



Theory of Knowledge Conference



During half term a group of six Year 12 International Baccalaureate students travelled to Turkey for a Theory of Knowledge conference. They joined groups from different schools around the world. During the conference each group had to give a presentation representing an aspect of their country's culture and another on an aspect of TOK. Here is a report from Raffaella Piscina, Bethan Page, Mehmet Achik-El, Shivani Thussu, John Grindley and Kofi Ohene pictured above: On arrival we were greeted by many Turkish delights including our host families. At first we were nervous about all staying in separate houses but a three-hour bus ride with two of the hosts relieved our fears. Once we arrived at the Eyüboğlu school we met the rest of the group and travelled straight to the café where the students hang out giving us a chance to get to know them.

The second day we got stuck into the conference of Knowledge and Culture with our own cultural production of *Romeo and Juliet*. The performance went well. Later that night we embarked on the Bosphorus cruise watching the night lights of Istanbul come on as the sun fell. On board we tasted Turkish dishes and learned some African dancing from the students from Botswana.

The next day we discussed our views on telepathy and enjoyed presentations created by other students. The fourth day we took a cultural experience trip to the Blue Temple and the Covered Bazaar. We all took part in haggling and picked up some good deals.

The final day we were sad to be leaving but took many memories from our trip. We have all kept in contact with most of our friends and will be meeting one of the girls from Botswana later this year. Haydi Bakalim!

School Council

The School Council met this week at a new time and in a new location. It was agreed that the Great Hall was a good venue and the new

time in the lunch hour suited all the class reps. The reps decided to hold more meetings than was possible in the past when meetings clashed with after-school commitments.

The Council discussed feedback about catering which was relayed to the Catering Committee on Wednesday. It was suggested that the Catering Manager be invited to attend a School Council meeting to discuss pupils' views. It was agreed that opinions should be sought on the role of the Senior Prefects attached to forms and any concerns about safety travelling to and from school. The reps were issued with their badges and encouraged to wear them and to help to build awareness of the School Council and its role as the students' voice.

Mr Newman thanked Mr Johnston for his leadership of the School Council since he re-established it in 2004. He now steps down and Mr Newman takes over with Mr Adriano's support.

Amnesty International

Gabrielle Allfrey of Year 12 gave a very thought provoking and personal account of the current Human Rights issues happening in Zimbabwe. Speaking to a large audience last Thursday, she explained how many people, including members of her own family, had suffered as a consequence of the policies of the Mugabe regime. Her talk was followed by a well-researched and detailed examination of the recent problems in Pakistan by Alexandra Cotoulas of Year 11. She was also able to give up to date information on the arrest of former cricket captain Imran Khan, even though it had only happened hours earlier.

Chatham House Meeting

Chatham House, a "political think-tank" in London, has been an important institute for several students in recent months. Current affairs are discussed by eminent figures in our society, ranging from issues over defence to women's rights under the Taliban. On Tuesday evening Sir Michael Jackson gave a fascinating lecture providing insight into the past year's experiences for the army and in defence. It was interesting to hear about the current instabilities in Iraq and Afghanistan, the changing nature of warfare and prospective defensive strategies for the future. Michael Jackson's personal insight into these matters as Head of the Army from 2003-6 was integral to his argument. This, coupled with his outspoken personality,

provided a brilliant opportunity to hear about the current defensive climate. Questions asked after the lecture delved deeper into his views and opinions, and those who attended certainly went away with a greater knowledge of the nature of defence. Chatham House is a unique opportunity and a privilege. Anyone that is interested should speak to Mr May.

Modern Languages Society

Ed Sealy of Year 13 reports: On Tuesday this week the Modern Languages Society enjoyed its third meeting of the term. The presentations, given for the first time by Sixth Form students, reflected a series of diverse cultural issues from varying countries. Topics ranged from the influence of Creole culture in France to Fred North's informative interpretation of the award winning German film *Das Leben der Anderen*. Josh Biele spoke on whether football really is the true love of Italy, before Joe Ashmore gave us an insight into the origins of Lederhosen. We would like to thank all those who spoke for their well-received contributions.

