



Dear Parents

26 April 2024

I hope you are all well.

This week's assembly was on the topic of courage, and we talked about Florence Nightingale and her struggle and perseverance in becoming a nurse and later a battlefield nurse. She also campaigned to improve hospital hygiene and sanitation and championed the professionalism of nursing through the establishment of nursing colleges.

Florence Nightingale lived in the 1800s and came from a wealthy family at a time when nursing was seen as a dirty profession and below her status. She fought long and hard to change this view and altered the face and future of nursing through her own determination and foresight.

During the Crimean War, Florence was nicknamed the 'Lady with the Lamp', because she tended to sick and injured soldiers through the night using a lamp she carried as her only source of light.



'She is a ministering angel without any exaggeration in these hospitals, and as her slender form glides quietly along each corridor, every poor fellow's face softens with gratitude at the sight of her. When all the medical officers have retired for the night and silence and darkness have settled down upon those miles of prostrate sick, she may be observed alone, with a little lamp in her hand, making her solitary rounds.'

William Russell, Cited in Cook, E. T. (1913). The Life of Florence Nightingale. Vol. 1, p. 237.

The Word of the Week is 'courage', and the Question of the Week is, 'How might I be more courageous in one small way in school or at home?'



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On Tuesday, we had a wonderful talk from a volunteer, Carol, for Walk the Wight. Carol talked about the excellent work of Mountbatten Isle of Wight, an independent charity which provides end of life care and bereavement support to anyone living on the Island.

She then talked us through this year's Walk on 12 May, and the different options, for example, walking the full 26 Miles from Bembridge to Alum Bay, right through to the 4-mile schools' walk from Freshwater Bay to Alum Bay. There is also a flat walk from Sandown to Shide which is 8 miles long.

On Wednesday, we held one of our open days, and we were very busy with families looking for Senior and Junior School places. All our visitors were very complimentary about our school ethos and community spirit.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our prefect body of 2023-24 for not only doing a super job on open days, but also for their pupil leadership and role modelling during their entire term of office. Prefects have led on assemblies, the School Council, the Eco-Council, Christmas and Summer Fayres, International Culture Day and have performed many other duties around the school. The same is true for our Heads of House, Sports Captain and Junior School Monitor. Managing one's peers in this way can be a tricky thing to get right. Being a friend or peer, whilst holding a position of responsibility requires practice, patience, resilience and a high degree of emotional intelligence, and our Prefects, led by Maya and Milo, the Heads of House, Sports Captain and Junior School Monitor have done a grand job.

Please note the new date for the football match between teachers and parents is 18 June at 4.15pm. Mr Lynch will write with more details nearer the time.



On Thursday 25 April, we celebrated International Culture Day when each year group in the school explored the language, costume, cuisine, climate and customs of a particular country, culminating in a whole school exhibition of their research for all staff and pupils to enjoy over the lunch break.



Well done to all those who participated in the day – all of the class presentations were super – and special thanks must go to Arlo and the prefect body for spending several months organising this wonderful new event. Let's hope it becomes an annual feature in our school calendar.



Reports

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| Mon 22 Apr | Mardi Gras Week commenced |
| Mon 22 Apr | Y6 PGL Trip Information Evening |
| Tues 23 Apr | S3 Natural History Museum, London |
| Tues 23 Apr | Tuesday Talk 'Walk the Wight' |
| Wed 24 Apr | Open Morning |
| Wed 24 Apr | S1/S2/S3 Girls, Rugby Festival, Cowes Enterprise College |



Thurs 25 Apr	Culture Day
Thurs 25 Apr	S2/S3/S4/L6 Iceland Trip Information Evening
Fri 26 Apr	Junior School, Police Talk
Fri 26 Apr	Interschool Team Show Jumping, Little Kennerley Farm, Godshill
Fri 26 – Sat 27 Apr	S4 D of E Bronze Practice Expedition, Arreton/Brading

Future Dates & Events

Mon 29 Apr	Y5/Y6 Mixed, Bikeability
Mon 29 Apr	6 th Form A Level Art Exam
Tues 30 Apr	6 th Form A Level Art Exam
Tues 30 Apr	Y5/Y6 Mixed, Bikeability
Tues 30 Apr	S1/S2 Girls, Cricket Match, Free School
Wed 1 May	6 th Form A Level Art Exam
Wed 1 May	GCSE French & Spanish Speaking Exams
Wed 1 – Fri 3 May	Y6 PGL, Merchant's Hill, Surrey
Thurs 2 May	GCSE Art & Photography Exam
Fri 3 May	GCSE Art & Photography Exam
(Mon 6 May)	(Bank Holiday – school closed)

Achievements

William Gill-Cheney, S2, was chosen to represent his unit, Ryde Sea Cadets, in an intensive five-day training camp at the National Cadet Band week held in Plymouth at HMS Raleigh, culminating in a grand concert and a prestigious 'Beat the Retreat' ceremony.

William, who plays the bass trombone, was the youngest cadet at the event. His days started early at 06:15, with rehearsals beginning at 08:15. The schedule was rigorous but rewarding, featuring not only practice sessions but also instrument maintenance lessons, conducting classes and drum major training.

William has been referred to as an 'ambassador of dedication, perseverance, and the spirited life of the Sea Cadets', and the future is undoubtedly bright for him, and he has already begun to make his mark in the world of military music. Well done Will.



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In sport, we have also enjoyed considerable individual success, notably in cricket and football.

The U14 Indoor Cricket League Cup was won by Ventnor Hurricanes and Toby Morgan, S3, and Ryde Royals and Alicia Feather, S1, won the U12 Indoor Cricket League this winter.

Cameron Greenwood, S1, plays for Shanklin U12 Boys Football Team, and they have enjoyed an undefeated season en route to being crowned IOW U12 Boys' League Champions.

Congratulations to all three pupils and their respective teams!





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Cricket team images: County Press & IOW Observer, Friday 19 April 2024

David EJJ Lloyd
Principal