

20th March 2009

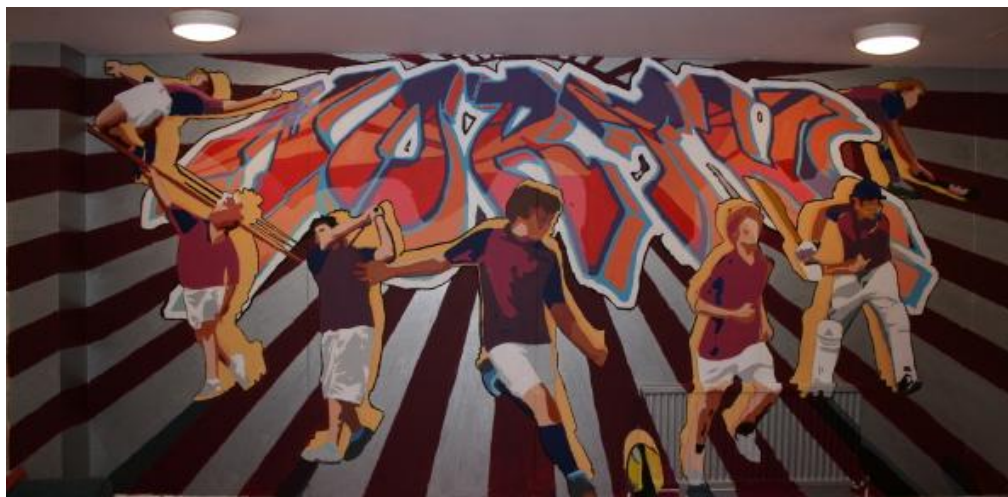


CRANLEIGH
EX CULTU ROBUR

NORTH HOUSE END OF TERM LETTER LENT TERM 2009

Dear Parent(s),

We all start the Lent Term thinking things will be less hectic because it is the shortest term of the year. Well this could not be further from the truth! I do hope this letter, with summaries from the house staff, will give you a flavour of exactly what has happened in North.



For me there were five highlights:

- The painting of the house mural (see above) which was designed by Tom Barnett, with tremendous assistance from Harry Ricks and Jonathan Hobbs. Over a period of six Thursday evenings every boy in the house painted some section of this.
- The Upper Sixth Dinner Party (see the boys looking very smart in the picture below). A fantastic night enjoyed by all, in fact the best ever!
- Winning a wide range of house events - senior water polo, debating and the junior house challenge with outstanding and vocal support from the whole house.

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- The improved focus of all boys towards their studies. The challenge was put on them with direct words from me and they did not let me or themselves down. The attitude, in particular in the last four weeks, bodes well for the remainder of the year.
- The outstanding leadership from the Upper Sixth, in particular James Dear and Nick Haigh.

WINNERS - Junior House Challenge Team



WINNERS – House Debating Team



The Upper Sixth – thoughts from Matron G.

What can I say about these young men? Only good things I can assure you. They have done extremely well in leading the House this term, and in leading the lower years. The highlight for me was the UVI dinner, held on 13th February. This is the fifth meal with which I have been involved and I can honestly say they were the best year to work with. We had fun preparing the food and they were so efficient when it came to transforming the games room into a wonderfully decorated dining area. Do make a point of looking at the photo montage by the entrance hall.

We have already said goodbye this term to Nick Johnson, who has gone back to Argentina for more polo trials to win a place in their team, and we wish him every success.

Next term is going to involve hard work for them all, but I know they will put in the effort and do their very best.

The Upper Sixth boys like you have never seen them before!



The Lower Sixth – thoughts from Matron P.

