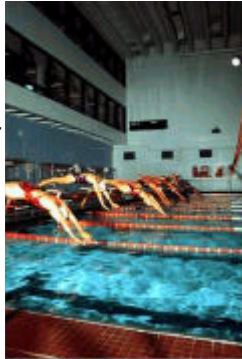


Swimming

Once again this year, the College competed against other local schools in Years 7, 8 and 9. Many of the fixtures this year were separate for girls and boys, but for both teams the results and efforts were pleasing. The girls were fortunate to have two cub swimmers in Babette Radcyllfe-Thomas (Year 8) and Devika Wood (Year 7) who often swam for the boys as well! Overall, St Dunstan's only won one match this year (girls versus Emanuel) however on closer inspection there is much more to celebrate. The girls at U12 level won 50% and at U13 won 75%. Notable performances came from Devika Wood who competed wherever needed and rarely got to swim her favourite stroke. She inspired her teammates and encouraged them to do their best. Special mention should also go to Lucy Heffernan who frequently joined Devika in the butterfly event. Babette Radcyllfe-Thomas led the way at U13 level also having to swim butterfly where nobody else could. Special mention should go to Helen Keppe whose efforts and enthusiasm did not falter. It was wonderful to see the positive influence two young pupils could have on their team. Babette and Devika were encouraging, competitive and responsible, often acting as team managers on my behalf. At U14 level however, the girls lost all matches by quite some margin, at times failing to produce a full team. Credit should go to the few girls who made themselves available to swim every week regardless: Anna Harborow, Molly Robson, Hannah Watson and Lucy Hinton.



In addition to friendly fixtures this year, a few other swimming events appeared on the calendar for the first time. Devika Wood and Babette Radcyllfe-Thomas attended the preliminary rounds of the IAPS Girls' Swimming Championships at King's School, Rochester. Both girls won their events and eagerly awaited their overall national ranking. Babette was placed 16th from the preliminary rounds of the 50m freestyle, missing out by just four places on selection for the finals. Devika finished eighth nationally in the 50m backstroke, securing her place at the finals in Wolverhampton later in the year.

Closer to home, St Dunstan's hosted a one hour swimming challenge as part of the British Long Distance Swimming Association's 'One hour Postal Swim'. Participants were challenged to swim as far as possible in one hour and results were entered into a national competition. There was no surprise when Devika Wood recorded the best result at the College of 3300m and this ranked her 20th out of 323 nationally. Everybody set themselves personal targets and frequently surprised themselves. Pupils from year 6 to year 9 took part, many of who received awards for their efforts. A special mention should go to Mr Alderman who also entered the competition in a slightly older age group. Many thanks to the volunteers who counted and recorded the swimmers' lengths for an hour!

Whilst there is a long way to go in developing swimming in the College, there has been a glimmer of hope this year. The Junior School is also working hard to raise standards and hopefully this will filter through to the Senior School in the near future. Well done to all those who competed this year and I look forward to St Dunstan's building on their success in 2003.

Athletics

Over the course of the summer term a number of students from years seven to ten attended Athletics Club at Ladywell Arena on Wednesdays after school. Students worked developing technique in a number of athletics events. It was great to see students from across the school working together to build what proved to be a strong athletics team.

Our first event of the year was the Lewisham Schools Athletics Championships held at Ladywell Arena on the 14th and 15th May 2002. This was open to students in years eight to thirteen and was the qualifying event for the London Schools Athletics Championships. A handful of keen athletes were selected to represent the college and many qualified for London Schools Athletics by gaining first and second place in their individual events.

Lewisham Schools Athletics Association quickly confirmed the team selected for the London Schools Athletics Championships. The following students were picked for the borough squad and many gained Personal Best scores and commendable positions. In the Junior Boys section Adai-Sonny Monerville 9K – 100m (2nd), Adai was also selected for the 200m and the 4 x 100m but unfortunately became injured in the 200m final and was unable to compete in these events. Junior Girls section Samantha Holder 8S – High Jump (4th). Keighley Douglas 9M – 100m (4th), 200m (5th), 4 x 100m Relay (1st). Natalie Bartley 9K – 200m (2nd), Long Jump (2nd), 4 x 100m Relay (1st). Julia Hannman 9K – Javelin (1st), High Jump (1st). Finally the Intermediate Girls Venita Akpofure 10S – 100m (2nd), 4 x 100m Relay (2nd).

Two competitors are permitted from each borough per event. It was a credit to the college that in the Junior Girls section, out of the eleven events which took place, six of these events were covered by one competitor from St Dunstan's and in two events both competitors were from St Dunstan's. This is a massive achievement for the competitors and also for the college. Pupils who achieved first or second position and the English School's entry standard were selected by the London School's Athletics Co-ordinator to represent London at the English School's Athletics Championships on 13th and 14th July 2002 in Nottingham. We were very pleased that two pupils from the college were selected, Natalie Bartley – 200m and 4 x 100m relay and Adai-Sonny Monerville – 100m and 4 x 100m relay. Both students should be heartily congratulated for gaining personal bests in their individual events and gold medals in the team relays.

By the end of the summer term a number of Lower School students met the standard for borough representation at the Year seven and eight London School's Athletics Championships at the Lindford Christie Stadium on the 25th June 2002. The following students were selected on their personal best to represent the borough: Tara Facey 7U – 200m, Long Jump, 4 x 100m Relay. Rosanna Townsend 7F – 800m. Toby Burnard 7S – 800m. James Williams 7S – 100m, 4x 100m Relay. Helen Keppe 8U – 800m. Frankie Hodge 8H – High Jump, 4x 100m Relay. Samantha Holder 8S – High Jump, 75m Hurdles.

The championships proved tough competition, but all pupils involved worked extremely hard and gave their very best. Unfortunately individual results have not yet been circulated but it was confirmed the Lewisham team gained overall second position. We look forward to seeing our year seven and eight pupils moving up a level next year to the Junior Championships giving them the opportunity to work towards a place in the Lewisham or even the London team!

EH and NZF

