



2004 - 2005







Principal 's Report

What ingredients go into making a school year successful? Good results? SES certainly had plenty of those across the age ranges, from the record (10,721) pupil attendances at the Nursery to excellent Key Stage 2 results at SJS and yet further records at GCSE where, for the first time, all boys and girls gained the national benchmark of 5 A*-C grades. In fact 91% gained nine or more such grades. Success? - undoubtedly. And what about A-level results? Yes, outstanding success here too with almost 72% of all grades at A or B and 100% pass rate. But the real success from these data is that the results opened doors to many further opportunities for our students as they moved on to the next phase of their lives, to university, employment or enterprising GAP years.

Successful schools are ambitious schools and want to provide the best learning facilities for their students. SES is no exception. The academic year saw the completion of a new Design Technology building at Stamford School followed swiftly by the complete re-modelling of the Arts Centre, made even more splendid by the generous bequest of the late Mr Richard Harris (OS). The building now bears his name. At the High School the extension to the 6th form Centre and, on Kettering Road, a new artificial pitch and tennis courts were completed, adding significantly to the sports facilities available to senior and juniors. Added to this was substantial further investment in ICT equipment, interactive white boards in particular, to ensure that SES maintains the most up to date learning environment.

If a school year was remembered only for hard data, education would be relegated to the level of the balance sheet. It is much more than that. How do we quantify the value of the summer expedition to Nicaragua, or the sports tours to South Africa (rugby) and Barbados (cricket) or the Music or the Drama so expertly produced in the Schools? And what price would we place on the foreign language exchanges which this year added Italy to the previously established quartet of France, Germany, Spain and Russia, as well as our cultural exchanges with schools in Norway and Poland? Our junior school pupils had their own residential weeks in the Lake District and in Derbyshire to experience education beyond the confines of the school campuses.

Successful schools are those which are committed to the success of their students in every aspect of their learning. Commitment to students requires committed staff and the academic year saw a number of staff retire and some promoted to prestigious posts in other schools. The impact of retiring colleagues, Mrs Owens, Mr Raymond, Mrs Summers, Mr Summers and Mr Woolf, is immeasurably greater than their years on the staff which span over a century of service to the Schools. We wish them long and active retirements. Messrs Fraser, Mills and O'Grady moved on deservedly to Headship and Deputy Headships, and Mrs Mariner to a Head of Department's post, all with our best wishes for their future careers. Tragically, one of our much respected colleagues, Mr Graham Morgan, died in June having served Stamford School for over 25 years as Teacher of Classics and Cricket Master. We shall remember him with deep affection and gratitude.

A year in the life of the Endowed Schools is one more building block in over 1600 students' lives and education. Each one is crucially important, but different, packed with success and the multitude of opportunities that SES provides. 2004-05 a successful year? Sine dubio!.



Looking through the pages of the new Stamfordian magazine, it is instantly apparent how much commitment, enthusiasm and pride most of the boys at Stamford School put into their extra-curricular work. All the activities that the boys are involved in differ, yet they all share a similarity in the way that the activities are conducted. When the boys put on their shirts, their berets or their blazers or simply represent the school, they all wear the Stamford school emblem with a sense of pride. Whether they are representing the school on the sports field, while completing the Duke of Edinburgh award, on the stage, at CCF, or in the classroom, you always sense how much the boys feel for the school. That is something very special and what makes Stamford School unique.

This year, the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm put into the production process has again made the magazine what it is. The Stamfordian this year will, I hope, exceed everyone's expectations and be the best yet. The magazine has had a face-lift this year and has been taken into the 21st century. As it contains some very modern designs, illustrations and diverse photos that haven't been seen previously.

For this, many boys have to be thanked. Firstly, Matthew Brown for his technical abilities. Also, Daniel Murphy for some great articles and his willing support in editing, and Darran Wesley for his general help and photographs. But the abilities of James Ho deserve a special thanks, not only his photographic talent, but also his expertise on computers have proved invaluable. However, Miss Tomlinson and Mr Dawson expertise have made the magazine what it is. This is mainly due to Miss Tomlinson's first-rate page designs and Mr Dawson's editing skills. With everyone's hard work and commitment we hope you can see the wide range of activities and fun enjoyed at Stamford school. School really can be the happiest days of your life and looking through the magazine, I can see that most have already realized this.

