



Success at St Christopher's Prep School is all about getting the right balance.

This year, students in Year 6 at St Christopher's School have attained offers and places at the most prestigious Independent, Maintained and Grammar schools in the London area. One in four students have gained either a scholarship or a place at a competitive Grammar school. All our students have gained places at great schools. Our system of developing student attainment through standardised tests and ISEB (Independent School Examining Board) tests ensure that our students achieve very strong results at 11+ exams. However, preparation for their future schools isn't only about passing exams.

Independent Schools in London want to identify students who are well-rounded and have the social skills and the emotional intelligence needed to achieve their potential in the future. A great deal of importance is placed on interviews and on identifying whether students have the foundations to become self-motivated learners. This is certainly the view of Headteachers at various schools I have visited over the past term; including Aldenham School, John Lyon School, St Margaret's School and St Helen's School.

Furthermore, the twelve Independent Schools of the 'North London Consortium for Girls' have also switched to a more creative 11+ process which is committed to *'human flourishing in all its fullness, and an interest in the whole child'*. Secondary Independent schools are looking for the right balance between academic attainment and the development of a happy, positive, well adjusted child.

At St Christopher's School we have always worked hard on achieving this balance. Being a one-form entry school with only 100 students is a great advantage. In a school where everyone knows each other, our students feel confident and amongst friends. This is a nurturing social environment which a larger school cannot replicate. It is an atmosphere which allows each child to flourish academically.

By Year 6, our students have to confidence and academic ability to transition to the Secondary School of their choice. Again, this is the great advantage of a good Prep School. We prepare children for a whole range of great, aspirational schools.

This year our children have been offered places at:

Henrietta Barnett Grammar School

St Alban's School

North London Collegiate School

City of London School

Queen's College

Northwood College

St Margaret's School (scholarship)

St Helen's School (scholarship)

St John's School

John Lyon School (scholarship)

Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School

Aldenham School

Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls

Lycee Francais

Northbridge House

A full list of final destinations will be published in the summer when all children will have made their final choices.

Finally, finding the right balance is also about taking things in context. The 11+ system is merely one first step on the way to achieving academic and professional success. What we seek to do is more important; we equip our students with the confidence, self esteem and personal resources to develop their future potential at Secondary School, at University or College and ultimately in professional life.



The Nursery and EYFS

The Nursery has been very busy this spring term! Our children have enjoyed sharing with their friends during show and tell and they've been introduced to Timothy the bear who has helped us to share and be kind



to our friends.

We have enjoyed using all of our acting skills and energy during our weekly theatre bugs session and the wide range of fun activities we have on a daily basis.

Above all our nursery children are making tangible progress towards becoming confident, independent Reception students of the future!

*Ms Leah John-Baptiste –
Nursery Manager*

Trips and Events

Reception



Reception have had a fabulous spring term. Our topic of the term was Africa. This has meant we have learnt about African animals, tasted delicious African fruits and listened to African beats. We also had the pleasure of joining Year one on a trip to the National Gallery. We were inspired by the range of paintings that we saw. We have since created beautiful artworks using paint, oil pastels and chalks. Our children also embarked on their first public speaking and drama event, our Mother's Day assembly. We look forward to more fun in the summer term ahead.

Year 1

On Friday 16th March, Year 1 performed their class assembly about Dinosaurs. It was a

Supersaurus performance with the class displaying their fantastic knowledge about Dinosaurs through art, music and facts about these amazing creatures. They also sang songs about Dinosaurs and played instruments to accompany these songs. The children had a wonderful time performing in front of their families.

Reception and Year 1 travelled by train to The National Gallery. They were very excited to see the lions



and fountains in Trafalgar Square. We looked at three paintings and both classes were very confident when asking and answering questions about the things they saw in the pictures. The painting of The Graham Family especially amused the children in Year 1!!!! As we walked back to the train through Trafalgar Square the children enjoyed looking at the street entertainers and when asked the following day what was the favourite part of their trip, lots of

children said 'Yoda from Star Wars!!'
Best wishes
Christine Grahame

Year 2 Synagogue Trip

Shalom from Year 2, can you guess where we went? We had a lovely trip to the Synagogue; the children knew exactly where the Sefer Torah was kept because they immediately saw the ner tamid ~ the everlasting light.

