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Housemaster North



North House Newsletter Lent 2010

Dear Parents

As ever the Lent Term proved to be intense and relentless and I am sure the boys who you have just picked up are sleeping well and eating lots! Therefore, trying to summarise what this term has been like is not easy. So much happens here both formally and informally that it is only possible to pick out some of the events which have occurred so I hope to give you a broad flavour of how life has been in the House over the last few weeks. From a personal perspective, the job has been everything I expected it to be and I am delighted to have taken on such a rewarding and challenging role.

Ethos

I hope this newsletter gives some indication as to the way in which North House lies at the heart of the development of the boys at the School. To ensure their happiness, we strive very hard to ensure the boys are fully involved in a range of activities which are both House and School based. Busy boys are usually happy boys- it makes them get a buzz out of the place and by pushing themselves they learn a great deal about what it takes to be successful. If at any stage you are worried about your son then please do not hesitate to contact me. To get the most out of them I need to work in Partnership both with the excellent support staff within the boarding house- my two deputies, Rod and James, the team of tutors, the Matrons and the cleaners- but also with you as Parents to ensure the boys make the most of the opportunities which exist. If there is anything you would like to discuss then please do not hesitate to contact me emb@cranleigh.org / 01483 542038

North in the Wider School Community

All the boys contribute to the success of the boarding house and the wider school community. Here are some of the highlights from the term:

Sport

Congratulations to the following boys in North who captained their School team during the course of this term

- Rory Weyman – 14a Hockey
- Tom Taylor – 15a Hockey
- Julian Browning – 15c Hockey
- Luke Boyd – 15d Hockey
- Ben Roberts – 16c Hockey
- Tom Grafton – 3rd XI Hockey
- Callum Ewing - 2nd XI Football
- Alex Quant - 4th XI Football
- Brandon Cragg - Waterpolo

School Plays / Productions

The main School production this term was Fiddler on the Roof. The amount of time and effort the students put in was extraordinary and helped define the end of term in a positive and uplifting manner. Congratulations to the cast members from North: JJ Bee, Alex Quant, Tom Grafton, Sam McCagherty, Tom Hollister and Jonathan Hobbs, and to the backstage crew Henry Harrod, Will Greenhalgh, Alex Tolley and Will Tebbett

Music



This term we have had a number of music competitions including Brass, Woodwind, Vocal. Congratulations to Oli Harris (pictured) who won the Junior Brass section with Callum Kent third and Henry Harrod who is now in the final of the Helen Wareham Competition.

Congratulations to Peter Thompson, Henry Harrod, Tom Hollister, Harry McCagherty and Matt Cullen who have all performed in the various Lunchtime Concerts over the term.

Battle of the Bands

An event organised and produced by Tom Grafton (U6 North) the stand out performers were George Griffiths who played an individual piece on the acoustic guitar, whilst Ben Roberts played drums for the winning band Palace Guard.

West House Play



Just before half term, West House put on a series of productions and as our 'twinned house' Nick Roberts, George Griffiths and Angus Peters took lead roles. It was a great evening and a lovely way to finish the half term. Congratulations to all of them.

Outdoor Education

The main focus this term is the Devizes to Westminster canoe race which takes place over the Easter weekend. This is a mammoth event with the crews having to complete the 125 mile course over 4 days, camping and cooking for themselves en route.

Good luck to our competitors: Rory Townsend, Sam Durant, Fred Wilson and Luke Butler (see picture on the right).

On top of this the Silver Duke of Edinburgh candidates completed a walk 50km walk over a weekend including two nights camping. Well done to Harry Dear, Sam Camsey (see picture on the left), George Colgan, Peter Thompson, Owen Quant, Jamie Pitt and Jonathan Hobbs for getting through it all. Good luck to the Gold candidates (Ross Preston and Harry Ricks) as they complete their practice expedition over Easter Holidays.



Academic Areas

Boys can be commended on the basis of their reports either for academic achievement and effort (School Commendation) or for their approach and attitude towards work (Housemaster Commendation). Congratulations to the following:

- School Commendations: George Colgan, Peter Thompson, Jonathan Hobbs, Paddy Wilson and Kevin Park.
- Housemaster Commendations: Nicky O'Keefe, Tom Hollister, Luke Boyd, Oli Harris, Julian Browning Christian Pedder, Robbie Matthews and Joe Hardy

Congratulations to Peter Thompson, George Colgan and Matt Heath for winning 'Gold' in the recent UK Maths Challenge

North Boys in the News

Joe Quinn – represented England at the International Chess Tournament 'Cappelle La Grande' in France.

Charlie Cutting – was selected for the National Speedo League, which is organised for elite swimmers in the country.