Contents

Headmaster	4
Peter Fraser	6
Leaving Staff	8
Chapel	16
Economics	21
Boarding	22
Duke Of Edinburgh	28
Design and Technology	44
Eco	50
Science	52
Art	56
House Reports	66
House Music	78
Rally Driver Nick Rowland	82
Staff Run	86
Exchanges	88
Senior Skiing	102
Geography	106
Classics	110
History	112
Sport	120
CCF	166
Drama	170
Creative Writing	178
Music	196

Stamfordian Team

Matthew Brown, JW Dawson, Daniel Murphy, Jonathan Yeates, Darran Wesley, RL Tomlinson, James Ho

Editorial : Jonathan Yeates Production Director : James Ho



Headmaster 's Report

I arrived at Stamford school in August 2005, having served as Senior Master at Brighton College and before that at Dulwich College and Kingston Grammar School. Claire and I, along with our two children, Hannah and Mark, could not have received a warmer welcome, either from Stamford School's boys, staff and parents or the wider community of the Stamford Endowed Schools.

I have found a school that is vibrant and flourishing in many ways: academically, culturally and sportingly. Just as impressive is the commitment of the staff to pastoral care as well as the truly wonderful opportunities the school has to offer in terms of service and adventure, all of which can be discovered in the pages which follow.

In the months leading up to my permanent arrival, I feel I got to know my predecessor, Peter Fraser, fairly well. I hugely admire his energy, judgement and ambition for the school and hope to build, physically and metaphorically, on the foundations he has laid. Below you will read Peter's report of the year 2004-5, as taken from his address on Speech day.

I am very much looking forward to the challenges of the coming years and am delighted to be working with such a dedicated and ambitious staff, multi-talented boys and supportive parents.

Stuart Burns

This year (2005) the scientific community celebrates the work of Albert Einstein and the centenary of the publication of their scientific papers which transformed the way we view the universe and our understanding of space and time. Not bad for someone who struggled at school and was, by any standards, a very modest university student. Many who taught Einstein would have considered him a low achiever or limited student. Predictably, Einstein was critical of his experience of formal education and often made this clear. Let me put it in his words:

"The only thing that interferes with my learning is education" and "it is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education".

On a more positive note, Einstein offers words of comfort to those of you who are parents: "Do not worry about your difficulties in Mathematics (he said). I can assure you that mine are still greater!" This from one of the greatest scientists of all time.

One of Einstein's greatest abilities was the ability to present the concept of relativity to sceptics and opponents, with beautiful simplicity.

"When you are courting a beautiful girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red hot cinder a second seems like an hour". That's relativity!

Academically, there are few better role models than Einstein. He was daringly far-sighted, controversial and critical of convention. In addition, he encouraged curiosity (the important thing is never to stop questioning), imagination (knowledge is limited, but imagination encircles the world) and innovation (anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new).

At a time when we are overly concerned with examinations, league tables and allegedly falling standards, we would be well reminded that 'education is what remains after you have forgotten all that you were taught"! Perhaps modern children are taught too much and learn too little! Not, I hope a problem at Stamford School.

Here is a brief review of the year.

In addition to successes in Public Examinations, members of the school have also secured success in national and regional competitions and continue to pursue a wide range of interests outside the classroom. Collectively, we have raised considerable sums for charity and I would pay tribute to the enthusiasm and commitment of the junior boys in particular. As a result, we have made significant donations to Save the Children, Operational Christmas Child, Comic Relief, Leukaemia Research, the Tsunami Appeal, the National Society for Partially-sighted Children and Children in Need. In addition, the Charity Rock Concerts proved to be memorable and highly successful. I grow older with each one but remain impressed at the innovation, energy and presence of our school bands.

