



Newsletter



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European Day of Languages



On Wednesday, the Senior School celebrated European Day of Languages. Pupils raised money for charity by donning national costumes from countries around the world. American cowboys rubbed shoulders with flamenco dancers, African chieftans sat alongside Russian ballerinas and there were plenty of French berets, ponchos and Australian cork hats to be seen. Many students were creative in their outfits.. Each child paid £1 for the privilege of dressing up and the money raised will be sent to Médecins Sans Frontières.

Chatham House

Charlie Comerford reports: Last Thursday a group of Sixth Formers travelled to London to attend the Chatham House annual defence lecture, given by Professor Hew Strachan, Oxford Professor of the History of War. Chatham house is Europe's leading foreign policy think-tank and discusses policies from economic globalisation to global warming. There were over 300 people at the lecture including academics, politicians and members of the armed forces. Despite our preconceptions that the lecture would be directed towards academics, it turned out to be an entirely fascinating commentary on our current political situation regarding defence and accessible for everyone in the audience. The lecture was captivating and compelling and I would thoroughly recommend membership to each and every Sixth Former regardless of political inclination. It was an exceptionally enjoyable excursion.

Modern Languages Society

Baykan Ozdogac, secretary of the Modern Languages Society reports on a recent meeting: On Tuesday the Modern Languages Society welcomed two former pupils, Ben Jacobs and George Davis, for a talk on their recent gap year experience in Ghana. The presentation focused mainly on the cultural and linguistic differences between English

society and that of the Ghanaian people, and how much can be gained by immersing oneself in another way of life for a period of time. The speech was a realistic and balanced outlook on the gap experience

Australian Visitors



On Wednesday, St Dunstan's welcomed visitors from Matthew Flinders Anglican College in Buderim, Queensland. It was good to return hospitality to the school, which played host to St Dunstan's on one leg of its world tour last year. Three netball matches and two rugby matches were played on the fields. There was a great atmosphere in all the games played and loads of support from spectators.

The 1st VII enjoyed an exciting match, played in a great spirit, which until the end was closely contested. The lead kept swinging back and forth between the two teams. Sadly for SDC the opposition managed to pull away in the final quarter. The final score was 23-14 to Matthew Flinders. Janine Robson played brilliantly and was named Player of the Match. Lizzie Withall also had a good game in what overall was a great team effort.

The 2nd team's game was very close. Possession moved between the two schools evenly, with neither dominating. Clare Skinner proved key at Wing Defence. She formed an effective trio with Esther Arojo (WA) and Emily Kidd (C). At half time St Dunstan's was down 9-4 but determined to turn the game around. Izzy Levy made an immediate impact when she came on and Holly Stratton and Katherine Huxter in defence ensured Matthew Flinders had to work hard to gain possession. During the second half, St Dunstan's out-scored its opponents six goals to two but the touring side scraped a win by a single goal.

A well-drilled Matthew Flinders side outplayed the 3rd VII. The tourists converted nearly every attempt on goal. SDC could not turn its many impressive attacking moves into goals but the whole team kept fighting for

possession right up until the final whistle. Led by their verbal manager, Noor Jan-Mohamed, the team never let their heads drop and remained focussed and sporting. Special mentions to Alice Kidd who played superbly as Centre, but the Player of the Match was Olivia Higgins who was outstanding as Goal Defence.



On the rugby pitches the honours were shared between SDC and Matthew Flinders. The 1st XV secured a deserved win against the Australians by 15-5. Playing up hill and against the wind in the first half, SDC managed to keep restrict their opponents for a half time score of 5-5. In the second half the boys were able to take advantage of the slope and wind to dominate. The try scorers were Callum Stevenson, Peter Colling and Oli Gilbert. The 2nd XV lost its game 7-17 although some of Matthew Flinders points were scored by SDC players who helped out the tourists who were short of players. The SDC try was scored by Ashley Baxter and converted by James Jutson.

The atmosphere in all the games was warm and sporting and everybody enjoyed the presentation in the refectory afterwards. The College hopes this positive association with Matthew Flinders continues in the future. Thanks to all the SDC families who hosted students from the touring party.

Netball

The U15A and Bs had their first games of the season last Thursday against Emanuel. The A team's game was competitive and highly charged. Both sides were well-matched but Emanuel was better at converting its goal attempts. Meryl Cooper at GA was made Player of the Match for her continuous battling. She worked brilliantly with Rosie Tayler and Giulia Spissu to get the ball into

our attacking circle. She created many good scoring opportunities. The final score of 16-7 did not truly reflect the balance of the game. The U15Bs had a wobbly start but worked hard in defence. When they did gain possession they tended to panic and give the ball away. Lucinda Davenport was fantastic in defence making life for the Emanuel GS. She was made Player of the Match.

Rugby

Well done to the U13Bs who held off a strong challenge at the end of their game against Colfe's on Saturday to win by 17-15. Well done to try scorers; Oliver Fox, Andrew Peachey and Damel Lambert Powell, to Jamie Tahsin for his conversion and Calum Smith for his tackling. The U13As led going into half time thanks to a try by Joseph Akinlotan. But in the second half, down to 14 players because of injuries, the team allowed a fast Colfe's winger get away twice to score.

The U14B played a strengthened team from Colfe's. The team put in its best performance this term, the boys showing a new commitment and determination. If they retain these new found attributes, a win will not be far away.

