball and new age kurling plus the year 5 mini tennis competition. We are very well respected in the area of Young Leadership.

Our own Aimee Lane and Dylan Chapman finished in the gold medal Cross Country positions along with a number of our year 6 runners Seth and Carmen, who went on to take part in the county finals at Wolverley School near Kidderminster.

Our year 7 girls indoor athletic team did well at the district competition, winning gold medals and taking up their places at the Level 3 county finals held at Worcs University. Thanks to Laura Quinn for managing that team.

The PE curriculum has taken on a slightly new look this year with the introduction of Handball and Zumba where Miss. Quinn has been instrumental in bringing in these, well received innovations.

In January, it was once again my pleasure to manage such fine teams of swimmers and, where I can take no credit for the coaching of them, it's always with a sense of pride that I watch them swim. We really have some excellent athletes in this respect and once again we returned with the year 8 district trophy and next year, I sense we will also bring home the year 7 trophy too. This is a great commendation for the efforts of the swimming coaches of Evesham, Worcester and Pershore swimming clubs.

St. Egwin's now has the county table tennis champions for both year 8 boys (Ben Robinson) and year 6 girls (Bella Reid) who have both given superb efforts in district and county events for us. Many thanks go out to our volunteer coach John Mckay for his help and direction at our table tennis club on Tuesdays after school. We have many promising players coming through that have great potential for the future but more importantly, have maybe found their sport for life at St. Egwin's.

This year saw our best attendance figures from our feeder first schools (and others!) at our Multi Skills festival run by our Year 8 Young Leaders for year 1 pupils. This was so well attended that we had to split the event over two days seeing a total of 180 year 1 pupils coming to enjoy our sports hall facilities and our Young Leaders.

Also, this year saw St. Egwin's once again doing extremely well at the district level 2 athletics ks3 competition. Our year 7 girls came in silver medal position as did our year 8 boys with our year 8 girls coming in bronze medal position. Bredon Hill swept up the first places in all groups, it must be said that they do have excellent athletes in attendance at that school but we are VERY CLOSE on their heels!

We have a superb year 7/8 cricket team this year, captained by our own Luke Plane. So far we have won our first cricket fixture against Blackminster by a comfortable margin. We are set to play TDMS this week and I expect great performances from our young team.

I recently took 9 pupils whose excellent performance in the district athletics earned them a place in the Minor Counties (Hereford and Worcester) athletics meet at Nunnery Wood High where our very own Millie Clemson claimed silver for her gazelle like 100m spring and bronze for her efforts in the 4 x 100m relay.

Despite all of the medals and superb efforts and achievements of our pupils and staff this year, personally, my greatest achievement has been..... Finally teaching Jay Winkett to tie his own shoe laces that was quite a task!

*Mr S Taylor*  
**Head of PE**

## **CHARITY WALK FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

Thank you to everyone who donated to Cancer Research UK. Maurice has raised a whopping £1,850 so far and couldn't have done it without you – he is very grateful and humbled by the whole school support he has received.

It was a hot day and it wasn't an easy task, but a group of fundraisers, including, Maurice, Gillian and Mrs Kennedy set off from School at 9am, making their way to Worcester Royal Hospital in Worcester. They finally reached their destination at about 5.30pm. What a fantastic effort!!



### ***And the final word – of course...***

I wish all our Year 8 pupils, past and present my good wishes for the future. The staff at this school are the best!

I hope they will continue to inspire young people for many, many years to come.

Thank you, Governors, Staff and Pupils for eight happy years.