Following two years of planning, preparation and pupil initiatives, the school has passed the Eco Schools assessment recently and is now officially a Green Flag School. The assessors made reference to the enthusiasm and pride displayed by the boys involved in the scheme which requires the school to develop recycling, energy and transport policies which are eco friendly. Few senior schools have secured Eco Schools status and there is no record of an independent senior school supporting the scheme. Mr. Andrew Wilkes has been outstanding in his commitment and our success is a reflection of the vision, energy and enthusiasm he has generated in the boys.

The range of trips available to the boys continues to grow and provides valuable opportunities for them to travel and engage in a wide variety of educational initiatives. The geographers have visited Wales, Iceland and the South of France while the historians have run the popular Battlefields and Bonn trips. Our linguists have enjoyed exchanges with students from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Russia and we have also developed our cultural links with Norway and Poland. The artists have been to Edinburgh, scientists to the AAAS Conference in New York, and the classicists to Greece. In addition to our sports tours, the two very successful ski trips have been highlights of the year. Over the course of the year the school community has been shaken by the deaths of David Walker and Graham Morgan. Both were talented and committed members of staff who gave generously of their time and talents. They are sorely missed by the boys, the Common Room and all who knew them. In addition, the school lost two great supporters on the deaths of Keith Bell (former Housemaster) and Mike Blankley (longstanding OS Committee Member and Editor of the Newsletter for several decades). Both were held in high esteem. This year we recognise the service of three retiring members of staff who have collectively contributed 91 years of service to Stamford School: George Woolf Alastair Summers and Peter Raymond I am grateful to the Governing Body for their continuing commitment to the development and improvement of Stamford School. Following the impressive refurbishment of the LMS and Dining Hall last summer, we have spent a year living with contractors on site. The

to the development and improvement of Stamford School. Following the impressive refurbishment of the LMS and Dining Hall last summer, we have spent a year living with contractors on site. The new Design Centre was delivered on schedule and provides a 'state of the art' facility for the subject. In addition to these dedicated subject facilities, the block provides four additional classrooms with interactive computing facilities for the English Department. The Art Block is presently being re-modelled internally and will provide a dedicated facility for the subject from September. A generous bequest from Richard Harris, an Old Boy of the school, will be recognised in the official naming of the building which will provide an outstanding environment for our artists. The re-location of Design and Technology has also allowed the old woodwork shop to be converted into a Drama Studio to

In addition to these major projects, the School Hall will be provided with enhanced audio visual facilities which will enable this venue to be more widely and creatively used. We also continue to invest in interactive whiteboards and the provision of computing facilities within our teaching rooms.

provide a base for Lower School drama.

Following my completion of the relevant documentation I, for one, have little doubt that the school is well prepared for the forthcoming ISI Inspection in October and that the Inspectors will be impressed by the development of the school since their last visit in November 1999.

I was having lunch last term with a group of first year boys who were tucking into large plates of fish, chips and beans. One of the boys looked up from his plate and said with disarming frankness: "Do you know sir; I am really going to miss you when you go". There was a pause and I was, unusually, short of an appropriate reply. I need not have worried because the assembled company were consuming their lunch with obvious enthusiasm.

The moral is, I think, clear – Headmasters come and Headmasters go, but at Stamford School you only get chips on Thursday! It is, in life, important to keep things in perspective and no-one does this better than

the boys at Stamford School. In truth, the reason for my silence was, and is, very simple. It is quite impossible for me to express how much I will miss the boys at Stamford School.

Gentlemen, it has been a pleasure



Peter Fraser

Headmaster 2000 - 2005

How long does a Headmaster need to make his mark on a school? I have heard it suggested that ten years is the minimum time necessary. A stay of seven years would ensure that all the pupils in the school had arrived there during your tenure. Peter Fraser stayed for only five years, a brief sojourn by any standards, but yet, I would suggest, he saw through changes that have made a real difference to the school. He leaves us in a far stronger position than when he joined. Such was the energy and commitment that Peter brought to the job, that he packed into five years what most of us would struggle to contribute in ten.

