

A reflection on the Summer Term

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The Summer Term always promises to be eventful and this term has been no exception. We have been preoccupied, of course, with public examinations, and I would commend everyone, both staff and pupils, for their hard work; but we have also been busy in many other ways.

We have had an excellent cricket season, culminating in victories over the MCC, and excelled in a number of 'minor' College sports including rackets, tennis, swimming and athletics. Speech Day saw the launch of a comprehensive College-wide Development Plan, which starts with the refurbishment of the central library. Art and music have flourished, too, and the programme of events at the end of term has been the most diverse and exciting ever. We were also proud to hear that Major Jeremy Crossley, ex Cheltonian and Head of Corps here in 1996, has been awarded the British Military Cross.

One particular highlight for us was the annual '24 Hours at Cheltenham College' for pupils due to join the 3rd Form in 2010. We had a record number attending - over 110 in all - which suggests that next year's entry will be one of our strongest despite the recession. We are also seeing a resurgence in the Junior School, which bodes well for the future.

Sadly, of course, we have said goodbye to the U6, and we wish them all every success and happiness at university. They are a hugely talented group of young people and we will miss them keenly. We hope that what they have learned at College will serve them well.

Looking ahead to next year, we are expecting one of the largest L6 Forms ever, with the number currently standing at just over 150. We are also looking forward to Chris Reid and Nick Nelson taking up the reins in Leconfield and Christowe, respectively, and to the implementation of several key academic initiatives that will bring benefits to everyone in College.

I hope this edition of the College News conveys something of the quality and breadth of College life. It is as full as ever!

John Richardson, Headmaster

Autumn Term Dates

Monday 7th September - Wednesday 16th December
Exeat: Friday 2nd October - Sunday 4th October
Half-Term: Friday 23rd October - Wednesday 4th November
Exeat: Friday 20th November - Sunday 22nd November



Warm congratulations to our five College pupils who are celebrating after being offered 2009 Oxbridge places. Success at A Level will see Thomas Haggie and Christopher Bond joining Peterhouse and Trinity at Cambridge respectively to read History, Guy James joining St John's, Cambridge to read Natural Sciences, Christopher Neumann joining St John's, Oxford to read Chemistry and Tom Stubbs joining Magdalen, Oxford to read Biochemistry. All five pupils will join the College ranks of the 11 girls and 19 boys who have won Oxbridge places in the last four years. John Richardson commented: "Winning an Oxbridge place is a tremendous achievement and I am very proud indeed of

these pupils. I wish them every success in their chosen courses and an exciting future." Oxford to read Chemistry and Tom Stubbs joining Magdalen, Oxford to read Biochemistry. All five pupils will join the College ranks of the 11 girls and 19 boys who have won Oxbridge places in the last four years. John Richardson commented: "Winning an Oxbridge place is a tremendous achievement and I am very proud indeed of these pupils. I wish them every success in their chosen courses and an exciting future." bridge places in the last four years. John Richardson commented: "Winning an Oxbridge place is a tremendous achievement and I am very proud indeed of these pupils. I wish them every success in their chosen courses and an exciting future."

Enjoying College life after exams

The last two weeks of the summer term saw a frenetic period with many pupils away on expeditions, camps and trips. This year's post GCSE programme alone consisted of five expeditions with a total of eighty-seven pupils away. The watersports expedition to Cornwall was a great success and although the surf was quieter than usual, the group learnt to paddle board, sea kayak and even coasteer (see picture).



We also had expeditions away in Romania, Snowdonia, wild camping and hiking and for the first time a group of ten completed a descent of the River Wye from Hereford to Monmouth. Another new activity was the SCUBA course where nine pupils successfully completed their PADI Open Water certificate - many congratulations to them.



For the 3rd Form, it was trips to both to London and the Forest of Dean where they not only camped out but tested their orienteering skills and also their courage on the high ropes course.

Dominic Faulkner, Director of Activities

Welsh mountain ranges beckon for College Geographers

Lower Sixth geographers took to the glaciated highlands of Snowdonia as part of their post-exam programme of activities. As a new trip (themed on the AS areas of Glaciation, Tourism and Energy) in our busy fieldwork calendar it was an unqualified success on a full range of levels. A central aim of the trip was not only geographical knowledge and understanding but also an examination of the ways in which geographical investigations are conducted in 'the field'. Whether we were looking at honeypot tourism in Betwys-y-coed, pump storage HEP at Dinorwig or corries and arêtes at Glaslyn, our geographers were always encouraged to think about the importance of risk assessment, careful planning, types of data and how it might be collected, the use of ICT and GIS, and how evidence can be collected to draw relevant conclusions.





