

Music for a Summer Evening

The rain held off (just) as our musicians, singers and dancers prepared to add the music to the Pimms at our West House Music Evening at the end of June.

Hilary Cronin opened the evening with some lovely clarinet playing and despite the best efforts of the wind to sabotage her performance it set the tone for what was going to be a lovely evening for all to enjoy. It was great to see 4th formers Sophia Ambrose and Nancy Newbery brave the 'stage' to give a charming rendition of 'Never Had a Dream Come True' and Zoe Burrell returned after her study leave to join Emma Wallis for a lovely Bach flute duet. Torsie Haugli surprised everyone by keeping her promise to brush the cobwebs off her harp(!) and Hilary was joined by Vicky Hill for a light hearted delivery of Viva Vivaldi with four hands on the piano. The first half of the programme gave both Alice Bryant and Sara Williams the chance to remind everyone of what lovely voices they have and it was rounded off with a LVth dance group (Tara, Georgie, Abbi, Indi, Kate, Anya, Lottie, Immy, Kirsten & Courtney) who giggled and wiggled their way through their own choreography to 'Keep on Moving': it was certainly apparent that they were enjoying themselves!

Ione Haddock, a bit of a dark horse on the musical front, played the piano in a performance of her own composition 'So Far Gone', with Libby Pitt on guitar and Hilary Cronin providing the vocals, to start off the second half, having given everyone the chance to refill their glasses first of course! Katherine Chevis entertained with a beautiful arrangement of Ave Maria on the 'Cello, Hebe Westcott showed her finger dexterity on the piano and Shaunagh Duncan & Anna van der Zalm also entertained with guitar and voice, as did Kate Scott, Georgia Watson and Freddie Dicks. Another LVth group entertained us with a lively arrangement of 'Washed by the Water' and it was good to see some new faces on the stage, with Tash Large providing the piano for singers Emma Wallis, Freddie Dicks, Sophie Kinally and Lauren Chitty.

Tory Sawyer enchanted the audience with her violin playing to round off the musical items but had to take a slight back seat to the 'L6th Surprise Finale' (and make a quick change to join her pink-clad year group), a very lively, very entertaining performance of 'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun': of course they do and I hope it is what they, and the audience, did have.

A huge thank you to all the performers but it would not have happened without the organisational skills of Katherine Chevis, aided by Shaunagh Duncan and Hilary Cronin: we should also mention Lottie Grafton who took control of the technical effects for the evening.



Ready Steady Cook: West Style!

West House returned to the kitchen this term (well Mrs Dixon's) to once more raise funds for ENKI and to ensure that we could safely hand over the £100 needed to secure Auma Melvin's education at the Rhonda School in Kenya for the coming year.

This time there was a more competitive edge as groups competed against one another to produce the most delicious cake to please some exacting judges. The teams comprised of 4 girls and were required to contain more than one age group. Recipe books were scoured and grandmothers persuaded to divulge their culinary secrets hidden away for generations. After five qualifying rounds (the highlight of which had to be the lavishly sculpted cake by the Ambrose sisters), and a very tense final, we found our winners: 'Raspberry & White Chocolate muffins' created by Tash Large, Freddie Dicks, Libby Pitt and Katherine Chevis.

Mrs Dixon's kitchen narrowly survived the experience and she says will always have fond memories when she gazes up at the red food colouring which now decorates her ceiling! We should also thank Mr Dixon for being so good-humoured about having his kitchen invaded by groups of 'squealing' girls on a regular basis.

All agreed it was tremendous fun and the sale of the cakes allowed us to raise a cheque for £100, which was presented to Mike Payne by our House Charity Rep, Jess Vero, and Head of House, Rosie Hampson. Many thanks to the all those who were involved and to Tim McConnell Wood for joining our panel of judges for the final.



In addition to organising our successful charity events, Mrs Dixon, aided by our Social Reps Nicola Jamieson and Kate Heinrich (who have certainly learned a thing or two about how to BBQ this year), has arranged social events for all year groups in the house. The fourth form enjoyed an old fashioned sports day and BBQ with the 4th form from South (which got very competitive when it came to the bean bag race!); the LVth were given an after prep BBQ, the UVth had their now traditional pre-exam, '3 course' supper in a suitably decorated West common room and the two sixth form years enjoyed Saturday morning breakfast events (although the crumpets never did appear, Alice!!)

We also invited the U6th boys from both Loveday and North to join our U6th for two different BBQ occasions which gave Mrs Dixon the chance to bake up lots of chocolate brownies for everyone!

All of this would just not happen without her energy and enthusiasm and we owe her a huge thank you!

End of Term Awards

Goodbye and Good Luck!

