



Oliver



Lucy Cunningham reports: 35 pupils, 10 Sixth Formers, four teachers, all with a passion for drama and music; what do you get? The best school production SDC has ever seen: *Oliver!*

The production this year has involved a wide selection of pupils throughout the school, ranging from Years 7-13. It was directed by two members of the Sixth Form, Ben Russell and Joe Ashmore. Joe also conducted the fantastic orchestra. Almost 1000 people came to see it over the three performances, meaning a full house every night!



Oliver, played by Max Rundle, gave a stellar performance and his rapport with the brilliant Liam O'Sullivan as the Artful Dodger kept the audience engaged and enthralled as the play went on. Edward Wilkin's Mr Bumble was very comical and Christelle Clements-Davis was also great as Nancy's sidekick, Bet. With charismatic leads such as Luke Coughlan as Bill Sykes, Nancy Ackland as Nancy and Elpha Perkins as Widow Corney the production was bound to be a success. Nancy's powerful performance and Luke's menacing stage presence were brilliant, as was the flair of Arthur Jones as Fagin. The fantastic hard work and singing ability of the chorus meant that the show was magnificent and enjoyed by all.

The production crew and the EW team led by Emily Thompson did a great job. Thanks go to Mr Webb, Miss Morrell, Mr Bennie, Mr Gobey and Miss Acker without whose hard work *Oliver* would not have been possible.



A Level Drama

Tutku Barbaros reports: Last week's A Level performance saw the Drama Studio converted into a home of sheets, crayons and very white walls representing the interview room in a mental health institute. The 'Imaginary Soul' came to life under the instruction of Charlie Comerford and the acting talents of Ani Nelson, Chloe Dunscombe, Tutku Barbaros and Toby Burnard, who were equally satisfied, tired and relieved by the 19th January. The cast would like to thank the audience and house staff for their help, support, questions and answers. Special mention must also go to Mr. May who screamed, shouted and sighed at most of the right points. We look forward to seeing you all at our next performance – hopefully this time the strobe light will work.

Prom Concert



The Prom Concert on Friday got off to a noisy start with the Percussion Ensemble performing a lively Samba. Greg Burr and Rosa Owen-Smith were an accomplished piano duo in *Norwegian Dance* by Grieg and Gregory also performed a challenging aria by Bach on the oboe. From the Junior School, Laura Packer and Matthew Hankin performed on trumpet and piano respectively. David Harris rounded off the concert with a lively rendition of Scott Joplin's well known *Maple Leaf Rag*.

On Monday, 28 April the Choir will be performing Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* at a concert at St John's Smith Square. Any parent who is interested in singing with the choir would be warmly welcomed and should contact Director of Music, Mr Gobey.

Armstrong Society

Last Friday the Armstrong Society played host to Professor Henry Rzepa of Imperial College. He gave a fascinating presentation entitled *Twists and Turns in Chemistry*. He discussed how new molecules could be constructed by cutting up Möbius strips. He had students snipping and twisting loops of cardboard representing the strips. An excellent speaker, Prof. Rzepa entertained and informed his audience.

School Council

The School Council met on Monday. Mr Glyne-Thomas addressed the meeting on the subject of wireless internet access for school. He asked the reps to consult with their classes over where on the school site it would be useful to have wireless access. The meeting also debated the issue of how different Year groups in the Senior School mix. The discussion covered whether a mentoring system or other points of contact between older and younger pupils would be helpful. Mixed views were expressed.

Swimming

Congratulations to the members of the Years 7-10 mixed swimming squad who have been training hard with Mr Bodenham. They were rewarded on Wednesday with an impressive win in a gala against Allyn's and Emanuel. Special mention must go to the following individuals who gained first positions in their races: Jessica Twist (U12 Freestyle), Peter Mears (U13 Freestyle), Ashley Clarke-Walkin (U15 Freestyle), Jordan Mariotti-Wood (U12 Breaststroke), Georgina Tayler (U12 Backstroke), Cormac O'Sullivan (U13 Backstroke), Brodie Hibberd (U14 Backstroke), Toby Seriki (U13 Butterfly) and Emilie Regnier (U14 Butterfly). St Dunstan's stood two points behind Allyn's as we entered the relay performances. The Year 7 and 8s demonstrated sound versatility winning their respective medley relays, while the Year 8, 9 and 10 teams shone through in the freestyle relays. The final score was dependent upon the mixed squadron relay, the last race of the day, whereby one girl and one boy swimmer from each Year group competed in a freestyle relay. St Dunstan's managed to close the gap thanks to notable speed by Ashley and won the race in spectacular style. The final scores were St Dunstan's 174, Allyn's 173 and Emanuel 160.

Hockey

Miss Moody reports: Against a strong Bromley High team last Wednesday the U15As backed off from hard hitting attack and showed a reluctance to tackle. An exception was player of the match, Meryl Cooper, who demonstrated no mercy in her desire to gain possession. The team did manage to get its first shot in goal thanks to Stephanie Redlick and Amity MacDonell working well in attack. Bromley High scored five goals but keeper, Joanna Kiely, and her defensive team made countless saves, particularly off short corners.

The U12B team showed a marked improvement in its match against Bromley High on Tuesday this week. Each of the girls' individual skills came together. They all showed a greater understanding of positional roles and better passing and movement. Special mentions must go to Thibine Tharmaraj in the centre and Jessica Briggs in defence, but player of the match was Morgan Ashley who led by example, being dominant in the tackle and pressing the opposition. Bromley scored its winning goals in the first half but the second was a very even contest. A victory is on the cards ladies, I'm sure!

