



Newsletter

Vol. 17 No 21

www.sdonline.org.uk www.stdunstans.org.uk

20 March 2008

Modern Languages Trip



A party of 30 Year 9s spent last weekend in Lille savouring French culture, language and cuisine. On arrival on Friday, the students immediately set to work on a language assignment which involved wandering around the city centre to look in shops to find the prices of particular items. They then had to order and buy their own lunch. In the afternoon the students were set a number of tasks including buying a postcard in the tourist information centre, checking the price of a metro ticket and buying a newspaper. They then undertook a street survey asking passers by in French whether they lived in Lille and what they liked about the city.



In the evening the party went bowling – Aimee Phillips proved the most successful. Saturday morning was spent exploring old Lille and answering more questions including how many gargoyles there were on the Cathedral facade. In the afternoon they visited the Citadel where they listened to a talk about its history from Language Assistant Amanda Delacour and went to La Piscine, an art and sculpture museum housed in an Art Deco municipal swimming pool. A final language assignment involved the students selecting an article from the newspaper they had bought, translating it and giving a presentation to their peers about it. The evening was spent at the cinema watching a French film about a man with heart disease. According to David Harris it was quite hard to understand but became a lot clearer the next morning when Amanda explained it!

Their last morning was spent visiting Lille's Hotel de Ville. David said the trip definitely helped everyone's confidence in speaking French and improved their vocabulary. Thanks go to Mr Newman who led the trip and to his wife, Miss Eastmond and Amanda who accompanied them.

Science Week



A highlight of Science Week is always the chance given to Year 7 to get up close and personal with some of nature's creepy creatures. This year's students enjoyed the chance to meet stick insects, a tarantula, a scorpion, a bearded dragon and a selection of snakes. The final animal on display was this python which took eight students to hold. On Friday the Armstrong Society held its final lecture of the year. Guest speaker was Professor R K Harris who is Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at Durham University and the grandfather of Victoria and David Harris in Years 11 and 9 respectively. Prof Harris is a world renowned expert in nuclear magnetic resonance. He gave the students a well balance introduction to the subject and explained the range of applications of NMR. The lecture was followed by the annual Armstrong Society dinner in the Refectory which was attended by students, teachers and other guests.

History Conference

A group of 19 Year 13 students attended a history conference on Nazi Germany on Tuesday. Key speakers included Sheffield University's Sir Ian Kershaw and Professor Richard Overy from Exeter University. The day's lectures covered how the Nazi state used propaganda, its organisation and its foreign policy.

Navy Trip

Four Navy cadets, accompanied by Miss Amery, had the chance of a lifetime last Thursday when they took a trip on board HMS Cumberland. The students, Oliver Spare of Year 9, Fred Dowd of Year 10, Ella Richards of Year 12 and Cecilia Stillwell of Year 13 spent two nights on board the type

22 frigate as it sailed from Portsmouth to Newcastle. They watched the weapons being fired, made bread, which was served in the Officers' mess, and climbed inside the engines. They also had a go at steering!

Chess

Congratulations to Cerden Mincher (pictured) who achieved the highest score in this year's Senior School seven-round UK Chess Challenge competition gaining 19 out of a possible 21 points. He, therefore, qualifies for the regional Megafinal in May, along with Christian Burgess and Michael Knight who both got 18 points, Austin Laylee with 17 and Andrew Green, Sean McManus, Connor Warrener, Jason Truong, Rupert Glover and Ki Thompson-Cohn who all gained 15 points.



Fives

The competitive Fives season finished last Saturday with a match against Merchant Taylor's for the U14, U15 and 1st and 2nd IVs. The U14s, U15s and 2nd IV all won their matches and the 1st IV only narrowly lost a closely fought match.

On Sunday the team of Joe Akinlotan, Peter Mears, Conor Strutt-Clare and Damel Lambert Powell took part in the U13 National Competition at St Paul's. Joe and Peter made the semi finals of the singles and also of the doubles. Conor won the Plate singles, while he and Damel narrowly lost the Plate doubles final by 10-11. Well done to all the boys who have represented the College in Fives this season.

Hockey

Congratulations to the Year 8 girls who proudly came away from the Colfe's annual mini hockey tournament on Monday with silver medals. Eight schools took part: Alleyn's, Blackheath High, Colfe's (A and B), Newstead Wood, Hayes, Charles Darwin and St Dunstan's. In the pool stage SDC won two matches and drew with Hayes to finish top and gain a place in the final. Unfortunately

Newstead Wood was the deserved winner but the U13As fully deserved their medals for their performance, sportsmanship, manners and general conduct. They stepped up to the challenge and played impressive hockey. Player of the tournament was captain, Lana Richards. The rest of the squad comprised: Isabel de Cala, Amie Sawyer, Louise Forbes, Sarah Bingham, Olive Supple-Still, Isabel Wilken-Smith, Eleanor Shapcott (GK), Georgia Ferguson, Katie Payne.

The U12s had their first 11 a-side match against Sydenham High away on Monday. It was a very even game but the home team managed to score in the first half. After the break Sophie Bellenberg and Jessica Twist linked up brilliantly and passed to Elyse Jones who scored an equaliser. Despite continued pressure the girls were unable to get a winner so the final score was 1-1.

Football

Congratulations to the U13A and B teams, which both played and won matches against Bickley on Monday and ended their seasons unbeaten. The A team had a poor first half but improved in the second to win 4-1. Jake Whittaker scored twice with Michael Wilgoss and Joe Akinlotan getting one apiece. Robin Loo was commanding in defence. Special mention goes to Jake who has captained the side well all season and led by example. The B team won its game 5-1, with two goals from George Ellison-Bunce and a goal each for Rob Lavelle, Obi Jwah and Jamie Tahsin. Passing was good and the defence caught the opposition offside continually.

