



Newsletter

Cup Cake Concert

Edition 11, Spring Term, 1 April 2011
www.thsboys.org.uk
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Sunday afternoon was a true community occasion. It was a packed programme, combining mainly strings, recorders and voice. Contributors from Tower House sat side by side with performers from other schools and entertained a packed congregation in Christchurch, illuminated by sunshine pouring in through stained glass – fantastically uplifting!

Special mention should be made of the Tower House Adult Choir; they aired their first rendition of parts of Faure's Requiem. There were audible gasps of wonderment when the singing stopped – look out soon for publicity of their full performance in May.

Thanks go to all performers, to Mrs MacLaine for organising the whole event and to Mr Gosden and Miss Sims for preparing the boys (and adults) so well.

The concert raised over £1600 to be shared equally between the two charities: Momentum and Umoyo Orphan Project.



Jazz Rock and Art Evening



There is clue in the title of this event and there was an abundance of all three cultural spheres in evidence. I remarked to the assembled audience that it had become my favourite evening event in the school calendar; such was the feel good factor generated. Jazz took centre stage first with the swing band, followed by many soloists and vocal groups. Rock was delivered loud and proud by soloists (including some mesmerising drumming from Tom) and two rock bands.

The music was rounded off with a couple of numbers from the adult house band of Tim Goldsmith (drums), Dan Redding (guitar), John Wells (bass) and Mr Gosden (vocals / keyboards).

The display of Art was diverse and universally of an incredible standard. Mr Wolf has taken Art at THS to higher and higher levels, his instruction and guidance is truly inspirational; and both he and Mrs Griffiths worked tirelessly to mount and present the boys' work in such a professional setting.

Thank you to everyone, adult or pupil, who made this evening such a success.



Menus

Boys (and parents) will be pleased to know that the results of the survey on school lunches have been scrutinised by our caterers, Catering Academy and many of the suggestions have been taken up. Unfortunately our healthy eating policy did not allow for doughnuts every day (as suggested by some boys); but, we look forward to the new menus after Easter.

Barbados Cricket Tour

Tearful parents waved off their boys (eventually) as they set off for Gatwick to embark on the first Tower House international cricket tour.

Mr Peyton contacted me last night and reported that all were safely lodged in their hotel and looking forward to their first match (which will be taking place as we go to press). Mr Barnett will be writing a blog – it is sure to be worth tuning in for!



Rugby outside school

This is a photo of the undefeated Bank Of England under 13 team that, on Sunday, won Division 3 of the Herts & Middlesex leagues. The team included four Tower House boys during the season - Sandy Marr, Rex Hopley, Guy Woods and James Bain.

Their record was: Played 7, Won 6, Drew 1 - For 205 points, Against 17 points.

They will now be promoted to Division 2 next year in the under 14s.



Clubs

Clubs (SS and JS) will start week beginning May 2nd (although the Monday is a Bank Holiday). We are planning to avoid the practise of signing names onto pieces of paper on notice boards; thus sign up for clubs will be on line in future.

Reception Cake and Goodies Sale

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Reception Class Cakes and Goodies Sale yesterday. It was a fantastic effort from everyone involved and raised over £500! This will be added to the monies collected as part of our sponsored run event and sent over to the aid agencies in Japan.

Rugby



Well it has been an incredible rugby season and while the second half of term hasn't quite seen quite as many victories as the first it is still by far the most successful rugby season in my time at the school. All of our year groups have performed above expectations and the results are testament to the hard work and determination of the boys.

Starting at the top of the school the 1st XV have played with spirit and have demonstrated a great deal of talent. In their final game they came back to draw 17-17 with Harrodian, just reward for a tremendous fight back and inevitable for a side with a never say die attitude. I cannot ever remember so many boys receiving full colours but the following are certainly well deserved: James, Jamie, Rex, Sandy, Jake, Alexander, Oliver, Guy, Nick, Xavier and Joey. It is a shame to single any of these out but special mention must go to Rex, Guy and Sandy, all of whom have been immense throughout the season and led the side on to achieve above expectation. I must also mention the support given these boys by the 2nd XV this term. They have had a number of really good performances also and their support to the 1st XV, with a number of players being called up to play at different times, cannot be overlooked.

