



Science Week



On Monday four teams of students drawn from Years 10 and 11 took part in the annual House Chemical Egg race, traditionally one of the highlights of Science Week. This year the challenge involved forensic science. The teams were given clues from a police report into the disappearance of a necklace at a stately home and details of various suspects. They had to solve the mystery of who stole the necklace by carrying out a number of chemical tests and drawing conclusions from the results combined with the information about the suspects.

All four teams turned out to be very well organised and displayed excellent skills. Stuart and Usherwood finished in just over 30 minutes, Hecker took a little longer and Forder finished within the hour. The scores were calculated from the quality of their observations, safety, tidiness and teamwork. Stuart had 90% of their observation correct, Hecker 56%, Usherwood 50% and Forder 45%. The final scores were: Stuart 82/90 Hecker 70/90, Usherwood 60/90 and Forder 51/90. Stuart was therefore, declared this year's Egg Race winner.

On Wednesday Year 8 went stargazing in the Astrodome that was set up in the Great Hall. The tour of the Solar System proved as popular as ever.

On Tuesday Year 7 visited the Natural History Museum. Pupils studied a number of topics including the development of the human foetus, changes during puberty and food webs in various ecosystems. They also marvelled at the size of a blue whale, observed a moving, roaring T-Rex and experienced a toned-down Japanese Earthquake.

Year 9 visited the Science Museum in two groups last Wednesday and yesterday. They were invited to tour the museum to research one of five topics and prepare a presentation to give to their peers in a science lesson at a later date. The topics included space, health

and global warming. They also tried out the Museum's two simulator rides: a roller coaster in space and a journey to an island inhabited by dinosaurs.

Geography Field Trips



Mr Atkinson reports: Last Monday, 14 AS Level Geographers set off to Swanage for the annual fieldtrip. Blessed with sunshine from the outset the group collected data throughout the week on various topics, analysing and evaluating it each evening. On Monday land use data was collected to investigate threshold patterns in the market town of Wareham. On Tuesday the Studland Bay sand dune ecosystem was descended upon, the pupils carrying out a transect from sea shore to the final ride, over 120m back. PH values, species diversity and numbers were investigated to see how they changed over distance from the seashore.

On Wednesday the students undertook some pebble size analysis at Chesil Beach at the two locations of Abbotsbury and Chesilton, near the Isle of Portland. In the afternoon the group explored the world famous Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Stair Hole.

The penultimate day was spent collecting data on rural settlements, particularly the number of services they provide. The aim was to see if there was a relationship between population size and number of services. In the evening we went to Weymouth for a bowling extravaganza. Matthew Frankis took the highest points prize. Travelling home we visited Barton-on-Sea to look at coastal erosion and slumping in action.

Thank you to all the teachers for their hard work over the week to make it academically challenging and socially enjoyable!

On Saturday, 1 March 16 pupils from Year 11 accompanied by Mr and Mrs Atkinson explored the London Docklands, to assist in the understanding of the settlement part of the GCSE course. The group travelled by Docklands Light Railway to Canary Wharf to visit the Docklands Museum which provided an informative and detailed look at the history of the area. After a brief walk around

the Canary Wharf development the group stopped for lunch before boarding up the Thames to St Katherine's Dock. This hopefully will be the first of many day trips for the Geography Department.



Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

Ella Richards reports: Last month over 100 of the College's best mathematicians from Years 9-11 took part in UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. They had to answer questions involving logic and understanding as well as straightforward mathematical knowledge. There were some outstanding performances and five students – a record number - qualified for the next stage - the Kangaroo Competition. Well done to the following who were awarded medals:

Year 11: Gold – Victoria Comerford (Best In School and Kangaroo qualifier); Noor Jan-Mohamed (Kangaroo qualifier); Rhys Evans and Lucy James. Silver – Simon Legg; Jake Richards; Jacob Bunzl; Ross Willett; Alice Kidd; Richard Meins; Richard Odufisan; Harry Phelps; Benedict Glass; Georgia Baines; Segun Ilelaboeye; Arthur Wroe; Tafara Golding; Victoria Harris and Daniel Tahsin. Bronze – Killian Moran; Clare Skinner; Olivia Higgins; Lexi Cotoulas; Laurel Hill; Greg Holder and Benjamin Smith.

Year 10: Gold – Cerden Mincher (Kangaroo Qualifier). Silver – Frank Brett; Arthur Jones; Dominic La Terriere; Chris Burgess and Matthew Jenkins. Bronze – James Wilken-Smith; Lucinda Davenport; Andrew Green; Sean McManus; Joanna Kamenou; Rushi Patel; Frank Andrews; James Grey; Pranay Singh; Florence Bourne Orme; Nishil Patel and Chester Holme.

Year 9 Gold – Eleanor Kay (Kangaroo Qualifier) and Cacique Pierre (Kangaroo Qualifier). Silver – Conor Warrenner;

Evangeline Atkinson; Seraphina Simmons-Bah and Nabila Ahmed. Bronze – Yasemin Dervish; David Harris; Rosa Owen-Smith, Amy Provan and Rohan Thussu.

Modern Languages Society

Josh Biele reports: On Tuesday this week the Modern Languages Society held its last meeting of the term. Amanda Spence, an English and Media Studies teacher from Wallington Boys School, delivered an intriguing and informative lecture on the origins of speech and language. She spoke of experiments dating from the 1500's to the present. She covered research on the inevitability of language development, including coherent speech and dialect, to a detailed description of the human speech development process. An interesting conclusion was that girls' language development was quicker than that of boys, although she quickly added that it was a theory which was always subject to revision and change. Ms Spence also talked about Wild Peter, a German boy who was raised in the wilderness, and was unable to learn coherent speech and language. The final Modern Languages event of the term is the Society dinner in Clapham on Thursday, 20 March. See Mr. Newman for final places.