The U12s had a tough game against St Paul's on Friday going down 5-1. The SDC goal scorer was Austin Laylee but the hero was Alistair Zeffertt who was outstanding in goal and prevented many goals.

The U14s, having excelled last week, had a disappointing game on Tuesday losing 3-2 to Charles Darwin away. Khalil Lewis-Brown and Jermaine Townsend scored the goals but man of the match was Dion Webber.

Junior School News Year 6 Play

For weeks, Year 6 had been busy preparing for its production of *Godspell*, the musical devised by Stephen Schwartz. There had been auditions, rehearsals, singing, dancing, painting and prop making. Broadband connections nearly melted down with the volume of Internet purchases of feathery boas, glittery hats, masks and other essentials. Finally, the days of the performances arrived: Rory Burns, as John the Baptist, opened the show with his haunting solo in *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*. Augusto Koschak played Jesus, giving a brilliant performance which ranged from slapstick comedy to tear-jerking pathos. There were a variety of narrators for the parables, giving anyone who wanted a speaking part a chance to take a juicy role. Elizabeth Tremble, Matthew Feuer, Francesca Dadzie and Ella Beresford-West all

performed in a variety of roles. Bill Fox-O'Brien was a wonderful, hypocritical servant, whose convincing torture scene was remarked upon most favourably! Rahul Reddy as the Master was also noteworthy. Rebecca McDowell and Mairi Watt-Cooper sang beautifully in *Day By Day*.



Who can forget the clarity and force of Annie Watson or Caroline O'Malley, or Natasha Walton as an angel? Kadim Khan was a brilliant ad-libber and reacted perfectly to the action around him. Louisa Millen sowed the seed while Anoushka Jago showed what it was like to be the servant of only one master – and both dazzled with their dancing, tapping and general hi-jinks! Kemi Akinlotan, Morgan Sinclair, Gala Sofranac and Isabel Lambert also played multiple roles – but looked as if they enjoyed being Turn Backers best of all! Erran Gordon, Jonathan Regnier and friends made a lot of noise as wolf whistlers! Sabrina Keating led the Beatitudes wonderfully – a scene in which Emil Schneider and Lawrence Gordinsky also excelled. While Michael Ng and James Corbett ignored Grace Lanksbury as the duffed-up traveller on her way to Jericho, Rowan Hancox was the Good Samaritan. Shola Thomas gave a startling performance – brilliantly textured and nuanced.



There were some truly memorable scenes: Magda Bird dancing in front of the recreation of da Vinci's *Last Supper*; Matthew Hankin's superb flute-playing (and just as memorable death scene). IZIAH Yarde was outstanding as drummer (and pretty hot as an actor too!). Miss Marcinkiewicz was the musical director, a huge job, while Mrs Poole and Mr Wilkins shared the directorial role. Mrs Russell – well, what didn't she do? Miss Marcinkiewicz and Mr Barnard also turned their hand to a bit of psychedelic painting, to stunning effect.

None of this would have come to anything, however, without the efforts of the EW lighting crew: Alasdair Greaves and Zac O'Brien-Manley under the direction of Miss Johnson. Armen Brown did a superb job of stage management.

The cake sales, *Godspell* cake auctions and retiring collection raised £642 which will go

towards helping Ntinda Primary School in Uganda build and stock its library.

Netball

Last Friday 120 girls and staff descended on the netball courts for the annual U11 Netball tournament. Twelve teams took part, including two teams from St. Dunstan's (all our Year 6 girls took part). After the ferocious winds and rain earlier in the week, the weather was kind to us and the first few games were played in sunshine.

The competition was fierce as this was the last time for the majority of girls would represent their schools playing netball. The schools were split into two groups with the winners playing each other for the Final match. In group A, Bromley High won all its matches with JAPS coming second. SDC's B team played in this group and although they were out played they never gave up and had an enjoyable afternoon of netball. In the other group the A team and St Christopher's both won all their matches and the final match in the group would be the decider between the two teams. Unfortunately by now the rain had started, the play was fast and furious and soon St. Christopher's took the lead but due to sheer determination on the part of all the SDC girls the score was soon equalised. The conditions were getting worse and the ball was very slippery but the girls kept up the pressure and were rewarded by getting the winning goal, which meant the A team won its group.

As the rain was becoming increasingly hard and the staff were worried about the safety of the girls it was decided that the Final could not go ahead. The two group winners, therefore, shared the trophy. Congratulations to all the girls who played, as usual you were a credit to the Junior School.

Throughout the netball season the U11 and U10 teams have been taking part in the Cornflower League comprising SDC and five other local schools: Allyn's, JAPS, Streatham and Clapham High, Sydenham High, Blackheath Prep. All schools have to play each other once during the Michaelmas and Lent terms. In the U11 league SDC and JAPS drew but as SDC had won its match against JAPS it was awarded the trophy.

On Monday the U9 A and B teams went to JAPS, both games were close and very exciting. The B team won 2-1 and the A team lost 4-1 but Miss Strachan and Mrs Poole were delighted with the way the girls played and the way they listened to advice and implemented it into their game.

Notices and Reminders

The John Lewis School Uniform Department will be visiting St Dunstan's College on Tuesday, 25 March from 3pm-5pm in the Refectory, for those who need to order any new uniform.