The U11 A team had a great season all in all, even if things were a bit tougher in the second half of term. A good win against the Hall was then followed but losses to very strong Northcote Lodge and Harrodian teams. Both margins of defeat were narrow, particularly against Harrodian where just 1 try was the difference, and the boys can feel proud of competing with these much bigger schools. Sam and Benedict both had incredible seasons and have an amazing amount of talent, ones to watch in the future. Many other players have really progressed and I am sure that adding these boys to our strong year 7 contingent already playing 1st XV rugby this season will make for a very powerful side next year. The U11 B team have also played well and many of these boys have also moved up and played well for the A team when called upon to do so. U11 full colours are awarded to Benedict, Sam, Daniel, Dominic and Alex.

At 10 and U9 level this term it is fair to say that the thriving Junior rugby at THS is in very safe hands. Both year groups have not only performed incredibly well at A team level but even more impressive often has been the strength of both these B teams. Well done to all of these boys who have played so well. We are always incredibly grateful and appreciate how lucky we are to have so many of our boys, and indeed dads, involved outside school with rugby at many of the local clubs. Particularly in these two year groups, and perhaps more than I can ever remember before, we are benefitting from this extra coaching, playing time and understanding of the game. Again as these year groups progress through the school this can only bode well for future success. In year 5 full colours are awarded to Harry, Jack and Ben, all of whom have had superb seasons and have stood out on many occasions. In Year 4 full colours go to the three most consistent performers, Freddie, Alexander and Max.

Running Club

Next term a Running Club will be open for students and parents of Years 6 -8, staff also welcome. Come and get fit for the summer with Miss Laird.

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning 07.30 at Sheen Gate for a run in Richmond Park.

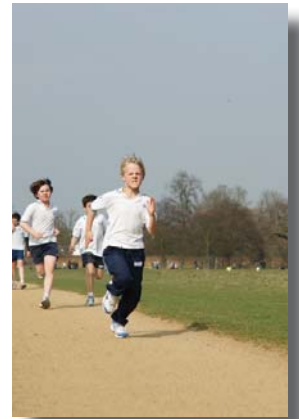
All levels of fitness welcome, the aim is to improve.....

Cross-Country

Our traditional end of spring term sporting extravaganza once again proved to be a fantastic success with over 600 laps of either Junior or Senior course being run by our boys running for class glory, house totals and most importantly charities. It was certainly the warmest event



I can ever remember and the red faces of the boys were testament to their hard work and efforts. The Junior boys never cease to amaze on these occasions with their energy and enthusiasm and also the fact that the parent supervisors seem to find it harder every year to keep up with the reception boys! Many of the senior boys managed a fantastic



5 laps of the main course, no mean achievement in the warm conditions, but the wait goes on for another year to see if we may one day find someone to beat Alex Wrights 7 lap

record set around 6 years ago now. With so many Year 5 boys managing to complete 5 laps this year I feel sure this record will not stand for much longer!



From the Junior school special mention must be made of the following boys who completed the most laps in their classes, Sebastian, Hugo and Timmy from Reception; Freddie and Harry from year 1; Raphy and Harry from Year 2; and Max, Max and Joshua from Year 3. It was a fabulous effort from all of the junior school however and all of the boys must be congratulated for doing so well and raising so much money for the NSPCC, aid for Japan and Senior School charities.



The senior class competition results for this year are as follows; Year 4 – 1st



Max, 2nd Samuel, 3rd Daniel; Year 5 – 1st Oscar, 2nd Ben, 3rd Edward; Year 6 – 1st Seb, 2nd Malachy 3rd Sam; Year 7 – 1st Orlando, 2nd Max, 3rd James; Year 8 – 1st Alexander, 2nd William, 3rd Sandy. Again many congratulations to all the boys who ran so well and our loyal spectators who lined the course to encourage and cheer on the boys.



Beginning of next term

Please note there will be NO swimming for Year 3, 2 and 1 on the Wednesday we start back after the Easter holidays due to preparation time needed for the Junior School's royal wedding celebrations. There will also be NO PE for year 5 on the first day back but year 8 will have PE on the Thursday as normal. There is games on Wednesday afternoon for year 6, 7 and 8 as usual and for the Junior school on Thursday.