Many congratulations to the following:

Academic Effort & Progress:

4th Form: Amy Sansom & Nancy Newberry

LVth: Georgia Watson & Mara Waters
Emma Wallis for outstanding achievement.

U5th: Georgina Ambrose & Izzy Curran

Extra-Curricular Achievement:

4th Form: Scarlett Rudd & Sophia Ambrose
Maddy Austin for outstanding achievement in athletics.

LVth: Lizzie Wait

U5th: Emily Stovold

Housemistress' Prizes:

4th Form: Harriet Cowcher

6th Form: Katherine Chevis

D of E Blister Prize!!!!

Charlotte Cox

House Scarves:

Megan Abbott, Katharine Berrow, Alice Bryant, Katherine Chevis, Charlotte Cox, Hilary Cronin, Shaunagh Duncan, Ione Haddock, Torsie Haugli, Georgie Haynes, Vicky Hill, Romy Hobson, Lucy Hollister, Liv Lyster, Libby Pitt, Bella Roberts, Carly Rothman, Tory Sawyer, Emily Subba-Row, Georgie Syms, Anna van der Zalm, Josie Wait & Sara Williams.

House Colours: Jess Vero

House Shields: Rosie Hampson & Zoe Burrell

(For outstanding contribution to the house over 5 years.)

To all our leavers in 2009:

A tremendous U6th year of:
Bryony Board, Philly Buck, Zoe Burrell, Ginny Cordy-Redden, Olivia Craddock, Hannah Golding, Rosie Hampson, Kate Heinrich, Nicola Jamieson, Emma Lamden, Jane Leonard-Myers, Chrissie Loedolff, Heather Lynch, Nessa Mitchell, Phoebe Roberts, Harriet Ruddell, Claudia Stokes, Su Vajasit, Jess Vero, Charlotte White, Jess Whitehead.

Five of the U5th:

Ellie Erhardt, Georgina Ambrose, Emily Stovold, Jess Shaw & Katie MacDonald.

And...Mrs Olivia Hodgkinson who has been a tutor for the last 2 years.

We wish them all the best of luck.



Goodbye to the U6th

House Matches

There were some notable performances in the various house competitions this term.

House Swimming was a very close competition but South had strength in depth that we lacked and this proved to be the same in the athletics, although in both we had a good number of outstanding wins.

House tennis provided the senior girls with a very easy win and in the junior competition, of the 120 games played to decide the cup, we won 60 each to share it this year. Zoe Burrell was awarded her school tennis colours. The senior rounders cup came back to West but the juniors could not match this and we had to give way to South in the golf also. However, in the Cronk Salver, the individual golf championship, Lottie Grafton was runner-up in the girls' competition.

The cricket match came to a very exciting end with both teams scoring the same number of runs: however, South had lost fewer wickets and took this cup off us. Zoe Burrell was awarded school colours for cricket to go with her tennis colours.

The inaugural house croquet competition proved too much for our junior team but the seniors were unlucky to be pipped of a place in the final by a 'hoop countback'!!! However, the badminton team had a good win in the first year of this competition.

At the final assembly of the term riding colours were awarded to Olivia Craddock, Phoebe Roberts and Imogen Way, who also took the riding cup this year in recognition of her contribution to our Open Riding Teams.

Tash Misbah deserves special mention after she and her partner, Tash Starling, won the ISTA Tennis Championships at Eton in the first week of the holiday, beating Millfield in a very close and exciting final. Zoe Burrell & Chantal Crane (South) were equally well deserving of a runner-up spot in the plate competition and both of these were joined by Mara Waters to end the term as runners-up in the Branston Shield tennis competition for Surrey Schools.

Maddy Austin has had a fine term on the athletics track also: she became the Surrey U15 800m Champion and then went on to represent Surrey in an Inter-Counties competition where she took 3rd place in a highly competitive field and narrowly missed qualifying for the All-England Schools' Championships. We also wish her luck as she competes in an Invitational Schools Biathlon Competition which is being staged as part of the World Pentathlon Championships at Crystal Palace in August: this invitation came as a result of her victory in the British Schools Biathlon Championships in March.



Junior tennis team



Senior Rounders Team

By the time you read this many girls will have completed their D of E Bronze Expeditions, been on the Bands Tour to New York and enjoyed CCF camp: I hope all of these went well.

Term starts on Thursday 3rd September. 5.30pm collover: please do not arrive early unless you have permission to do so as the house will not be ready!

Head of House in September is Shaunagh Duncan & Deputy is Sara Williams

4th Form Prefects: Vicky Hill & Georgie Syms

Social Reps: Emily Subba-Row & Lucy Holister

Charity Rep: Ione Haddock

Congratulations to Liv Lyster who has been appointed as Senior Prefect.