Basketball

The U16 basketball team has played twice this month. Against Dulwich College it put in a solid performance. After a good pep talk from Kadeem Simmons-Bah, the game started with pace and attacking flair. Richard Odufisan and Aaron Seaton towered in defence with some outstanding rebounds and some creative passing. Anum Malik and Sheyi Thomas demonstrated some powerful penetration play. While our approach to the game was controlled and confident, Dulwich proved stronger in the first half although the scores were tight. While we started strongly, defensive mistakes proved costly and Dulwich was able to pull away. Despite good play from Jack Ball and Reece Fletcher Dulwich was too strong for our boys and girl! The final score was 37-72 to Dulwich.

The team had a tough game against Allyn's which put on an impressive defensive display, blocking the power plays from Aaron Seaton and Alex Odetola. Kadeem Simons-Bah also played well as he tried to undermine Allyn's defensive plans and Benedict Glass and Adeoluwa Ajibade also gave strong performances. Allyn's proved too well organised and experienced for our team but moments of brilliance saw Anum Malik drop two shots clean through the hoop after some excellent ball control and passing. The U16 team can be proud of its achievements. With time and control it will certainly improve.

Netball

On Wednesday the U14s took part in the Kent Schools Netball Tournament in Rochester. Despite losing a key player to illness, the team demonstrated versatility in various positions. Overall it managed victories against Cobham Hall (6-1) and Bishop Justus, a draw against Dartford Girls and two defeats against Bromley High and Benenden. The latter deservedly finished top of the group but SDC should have beaten Bromley High. This loss cost them a place in the London finals round. Anna Denvir was voted Player of the Tournament by her teammates, a decision whole-heartedly supported by coach, Miss Moody. Anna was strong as centre and displayed high levels of fitness. SDC finished a respectable third.

Last Thursday the U12A achieved a convincing 19-3 win against Royal Russell. The whole team demonstrated versatility on court. In particular, Courtnie Wilks (Player of the Match) displayed impressive timing, both when moving to receive the ball and when defending a pass. Special mentions must go to Rhiana Sheth who moved from defender, to shooter, and finally to centre, showing competency in all three areas. The U12As resisted the temptation to crowd one another, and reaped the rewards. Thanks to Cecilia Stillwell and Ella Richards, for umpiring.

Rugby

The group fixture against St Olave's on Saturday produced some great rugby and some close matches although only one SDC team managed a win. Congratulations, therefore, go particularly to the U13B side which won its match 10-7. Andrew Peachey scored twice. This side has had an excellent season and coach Mr Smith is full of praise for their effort. The U13A lost 12-0 but the score is not a true reflection of the match. SDC dominated for most of the first half but a determined St Olave's defence prevented the team putting points on the board while playing down hill. Robin Loo, Ben Syrett, Eddie Jones and Ralph Weir all played well in the pack and Iain Johnston was the pick of the backs.

The U14A team suffered a disappointing 24-0 loss. The score was 19-0 at half time but the second half performance was much improved. Paris Doyle and Jordan Williams played well. The U15B team was outclassed in its game but put up a spirited fight and never gave up. Tomek Stacharski tackled well and made some good runs while Theo Solomon defended well.

The 2nd XV had an excellent and very close game. Only a single penalty separated the teams at the end for a final score of 8-5 to St Olave's. Mr Austin was full of praise for a great team performance. The defence in the second half was superb and the SDC try was well worked with Ashley Baxter finishing off the play with a 25 metre solo run.

The 1st XV lost concentration early in its game conceding 10 points. Peter Jefferys rallied the troops and some excellent play by the forwards led to Peter Colling driving over the line. Peter Jefferys converted. The forwards continued to pressurise but a nightmare last five minutes full of mistakes gave the opposition another 12 points. The team responded brilliantly - the forwards tore into St Olave's and Rob Monteith and Gabriel Adebisi started to pressure its backs. Oliver Gilbert then drove over. The boys continued to pound the try line but St Olave's managed to frustrate them. The boys left the pitch with their heads held high.