Accommodated in suitable 'luxury' in the 3 Star Royal Victoria Hotel in Llanberis, the en-suite twin rooms were a welcome sight after a busy day walking the glacial features of Nant Ffrancon and a hot sunny climb to the corrie at Lyn Llydaw. The three course evening meal (before our stunning walk up the Miners' Track to the foot of Snowdon's peak) was somewhat less impressive to those who chose both the melon starter and the fruit salad dessert; identical!



Without a doubt the star of the show throughout the trip was George Bossom. His cabaret exploits on the inflatable guitar, ably assisted by Camilla Gray on the saxophone (also inflatable), had the blue rinse audience in stitches and has certainly guaranteed a welcome return to the Royal Victoria next year. We also appreciated his masterly craftwork in splitting slate into roof tiles at the National Slate Museum on Day 2. That was, of course, before upsetting the quarryman who nearly amputated a 'Bossom finger' as an example to the rest.



Without fieldwork like this, an A Level in Geography would be sadly lacking its fundamental principle. Snowdonia was stunning, our L6 geographers were superb company, and the trip was a resounding success. We eagerly anticipated next year!

Ben Cliff, Head of Geography

Helping orphans in Romania



The highlight of the post GCSE programme is always the Romania trip and this year was no exception. 41 fifth formers spent an emotional and challenging week with abandoned children with special needs at a Romanian orphanage. The pupils mended bikes, repaired the swings, played all kinds of games with the children, including rounders, football, basketball and the ever



popular tag. On the more creative side, bracelets were made, painting were done and songs were sung. It was a packed week and the pupils returned home exhausted and humbled by this unforgettable experience. After twelve years of supporting the abandoned and institutionalised children of Romania things have clearly improved. Humanitarian aid is very much about creating independence and in many ways we have achieved this. The pupils were brilliant and it is excellent to end the long series of Post GCSE visits on a high note. It is right that we continue to help the children and the program of dental care started last year has been a great success and we will continue to fund this. We will also be closely involved in supporting the young adults that leave the orphanage, helping them to develop independent life skills.

Chris Rouan, Head of Biology

Exercise Welch folly...

CRICKHOWELL 2009

As the rest of College packed up and went home for the long summer holidays, our intrepid 4th former cadets packed their bags and embarked upon a 4 day army camp led by College Adjutant Stephen Clark in the depths of (wet)



Wales... What they achieved in four days would take many people a lifetime – from obstacle courses, shootings on the range and looking around a Spartan Tank to learning camouflage and concealment techniques, rock climbing, abseiling, clay pigeon shooting and dingle scrambling. And that's not to mention casualty evacuation and learning about different formations in which to patrol and attack and casualty evacuation. A full account of the experience, written through the cadets' own eyes, will be published in the next issue of The Cheltonian, out later this term.



Summer term sporting highlights

Record success in Schools Rifles Meeting

Since 1864, College has participated in the Schools Rifle Meeting, with pupils competing in a series of matches over several days to be in the top 100. Led by Captain Lulu Watson, the team performed superbly, with a record 8 pupils gaining the illustrious 'Schools 100' badge. Results: Lulu Watson 18th, Angus Boyd 29th, Gavin Yeung 39th, Oscar Ryndziewicz 41st, Moritz Strittmater 84th, Marcus Evans 86th, Charlotte McSparron-Edwards 90th and Barnaby Morton (in a very lucky) 100th. Particular note goes to Lulu for achieving 5 badges in her shooting career!



An outstanding season for the XI Cricket Team



Captained by Chris Butlin, this year's XI recorded a fantastic 15 victories out of 20 games played. Charles Wootton scored over 1000 runs, including three centuries and a 99, which placed him in the top twenty batsman in the country. The XI is also to be congratulated for both retaining the 'Chesterton Cup' and defeating Haileybury at the Schools' Festival (the fixture originally played between the two schools at Lord's.) Congratulations also to The Yearlings A side who retained the Lord's Taverners County competition and will now represent Gloucestershire in the National competition next season.