Peter joined us from an international school in Sao Paolo, Brazil. A greater contrast with Stamford it is hard to imagine. He joined in Sept 2000, a time when the school was going through a dizzying period of change. It was the first year of JSFT and the move to an 11-18 school was beginning as the Y4 boys stayed at Kettering Road instead of transferring to our prep department. We had a new structure to the school day. Saturday morning school was no more. There was so much that was new that year that John Crampin wrote a booklet listing them all. It ran to 18 pages.

I was looking forward to watching the new man cope with all this. I think I thought it might be mildly amusing watching him flounder about, trying to assimilate the old and the new. I was astonished to find, in our first meetings of the year, that not only had Peter come to terms with the changes at once, but he also brought to discussions fresh and clear thinking about the way forward. Peter hit the ground running, and he kept up a blistering pace from then on. He has the gift of sizing up a complex problem in a flash and reducing it to the fundamentals. 'It comes down to the following,' he would say, 'either we do A or we do B, and you know don't need me to tell you that B is out of the question.'

Peter gave very generously of his time, working long hours, seemingly without a break. He loved to be with the boys; chatting over lunch, cooking them burgers, supporting teams from the touchlines, attending chapel, presentations, concerts, plays and performances of any kind. He invited all and sundry to his home, delighting in the role of host, dispensing hospitality and bonhomie in equal measures.

Five year on – what has he achieved? He has completed that process of change – the move to LMS, the restructuring of the pastoral system and the House system. He has fought hard fill the school and have class sizes reduced. He has left us with far better facilities than when he joined us: Beaufort, LMS, Sixth form Common Rooms the new DT and English block and the Richard Harris Art Centre. He leaves us with a stronger, better organised staff, performing with greater efficiency. He has led us forward on teaching, learning, classroom management and on dealing with young people. He has done much to build up a spirit of community. He has also looked ahead and set the agenda for the coming years. He has had much to say on the future of boarding, on how the schools should be marketed, on a joint sixth form, on curriculum reform and of course on teaching and learning.

Peter has moved to Colston's Collegiate School in Bristol. The attraction for him was the greater autonomy afforded by the post. We wish him, his wife Sarah and children Georgie and Charlie, great success and happiness in their new life.

WCC





Leaving Staff



SERGEANT MAJOR STAN HARRISON

Stamford Endowed Schools CCF cadets said goodbye recently to a very special member of staff, when Sergeant Major Stan Harrison, 65, retired after almost 25 years' service as School Staff Instructor at Stamford School.

During his time at Stamford School, SM Harrison trained over 7,000 young cadets at the school. Many have gone on to pursue successful careers in the Armed Forces. All have gained in many ways from the experience of the CCF.

SM Harrison was presented with special leaving gifts at the Corps' final parade of the Term, attended by the Mayor, Mr David Nalson, and governors and senior staff of the Endowed Schools. Commanding officer, Lt. Col. George Woolf, formally thanked SM Harrison on behalf of the cadets for all his years of dedicated service.

SM Harrison joined the Endowed Schools after a successful career in the Army, where he served in the Royal Tank Regiment and then The King's Royal Hussars. His tours of duty included Borneo, Canada, Germany, Singapore and Northern Ireland, and his experience covered nuclear and biological warfare, gunnery, canoeing and armoured vehicles. His final two years were spent with the OTC at the University of Newcastle, the city of his birth.

SM Harrison, or Stan to his friends, is well known in the area for his passion for golf, which he hopes to indulge rather more often in his retirement. He is a member of Burghley Golf Club, and was club captain in 1999.

A.Gombault







Mr Simon O'Grady

Simon O'Grady spent ten years of dynamic teaching and vigorous achievement at Stamford School, joining us from Ashville as Head of Business Studies and leaving as Head of Sixth Form for a post as Deputy Head of the International School in Cairo.