Quiz Night



The Family Society Quiz Night was a huge success on Saturday night with 25 teams competing for the winners' medals and the losers' wooden spoons. Quizmaster Mr Austin baffled, amused and infuriated the contestants with weird and wonderful questions on topics as diverse as methods of transport, rugby grounds of the UK and wonders of the world. It was great to see two Sixth Form teams taking part but thankfully they did not completely put the parents to shame. Sadly once again St Dunstan's teachers proved too clever by half with Mr Harrild's Celtic Fringe team winning again and Mr Kitchingman's team, which included Mr Webb, coming third.

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day last week and the National Year of Reading throughout 2008, the Learning Resource Centre held a Book Fair in the Great Hall from Tuesday to Friday. A variety of books were on sale, from picture books to more challenging novels and pupils were able to use their £1.00 WBD tokens. Altogether, £760 worth of books were sold, earning the school a commission of nearly £400 in books for the Junior School Library and the LRC.

There was also a World Book Day competition – pupils were asked who said "There is no friend as loyal as a book." Several pupils guessed correctly that it was Ernest Hemingway and the first name out of the hat was Alex Odetola in 11G, who received a gift voucher.

Year 9 Museum Visits

Last Wednesday half of Year 9 visited the Imperial War Museum with the other half following in their footsteps yesterday. The visit focussed on World War I providing useful background for the many students who will be going on this year's Trenches Trip at Easter. The students visited the WWI art galleries and tried their hand at reproducing their favourite paintings. They then worked through worksheets which involved examining artefacts and documents from the time, videos about the trenches and tapes of first hand accounts. They also visited a special exhibition of war posters.

Swimming

Well done to the Senior School swimming squad which travelled to Caterham on Wednesday for a gala. The following swimmers performed particularly well to win their races: Brodie Hibberd (U14 backstroke), James Hibberd (senior backstroke), Louis Phelps (U14 breaststroke), Tom Misch (U13 breaststroke) Toby Seriki (U13 butterfly), Nick Keppe (senior butterfly), Rosie Peck (U14 front crawl), Euan Johnson (U14 front crawl), Lucy Burnell (senior front crawl) Harry Newell (senior front crawl). There were also wins for the U14 and U16 girls, and U14 boys medley relay teams and the U14 girls and U13 boys front crawl relay teams.

Cross Country Running

Mr Kinnear reports: Seven pupils from Years 7 and 8 represented Lewisham in the London Borough Cross Country Championships at Avery Hill Park on Wednesday. Unlike last year, it stayed dry, although it was incredibly windy. There were over a 100 competitors in each race. The St Dunstan's pupils did themselves proud in both age groups. In the Year 7 race Thomas Norton-Crossman came 48th. In the girls Year 8 race Georgina Hall came 26th, Betty Boyse came 42nd and Izzy Wilken-Smith came 43rd. In the boys Year 8 race Ian Johnston came 32nd and Jake Whittaker did amazingly well to come 10th. Considering they were competing against the best runners in London, I think that they did very well indeed. With a little more training, who knows what could be achieved. Well done to all those who took part.

Hockey

The U15A team had its final match of the season against Blackheath on Tuesday and it turned out to be an extremely positive contest. The team has come a long way since January and should be proud of their

improvements in both their skills and tactical knowledge. Blackheath had the slight edge and managed to put one goal past the defence which was forced to work hard. But in the second half our forwards finally came into their element creating a number of opportunities in the opposing D. St Dunstan's communicated well with Rosie Tayler commanding the backs and Alice Moniz shouting sensible options in attack. Special mentions must go to Connie Burr, player of the match, but overall this was an outstanding team effort.

Football

Congratulations to the 1st XI which notched up a 5-1 victory on Wednesday against Charles Darwin. Joe Stephenson got a hat trick which included two penalties. Matt Frankis got the other two goals. This was a good win for a continually improving team.

St Dunstan's played eight fixtures against Dulwich College last week. The 2nd and 3rd XI played last Wednesday and both games ended in draws after great fight backs by SDC. In the 2nd team match George Kamenou and Krishna Coopamah each scored as the team pulled back from 2-0 down at half time. The 3rd team was 3-0 down at half time but goals in the second half from Trevin Garnett. Sheyi Thomas and Danny Nightingale secured a draw.

On Saturday the U12A and Bs were in action at home. The As lost 1-0 and the Bs drew 2-2 with Matthew Warwick getting both goals. The U13A and Bs played away. The A team won 6-1 with a hat trick from Joe Akinlotan two goals from Jake Whittaker and one for Conor Strutt-Clare. The Bs drew 0-0.

On Tuesday it was the turn of the U14As and Bs. Once again the As went three 3-0 down in the first half against a team which has been unbeaten all season but after a stiff talk from Mr Taylor at half time, the boys fought back brilliantly in the second half. They tackled better and competed for every ball. Two goals from Jermaine Townsend and one from Khalil Lewis-Brown levelled the scores.

The B team lost heavily against another strong, unbeaten team.

Junior School News Hampton Court Visit

Khaleel Saif reports: Last Friday Year 4 went to Hampton Court to help us learn about King Henry VIII, his wives, the castle and what it would be like if we were servants. We travelled by coach and when we arrived we got into our groups. We visited the kitchens, pantry, the great hall and the wine cellar but I liked going to the gardens because the flowers were blooming. The trees were all the same shape and the maze was really big. I also liked the gift shop even if it was really expensive. The only thing I did not like was the smell of the uncooked meat that was in the pantry. I had a cool day and I will definitely go back with my family!