Standing back row left to right: Lee Watkins, Alex Ross, Alex Henniker-Gotley, Oscar Matthews, Freddie Braithwaite-Exley, Dale Scott. Sitting on the bench arms and front row left to right: James Croft, Charles Wootton, Chris Butlin, Tom Newman, Alex Mason.

Richard Morrisy sprints his way to the top

Congratulations to Richard who ran the 100m in a stunning 10.8s at the Regional Trials, qualifying for the Athletics National Finals. He also recorded a PB of 10.54 at an athletics meet against Radley, easily finishing in 1st place. Indeed, the athletics team had a strong season, finishing in 2nd place (just behind Harrow) out of 8 schools in the A competition. Notable performances include Pete Wild finishing 1st in the 110m Hurdles and 2nd in the High Jump and Josh Cheli coming 2nd in both the 800m and 1500m.



England Hockey and Rounders glory



It has been England caps galore for College hockey players this term. Our Hockey Professional Richard Lane was called up to the England Senior Hockey Squad, while pupils Holly Chipman and Georgia Rawlinson not only represented England in the Four Nations Tournament over Easter but also in July's European Hockey Championships. Meanwhile six more College pupils have been selected for the West of England Junior Regional Performance Centres. Congratulations to Emma and Laura Bevan (U18 and U16), Harry and Jack Smart (U18 and U15) and Alfie Gilbert and Harry Symes-Thompson (U17). Not to be outdone by hockey players, Olivia Schofield and Sarah Wild have also both represented England at rounders this season and our Assistant Director of Sport, Caroline Park, has been appointed the Head Coach for Rounders England. A busy term for both staff and pupils!

College pupils host the 40th Tewkesbury Regatta in fine style

On Saturday 20th June, over 80 crews from 11 schools battled it out for the College hosted Tewkesbury Regatta. There was a full seven hours of racing, with 72 races and 14 categories. The conditions were superb and many new record times achieved. With College hosting the event, help from College pupils (who also raced) was vital to its success. Many pupils helped run the event, taking turns working in the stake boats, timing, recording, delivering programmes and a host of other tasks. Many of our visitors remarked on the excellent atmosphere and several of the independent umpires commented on how few events have such excellent sportsmanship. We can be very proud of our boys and girls.



Rich Hine wins the Meyado Archie David Cup



Europe's most important low goal tournament, the Archie David Cup may just be the toughest in the UK polo calendar. For College pupil Rich Hine though, it was a chance to make his mark, becoming the youngest ever player to win the tournament. Congratulations!

Boys' Tennis Team excels to reach National Finals

Over the course of the summer term, our boy's tennis team (Richard Owen, Will Unwin, Felix Clarke, Tom Barton and James Whitecross) qualified from over 440 schools to reach the last 16 at the National Finals competing for The Glanvil Cup. While drawing the eventual winners; Reed's School, Cobham (effectively Surrey Tennis Academy) in the 1st round halted any further progress, our results placed College 10th out of all schools in England and Wales. An excellent achievement and congratulations to all players.

College pupils win Design and Technology Awards



Many congratulations to two extremely talented Design and Technology pupils. On 1st July, 16 year old James Lambert won the South West finals for Young Engineer of Britain with his innovative design of a flat-packed Christmas tree. He now goes through to the National Finals in Manchester in March next year. We wish him all the very best of luck. Meanwhile talented Claudia Holt was shortlisted for a prize at the prestigious London Fashion Graduate week for her t-shirt design.



Sights are set on RADA



On 17th September, ex U6th College pupil Daisy Hughes will be one of just 30 students chosen from around 4000 applicants to join RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art), one of the top and most prestigious theatrical academies in the world. We wish her all the very best in her career and look forward to seeing her on the big screen...

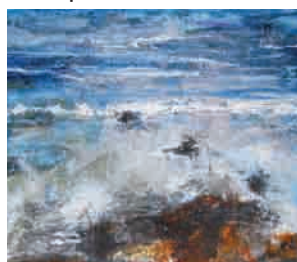
Meanwhile this term, 16 Lower 6th students presented their scripted pieces as part of their AS Drama and Theatre Studies, with an impressive 13 obtaining A grades, and giving some wonderful performances. With the pupils free to choose their own particular theatrical style, a wonderful range of scripts were performed, including *The Permanent Way*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead!*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, and *Epsom Downs*, in a variety of styles, from multimedia docudrama to absurdist theatre. There were some outstanding individual portrayals and some inventive and gripping group drama pieces. Particular congratulations to Amy Bruce, Harriet Bishop and Callum Locker all of whom gained full marks for their acting.