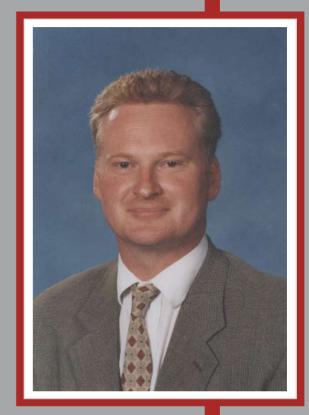
During his years here, Simon pioneered a number of important initiatives, including Key Skills, General Studies and, most important, the new Joint Sixth Form of the Endowed Schools. He gained a reputation for swift, decisive action, but also had the negotiating and communication skills necessary to win genuine support for his policies. His organisational ability and his personal likeability won him the position of Chairman of Common Room during the challenging period of Threshhold and the birth of the TJCC, and Simon showed in both of these the loyalty and commitment to his colleagues which was to make him such an effective leader of the Sixth Form Tutor team and a respected Head of Sixth Form amongst his students.

Simon is a gifted teacher and presided over a fruitful period for results in the Business Studies department, as well as contributing effectively to Economics and General Studies. Though hardly a gifted sportsman, he was enthusiastic about his football, and took trips to Elland Road to see his beloved Leeds United in the days before even his powers of persuasion would have made this unviable. Simon's greater skills lay at the keyboard and also the lectern, where his keyboard and oratorical skills respectively commanded wide admiration and respect.

Colleagues and students will remember with affection the bluff Yorkshire accent, the shock of red hair, the wry smile, the gentle wit. Some will grin at the memory of the baby bowl at Courmayeur or the rumble in the Sports Hall at one of the legendary staff 5-a-side evenings. All will miss an excellent teacher, a tenacious leader, an energetic administrator and a supportive colleague.

Simon has taken his charming French wife, Anne, and the boys, Thomas and Nicholas, to the warmer climes of Egypt, where doubtless now he contemplates the chill of an English winter with a permissible degree of smugness. We envy him his circumstances, but wish him every success and happiness in his exciting new post.

Mr A Gombault







Mr Simon Mills

Simon Mills arrived at Stamford from Blundell's school in September 1997 to be Head of Geography. He found a department in a state of transition, with three new staff and only two old hands remaining from the previous regime. Simon quickly identified the areas where change was desirable, and brought a new sense of purpose and an increased momentum to the department. Before long he was required to plan for the introduction of AS and A2 courses as a result of the Curriculum 2000 changes, together with the fundamental reorganisation associated with Joint Sixth form Teaching (JSFT). In this area in particular his patience and perseverance were to prove invaluable.

During Simon's tenure he developed a range of fieldtrips spanning a spectrum from local projects for lower school year groups to more ambitious expeditions in the senior school. Amongst the latter were the annual Y10 trips to the Cevennes region of France, and the AS field courses to Shropshire and North Wales. In recent years he introduced a successful sixth form expedition to Iceland.

Outside the classroom Simon proved himself to be a versatile and rounded schoolmaster. His contributions on the games field included rugby refereeing, and his fascinating decision making in this area often attracted an interested audience! As a CCF officer in the Army section he set a high standard in both dress and commitment.

As if all this was not enough, Simon accepted the post of House-master of Browne in 2000. Those with experience of boarding will know that such a position is all-consuming, and it is a tribute to Simon's energy and organisational skills that he was able to cope with such a diverse portfolio of responsibilities. Boarding has changed enormously in recent years both nationally and also at Stamford, and Simon oversaw a whole range of improvements to the fabric of the house and to its working practices. Boys and staff will pay tribute to his care, enthusiasm and attention to detail.

It was therefore only a matter of time before Simon would be given the opportunity to display his talents on a larger stage. His appointment as Deputy Head of Portsmouth Grammar School will allow him to develop his pastoral and academic abilities to the full. In addition he should be able to satisfy his passion for sailing on the sheltered waters of the Solent.

We thank him for his commitment to Stamford School and wish him, Ruth and the children every success and happiness for the future.