The children got to unwrap the



Sefer Torah and ring the bells. They couldn't touch it with their fingers but used a special pointer called a Yad, which came in very useful. Jewish people say a prayer before the Shabbat meal so the children learnt that too, they ate Chollah and drank wine after singing lots of fun songs. Another lovely trip.

Year 2 Coronation Assembly

Arise Queen I ! We had servants, the Orb, the Sceptre and of course the Coronation Crown weighing in at a mighty 1kilogram. The National



Anthem was sung with great gusto too.

The children did really well to remember their words off by heart and even came up with a few 'fun facts' about her majesty.

Did you know The Queen is the only person allowed to drive a car without a licence?

Year 3 Gurdwara Trip and Roman Assembly

This term Year 3 had a very interesting trip to the Sikh Gurdwara in Kerton to support our learning in Religious Education. We learned all about the Sikh religion and were allowed to look around the prayer hall. Our host, Miss Lily gave us a talk and showed us religious books and artefacts. We were given a

snack and tasted a traditional sweet. Year 3 had a great time and learned a lot about Sikh practices.

Our Assembly on Roman Britain delved into every aspect of Ancient Roman and Celtic life. With songs and acting, our Year 3s brought this ancient world to life and ended the show with a spectacular gladiatorial contest to match anything Hollywood has ever created! Move over Russell Crowe and make way for M.



Year 4 - History Trip to Wembley Stadium

Hurray!!!

After a 'snow day' cancellation Year 4 finally got to go on their trip to Wembley Stadium. It was worth the wait; what a fantastic day it was! We had the opportunity to put the knowledge we had gained (in History lessons) of our local area to good use. The children participated in various activities including discovering

Wembley from the Middle Ages onwards and map work. They also enjoyed being detectives and using archives to answer a series of pretty tricky questions. Raj, our guide, was very impressed and said we managed to answer some questions that even Year 6 pupils in other schools found difficult. **WOW!!**

The highlight of the day however was the full tour of the stadium. We enjoyed seeing behind the scenes and sharing memories of many famous events and people who have performed there. Pretending to be a famous footballer preparing for a match in the dressing rooms was fun, but not as much fun as strolling on to the amazing pitch to the roars of the cheering crowds. It really gave us a sense of what it would have been like to actually play football there.

We were sad to be returning to school, but happy to have so many memories of a terrific day. We all agreed that the day was, beyond doubt just.....

**AAAAAAAAAMMMMMMAAAAAAZZZ
ZZZIIINNNGGGGGG!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Miss Robertson & Year 4



Year 5 and the Tudors

On Wednesday 21st February, Year 5 visited The National Portrait Gallery to take part in a Tudor workshop as part of their History topic of 'The Tudors'. The children were taught about the techniques artists used to create some of the great portraits which were displayed in the gallery.



They discovered that some of the artists had to paint onto wooden panels.



After looking at many of the Tudor portraits, the class moved down to the art studio to have a go at creating

their own portraits using a special Tudor-inspired technique. After a quick lunch at Trafalgar Square, we headed back inside the gallery to look at some of the other exhibitions. N. in Year 5 writes: *"The trip was really fun, we saw many photos of Henry VIII in the gallery and I enjoyed making my own portrait of Queen Elizabeth I. We used charcoal to make an outline of her face and then we used pastels to colour in the rest of the details on her face."*

Also, on Friday 23rd March Year 5 performed their Tudor assembly to the school and parents. They acted out how Henry VIII came to have six wives. It's a grim tale, but with songs and comic acting our children were able to see the funny side too.