Fergus Llewellyn, Head of English and Drama

A stunning art exhibition in Thirlestaine Long Gallery

At a time of cutbacks and economic recession it is gratifying to see Thirlestaine Long Gallery bursting with dynamic artwork. When some Art Colleges can only offer their students a shared desk and a computer, the value of the educational experiences in our College Art department can not be overemphasised. Each 6th former has their own space, access to a wide range of materials and as much time as they are prepared to commit to. I am sure any visitor to this year's exhibition will have been struck by the vast range of work. Each piece is an individual expression of an emerging character and as such traces the considerable distance these pupils have travelled artistically in two years.

There was a strong figurative element this year as we returned to regular Life Class. Nothing quite concentrates the mind as much as a life model! Frankie Hall and Tino Bezuhanov have both produced immensely dynamic work both in portraiture and full figure studies. On a completely different route we have the extraordinary vitality of Luke Peckham's urban graffiti art, full of social comment and the angst of youth. Two girls have been particularly noticeable for their tenacious investigations: Daisy Hughes, whose trip to Uganda has sustained her work throughout the Upper Sixth in images of abject poverty, and deprivation, and Jess Topping who didn't leave a single stone unturned in her two year investigation into textural seascapes.



Perhaps the most bizarre manifestations were Lexy Besterman's. Unable to resist the temptation to form materials and to experiment, she researched into anthropomorphism, starting with the mythical Minotaur and ending by creating a full scale body cast in resin to which she has added antlers. For her exam the tragedy of *Foot and Mouth* and her own experiences of farming led her to create a sad but thought provoking assemblage of ceramic dead lambs.

Mark Ward, Head of Art

Himalayan adventures



Nepal is a country you can never forget. None of the pupils on our expedition, 20 of us in total, had ever been anywhere like it so there was a great sense of anticipation as we set off. Arriving late in the afternoon to Kathmandu smog we were taken aback at the mix of cultures and religions, new sights greeting us at every turn as we drove to our modest hotel in the centre. Despite its wonderful reputation, we were soon reminded that Nepal remains one of the world's poorest countries. A day of sightseeing followed, taking in some of the ancient Buddhist and Hindu temples. Swayambunath Stupa, or the Monkey temple, affords wonderful views over the ancient city. Later we visited the Hindu site of Pashupati. Here bodies were being cremated, the families of the deceased in loyal attendance, before the remains were cast into the stagnant Bagmati river. It was hard to believe we were only a day away from home and already the sensations were totally alien to anything previously experienced.

It was an early start the next day - a 7 hour bus journey into the Himalayan foothills. We flew past remote Nepalese villages, perched on the edge of impossibly high terraced slopes, local people waving and greeting us as we passed. We met our Sherpa team at the town of Jiri, at the same point where the 1953 Everest team embarked on their approach march to the mountain. Our destination, the 4000m summit of Pikey Peak, was a little more modest, but the next 8 days still proved to be a stern test of character for all members of the party. We carried our own equipment and camped most nights, albeit with the luxury of our food cooked by the Sherpa team. With frequent bouts of illness and intense heat, the group were really tested but reward came in reaching the snow-capped summit of Pikey at sunrise. The view in every direction was breathtaking. In the distance we could see Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, and further to the east, Kanchenjunga. (4 out of 5 of the world's highest mountains).



After our lengthy descent we stopped at Sukete beach, a rafting station high in the mountains. Camped beside a beautiful river, we rafted for 2 days on some exhilarating white water before relaxing in the evening with the fire lit and the music playing. Here we also had the chance to develop some kayaking skills, learning to roll in the safety of quiet water. We then went on a second trek, this time for just 4 days and with the added comfort of staying in Nepalese teahouses. Run by local families we were always assured of a warm welcome and some shelter from the encroaching monsoon rains. At the summit of Poon hill we were greeted with wonderful views of the sacred mountain of Machupuchare (the Fishtail), and Annapurna and Dhaulagiri, two more of the world's mightiest summits.