Mr R. Haynes



Mr Peter Raymond

In July 2005 we bade a fond farewell to Peter Raymond, who retired after seventeen years as Head of Modern Languages. During that time Peter ran a hugely successful and dynamic department, and he supported a range of extra-curricular activities. For many years he ran a spirited football side, and he was a fine squash coach. Peter also gave up many weeks of his school holidays to accompany boys and girls on French and Russian exchange trips.

Always a modest, self-effacing member of the teaching staff, Peter was regarded with affection and admiration by the boys he encountered during his many years at the school. He was known as a supportive, approachable member of staff who set high standards for the pupils he taught, many of whom went on to study modern languages at university as a result of his inspirational teaching.

We wish Peter a long and happy retirement, and, as he only lives a stone's throw away, we hope that he will visit us from time to time.

Mr K. Mills







Mr John Speak

Mr Speak, one of the longest serving staff of the Stamford Endowed Schools, retired at the end of the autumn term after a most impressive 28 years service.

Mr Speak came to interview in the summer term of 1976, on the interview panel was Dr Edwin Gobbett, who was then Head of Chemistry and also Head of Science. Dr Gobbett said that he stood out from all of the other candidates because he was the only one to talk about the pupils he had taught. His commitment to ensuring that every pupil is given the most precise Physics education is also something I have noticed during my time here. Mr Speak joined the staff, from Royal Grammar School Newcastle, as Head of Physics in the Autumn term of that year; 1976 and is currently the longest serving Head of Department, having spent an estimated six whole days in Head of Department meetings during that time. He has also seen through 4 Headmasters and 3 Heads of Science.

During his career Mr Speak has had much experience as a sixth form tutor. Many of his tutees have commented on his high standards for punctuality. More recently Mr Speak has also taken on the responsibility of GCSE exams officer. A role requiring the good qualities of his training as a Physicist; to be methodical, logical and organised.

However the quality I, other colleagues and many of the boys over the years have appreciated most is Mr Speak's incredible subject knowledge. It really is hard to believe, but Mr Speak claims that no one actually ever told him that he was any good at Physics until he went to interview at Oxford University where he later completed his degree. He has been a valuable resource to me through my early years of teaching, one that I shall miss very much.

Mr Speak has often been heard to say that it is such a shame that teachers simply don't have enough time to learn more of their subject. I hope that during his retirement years he now has the opportunity to rectify that as well as enjoying time with his family. It is strange to say this, but there will be no more speak with Mr Physics.

Mrs F Haunch



Mr Alastair Summers

The end of the summer term saw the retirement of Alastair Summers, after a long and distinguished career in teaching. He was on the staff here for 31 years and his contribution as a maths teacher, and for many years as the timetabler, has been outstanding. Having attended school in Yorkshire, he went to Cambridge and followed his degree there with a PGCE. He went straight into teaching, working first at a comprehensive school in Worcestershire and then at a grammar school in Nottingham. He joined the staff here in 1974, when Alan Stavely was Head. He liked it here; he and his wife Carol, who is retiring from SHS this summer, made their home here; and their three children came through these schools with great success.

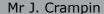
Alastair is a mathematician of some quality. He brought a high degree of mathematical knowledge and skill to the classroom and in addition a great deal of personal enthusiasm for the subject. He certainly fired the minds of our most able boys and many of those who studied Maths and Further Maths to A-level and went on to read Maths at university will have cause to be grateful to him. His enthusiasm was not confined to working with the most able students, and he has always sought new ways to help boys keen to extend their knowledge and their skills. In addition he enlivened our maths department meetings, where we frequently discuss different approaches to teaching. Whenever it was Alastair's turn to lead such a session, ideas flowed rapidly, questions of all standards were fired out and most of us left with a range of stimulating ideas and challenging follow-up questions.

Throughout his time at school Alastair ran chess. He was himself a county player as a boy and he played for Cambridge University. During his time here he has played often for Stamford and occasionally for Lincolnshire. However, most of his efforts at chess have been centred on the progress and success of the boys. The standard of play improved significantly and under his leadership Stamford became the team to beat. Many boys have become county players, and most notably Jonathan Mutton and Chris Dorrington have played chess for England.