Cross Country Running



Last Wednesday eight runners from Years 9-11 took part in the London Cross Country Championships. A very cold wind was whipping across the hilly and muddy course at Parliament Hill. Considering the conditions and lack of footwear suited to the mud the runners did very well. The field of runners was large with over 100 competitors in each race. Provisional results suggest Jack Moroney was SDC's highest placed runner in the Junior Boys race at number 26, Brodie Hibberd came 60th in the Junior Girls race. In the Intermediate races Taylor Johnson finished 36th place and Jacqui Hankin 29th.

A group of runners is now meeting regularly for cross-country running training. Anyone interested in joining in should come to the tennis courts at 4pm on Thursdays.

Fives

The U14 team of Peter Mears, Joe Akinlotan, Conor Strutt-Clare and Damal Lambert-Powell proved too strong for Whitgift with total dominance in both the singles and the doubles last Monday.

Last Saturday SDC played St Paul's, Barnes arguably the strongest fives school. The 1st IV lost but George Kamenou showed courage despite a bruised hand while Finn Rafter-Phillips, Chris Murray and Matt

Frankis all had good moments. The 2nd IV games were closer. Toby Burnard was victorious in his singles while Joe Thomas-Bohl, Alex Wood and Jamie Harding all had close hard-fought games. SDC also succumbed in the doubles though Jamie and Toby enjoyed some success. As our Year 10s were involved in CCF, the U15s was made up of a mix of U16 and U14 players - Richard Odufisan, Tafara Golding, Amarr Wright and George Howlett. They struggled against strong opposition but showed admirable endeavour. The U14 team of Peter Mears, Joe Akinlotan, Conor Strutt-Clare and Michael Wilgoss of Year 8 all performed admirably. Peter and Joe won their singles and doubles.

Football

Last Wednesday the 1st and 2nd XI were in action against Royal Russell. The 1st team played well in its first match against a team playing its 22nd of the season. A lack of fitness in the second half contributed to the 1-3 loss but overall it was a good first outing. Finn Rafter-Phillips scored the SDC goal. The 2nd XI drew its game 2-2 with goals from Jonathan Ikpe and Shabir Khan.

On Saturday the two teams played Sutton Valence. The 1st XI drew 1-1, with Matt Frankis the scorer. The 2nd XI won its match 4-1 with Andrew O'Reilly scoring twice and George Kamenou and Ethan Collins each getting one.

Junior School News River Darent Visit



Kane Foster reports: Year 5 visited Horton Kirby Environmental Centre for our Geography project on rivers. When we got there we met Mr Cliff who worked at the Centre. He told us to pull on our wellies, hat and coats and prepare for a long walk to the River Darent. When we got to the river we stood on a bridge and looked at a weir which is where the water meets a watermill. The watermill had been demolished but some of the old parts were still there.

After that we played Pooh Sticks and this helped to find out the speed of the river. We timed each stick to see how long it took to get from the bridge to the riverbank. Next we walked along to the next bridge where we repeated the same experiment to see if the river's speed had changed. It had not.

Then we went to a mini whirlpool. Mr Cliff showed us a photo of the whirlpool taken three months earlier and it looked totally different. The surrounding land is eroding

because of the whirlpool. Next came the exciting bit, wading through the shallow end of the river and trying not to get too wet. Unfortunately, Hayley's and Demi's boots were too short so their socks got very wet! We started the long trek back to the Centre and had our lunch. To finish we watched a slide show of the river which was very interesting for our project work.

Food Technology



Year 3 this week had loads of fun learning how to make bread and smoothies in the school kitchens as part of their DT food technology day. Here is a picture by Frances Elliott that she drew to thank Head Chef Tony Long and Catering Manager Steve Jeffs who helped them.

Netball

Last Monday was the Bromley High U11 Tournament with 12 schools taking part. SDC's won its first match 3-0 against Baston, and then won 2-0 against Old Palace. Next was Bromley High and the team was a goal up until the last 30 seconds when Bromley equalised. It then played a very tall and intimidating Burnt Ash team and lost 3-2. They were back on form against Warren Road winning 7-0! Coming second in its group, the team then played JAPS to decide third and fourth places. After a tense match SDC emerged the victors by a single goal. The team of Shola Thomas (captain), Louisa Millen, Isabel Lambert, Natasha Walton, Mairi Watt-Cooper, Francesca Dadzie, Kemi Akinlotan, Annie Watson and Elizabeth Tremble were a credit to the school.

Football

On Tuesday the U9 A, B and C played away at Alleyn's. The A team worked hard in a long and challenging game. Dele Aladese and Dior Bowers were excellent in defence helping Ben Hull keep a clean sheet. Leon Crowley scored a goal from an excellent pass from Malachi Less to secure a 0-1 win. The B team had a similar encounter. Solid defence resulted in another clean sheet. Alfie Dale scored the winner in this 0-1 victory.

In the C team game Alex Evangelou was brave in goal and Lucas Evamy scored an excellent goal for SDC. Tom Burns, Khaleel Saif and Max Baker-Graham were all good in defence and Peter Sullivan was tireless in midfield but Alleyn's were simply too good.