It would be impossible to write about this year's lower 6th without mentioning the fact that they are a very close knit year group. This characteristic becomes apparent when they all pile into matrons room. The pile often consists of a tangle of arms, legs, feet, hands and bodies wriggling, and laughing like a bundle of puppies; at this stage it is impossible to gain much sense from any of them. However, in this apparently unlikely heap is a mass of talent, skill and endearing characteristics as has been shown this term. Firstly Tom Grafton and Sammy Durant gave magnificent performances in Romeo and Juliet with Tom as Romeo and Sammy as Tybalt. The house water team polo drew for its winning team substantially from this year group, Adam Lawrence, Matt Cullen and Callum Ewing. Zeno Agnew-Davies led the house debating to a nail biting win. They are a thoughtful and considerate group as demonstrated this term when some of our cleaners were off work due to ill health. The boys pitched in and did their bit by making an effort to keep their rooms tidy. Notable with this year group is their enjoyment of playing practical jokes. An example happened earlier this term when I was getting ready to close up. I went into the linen room and noticed a laundry bag on the floor, puzzled and wondering how it got there I picked it up to find Jamie Keith curled up and hidden underneath, I then spotted a pile of cloths in another corner, low and behold up popped Charlie Rooke! I chased them out and carried on tidying. At last, feeling weary and ready to go home was just closing the door when in the darkness a ghostly apparition arose from behind one of the sofas, giving me a dreadful fright; it was Charlie!

And then there was the evening when the “doorbell” kept ringing.....

It is impossible to mention each boy in the short space allocated in an end of term letter, but to sum up from a matron's point of view, the lower 6th are talented, considerate, challenging and most of all great fun to have around.

The snow fight against Loveday that “didn't happen”



The Upper Fifth – thoughts from Mr. Witcombe

This term has hopefully proved to be an insightful one for the upper fifth. The mock examinations that the boys sat in January seem like a long time ago now but they provided them with a taste of what they can expect from the crash bang wallop experience of sitting lots of exams in a relatively short space of time. Hopefully what the boys will have learnt is that structuring revision according to their exam time table is extremely beneficial as of course is preparing for them thoroughly in the first place. As you might expect the mocks did encourage some of the boys to improve their work ethic and to a greater extent this is true across the year group within the house. However there are still a small number that must realise the importance of the level of their academic performance over the next couple of months will have on the options they will have open to them, not only for the sixth form but also university courses.

This term has been a busy one in general, not just with academics but with all the other things that the boys occupy themselves with during the day such as sport, music and drama though due to the forthcoming exams I am naturally going to gravitate towards stressing the importance of the academic side. I am sure the boys will make the most of the Easter break but should realise that it is not a holiday and should ensure they prepare fully for their exams, the first of which takes place in week 2!

Preparing for the House Cross Country Race



The Lower Fifth - thoughts from Mr. Barnett

It's been a fairly good term for the lower fifth. There has been a maturing of their attitudes in their academic work as we have seen from their improved report grades. Having read a number of reports and spoken to my colleagues about their tutees progress it is clear the lower fifth are responding much more positively to constructive criticism about their work habits that their teachers give. Clearly they are starting to make the necessary but sometimes difficult adjustments – maintaining them will be the real test. It's good also to see other events in the house have led to a greater bonding between them. A highlight for me in particular was having most of the year group involved in the painting of the mural for the games room; there was some very funny competitive banter going on as they crowded in to paint a section of the wall each Thursday evening after prep. What's more there are some skilful painters in their ranks too! Special thanks to Jonathan Hobbs who helped with designing and marking out the image on the wall. Other highlights for North lower fifth have been Peter Thompson's outstanding intellectual effort to help North win the House challenge a few weeks ago, and Henry Harrod winning the Helen Wareham Junior prize for Brass for some wonderful trumpet playing. And I am not joking when I say how impressed I was to see Tom Subba Row going through the harsh ordeal of abstaining from sugar for a whole week! There have been some fantastic sporting achievements too; Will Jeanes came second in Junior house cross country, Michael Burgess has been selected to play for the Surrey Cricket team and will be travelling with them in South Africa during the Easter break, and finally Ben Roberts has got into the Surrey Rugby team. These really are outstanding achievements for North to be very proud of. Finally the new addition to North lower fifth must be mentioned. A warm welcome goes to Julius Greeno from everyone in the house and it seems he

has already slotted in well into the lower fifth group. I hope they all have an excellent Easter break and return next term with renewed vigour!