On Wednesday the 1st XV continued its good season with a 15-13 victory over BETHS at home. The boys made heavy weather of this game although the opposition deserves credit for its doggedness protecting a lead. Up front the lineouts were good and the catch and drive worked exceedingly well. The backs started well but then went to sleep defensively. Despite dominating territory the team were 3-7 down at half-time. It then went further behind 5-13 on the one occasion the opposition entered its half. The players then showed character responding brilliantly in the last nine minutes. Half-backs Doug Butt and Peter Colling and Mark Wilgoss and Greg Holder all worked hard. The pressure meant that Gabriel Adebisi crossed for two tries. With only three minutes to play, the captain, Peter Jefferys, took responsibility for the touchline kick. What joy as it sailed between the posts! With all the players making great tackles the team held on to the 15-13 lead. Well done.

Junior School News Instrumental Concert

Well done to all the pupils of Years 4 and 6 who performed so well at Wednesday's Prep Instrumental Concert. The evening began with the Prep strings assisted by Izhah Yarde on drum kit. Other highlights included Rebecca McDowell's beautiful singing of *Adelaide's Lament* from *Guys and Dolls* and Ella Beresford-West's confident and jazzy performance on alto saxophone of *Rock Steady*. Rory Burns' sensitive playing of *Grandmother's Tale* on the piano was also excellent. Jordan Waugh of Year 4 gave a fine performance of *Lavender's Blue* on flute. The concert finished with a Year 6 ensemble made up of flutes, violins and a piano duet playing *Drunken Sailor*. Well done to you all.

Year 6 Theatre Trip

Members of Year 6 report on a theatre trip: On Friday Year 6 went to the Fairfield Halls to see the Shakespeare for Kidz production of *Hamlet*. We had enjoyed the workshop and were all looking forward to seeing how the play would be done on the stage. As we had also been working on the play during our drama lessons, this was an opportunity to see actors play parts we had tried for ourselves!

Hamlet himself was a great actor, especially when he was pretending to be mad. His crazy laugh was something to remember – weird! The gravediggers got a big laugh as well, but most of the play was quite serious and the ghost of Old Hamlet was seriously spooky. Everyone enjoyed some part of the performance and we all agreed later that it is a difficult play – and quite long, even though we saw a much-shortened version. However, it really left everyone thinking about some of the important issues – how to take responsibility, when the time has come to act and when it is better to think! It was a great morning out and thanks are due to all the actors in Shakespeare for Kidz.

Netball

The U10's netball squad have been training hard and have recently played a couple of matches to test their progress. At Streatham & Clapham our B team managed a 1-1 draw while the As lost 5-0. The girls are beginning to realise their potential and are taking on board their teachers advice. Last week they visited Alleyn's for a triangle tournament with Blackheath Prep. The As drew 2-2 with Blackheath Prep and lost 7-2 to Alleyn's. The Bs did well to achieve two score draws. Well done to Eleanor Josephs, Alivia Jennings, Aneira Harrild, Ellie Nevin, Kitty O'Leary, Amy Greenshields, Demi Hoang, Lauren Bacon, Celia Kristeleit, Hayley Keating-Moody, Ciara O'Sullivan, Elsa Meryon, Aysel Bicer, Mir Singhvi and Isabella Hicklin.

Rugby

The U11s took on Laleham Leas on Friday afternoon. The SDC forwards were excellent throughout the game, rucking and mauling with great intent and recycling the ball very well. The opposition tackled well too so it was a tight match. At half time the scores were level at 3-3. In the second half the forwards tired considerably and the visitors started to throw the ball around. Although risky, this paid off as they ran in four tries in quick succession. SDC pulled one back but lost 7-4.

The U10A team came up against an excellent, quick and undefeated Bickley Park team on Thursday. The SDC boys played well in patches, rucking and mauling with greater intensity than previously. They tackled well in parts but really struggled to cope with the opposition's ability to recycle the ball quickly. Bickley scored eight tries, some very good, and SDC deserved their score from Charlie Ferguson.

The Bs also conceded eight but scored three through Benoit Jauniaux (2) and Kamal Less. Towards the end SDC started to run with pace and tackle with conviction, something they need to do from the start. The C team also conceded eight but scored four. Etienne Balland scored twice, Thomas Fagg scored one and Noah Cashian recorded his first ever try for the school - well done!