



As always the Autumn Term has been particularly busy in Christowe. Following the arrival of new boys in the 3rd, 4th and L6th forms the house has a new range of individuals with a spectrum of talents and characteristics.

To start the eventful term off, the Christowe 3rd form travelled to the South Cerney wakeboarding centre with Mr Alderton and Miss Smith. This proved particularly useful for all members of the 3rd form for getting to know each other better outside a College situation. After a few wipeouts and dramatic falls they all picked up the sport with relative ease. After another busy week at college the 3rd and 4th forms took part in the highly anticipated annual paintballing trip to Portishead in Bristol. The boys were joined with one or two members of the 5th form along with the Head of Upper College, Mark Doumler and Head of 4th Form, Olawale Fari. After five intense matches, the day finished with a game of rugby. However this was ruby with a twist in which all the boys were separated into two teams and attempted to run a ball to the opposite end of the pitch, whilst being pelted by paintballs! Although this sounds brutal, everyone immensely enjoyed it.

During the unexpected heat wave at the start of October, the whole House came together on Sunday 2nd October to play a tournament of football. All 68 boys were split into teams containing someone in each year regardless of ability. The tournament lasted for 2 hours, finishing at 12 and was a huge success with everyone. This kind of event is essential in a boarding house in order to really integrate the years and achieve a sense of community among the whole house.

The next Sunday, 9 boys took part in a Fathers & Sons Golf Day at the Cotswold Hills golf course. The atmosphere at the start of the day was friendly and relaxed, however as the day progressed and as most pairs passed the 10th hole with barely a few points between them, the rivalry heated up and became more and more competitive. Many of the adults who were secretly going for the win began to play with more enthusiasm than many of the boys! However at the end of the day, Paddy and David Milton finished in first place with a total of 43 points.

On Saturday 15th, the College Prefects began their 24-hour triathlon in aid of Maggie's Cancer Care Charity. Christowe boys, JJ Ball (Head Boy) and Oliver Rodney (Head of Christowe) took part in the triathlon meanwhile the rest of the Upper College had a social event up at College after the opening ceremony for the 24-hour triathlon. The College Prefects raised over £7000 for Maggie's, which was a huge achievement for all of them. The Christowe 3rd and 4th Form travelled to the nearby Westonbirt School for a social with girls of the same age there. This event is always a good opportunity to meet more people outside College and was enjoyed by all the 3rd and 4th Form. The following day, Mr and Mrs Nelson took the Third Form to the British Photographe of the Year at Nature in Art, Gloucester.

In-house events provide a chance for Christowe boys to present something that interests them or to show particular talent or skill to the rest of the house; this is something that no other house does in College. Furthermore, these events give essential practice for the future in the form of public speaking, preparation and research. This term three boys took part in the Christowe travel talk, Jack Cook (U6th) and Archie Kenwright (U6th) both gave an insight into their travels to Kenya during the summer holidays where, along with 15 other Upper 6th formers, they helped to renovate the Peponi School in Nairobi. William Ross-Anderson (3rd Form) delivered a very interesting speech on an elephant orphanage project he set up also during the summer holidays in Zambia. We also had presentations from Mr Alderton on an expedition to Bolivia and a speech by our Postgrad student Mr Kirby on a charity bike ride from the UK to South Africa. All of these talks were put together and delivered very well which made them very interesting and they were all much appreciated by the rest of the house.

Finally inter-house competitions are among the most anticipated events in the school calendar. This term Christowe reached the semi-finals of the house rugby competition for both lower and upper College. The senior's match against Leconfield was very tough but we still played a good game, although we sadly suffered a loss at the hands of what was a very strong senior team, with 7 members of the 1st XV. On the 20th October, the whole College took part in the annual house singing competition in Chapel. This is an event in which the whole house comes together and sings a song of its choice; this year Christowes' song was 'Is this the way to Amarillo'. It was a brilliant occasion enjoyed by the whole college, however Leconfield robbed Christowe of the 1st place!

All in all it has been another eventful and busy half-term at Christowe with new and exciting opportunities at every corner.... Next we look forward to our annual House Debate shared with Queens on Friday 4th November. This will be followed by fireworks and jacket potatoes on Saturday 5th.

Oliver Rodney

Head of Christowe