A well-earned rest was taken in Pokhara, a beautiful lakeside town with a mellow atmosphere, authentic restaurants, and a chance to do some shopping before the journey home via Kathmandu. For many this expedition was more than an incredible experience, it was life changing. Challenging but rewarding, many of those who went are already making exciting plans for future adventures. Sincere thanks goes to all the staff who planned and led the trip so brilliantly.



Charlie Stuckey, U6th, Newick House

Classics Symposium



Cavafi

Sixth Form Classicists enjoyed hosting a Summer Dinner to celebrate the completion of the Classics Prize Projects. A huge variety of work, on authors as diverse as Vergil, Cicero, Ovid, Catullus, Juvenal, Homer and Herodotus was presented to the assembled Fifth and Sixth Formers. Following Dinner we all enjoyed a talk by Effie Kostalas (Ashmead 2005-7) about the modern Greek poet Cavafi and the relationship of his work to Homer's. It was an excellent foil to the more strictly Classical tone of the papers before supper. We also acclaimed the 2.1 that Effie achieved in Part One of the Classics Tripos at Cambridge; she herself won the Cheltonian Society Classics Prize two years ago. Two of her contemporaries achieved similar distinction - Natasha Poole at Oxford and Henry Linscott at University College London.

Charles Wright, Head of Classics

Looking back on JIG 2008/2009



Auditions for JIG 2008 began way back in the September term, with an entirely new band section needing to be found. However, with Richard May and Annabel Coaker having been the band's singers last year, they gave excellent leadership and a warm welcome to the new musicians that Mrs Mew recruited. We all soon gelled and from the very first rehearsals, it was clear we had a very exciting year ahead.

For our first main parents concert, we played a varied selection with Rich performing 'Dock of the Bay' and 'Superstitious' with a great saxophone solo from Ellie Summers. Beth Champan gave a confident and truly crowd pleasing vocal performance of the huge hits 'Warwick Avenue' and 'Young Hearts Run Free' – huge hits and a truly crowd pleasing performance. Next it was 'Son of a Preacher Man,' sung by Annabel with Charlie Sault on the Guitar, and he never fails to set the mood for this fantastic song which

Annabel brings such life to. As the encore song, we invariably chose 'Dancing in the Moonlight' as it is such a fun song to dance to and always leaves everyone on a high. It begins with a solo on the keyboard using a 'bells' sound – for some reason this always reminded me of the ice-cream van coming round and made me feel happy!

Another highlight for us was going to Beaudesert Park, Rich's old school, to play at their 'Rock in the Gym' evening. Firstly we listened to the children performing the pieces they had been learning and then we played a set as an evening finale. Joe Saunders began with a Bass intro for 'Higher and Higher' a new song involving a duet from Rich and Annabel who also performed 'Ain't no Mountain High Enough' together. 'Carwash' from Becky Koh went down a treat with the children as it is the feature song for the animation film 'Shark Tale'.... Nick Knudsen (L), Ellie Summers (Ch), Will McNeille provided a fantastic saxophone line and at the end of the evening, a number of JIG CDs made it into the eager hands of the year 7s and 8s at Beaudesert.

Our final performance was at '24hrs at Cheltenham College.' After the Sunday College chapel service, everyone piled into the quad and we gave it our all, with pretty much every dancing at the end. A great way to end a great year.

Rehearsals were never without their trials and tribulations – Mrs Mew having to speak over the constant plucking of strings from Charlie on guitar, the immense volume from Joe on the bass and the fact that Fergie Griffin played the drums so hard that they kept inching forward throughout the practices... Tuning from the saxophones was inevitably painful until they warmed up and the trumpets, Silas Fuller and Wouter Vorstman were certainly allowed some artistic licence when it came to soloing.

It goes without saying that we are all hugely grateful to Gill Mew and her husband Steve for all the time and effort they put in to making JIG the success it is. Without their enthusiasm and expertise, there would not nearly have been so much fun and laughter and we would all like to thank them very much.