Alastair Summers is a religious man. The church is a big thing in his life. He has taken school assemblies, has often preached in Chapel and has contributed to the Christian Union. While boys might have been surprised to see Alastair on the stage to take assembly, they could not have failed to be impressed by his commitment and by the directness of his delivery.

As so we wish farewell to Alastair Summers – so aptly named - he liked sums, he liked talking about sums, he liked trying to involve others in thinking about sums, and he did so with great success.

We give him a very warm thank you for his work here, and wish Alastair and Carol a very long and happy retirement.







Mr Graham Morgan



Obituary

Graham Morgan suffered from an illness that, tragically, proved fatal – We will remember that of course – but that is not why or how we shall remember him. Janice and John, who have suffered the most grievous loss, will remember a husband and father, a devoted family man who was happiest at home, which is just as it should be. His colleagues will remember Graham as Morganus, Morgs, Chesticles, the Chest, and Chesty - for so many reasons.

Possibly they played tennis with him and took appropriate measures to replace the fluid lost as sweat afterwards. Or a 5 A-side football when, wearing his trademark red basketball boots, he would defeat many a younger man with his ball control skills. He was of course, in his youth, offered terms with Ipswich as a professional. Many will remember Graham as a fine cricketer for Uffington and for the Staff XI, when he seemed able to score fifties almost at will; and then, the following morning, he would complain of being "racked with pain." One of his many memorable sayings. And a few of us even knew of his skill as triple jumper: when he was, in his own words, a mere "Spring Chicken", he set a county record that stood for several years. For many years he coached the 3RD XV and always prepared himself for away matches by taking a classical text with him to read on the coach. Obviously working on the principle that, even where rugby was concerned, "It's all in the classics" As cricket administrator, never were cricket balls more assiduously - and naturally, all the fixtures, coaches, lunches and teas proceeded without a hitch.

Graham was also a tutor of vast experience, first for Exeter and then in the Middle School, whose records about the boys in his care were second to none. He was also, for several years, the school's GCSE Exam's officer, a job where his meticulous organisation was responsible for the smooth running of this complex task, and all without the benefit (or otherwise) of a computer.

And, of course, Graham was a genuine classical scholar, with a scholar's grasp of and passion for his subject, especially his beloved Greek Literature. He wore his learning lightly, but learning there was in abundance. He was the first port of call for anyone who wanted to know the etymology of a word, and I remember, once, discussing with him what the Romans



would have called the fielding positions had they had the good sense to play cricket. "What about wicketkeeper", I asked, thinking (foolishly, of course) that I could catch him out. But, after a moment's thought Graham offered "Isque tres virgas erectas custodet" (He who quards the three upright sticks).

Michael Blisset used the word "Gravitas" (In the sense of substance, depth) when describing Graham; absolutely right.

