



# Newsletter



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## Senior School Play



Miss Brady reviews the Senior School play that ran from Tuesday to Thursday this week: Holly Stratton's tightly worked script combined with a powerful cast to produce a provocative and engaging performance. *Just Play Dumb* recounts the events surrounding the death of an Art teacher, Mr Wood. It explores the issues of bullying, collective responsibility, the power of media technology and the dynamics of complicated personal relationships. This was true ensemble playing, which still allowed individuals to shine.

Alex Wood was impressive as the flamboyant but ultimately besieged Art teacher. Pascale Morrison-Derbyshire, Richard Odufisan, Guilía Spissu and Ra'easha Saleem all produced gritty and sensitive performances as part of the student body. Chloe Dunscombe, Claire Skinner and Josh Allen, playing adult roles, conveyed the nature of personal conflict with force.

Finally, as Charlie, Alex Clarke disturbed the audience with his portrayal of bitter adolescence. In fact, it is very hard to single out individuals from a production which relied so fully on the depth and strength of the entire cast. The stark nature of Izzy Burley's brilliantly designed monochrome set echoed many of the complexities of the play.

Above all, congratulations go to Year 11 student Holly Stratton, who scripted this impressive piece based on a devised process. Yet again, Mr May has succeeded in directing a dynamic, engaging and provocative piece of drama, which intrigued all who saw it (even if the audience found the benches a little uncomfortable!).

## Debating

During the first of this term half term the College debaters made a very promising start to the debating season, with a clean sweep of wins in first rounds of the major national competitions. In senior debating, following two qualifying rounds and six debates, Joe Ashmore and William Bott successfully qualified for the National Finals of the Cambridge Union Debating competition, to be held later this month. The motions were tough and topical; in the last debate the team proposed the introduction of Sharia Law in the UK.

Joe and William were also successful in the first round of the Oxford Union Competition qualifying for the finals to be held in March.

William in partnership with Alex Rush continued this winning streak, when they won the first round of the Schools Mace a national debating competition run by the English-Speaking Union Centre. The College's younger debaters have also tasted success. Two teams secured a place at the Finals Day of International Competition for Young Debaters, to be held at the Oxford Union in the Summer term. For Jo Kelen and Arthur Jones this was business as usual; this is the second time they have reached this stage but particular congratulations must go to Charles Brook and Evangeline Atkinson who were debating competitively for the first time. They beat some older, more experienced teams to qualify.

## CCF Field Weekend

Capt Davies reports: Last weekend 30 Year 9 cadets and four members of staff spent the weekend in Folkestone, Kent putting into practise newly acquired fieldcraft skills. A coach took the cadets to a staging area where they collected their bergans (army backpacks) and were issued with their rations and weapon for the weekend. They were then taken by a troop carrying vehicle to their harbour area where they got to work putting up their bashas, which would become home for the weekend, and getting a brew on.

The cadets then brushed up on some weapons drill, and test fired their weapons before going out on clearance patrols and

going through obstacle crossing drills in preparation for that evening's patrols.

The next morning the cadets rose early, as information had been received that an enemy food drop had been made. We had the task of setting an ambush for when it was picked up.



The cadets patrolled out to the ambush site and crawled into position, ready for the enemy to appear and the signal to open fire, a vehicle approached and an enemy soldier (who looked very much like Capt Phillips) jumped out to collect the food drop, Capt Davies set off a grenade, the signal to open fire, and the poor enemy didn't know what hit him, as everybody fired at once and continued until all their rounds had been expended, a snatch team were then sent out to pick up the food.

This was the first time Year 9 cadets have been away for a weekend on their own, and there were concerns that they might not be ready for this type of training exercise but I am very please to report that the cadets acquitted themselves very well indeed and in some cases exceeded our own expectations of their ability.

Thanks to all the staff who were able to attend this weekend and made such valuable training for the cadets possible.

## Castles



Year 7 has been studying medieval castles in History. The pupils were then set the task of making one. The results have been fantastic demonstrating great inventiveness and style as well as historical accuracy.



### Charity Football Match

Last Friday lunchtime nine brave teachers took to the field for a staff versus Sixth Form charity football match. Borrowing Dan Nightingale from Year 13 as their goalie, Mr Johnston, Mr Harrild, Mr Bennie, Mr Leeder, Mr Loudon and Mr Atkinson plus Dino and Peter from the House staff fought valiantly but succumbed 5-2. The staff can't quite remember who scored for the pupils but claim the pick of the afternoon's goals were the great strikes from Mr Loudon and Mr Atkinson. Over 100 pupils watched hoping, of course, to see their teachers make fools of themselves and raising over £60 in the process for the NSPCC. Well done to James Jutson and man of the match, Joe Stephenson, of Year 13 who organised the event and thanks to Mr Taylor for refereeing without fear or favour.

