

The Sexeian

November 2019

*Brought to you by Sexey's
magazine team*

SIXTH FORM SPECIAL

Top Tips for
Starting Year 12



PINK FRIDAY

Commemorating our
world-class teachers





WELCOME

from the editorial team

Hello, we are the editorial team of Sexey's School magazine: Emily, Daisy, Imogen, Izzie and Erin. Welcome to the latest edition of The Sexeian!

With the help of others, we recently organised a Pink Friday to raise money and awareness for breast cancer research and to commemorate our fantastic teachers. Read on to see fun costumes from the event, as well as memories of Ms Budd and Ms Holmes told by the students and staff.

We also have some Top Tips for starting Sixth Form here at Sexey's, as told by one of our Year 12s. Enjoy!



CONTENTS



Interview

- 3 Stepping up to Sixth:** Making the change to A Levels can be daunting; we speak to a Year 12 for the inside scoop

Features

- 4 Pink Friday** How we all came together for a great cause, in memory of some amazing teachers

- 5 To Ms Holmes, Ms Budd** Hear from the teachers who knew them best

- 8 School Report** The latest from the corridors

Poetry Corner

- 7 From the Archives** Read Ms Holmes' poem, *The Moon*

STEPPING UP TO SIXTH



Starting Sixth Form can be daunting and a big step change from GCSEs.

We talked to Peony Guy, who has just started her first year at Sexey's Sixth, for her top tips and important advice for prospective A Level students.

Reporting by Emily Dillon

How different did you find Sixth Form to secondary school?

It's quite weird, because you have fewer lessons and subjects, but the workload is the same, if not bigger. I have found that it's much more independent - self motivation is key. You have to be really disciplined with your time and make sure you schedule realistic amount of time for work outside of the classroom.

Are there any special highlights?

You get to know a lot of people you maybe never would have before and it's a lot more inclusive. A lot of people talk about the different relationship you can have with the teachers in Sixth Form - it's more relaxed and they treat you as adults.

There are lots of opportunities to follow your own interests in Sixth Form - you can set up your own clubs or help out with charitable work, or the student council. Having a regular games slot on Tuesdays and Wednesdays helps with exercising and well being, too.

Do you have any advice for current Year 11s?

Don't leave everything to the last minute - it'll only stress you out. However, don't put too much pressure on yourself- people often go their different ways after Year 11 and you should make the most of the time you have left.

Check out @SexeysSixth on twitter or sexeysschool on Insta for news or careers opportunity updates.

COMING TOGETHER FOR A CAUSE

PINK FRIDAY 2019



The year we sadly lost two very special teachers and friends to cancer: Ms Jane Budd and Ms Debra Holmes.

Their lives have made a huge positive impact on our school community, both in boarding and in school.

To commemorate them, the magazine team wanted to organise an event to raise money for breast cancer awareness. We also used it as an opportunity to interview those who knew them best, and their words can be read on the following pages, along with readings and poems from students.



Pink Friday - October 18th 2019

- gave us the perfect opportunity and we organized a mufti day, bake sale, glitter painting and flag raising in school. The staff in the KDR baked over 200 pink muffins for us to sell and they all went in record time at break, along with the cakes that we had made ourselves, and donations from teachers.



Tilly Andjel-Davies, a Sixth Form boarder who had especially fond memories of Ms Budd, ran a raffle with loads of great prizes from the Bruton community including meals and beauty packages, cheese and wine prizes. The SFC was packed when the

names were drawn!



Mrs Cullen and members of the staff ran a moving assembly, with students reading out messages and poems that they had written to Ms Holmes and Ms Budd. It was a fantastic day, and in total we raised an amazing £2485.24 in the fight against cancer.

DID YOU KNOW??

We raised a grand total of **£2485.24** for Breast Cancer Now at Pink Friday!

MS HOLMES

**DAISY SPICER-RALFE,
IMOGEN BARTIN AND
ERIN HAZELL SPEAK
TO DR BEECHING FOR
HER MEMORIES OF MS
HOLMES**

Q: Tell us a bit about Ms Holmes' background with Sexey's School.

A: Ms Holmes worked at the school for more than 20 years. At one point she was the Deputy Head and then she stepped down and became the Head of English due to cancer.

