



Dear Parents

24 November 2023

I hope you are well and starting to dry out after the heavy rainfall. The media has published pictures of many flooded homes and businesses and our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected in this way. Apart from a roof issue and waterlogged fields, school escaped relatively unscathed.

Turning to happier matters, we enjoyed a wonderful Tuesday Talk from Mrs Styles and her midwife colleagues at St Mary's Hospital. All three were brilliant and explained their role in the hospital and in the community, as well as explaining how the baby grows in the womb and its weight at various stages of pregnancy. One of the midwives is currently pregnant and she allowed herself to be scanned so that we could all hear the baby's heartbeat. This was unexpected and a real treat for the pupils and staff.

In addition, David Cottrell kindly volunteered to wear a 40-week weighted vest which simulates carrying a full-term baby. He was then asked to sit and stand and put on his shoes and tie his laces whilst wearing the vest. David was a great sport, and as expected, he struggled to perform these tasks whilst carrying the weight of a baby on his front. At the end of the talk, many more pupils tried the vest, as well as exploring the other visual aids brought along for our benefit. The team also talked about careers in midwifery, entry qualifications, and how it is not a career just for women.

We are so grateful to Mrs Styles and her colleagues, and we hope to get them back in the future to focus specifically on careers in this area of medicine.



As our pupils prepare for next week's production of Beauty and the Beast at Quay Arts in Newport, I would also like to offer our best wishes to Mr Lynch, who is starring in Macbeth this weekend at Bembridge Village Hall. I believe Friday is sold out, but tickets are still available for Saturday and Sunday. Good luck Mr Lynch. The image below is taken from the County Press.

Isle of Wight theatre group to stage Shakespeare's Macbeth

23rd November

INSTAGRAM ENTERTAINMENT THEATRE BEMBRIDGE



Clockwise from left, Ad Lib Theatre's Joel Leverton as Banquo, Simon Lynch as Macbeth, Emily Scotcher as Lady Macbeth and Patrick Barry as Macduff. (Image: Ad Lib Theatre)



Please remember to contact the School Office if you would like tickets for Beauty and the Best; they are still available for the matinee and evening performances. If you have already purchased tickets, they are now ready for collection. Tickets for Macbeth are not available from school but from the *Ticket Source* website.

This week's assembly was on the conflict between Israel and Hamas and was delivered to Senior School pupils only. I felt it was right to cover the topic for several reasons. Firstly, issues and controversy relating to the Holy Land can be traced back nearly 4000 years; this is not a new dispute. As such, my words and presentation will have only scratched the surface at best. Secondly, I feel it is important to encourage pupils to use trustworthy and age-appropriate news sources, especially when on social media. Thirdly, school families may have friends and family in the region, and finally, I want the pupils to know that it is normal to feel worried about world events and that help is on hand here at school.

The boys and girls listened attentively and answered my questions with maturity and sensitivity. I was very proud of them all. The Word of the Week is 'Peace', and the Question of the Week is 'How can arguments between nations be resolved without fighting, and do we have a role in this?'

Lastly, I felt it was important to state that this is not a Jews versus Muslims war; it is a war between Israel and Hamas, and we all hope that it ends peacefully very soon. Furthermore, British Jews and Muslims should not feel that they must take sides or fall out over this conflict, even if they disagree on politics.

The Eco-Council will now turn their attention to maintaining momentum after the highly successful 'Save the Seas Week', and if any parents work in environmental occupations and would like to meet with the team, then please do get in touch. Early conversations amongst the councillors regarding a possible future focus have been on the topic of how much we waste during the Christmas period.

On Thursday, we held our Sixth Form Scholarship Day, and I would like to wish all those sitting the scholarship exam the best of luck in their application. Our Sixth Form is relatively small, but this means that our Lower and Upper Sixth Form pupils are always in small classes and receive a bespoke education suited to their needs and aspirations.

Reports

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| 1. Mon 20 Nov | Y5/Y6 Osborne House |
| 2. Tues 21 Nov | Tuesday Talk 'Career As A Midwife' (Mrs Styles) |
| 3. Tues 21 Nov | S1/S2 Girls, Hockey Match, Free School |
| 4. Wed 22 Nov | S4/S5 Boys, Hockey Match (GCSE Filming), Free School |
| 5. Thurs 23 Nov | 6 th Form Scholarship Day |
| 6. Thurs 23 Nov | S3/S4/S5 Mixed, Cross Country Championships, Medina College |
| 7. Thurs 23 Nov | S4 Parents' Evening |
| 8. Fri 24 Nov | Y5/Y6 Boys, Basketball Tournament, Ryde School |
| 9. Fri 24 Nov | S1/S2 MacBeth, Bembridge Village Hall |

Future Dates & Events

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| 1. Tues 28 Nov | Tuesday Talk 'Computer Game Development – Stainless Games' |
| 2. Wed 29 Nov | S4/S5 Boys, Rugby Match, Ryde School |
| 3. Wed 29 Nov | Christmas Production 'Beauty & The Beast', Quay Arts |
| 4. Thurs 30 Nov | GCSE Drama Performances, Quay Arts |



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| 5. Thurs 30 Nov | U9 Girls, Football Match, Nettlestone Primary |
| 6. Thurs 30 Nov | S2 Girls, Netball Tournament, Cowes Enterprise College |
| 7. Thurs 30 Nov | S2 Parents' Evening |
| 8. Fri 1 Dec | School Photos (Portrait/Individuals) |
| 9. Sat 2 Dec | S1/S2/S3/S4 Girls, Hockey Match, Smallbrook Stadium |

Achievements:

Eleanor (S4) came 1st and 4th in an Island-wide dressage competition, on her horse, Bobby.

David EJJ Lloyd
Principal