### House Activities

The first round of the Lower School House Debating competition took place this week with a debate on the subject of animal testing. Edward Wilkins and Nathan Beardsworth of Hecker emerged victorious over the Forder team of Greg Burr and Amatey Doku.

The Years 7 and 8 House Football competitions have taken place this term. In the Year 7 contest Stuart and Hecker tied in first place followed by Usherwood then Forder. Usherwood came out on top for Year 8 with Forder second, Hecker third and Stuart in fourth.

The Year 8 Hockey competition was won by Hecker with standout performances by Amie Sawyer, Izzy Wilken-Smith and Georgina Hall. Forder came second and Stuart third.

### Golf

On Wednesday St Dunstan's golfers played Dartford Grammar at Royal Blackheath. The match was played under the Greensomes format. The first pairing of Josh Waters and newly appointed captain of golf, Richard Tatum, lost by five and four. The second team of Henry Fielder and Matt Frankis won five and four while the final pair, Jamie Corbin-McKenzie and Daniel Tahsin lost by seven and six.

### Football

The U14 team had a decisive 9-1 victory over Bishop Challenor on Tuesday. Jermaine Townsend scored four and Khalil Lewis-Brown, two. Denzil Bell and Euan Johnson scored one each while Robert Heathcote put away a penalty.

On Monday the U13 team also played Bishop Challenor. Jake Whittaker scored a hat trick in a 3-1 victory.

### Junior School News

#### Fire Station Visit



Last Friday Year 1 visited Forest Hill Fire Station as we are just starting a topic on Transport. We were shown around by very friendly fire-fighters. They showed us where they eat and where they sleep when they are working over night. Then came the best bit, we all climbed into a fire engine and tried on a helmet. Our favourite part was when we were able to fire the hose! We all really enjoyed ourselves as did the mums who came with us!



### Netball

Last Friday, Blackheath Prep brought their Year 6 girls over for netball. It was a fairly one sided game with SDC's A team winning 10-2 and its B team winning 6-0.

Monday saw the U11 teams travelling to Streatham and Clapham High after school for matches. The A team was a very close game but SDC came out the eventual winners 9-6. The B team found the going difficult and although they played well the final score was 10-3 to the opposition.

Year 4 went to St Christopher's on Tuesday determined to get a good result. We decided to play quarters and the A team improved each quarter and although they

lost 3-1, it was a very close game and for the last 10 minutes the scores did not change. The B team had an even closer game and was leading at one point but succumbed 4-3 in the end. The girls, however, showed great determination throughout and Miss Strachan and Mrs Poole were very pleased with them.

### Football

The Year 4 boys hosted Bickley Park for three matches on Tuesday. The C team played in a fun and enjoyable match. Lucas Evamy and Alex Evangelou both played well as did Ozkan Dervish and Max Baker-Graham. Zak Hart scored the SDC goal in a 1-3 loss.

The B team played in an excellent match. All the boys contributed well, especially Khaleel Saif, making his first B team start. Goals from Alfie Dale and Ben Hull (two) helped SDC win 3-1.

Ben Hull also appeared in goal for the A team, along with Will Scard. This was a good, entertaining game where SDC was always in charge. Bickley were reduced to only a couple of chances and Callum MacLennan scored an excellent goal from way out. Leon Crowley added a second towards the end for a 2-0 victory.

The Year 5 and Year 6 football teams last week took part in the annual Allyn's U10 and U11 tournaments. The U10s played well against well-matched opposition. Three close games took place with SDC losing two and drawing one against the eventual finalists. Keita Orelaja scored the SDC goal. The U11s had a tougher challenge but played with usual commitment. They drew one and lost three. Erran Gordon scored their goal.

### Notices and Reminders

Parents of pupils in Years 5, 7 and 9 are reminded that a Drugs Information Evening will take place on Tuesday, 4 March at 18.30pm. Those who want to attend but have not yet returned their slips must hand them in on Monday to allow planning for the catering. The evening will explain the drug awareness work that is undertaken with pupils and will also include an update from the School Police Liaison Officer about the local drug scene.

Don't forget to enter your teams for the Family Society Quiz Night on Saturday, 8 March. Forms must be returned as soon as possible. The event starts at 8.00 in the Great Hall. It is always a fun evening, orchestrated brilliantly by Quiz Master Mr Austin, so get together your brainiest friends and take a table. Tickets cost £5 a head. Bring your own food and drink.