Painting the house mural



The Fourth Form – thoughts from Mr. Artus

Returning in January presented new challenges to the IVth Form. Dark days and long nights, new sports and activities and the challenge of living up to the excellent start they had made in the Michaelmas term. This degree of uncertainty was matched by some discouraging reports from teachers and a dark moment of suspension for a few boys from across the school. The arrival of the snow was a wondrous distraction with snow ball fights and various attempts at Inuit inspired construction. A great photo opportunity was embraced by many and you can see the photos on the digital display in the House corridor for confirmation. The arrival of the “white stuff” resulted in a return to the “right stuff” from the boys. As it melted away so did the uncertain hiatus at the start of term. It was with real pleasure that we saw normal service returning to the IVth form as they resumed being the happy, productive and highly competitive group that had impressed us the term before. It is with delight that this positive attitude has been maintained right up to the end of term. The clear headline story of the term has been the glorious achievements of the Under 14A’s Hockey. Captain Tom Taylor is joined by fellow North boys David Forster, Oliver Harris and Jonathan Paddle. Some of whom are playing their first ever term of Hockey. Their successes on the pitch led to them winning the Surrey Cup, coming second in the regionals and then into the Nationals. After a tense and far too exciting Quarter-Final against Langley: They were at one point in the match 2-0 down, but levelled to 2-2 and won in the penalty flick shoot out. The team then made the big journey to Suffolk, a strange flat land full of tractors and pig farms to play the Semi-final; unfortunately they lost

against Ipswich School two goals to one. Not to be out done in terms of glory the B team finished its season undefeated a record that was soundly run home by Toby Savill scoring a hat-trick in the final match of the term. The C's also ended the season undefeated while the D's and E's had notable triumphs this season; not least the E's beating Epsom 14-0. In Squash, Jonathan Paddle has won all of his matches for the school. In Water Polo defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory in the final of the house competition (with Taylor and Marriott in the thick of the action). In music Oliver Harris came third in the Brass section of the Helen Wareham competition, while Harry McCagherty won in the Woodwind section. In the world of the competitive intellect the undoubted star of the IVth form is Patrick Wilson whose formidable bank of general knowledge led to him and the rest of the North Team to victory in the House Challenge competition. Then in the House Debating Patrick did not rest on his laurels and helped bring home his second trophy for the house in as many weeks! Both events brought the whole house together and the shared joy in victory showed one of the great real strengths of North House. Alongside these great achievements are the other elements of learning that life in a boarding house offers. Such as Will Marriott discovering that the only way to travel is inside a cupboard, or the explosive qualities of a tub of E45 cream when dropped from a height and of course the difficulties of arguing with a sleep walking boy over whose bed belongs to whom! Now as the spring weather takes hold those short days and snow days seem a long way in the past and we look on with interest at the coming Summer Term.

The Fourth Form playing against Cubitt in the house hockey competition



This year's Charity Day will take place on the penultimate weekend (Sunday 21st June) of term. The Saturday night is traditionally a House evening so boarders and

day boys are expected to stay in with the latter also welcome to bed down for the night; with the Charity Day starting at 6am on Sunday morning this may be a preferred option for parents! That afternoon there will be farewell drinks for Peter Kemp. You will be informed of the exact timings early next term. As ever, we look forward to the work the L6th will do in preparation for the day and before half term we will announce the nature of the event and the charity we will be supporting. All of these details are left to the collective leadership of this year group as they begin their preparations for taking over the leadership of the House.

The Matrons have asked if any parents have black shoes and school blazers which their sons have grown too big for, and are in good condition, would they be willing to donate them to the house. Please contact the matrons directly about this next term.

All the boys deserve a rest at the start of these holidays. For those in Upper Fifth and the Sixth Form there has to be some intensive and committed revision for their upcoming and very important exams.

Many thanks for the continued support you offer me and the entire house team. I hope you have a great Easter holiday.

Regards

John

A farewell wave from John Richman