Inter-School House Competitions

House Chess

The team comprising Zeno Agnew-Davies, Joe Quinn, Pip Wilson, Paddy Wilson, Mikey Linford, Harry Dear and Peter Thompson won the Chess Competition.

Junior House Challenge



A trophy we were keen to retain! We met Loveday in the final after defeating South in the previous round. A titanic struggle ensued but, with Peter Thompson quick off the mark on the starter questions, we got our noses in front and a terrific final was won, 650-490. Congratulations to the whole team - Rory Weyman, Paddy Wilson, Peter Thompson and George Colgan.

Football

Awaiting the outcome of the penalty shoot out v Cubitt



Our semi final against Cubitt went to the wire: 1-1 after full time and no 'golden goal' led to penalties. With Oscar Richards in goal our confidence was high and a super save from him put us through to the final. Against hot favourites, East, all the players upped their game and

by the end of full time and the 'golden goal' period it was still 0-0. Penalties again! With Oscar Richards again outstanding we managed to win the shoot out 4-3 to be crowned Champions!

Senior Football Team



Cross Country

Not an area we have excelled in recent years. However, under Callum Ewing's leadership the team trained

hard for the event but with a number of runners falling ill or injured our preparations were somewhat hampered. Still we broke our duck and came third! Special congratulations to Callum Ewing (see right) for winning the senior race and Alexi Yakas for being the first fourth former home.



Hockey

Overall we came 2nd in the main competition with the highlight being our 14A team who won. The other teams battled hard and some very impressive performances were put in across the board.

The Stonesett is the final hockey competition and is aimed at the C team players and below. The five a side tournament consists of a player from each year group and, under Sam Roberts' leadership, we managed to get 2nd place.

U14A Hockey



Senior A Hockey



Colts A Hockey



Stonesett Teams



Sam Roberts – Stonesett Team Manager

Senior Waterpolo

We have been very successful in the pool in recent years and our winning ways continued this year after a gripping and close final.



House Debating



Another competition we were aiming to retain. In the final, against West we were awarded the motion after some great speeches from Sean Osborne, Paddy 'Moreover' Wilson and Zeno Agnew Davies. The floor debate was also hotly contested with Nick Roberts winning the prize for the best contribution.

House Events

Upper Sixth Dinner Party

This was the sixth time the highly successful evening was held in North. As in previous years all the Upper Sixth boys helped Matron G to prepare and cook the food for the event and, as ever, it was a very special evening. Special thanks must go to Marion and her husband, Eric, for all their hard work and dedication which enabled the boys to produce food fit for kings!



Treat Nights and Barbeques

As ever, we are indebted to the kindness of our Matrons who put on treat nights each week for a specific year group. They often spend a great deal of their own time preparing these treats and ensure the boys are spoilt.

Taking over from John Haynes I could hardly hang up the tongs, so House BBQs have continued through the cold winter nights. Needless to say the food is a little overdone and lacking in Australian finesse but the boys did not seem to mind!



Matrons' wish list

It has been a good, but busy term and it has been great to welcome Sandi McConnell-Wood as a Matron in North.

We would be very grateful for any unwanted uniform or games kit for our house secondhand stock, the proceeds of which go towards treats for the boys.

Please ensure the boys return having had hair cuts (and please avoid the hair dye!) to limit our trips to Cranleigh's hairdressers next term!

Please name every item your son rings into school from socks to iPods to tennis rackets. Do feel free to contact us at any time if you have any queries or concerns, and have a good Easter.

northmatron@cranleigh.org / 01483 542039

House Awards

Congratulations to the following boys in the Upper Sixth who were awarded their House Ties this term:

Tom Forster, Luke Butler, Rory Townsend, Sam Durant, Andrew Goudie, Jamie Keith, Adam Lawrence, Sam Roberts and Fred Wilson

Welcomes and Farewells



Welcome to Sandi McConnell-Wood as our new Matron. Sandi used to be a Matron in East and has brought a great deal of experience and humour to the role. Also, Indi, her gorgeous cocker spaniel has been adopted by the boys as the house pet and mascot.



Indi – who has become a permanent fixture in the house... if only they were all so obedient.....

Welcome to Alexis Yakas who joined the fourth form from KES Witley.

Farewell to James Lindon-Travers who has decided to join St Johns Leatherhead. We will miss his sense of humour and friendship – good luck!

Final Thoughts

I finish the term smiling and not just because I am getting a break! My wife Valerie, son Jack and Jessie and Judi (our dappy Dalmatians) have never been happier than when living in Willow Tree House and that is in no small measure due to the support and fun which the North Community brings to each day. One of the highlights of Jack's week is Saturday callover and the genuine welcome which he receives from the boys is really touching. Watching him 'high 5' the boys as they leave for sport in the afternoon is a sight to behold! I am already looking forward to next term.....

Have a great Easter,
Regards

Ed Burnett

