



Geography Field Trip



On Monday and Tuesday this week Year 8 headed off to Horton Kirby and Eynsford in Kent to study the River Darent. The pupils compared the width of channel, the velocity of flow and the type of bedload of the river at the two locations. They also learnt about the art of field sketching involving drawing and labelling the geographical features.

Armstrong Society

The new season of Armstrong Society lectures began last Friday. The meeting was hosted by the new Society Secretaries, Anna Gilmour and Alex Rush. Anna welcomed Professor Sam Berry of UCL for his first visit to the College. Alex introduced the talk, which turned out to be a very interesting look at Darwinism and its relationship to religious belief entitled: *Evolution and Creation, Darwin, Dawkins and Delusions*. Professor Berry gave a clear exposition of the development of Darwinism in the context of beliefs held at the time. He described how it seemed to be undermined by the first geneticists, but was then redeemed by a synthesis of genetics and evolution. He explained his own belief that the apparent rift between science and religion was promoted by extremists on both sides and fuelled by the media; it was possible to hold complementary views of the world that accommodated both, an idea supported by ideas in quantum physics.

IB Information Evening

Last Wednesday over 200 current parents, pupils and visitors attended the International Baccalaureate Information Evening. The audience was split into three groups which moved around different locations to hear three presentations. Mrs Algeo led a seminar focussing on the details of how the IB Diploma works. Mr Holroyd gave everyone a taster of what it is like to study the Theory of Knowledge, which is an important element of the IB course. He had his audience imagining what it feels like to be blind and discussing

whether it is possible for an outsider to relate to a Balinese Kecak dance which enacts the Hindu epic the Ramayana. The third seminar, hosted by Mr Johnson, focussed on how the IB Diploma is perceived by universities. It included contributions from Caroline Dimpleby, who is Admissions Officer for Essex University. She stressed that universities look favourably on IB students because they tend to have excellent critical thinking, independent research and presentation skills which are valuable for university. An Essex student, Eleanor West, spoke persuasively about her experience of studying the IB in Luxembourg and how it was helping her in her university studies.

Language Assistants



Welcome to the three new Language Assistants who will be helping the Modern Language Department this year. They are Amelia Solar-Garzón, Stephan Bradmeck and Amanda Dalacour.

Netball

The 1st and 2nd netball teams played Alleyn's on Wednesday. Annie Nelson reports: The 1st VII started slowly, as the girls got used to a sloping playing surface. At half time the score was 3-3. In the second half everything came together. Everyone drove onto the ball, shots went in and movement down the court was superb. SDC powered ahead and the final score was 13-5 to SDC – a convincing win over what used to be a scary opponent. Yeri Al-Jaf played particularly well. Emily Kidd reports: The 2nd team match was close. Alleyn's dominated the first half so SDC reorganised positions at half time. The girls re-started with a new attitude, slowed the game down and focused on their driving. Izzy Levi proved key at GA and was soon scoring goals. Penny Regis put pressure on the Alleyn's girls, and made numerous skilful interceptions. Despite the improvement, the final score was 13-7 to Alleyn's.

The U13 team began nervously in its game against Sydenham High last Thursday conceding three goals early on. After a reshuffle of positions, the girls found their

form. Lana Richards at GA (player of the match) stunned the Sydenham defence and linked beautifully with Louise Forbes. For a quarter the girls were unstoppable and at half time SDC led 14-8. The team then let Sydenham back in with poor defending and rushed passes. The last quarter began with the score at 17-17. Sadly the pressure got to the girls and they failed to convert their goal attempts allowing Sydenham to win 21-17.

The U14 A and B teams also took on Sydenham High. The As won 17-10 and really raised their game in the final quarter. The players moved the ball down the court effectively but need to reduce the interceptions. The team defended superbly. Alicia Stubbs had a great game as GK, as did Sally Duggan at GA. Player of the match was Rashidah Less, who linked attack and defence skilfully. The Bs built a 5-0 lead in the first quarter but had to work hard in defence as Sydenham fought back. Charlotte Williams played well, feeding the ball to her shooters – Evie Atkinson, Elpha Perkins and player of the match, Rosie Peck. Well done! Thanks to Year 11's Clare Skinner and Georgia Neblett who umpired the games.

