

Charity Walk Exceeds All Expectations Over £1000 is raised... some money still to come

The decision, masterminded by Heli Dixon and Ione Haddock (6th Form Charity Rep), to join forces with Love-day for a Charity Walk at the end of this term was clearly the right one and we were delighted with the numbers who turned out on a sunny Sunday morning to take a 'gentle stroll' (I could be lynched by some for this description) through the Surrey Hills, many with their dogs. Some decided to run it and it was impressive the number of West tutors who took this option!

In addition many sported their charity T-Shirts with pride, the sales of which added further to the amount raised, which so far is already in excess of £1000. There is still some money to be collected and any further donations should be sent in at the start of next term (cheques made payable to Cranleigh School please.)

When the final total is clear it will be used to fulfil our commitments to the Rhonda Primary School, to whom we have pledged the money to complete their school hall and library with the final roofing and the addition of windows. We will also be providing them with a plaque (which I hope can be made by some of the girls) that will be put up in recognition of the money West has provided to complete this major project. Mrs Dixon is hoping to join a group planning to visit the school next year and will be able to bring back first-hand news of how our money has been spent. We recently had a lovely letter from Melvin Auma, who is now ten years old, thanking us for the contribution we make towards her education each year and this one charity event means that we have raised this year's money for that too.

The girls themselves voted earlier in the year to support an additional charity, CHICKS, which provides holidays for under-privileged children and Ione took the opportunity to show the house a DVD from the charity in order for them to see exactly what their money provides: I think everyone was moved by this and we hope to be able to make a substantial contribution to them too.

Involvement in such activities is a vital part of young people's education when they themselves are so lucky to be so privileged and Heli Dixon and myself would like to take this opportunity of thanking not only Ione, for raising the profile of charity work amongst the West girls this year, but also all of you who so cheerfully supported us in this major fund-raiser. I know a few people said never again when they reached the top of 'Jellies Hollow' but hopefully you will have forgotten the pain by next year and you will be keen to repeat the exercise!

End of Term Awards:

Academic Excellence:	Emma Wallis (U5th); Hebe Westcott (L5th); Hannah Wallis (4th Form)
Effort & Progress:	Lucy Bown (U5th); Sophie Jones (L5th); Briony Pearson (4th Form)
House Half Colours:	Alex Newman, Sophie Shearer, Nicola Hardwick, Frankie Denney, Issy Curran, Tash Misbah, Nannas Syms, Tessa Farrington (L6th); Tash Large, Lauren Chitty, Courtney Madincea, Abbi Douetil, Sophie Kinally, Indi Thompson (U5th); Harriet Cowcher, Livi Burgon, Scarlett Rudd, Issy Simpkin, Imogen Thomas & Gabby Wright (L5th)
House Colours:	Ione Haddock, Vicky Hill, Liv Lyster, Carly Rothman, Emily Subba-Row, Lucy Hollister, Georgie Syms, Josie Wait (U6th) & Kelly Hughes (L6th)

Commendations to junior girls for one or more of their reports this term went to:

4th Form: Georgie Beamish, Georgie Pask, Rosie Barton, Hannah Wallis, Briony Pearson, Tilda Martin, Sara Carr & Cathy Hobbs

L5th Form: Katie Seymour, Livvi Farrer, Sophie Jones, Hebe Westcott, Nancy Newberry, Harriet Cowcher, Imogen Thomas

U5th Form: Indi Thompson, Lizzie Wait, Freddie Dicks, Lauren Chitty, Emma Wallis, Mara Waters, Tash Large, Lucy Bown & Sophie Kinally

4th Form Boarding Prize: Tara Beamish and Sara Carr

L5th Boarding Prize: Amy Lent and Livi Burgon

U5th Boarding Prize: Anya McGanty

Special prizes for sensitivity and thoughtfulness: Katie Seymour (L5th) & Romy Hobson (U6th)

Just in case you had forgotten, the term started like this..

Despite the disruption caused by the snow for the first two weeks, this term has been phenomenally busy and a huge amount has been achieved by the girls, not least some excellent results in both external and internal exams. **There is much to be proud of.**

House Debating Triumph

Our debating team made it all the way to the final of the inter-house competition this year before being pipped at the post ('we woz robbed,' the shout went up) by a strong North house team. Through the course of the three rounds the Wallis sisters, Hannah and Emma, played an integral part in our success, despite Emma's initial wariness of performing on such a stage! They were supported by 6th formers Nicola Hardwick, Sophie Shearer, and Alex Newman on various occasions and Tessa Farrington, who stepped in with 15 minutes to spare in the 2nd round, having never done anything like this before, when Nicola was ill and Sophie was stuck on a coach between Oxford and Cranleigh!

Huge congratulations to them all and look out next year North!

Cross Country hammering handed out!

In the annual inter-house cross country competition (when thankfully the incessant rain decided to have a day off), West were simply too strong for the South House team and not only did they win the junior section for the 5th year running, they also, for the first time in several years, stormed home as winners in the senior section to literally run away with the cup! The junior girls' winners were Indi Thompson and Maddy Austin who crossed the line together, refusing to let either one come second, after Maddy had taken a tumble on the road (how is that for loyalty—or would the boys call it stupidity!) Behind them came Lizzie Wait in a tremendous 3rd place, Sophie Jones in an astonishing 4th place and Alex Adams, in 6th place, the first 4th former over the line...outstanding! In the senior race Josie Wait stormed home 11 seconds ahead of the next runner and she was followed by Frankie Denney in 3rd, Bella Roberts 4th, Tory Sawyer 6th, Kelly Hughes 7th, Liv Lyster 9th and Libby Pitt 10th, an amazing haul of runners in the top ten. **Well done to all who took part.**

Tory's Musical Highlight

One of the high points of a cold and bleak January was Tory Sawyer's performance of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the Merriman Orchestra. This was an immensely moving occasion and Tory is the 3rd West girl to have had the opportunity to do this in her final year at school. Tory, along with Hilary Cronin (Voice); Katherine Chevis (Brass) & Hebe Westcott (Piano) have all made it through to the final of the Helen Wareham competition next term whilst Emma Wallis was the winner of the Junior Woodwind competition this term.

Oxbridge Offers:

Olivia Lyster, Anna van der Zalm & Tory Sawyer had their January cheered with offers from Oxford and Cambridge whilst both Sara Williams and Alice Bryant have secured places to read medicine.



Good Luck to our Paddlers

Bella Roberts and Olivia Lyster



Emily Subba-Row and Torsie Haugli



All four girls will be tackling the 125 mile Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race over the Easter weekend, supported by their families who have to 'follow' the route by car and meet up with them at strategic moments to quite literally put food in their mouths. This is the only help the paddlers are allowed and when they reach their camp site each evening no help is allowed in pitching tents or preparing meals. The weather has not been kind to them in the gruelling training they have undertaken this term so we hope for better during the 4 day race and wish them the best of luck in this mammoth challenge. They will arrive at Westminster Bridge at 9.30am on Easter Monday.

The end of term and our victorious 4th form netballers look ready for summer!

