

ST. JAMES' SCHOOL

18TH SEPTEMBER 2020



THIS WEEK IN PICTURES

14TH – 18TH SEPTEMBER



FROM THE HEADMASTER



Uniformity vs. Conformity

Today's non-uniform day got me thinking about uniform...polished shoes, pressed blazers, pretty pinafores, hats, and of course, freshly cut hair. When picturing pupils in their uniform, I began to see the individual twists with which some pupils wear their uniform. I was minded to consider; is the purpose of a school dress code to produce uniformity? Or to promote conformity?

Individuality is celebrated at St James. Our mission is to help pupils discover themselves. Our belief in every child is borne out through our non-selective intake, understanding that we all bring different skills and gifts to the fore. We are not chasing uniformity, yet there remains merit in our pupils maintaining a corporate identity. As a small, close knit community, our sense of belonging makes us very special. Our uniform is a metaphor for 'buying in'; wearing it properly is a statement of intent. It demonstrates a willingness to learn and shows trust that our rules are in place to bring out the best in each other.

We are proud of our pupils, of our school, and of our uniform. I hope, that all pupils will continue to wear it, including proper PE kit, with such pride.

Richard Murray

MAGIC? OR JUST MATHS?

THE SCIENCE OF CARD TRICKS AND OTHER ALGORITHMS



Within my Headmaster's lesson this week I have tried to bring the magic...

I'll begin with a confession; I am by no means magic. I can, however, accurately follow processes.

Many magic tricks, particularly the one I tried with the children this week are *algorithms*. A set, repeatable process, which if completed accurately, has one possible outcome.

Before seeing each class I set up my *trick*, placing one card in a particular position of the pack and hiding another in an envelope.

With a little misdirection and showmanship I then dealt out the cards, resulting in the magic card remaining. Upon opening the envelope, the pupils revealed the same magic card.

The trick is based upon a *binary search algorithm* which can be visually demonstrated with some punch cards. Through this method, it is simple to show that regardless of the order of the punch cards, the search always results in the same card. Watch the video to see which one...

<https://youtu.be/nkh7WNpFMRw>

WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK

21st - 25th September



School Photographs Wednesday 23rd September

Gilman and Soame will be visiting St. James' on Wednesday next week to take individual and class group photographs.

Please ensure your children attends school with their full uniform (and for Prep 5/6 and the Senior Department, their PE kit too.)



Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 25th September

Whilst a traditional coffee morning is not possible under current COVID restrictions, we are delighted to be able to try a 'take away' 'coffee and cake' event.

Donations of 'shop purchased' cakes only please.

From 8.30am...



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