



Christowe House News: reflecting on the academic year 2010 / 2011

This has been a very packed year for Boyceites with some enjoyable House events. Highlights would be the Lower College trip to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition, the Upper College paintball trip to Bristol and the House Careers' Evening with the Red Arrows. We put in a sterling performance in the Hockey House Pots, but lost to Leconfield both at Junior and Senior levels. This followed the postponed (but never actually played out) Rugby House Pots final against Newick House. We gave of our all in the House Singing Competition under the expert leadership of Oliver Butler who, at the time, had just secured a Distinction for Grade 8 singing. Despite bribing the judge, we lost out to the girls in Westal. The House Play 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' shared with Chandos House was a real triumph. This occupied much of the second half of the term, and many congratulations must go to Charlie Newman for his expert directing, to Pete Wild for all that he did on a number of levels and to an excellent cast.

Alfie Gilbert and Alex Ross gained their Full Colours for Hockey, and Jun Ho Ku his Academic Full Colours. We dominated the Water polo scene, captained by Joshua Baldwin. Harry Rodney served as Head of Army in CCF for the Biennial Inspection.

Alex Ross and Pete Wild (HOH) enjoyed huge success at Rosslyn Park with the Rugby Sevens, reaching the last eight when they were beaten by the overall tournament winners, Wellington College. Pete Wild (HOH) went on to become top try scorer on the Independent Schools' Barbarians Tour to Zimbabwe, with an impressive 6 tries. Alfie Gilbert romped home at the Queens' Rackets' Club, beating Radley 4-2 in the finals of the Second Pairs. Meanwhile we heard news that Charlie Sault had been awarded an Academic and Golf Scholarship to Southeastern Louisiana University in America.

We recognised the Royal Wedding on Friday 29th April with a typically English tea in the House Orchard, and champagne for the Tutors. For the first weekend of the Trinity Term the Upper Sixth went camping overnight on a farm in Wiltshire and on a hack with horses on Sunday morning in the Pewsey Vale. Our Prefects' Dinner was celebrated at Gustos, and the Third Form enjoyed a social with Westonbirt Girls' School and Lower College Paintballing in Bristol.

Congratulations must go to Oliver Rodney who was made Head of House and to JJ Ball who has been made Head Boy and Deputy Head of House (Upper College) and Mark Doumler who is the other Deputy Head of House (Lower College). Also Olawale Fari (Head of 4th form), Nick Sullivan and Jack Cook must also be congratulated for being made House Prefects.

Christowe won the House Pots Relays in impressive style, breaking the record in the 4x100m (Team 1. Jack Antoniou, 2. Jack Cook, 3. Mark Doumler, 4. Peter Wild (HOH) who also went on to compete at the English Schools' Athletics Competition in the 110m High Hurdles, and came a close second in the House Pots Swimming. The 1st IV, including two of the Christowe Upper 6th have had an impressive year, coming 4th at the National Schools' Regatta and going on to row at Henley.

There have been some excellent house events in the third term headlined by an insightful talk from Tony Adams about his life on and off the football pitch. For the second year we have done a charity hike, this year in aid of relief for the disaster in Japan. A new addition to the summer calendar was a father and sons cricket match, which, despite rain almost stopping play was a very jolly, light-hearted occasion.

At the end of the year we sadly said goodbye to Nina the Resident Matron, who is retiring from her current post. She has done a sterling job at keeping the house in order and we wish her much fulfilment in her retirement. She is succeeded by Julie Dunn, who has a wealth of experience coming from Brentwood School for Girls where she was Head of Pastoral care. Also the Resident Geraint Davies left us to go to Hartpury College as a Rugby Coach and lecturer. He is superseded by Michael Alderton, a current teacher of Chemistry and Physics.

Whilst saying goodbye to our leavers, we have laid on two events for our new starters for both September 2011 and 2012 in the latter part of the Summer term.

During the Summer our eyes were of course firmly fixed on the public examinations results. With such a strong Upper Sixth contingent in Christowe, the results did not disappoint. Both Peter Wild (HOH) and Jun Ho Ku attained 4 A* Grades and Gus Slator 3. Harry Rodney, Alfie Gilbert and Tom Dessain all managed straight A Grades, and there were other notable successes, with the vast majority gaining their number one place at University. At AS Level both JJ Ball and Nick Sullivan attained an impressive 5 A Grades at AS Level if we include the result for the World Development Project on JJ's part.

The academic year 2011/12 will no doubt be packed and busy for Boyceites and details of the events for the Michaelmas Term are detailed on the Christowe webpage. Finally I encourage any old Boyceites to keep in touch with their news and may they be reminded that they are always

welcome to come back and visit us; we are always looking for careers' talks apart from anything else.