Basketball

Anum Malik reports: The U14's at last had their first match; an away game against all boys school King's College on Friday. The SDC team consisted of four girls: Anna Denvir, Leila Morris, Monet Lawes, and Rashidah Less and six boys: Amarr Wright, Umar Mehta, Stuart Young, Andrew Crouch and Murat Mullali. The nerves were evident on everyone's faces and our shooting suffered. However, SDC scored six points through fast breaks from Anna and Rashidah and a rebound by Amarr. KCS took control in the second quarter. Denvir and Amarr did well with some great defensive hassling. Although the match ended as a 16-48 defeat, the team enjoyed its first match.

On Monday a mixed team of pupils drawn from Years 8-11 took on a well-drilled and organised Alleyn's. Jack Ball, with his firm handling skills and cool head kept the offence under control. Both Pranay Singh and Anna Denvir, who scored three baskets, supported him ably. Rashidah Less made use of her height and rebounded the ball in the key. Reece Fletcher, the ringer from the U16 team, showed his experience when shooting. However Alleyn's managed to stay a basket or two ahead throughout the game, to win by a mere four points, 44-48.

Rugby

On Wednesday, the 1st XV played the American School, away. The team started slowly and paid the price for sloppy play going 0-3 down. Peter Jefferys rallied his players and after some astute positional kicking by Peter Colling, the team finally made an overlap pay and Gabriel Adebisi scored. Peter kicked the conversion. Gradually the team gained superiority in the forwards, scoring and converting two further tries for 21-3 at half time. In the second half the American School took advantage of a lack of concentration to reduce the deficit but Douglas Butt and Peter killed off its fight back. The final score was 36-10 to SDC.

Last Saturday the 1st XV travelled to Emanuel. The forwards put the team in many good attacking positions but two mistakes gave the opposition 10 points against the run of play. The team pulled itself together scoring two excellent tries: one for Peter and one for Greg Holder after a movement started by Oliver Gilbert in our 22. Sadly Oliver had to retire from the game and the second half started badly when Emanuel scored twice. The team never let their heads drop and a fine converted try by Gabriel Adebisi took the score to 17-22 with minutes to go. The team couldn't find a final try but it was a spirited performance.

After a poor show against Colfe's, the U15s were eager to do better against Emanuel. The boys played with a confidence and self-belief that was lacking last week. After sustained pressure, Ashley Clarke-Walkin scored a fine try, which Jack Train converted. With excellent support play and intelligent play from key ball carriers, the boys kept up the pressure and scored four more tries. With the score at 34-0, the second half was about defending as Emanuel picked up the pace. It scored a break away try towards the end but in reply, Ashley ran in two wonderful tries, which he converted for a final score of 48-7. The other scorers were Nathaniel Johnson (three) and James Burley and Luke Coughlan with one apiece.

The U14A team lost a closely fought match against Emanuel with the only try of the match separating the teams. A fine run from Alex-Hugh Wilson in the dying seconds nearly levelled the match.

The U13As should have won their game. The forwards were dominant and SDC had 70% of the possession. The team was undone by some fast Emanuel runners and lost 31-17. Ben Syrett scored twice and Eddie Jones once. Michael Wilgoss kicked one conversion. The U13Bs maintained their unbeaten record beating Emanuel 12-7 in an exciting match. SDC scored first with a try by winger, Joe Hills O'Reilly, and seemed to be in control. When Emanuel scored a converted try things got tense but the boys fought back. Andrew Peachey powered over the line for a try which Conor Strutt-Clare converted.