WaterAid WaterAid WaterAid

44000 children die every day because of the water they drink. WaterAid wants to change that and the students in Year 8 want to help them.

Year 8 students are holding a photography and art competition at the beginning of next term, open to the whole school, to raise money for WaterAid.

All you have to do is either paint or draw a picture about water, or take a photograph of water. Then you simply collect an entry form and pay £2 to enter. Entry forms will be available from form teachers (Junior School) or Ms Bennett (Senior School).

The pictures can be serious or funny – the sun setting over the sea, a rain drop or a toilet for instance – as long as they feature water of some sort.

Prizes will be awarded as follows – first prize for Reception, first prize for Years 1 – 3, first prize for Years 4-6, first prize for Years 7 -8 and one overall prize.

All art work must be handed in to Ms Bennett or a member of Year 8 by Friday May 6th.

So, have fun, show off your artistic prowess and raise money to stop children dying needlessly from drinking unsanitary water.

Kilmorey Mausoleum

Whilst most of Year 8 fell by the wayside on Saturday with rugby injuries, colds and general fatigue from late nights, three Duracell bunnies - Oli, Will and Ruaridh were up for another challenge. Aided by Mr Phillips, Mrs Radford, Mr Hare, Mrs Patel, Edward (Reception 2012) and myself, they moved a huge pile of woodchips and laid it on paths at Kilmorey Mausoleum. It was a fantastic effort and earns these boys double points for their Dan Phillips Award.

We will be out again on 16th April at Crane Park.

The Environment Trust of Richmond upon Thames (ETRUT) runs corporate team building volunteer days for adults as the attached flyer explains and asked me to draw the scheme to your attentions. So if you are looking for something different - some fresh air and exercise to bring together your department or company - look no further. Do mention Tower House - they love us!

Mario Kart Wii Day!

It's back! Are you a Luigi or a Bowser? As a fund raiser for the music tour Tower House boys are putting on a Nintendo Wii day at Tower House. With group stages held around the school you can battle your way through to the semi finals and finals in the hall. There will be top prizes. Entry is £5 per person and the competition is open to all year groups, parents and even grandparents!



More information coming in the new term. Save up your banana skins!

Keep the date free!

Fencing

On Wednesday after school the Seniors fencing squad had their final match of the term away to The Harrodian. The B team comprised of Ben, Danny and Alex who all gave spirited performances despite frequent technical problems with the electric kit meaning that each fencer had two matches as opposed to three. They ran out eventual victors 29pts - 22pts. The A team relay match went down to the wire, with Tower House finally losing by the narrowest of margins 44pts - 45pts. Brothers Tristan & Yann and Jake displayed a series of fine offensive and defensive moves throughout and should be justifiably proud of their performances on the day.



Fencing resumes once again in the second week after the Easter break on Wednesdays between 4.00pm - 4.45pm, with open training sessions for any pupil in Years 4-8 who has previously taken part in a fencing after school club. Mr Black is offering two days of fencing in the Summer holidays on Thursday 14th & Friday 15th July. Foil instruction and experience of electric competition (Years 4-8) 9.30am - 12.00pm. Mini-Fence and Fencing Games (Years 2 & 3) 1.00pm - 3.00pm. Please see Mr Black for an application form or e-mail him on black@thsboys.org.uk

Reading Wall

Congratulations to Year 8, this term's winners of the Reading Wall.

A huge effort was made by all year groups this term, but no one could keep up with the enormous number of books read by Year 8.

A special mention to William and Ruaridh, who read an amazing 50 books between them. Well done boys.

Yr 7 Charity event for the Summer Term

The date is settled and the Year 7 Charity Scavenger Car Rally is being held on Sunday 22nd May from 9.45 to 2.00pm. Families and friends from throughout the school are encouraged to enter teams and there will be prizes for different age groups. Armed with a camera and a car or bicycle the challenge will be to visit venues throughout Sheen, Chiswick, Putney and Barnes and collect information about the locations. Loads of fun and a great learning experience! Tickets (which will include a baguette and salad and ice cream) will be on sale early next term so please put the date in your diaries.

Have a lovely Easter holidays and see you all on 27 April.

Mr Gregory Evans, Headmaster