Mrs Morton

Year 6 Trip to the Royal Air Force Museum

On the 9th February the Year 6 pupils visited the Royal Air Force Museum based in Colindale. The Museum houses a world-class collection of aircraft, aviation artefacts and memorabilia and was a great opportunity to support their history topic work- *World War Two*. All the children thoroughly enjoyed the

hands-on exhibits demonstrating how aircrafts fly. They also viewed exhibitions in the Bomber Hall and First World War in the Air.

During their workshop the children travelled back to 1940 where they met an Air Raid Warden and took part in a role play activity. They were encouraged to think about how to stay



safe during blackouts, gas attacks and air raids. Finally children explored RAF roles during the Second World War and tried on authentic RAF uniforms.

A thoroughly enjoyable trip had by all-well worth the visit!

Year 6 Assembly- Chinese New Year

Year 6 presented a wonderful whole school assembly this term to mark the celebration of **Chinese New Year- 14th February 2018** (*The Year of the Dog*).

The assembly was introduced by an invigorating Dragon Dance led by I. This was followed by the children re-

enacting the story of how the animals were chosen for the Chinese Zodiac and also explaining the characteristics of each Chinese zodiac sign and the significance of this celebration. All the children looked stunning in their costumes and masks. A superb effort by all of the Year 6 children-well done!

A special thank you to Mrs Alex for her creative talent and effort with producing such amazing animal masks-well worth the effort! Also, many thanks to Mrs Nicola for taking such fabulous photographs.

Mrs Ahmed





Sports

In the second half of term, despite some adverse weather, all our students have been looking at HRF (Health Related Fitness), developing their co-ordination, speed, agility, balance, power and reaction time. Next term, the children will start working in their Summer Sports programme including Cricket, Rounders and athletics.

In Games, the school has used the indoor venue of the London Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre for our sessions. Once again, despite some poor weather, this allowed our students to have amazing lessons in different sports like Football, Tag Rugby, Netball and Hockey. After Easter our students are back on the field at the Harrow Playing Fields. We look forward to a fabulous term of summer sports. Please also remember to set time aside for Sports Day on 21st June 2018.

ICT

In this half term, with the exception of Reception who worked on Reaction time, co-ordination and eye-hand apps, all other Year Groups started to explore the wonderful world of coding with our ipads. The main apps explored were Lightboot, Hour and also Tyinker.

The school started to test an app called Class Dojo that will in a near future make real-time interaction between teachers, parents and students a reality. We're on a very exciting journey with ipads at St Christopher's. We believe this journey will transform our educational experience in the future and allow parents to inter-act with each child's learning.

Mr Neves



Music

The School Choir was invited to sing in the Barnado's concert in the Barbican Hall on 2nd March. Many parents were able to attend and the wide variety of music performed was enjoyed by all.

We were also asked to sing at Riverview Residential Home on 14th March, where we performed a selection of the same songs to a very enthusiastic audience!

The link between musical achievement and support for the disadvantaged in our community is very strong at St Christopher's.

Mrs Pott

Mr Musetti's Spring Challenge

Over the Easter break, I would like to challenge all children to:

1. Get one mathematics certificate.
2. Go to your local library and pick 2 fiction books, read the books and draw a picture of your favourite character in each book.
3. Prepare to win a special gold, silver or bronze St Christopher's times-tables badge in the summer term. To win the badge, you will need to pass a test, so use your holidays to memorise and practise one of the following choices. Either:
 - The 2,5 and 10 times tables
 - The 3,4,6 and 11 times tables
 - All the times tables up to 12.

Other Notices:

Please be informed that children will be expected to wear full summer uniform in the Summer term. Should you have difficulty purchasing items, please inform Mrs Woodbridge at the school office.

Please also note that the Friends will be holding a cake sale on 4th May 2018. Cakes should be baked without nuts and with an accompanying list of ingredients. More information will be provided nearer the time.

Mrs Woodbridge.