Q: How did she help around the school?

A: She was always helping with the school plays and in the English department, promoting spelling competitions, writing competitions and any in-school English activities. She would frequently lend books and recommend books to the staff members, but she would never ask for the books back and she would also give audio books for us to listen to in the car.

She was very organised and knew the students extremely well, she cared for them a lot and always had spare pens to lend! She was extremely fair to everybody. She emphasised that spelling was important, she would bring books in for the library and even sold books to raise money for the department. She was always the first to bring presents in if staff were having a baby and she always had kind words for them.

Q: What are some fond memories you share with Ms Holmes?

A: She was my best friend. She was always talking to people with a smile asking, "What can I do for you?" and helping others. She would always explain English nuances to me and she told me where to buy the special chocolate lollies she gave out to the students when they were good in class.

She was writing a book of poems; I have chosen one titled "The Moon" to be included in your magazine. This particular poem was written because when she was a child the first moon landing happened. It relates to our friendship because when we worked in boarding, we used to talk in the car park after our shifts. We once looked up and saw the most beautiful moon in the sky. She was a very beautiful soul and I miss her. *Reporting by Daisy Spicer-Ralfe*



MR STRAKER-NESBIT SPEAKS ABOUT MS BUDD

REPORTING BY IMOGEN BARTIN; INTERVIEW BY WHOLE MAGAZINE TEAM

"Ms Budd and I first started working up at school where she came in to lessons to support students. We also worked together in Coombe, where she was a Tutor, and in Macmillan, where she was Housemistress while I was Housemaster. We worked extremely closely for three years there."

Ms Budd was very, very organised - she loved arranging Feast Night! And as everyone who knew her knows, she was also very, very happy. Everything was always unicorns and rainbows. She never even thought about the glass being half-full, it was always completely full. She lit up the room when she walked in and she always had time for her students. On her days off she was always available and students could contact her if they needed to.

Ms Budd was very positive about everything that she did. She could bark if she needed to, but she would always lead the boarding house from a positive point of view. It was never 'go and tidy your area' or 'your bed's not made' - it was 'you forgot again, didn't you?!'

When she had cancer the second time, we did our head shave together for charity. It was very moving to witness the generosity of everyone who gave - we made just under £2000. She meant such a lot to so many people, and will be tremendously missed."

WITH MARCO PIERRE WHITE IN 2016



TILLY SHARES HER MEMORIES ON PINK FRIDAY



IN MACMILLAN BOARDING HOUSE

POETRY CORNER

Written by Ms Debra Holmes

Once, maybe twice, a week
The hallowed television, locked in its beech-wood cabinet,
Taller than the teachers,
Was rolled along dark, soap-smelling corridors
To a corner of our chilly classroom.
And we'd pull our chairs into a ragged semi-circle
To sing, or play percussion or listen to a man in a suit talk about books,
With a focussed concentration.
Rationed pleasures,
So different from the background noise at home.

But one day it was background noise, unheard of in the classroom,
Left on all day.
Left on all day as though a fog two dim, white figures crept and bounced,
Light years away,
And the teacher wiped her tears, hoping we did not see.

We didn't think it much, although we knew it counted.
Far happier the day, just months before, we poured into the playground
And gathered round buckets and bowls of shining water,
To watch the same moon swallow the sun.

November 2015

Eclipse – September 1968
Moon Landing – July 1969



A FITTING *tribute*

Final words from Pink Friday - you can see more photos from the day on Instagram Stories on the School account



For Ms Holmes By Charlie Stock, Year 13

After 20 years Sexey's and Ms Holmes have parted,
She taught me English when I first started,
Setting projects to be handed in after week six,
Choosing names of ice lolly sticks.

It was a blessing we thought,
To be in the lessons she taught,
Whether it was Beowulf or Chaucer,
Made as exciting as our favourite author.

An inspiring teacher,
A punctuation preacher,
Correct use of a subordinate clause,
Might win you a chocolate Santa Claus.

She ordered a graphic novel of Game of Thrones,
Taped up the pages that were lacking in clothes,
Kind hearted and caring,
For our future paths she was preparing.



Send ideas and comments for the next edition to: schoolmagazine@sexseys.somerset.sch.uk. We welcome contributors too!