Emily Summers, Keyboard, ex U6

Vocals; Rich May, Annabel Coaker, Becky Koh and Beth Chapman

Saxes; Ellie Summers, Nick Knudsen, Will McNeile. **Trumpets;** Silas Fuller, Wouter Vorstman

Keyboards; Emily Summers, Guitar; Charlie Sault, **Bass guitar;** Joe Saunders Drums; Fergie Griffin

Moving our Eco Initiative forward



A number of L6th have been busy this year pushing forward the College's Eco Initiative. As well as the routine recycling programme now in place, the most recent development has been the College allotment. With the help of the College Works Department, a redundant area has now been transformed into a fantastic garden for growing fresh produce. Both Senior and

Junior schools are making use of this facility. We have also been involved with 'Eco Day' and 'Eco 45', both pupils' ideas. After a presentation in Chapel on saving energy and reducing waste, boarders applied themselves to reducing their energy consumption – switching off appliances on standby, not using kettles and toasters and reducing lighting.



We have two main Open Mornings this Autumn Term. Our 16+ Open Morning is on Saturday 26th September at 9.30am, with an address from the Headmaster, tours around the school by current pupils and a chance to talk to Heads of Departments and other staff over a canapé lunch in the College Library. Our Junior School (3 - 13) Open Morning follows a similar format and is on Saturday 10th October from 9.30am in the Junior School on Thirlestaine Road. To register for either Open Morning, please contact our Registrars:

Lucinda Roskilly (Junior School) on 01242 265 697 or lucinda.roskilly@cheltcoll.gloucs.sch.uk
Emma Ryan (Senior School) on 01242 265 680 or ryan.emma@cheltcoll.gloucs.sch.uk

Our founder's descendents come to visit



Last term we were honoured to welcome visits from two sets of family members of Captain James Shrubb Iredell, co-founder of College in 1841. Captain Iredell took an active part in the governing of College and when he retired in 1862, he was presented with a massive silver gilt vase in recognition of his 'long and valuable services'. This was donated back to College in the 1980s by the Iredell family. Captain Iredell's son, Charles, was a pupil at College from 1858 to 1863 before becoming a doctor and emigrating to Australia where all the descendents now live. We were



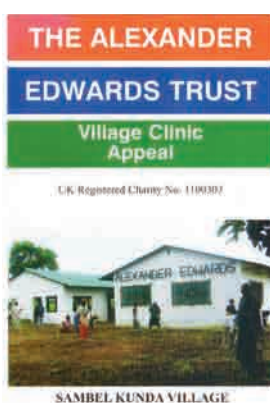
visited by his great grandson Mark and Lynn Iredell with their son Riley, as well as his direct descendant Mrs Ralfe. Mrs Ralfe kindly donated to College a handsome leather bound book which gave the names of all the friends who had subscribed to Captain Iredell's presentation as well as he Captain's beautifully written diary for the years 1825-32.

Latest charity news



Cheltonians have long been generous in the way they have responded when asked to contribute towards a variety of charities. Every year we have one charity, chosen by pupils, towards which all efforts are directed throughout the year. The chosen charity also has the use of the marquee put up for the Leavers' Ball to hold a fund-raising ball the evening before. Emthonjeni Fund, which is based in Cheltenham and helps HIV and AIDS sufferers in South Africa was the 2008/2009 charity chosen by College pupils. We will be publishing how much we raised for it in this Autumn term, as well as choosing a new charity for the new academic year.

Mini Food and Craft event



October from 12pm. Organised by The Alexander Edwards Trust in support of a Gambian village medical centre, the event will include a whole host of local products and crafts for both adults and children. If you would like to attend the event or if you know of any local suppliers who would like to partake, please email: debbym@talktalk.net

In addition to College charity efforts, Cheltenham College Junior School will be hosting a 'Mini Food Festival and Craft Fair' in its Hall on Saturday 3rd

College Boys on Bikes



We would also like to congratulate four intrepid College pupils: Ben Walter, Charlie Stuckey, George Hazell and Felix Sowerbutts who set off on 28th July on a charity bike ride in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust. The journey took the boys along the Dalmatian coast in Croatia where they biked around 600 kms in six days. The boys have their own donation page (with the impressive sum of over £5500 already recorded) so please have a look at what they have been up to and how to sponsor them: www.justgiving.com/spottydogcyclers/

Note from the editor

Many thanks for reading this newsletter which will continue to evolve term by term. Should you have any comments or suggestions for improvements, please do feel free to contact me. Your feedback is always greatly appreciated. With thanks to all the members of the Common Room and the pupils of the College for their contributions. Special thanks to Stephen Clark and Andy Banks for photography.