In its game against Colfe's the U15A team struggled to win quality ball in lineouts and scrums. This meant the backs did not have a platform on which to build. Nathaniel Johnson looked dangerous when he did get the ball and managed to score at the end of the first half. SDC was much improved in the second half but could not stem the flow of scores from Colfe's.

The U15B team also lost (36-10) to Colfe's. Two tries - one from Kofi Bartels-Kodwo, who was outstanding in defence and attack, and one from Bob Andrews - were the highlights of the U15Bs match against Colfe's. Jerome Campbell made several penetrating runs in attack and Frank Brett made an impression with his tackling.

The U14A team put up a brave performance against Eltham in the Kent Cup last Thursday. Although losing 26-0 the team defended manfully and put in many crunching tackles.

Junior School News Prep French Breakfast



On Monday the children of the Prep Department enjoyed a traditional French breakfast in the Refectory before classes.

They eagerly tucked in to croissants and sipped chocolat chaud from bols in the French style. It was part of the Prep's celebration of Languages Day.

Isabel Lambert of 6G reports on 'der Tag der Sprachen': Ich fand das französische Frühstück toll. Alles hat gut geschmeckt. In der Versammlung haben viele Schüler etwas in einer Fremdsprache gesagt. Augusto und Alistair haben auf italienisch gesprochen, Emil und Lawrence auf deutsch, Etian und Benoit auf französisch, Amy auf japanisch und Gala auf serbisch. Jedoch war das nicht alles. Wir hörten auch viele Lieder in verschiedenen Sprachen. Michael sang auf malaysisch, Anouschka und Hatti auf ukrainisch, Celia, Emily und ich auf deutsch. Es hat wirklich Spaß gemacht, so viele Sprachen und Talente in St Dunstan's zu hören!



Environmental Centre Trip

Avinash Delwadia reports on a Year 4 trip to last week: The best thing about our trip to the Greenwich Environmental Centre was when we were feeding Lucy the goat and meeting a pig named Pod. We also saw chickens and how they use their sharp claws to dig underground for insects. Also, we saw how ducks use their webbed feet to swim and how they dive under water to get food.

The scary bit was when we went under the leaves to study how moles manage to live in a hole underground. We learnt how goats chew food such as leaves and that they have two stomachs! There was also a plant that can trick flies! If a fly goes on to the plant, the plant will snap shut the leaves tightly and suck out its blood. Yuk! Overall, my favourite part was running through the long grass. It felt like the jungle. Everybody seemed to love the packed lunches too!

Rugby

The U9s played their first competitive fixture against Breaside on Monday evening. Mr James refereed while Mr Duckworth and the Breaside teacher roamed the pitch, helping all the boys get into better positions. All the boys improved their skills and their understanding of the game. Eoin O'Sullivan and Leon Crawley were fantastic in the A team and Dior Bowers and Tom Burns played so well in the B team that they earned a promotion to the A team! The A team conceded three tries in the first half but played much better in the second. Ben Hulls scored a good try. The B team played very well, winning 5-3. Well done to all.

The U10s faced DCPS on Tuesday. The As played DCPS' C team. The first half was a close encounter with some excellent handling on both sides. The second half was more one-sided with SDC's eventually winning 7-2. Next time we will play the DCPS B team. Well done to Keita Orelaja, Charlie Ferguson, Haydn Davies Bell and Adam Oputu for scoring a try each. Special mention goes to Demi Kuteyi who scored three tries. The B team played the DCPS E team. The SDC boys need to tackle more and support each other in rucks and mauls. Benoit Jauniaux scored two good tries but DCPS scored six.

The U11s made a promising start in their fixture against Bickley Park last Thursday. The A team match started as a training game, with uncontested scrums and lineouts, as both teams eased themselves back into rugby. After 15 minutes the game went "full contact" and both teams played with commitment and ability. Jonny Regnier was outstanding in attack and defence and the forwards showed determination. Bickley scored a deserved late try but SDC showed it will be a match for many this season.

The B team also made a good start, drawing 3-3 with the Bickley Bs. Aspects of their game still need work but scoring three tries is no mean achievement. Well done to Rory Burns, Bill Fox-O'Brien and Rahul Reddy.

Netball

Every girl in Year 6 has represented the College at netball this term. Over the course of three matches the girls have improved significantly. The A team was unlucky to lose against Bromley High on Monday, having played well to build a 2-1 lead at half time. The girls have taken on board the advice they have been given and their attitude and technique is getting better all the time. Shola Thomas has been appointed netball captain for the year.

Notices and Reminders

Due to unforeseen circumstances, John Lewis will not now be coming to the College on Tuesday, 30 October for its scheduled sample-selling visit. Parents can place orders directly with its Oxford Street store as usual.

On Wednesday, October 31 at 7.30pm the Historia Theatre Company will stage a production of *An African's Blood* in the Great Hall. The play, about the abolition of slavery, is by St Dunstan's College Governor Kate Glover. Tickets cost £2 for children and £5 for adults.

Next month, the Family Society will hold its AGM. All parents are automatically members of the Family Society and would be warmly welcomed at the meeting on Wednesday, 10 October in the Great Hall at 7pm. Anyone interested in standing for the Committee should return the form, sent out today, as soon as possible.