Junior School New Pre-Prep Harvest



The children of the Pre-Prep celebrated Harvest in the Great Hall on Thursday morning. To an appreciative audience of parents, the girls and boys sang, recited and danced pieces with a harvest theme. They performed enthusiastically and charmed everyone. They also all brought in gifts of food which Year 1 and Year 2 delivered to the Lewisham Care Centre in the afternoon.

Teambuilding Day

At the beginning of term Year 5 spent a day at Downe Activity Centre where they took part in tasks that were both exciting and challenging. They tried go karting, working in groups to help each other around the bumpy track to win gold! The Adventure Course involved climbing along high and low ropes. In the Zip Wire the pupils scaled the treetops, dived from a platform and whizzed through the air in a range of different poses. The Teambuilding exercise was great fun as the children had to work together to retrieve a ball from a tube by filling it with water - no easy feat when there were holes in both the tube and the bucket. A highly challenging but entertaining day was had by all.

DT Days

Bill Fox-O'Brien reports on a Year 6 DT day in which the pupils made clocks: Last week we had the Year 6 DT days. I had to think of what to do first. I considered a Star Wars theme, a dragon, a sun or a cloud. I planned it in my head and tried to say everything I liked about each idea - in the end, the dragon idea got twelve ticks, so I decided on that. I asked my teacher to help find a picture on the internet and eventually found one I liked. At first the picture was too blue but I got it right in the end, then had to measure the clock so that the picture and the numbers would be in the right place. We had to use a protractor to measure the angles. The really difficult part was putting a hole through the layers of material. Now it's on the wall and ticking with all the other clocks. They look great!

Swimming

The Junior School swimming squad took part in a four-school gala on Monday at home. Natasha Walton and Jonny Regnier as joint captains of swimming led by example. Both swam exceptionally well. Overall St Dunstan's came third but the Year 6 contest

was really close with SDC only three points behind the winners Bromley High.

Netball

Two U10 teams took on St Christopher's last Friday. They were even games but SDC's shooting was not accurate enough. The girls played well and the results will come as they become accustomed to playing together.

Rugby

On Tuesday afternoon, SDC's U9s hosted two teams from Bickley Park. The B team played first, enjoying coaching from Mr Duckworth and the Bickley teacher while Mr James refereed. Bickley rucked very well and scored three good tries in the first half. Half time allowed the SDC boys to be reminded how to ruck and the second half was a much better contest. Jordan Waugh scored for SDC in a 1-3 loss. Special mention must go to William Scard and Khaleel Saif, who both made a number of excellent tackles.

The A team played in a tough and exciting encounter. The sides were well-matched and soon got the hang of scrums and lineouts. Strong running, fierce rucking, hard tackling and intelligent passing made this a very fast game. Bickley struggled to keep hold of the slippery ball but SDC's hands were very good. Dele Aladese scored a terrific forward's try, carrying three defenders over the line and Bickley pulled one back just before half time. The second half was even better. In one of the final moves, Malachi Less broke the defensive line and managed to scramble the ball away in the tackle. Leon Crowley - playing like a veteran No. 7 - picked up the loose ball and ran in the winning score.

Trampolining Success

Congratulations to Zac O'Brien-Manley in Year 6 who took part in the recent Kent Trampoline Championships. He won the U13 Intermediate Boys competition - a tremendous achievement.

Notices and Reminders

Mr Glavin is currently in search of a psychologist! He also wants accountants, designers, engineers, journalists - in fact anyone who can speak interestingly about their profession. He is organising the annual Careers Convention (Tuesday, 27 November) and would welcome help from any parents, Old Dunstonians or friends of the College who could spare time to talk to students about what they do. If you can help please contact him on: pglavin@sdmail.org.uk or 0208 516 7200.

The SDCFS AGM will take place on Wednesday, 10 October in the Great Hall. It will start at 7.00pm - not 8pm as stated on the flier. Apologies for any confusion. If you would like to stand for the Committee please return the slip as soon as possible or contact sdcsfs@sdmail.org.uk