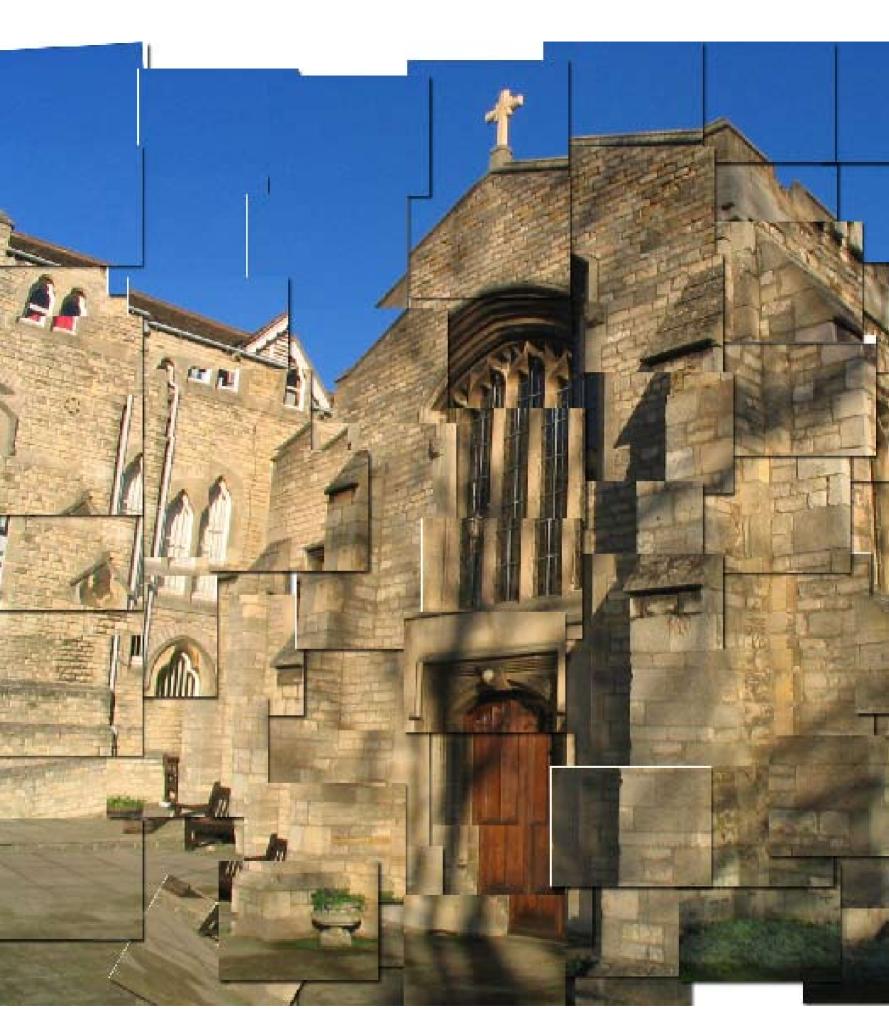
All of this will be remembered, but Graham will be remembered much more for what he was rather than what he did, and that is much easier to recall and much more important than a mere list of activities. He was a gentleman, a gentle man, a nice man, a thoroughly decent man of unimpeachable integrity; sensitive, kind and generous. In 21 years I never heard anyone say a bad word about him, and in a school common room that is in itself no mean achievement.

The younger boys held him in respect, which matured into genuine affection as they worked (or otherwise) their way through the school. Graham was one of the few members of staff on whom the epithet "Legend" was bestowed by the boys, and rightly so.

Graham, you were held in the highest regard by so many and you will be sorely missed. Like so many here at school, it as a great privilege to have known you as a friend.

Mr M. G. Sawyer







Chapel

"Reality" television shows continue to dominate some channels and many people are fascinated by such spectacles. In May 2005 BBC2 broadcast a three part series which followed the fortunes of five men who volunteered to spend six weeks in a Benedictine community at Worth in Sussex. It was an interesting series which showed the men struggling to adapt to the monk's lifestyle with its threefold emphasis on prayer, manual work and study. By the end of the period all five men had been deeply affected by their experience.

This series reminded me that there are some resemblances between the Benedictine life and the pattern of life followed in traditional school communities. In order to develop body, mind and spirit we too devote our time to games and other forms of physical activity, as well as pursuing our studies and nurturing spirituality. Whilst many facets of school life will contribute to spiritual development the role of the Chapel is crucial in grounding that spirituality in the Christian tradition.

Many contribute to the worshipping life of the Chapel especially those who prepare and deliver addresses at our Sunday Services. My thanks go to the following: Dr. P. R. Mason, Mr D. R. Moss-Bowpitt, Mr P. T. Fraser, Miss E. M. Craig, Mrs Y. L. Powell, Mrs H. Austen, Mr D. Johnston, Mr M. R. Barton, Mr D. L. Brown, Mr S. J. Mills and the Revd. Mrs M. Lloyd.

We are touched not only by what we hear but also by what we see, and so my thanks also go to the flower arrangers who have beautified the Chapel with their offerings: Mrs S. Mason, Mrs S. Fraser, Mrs S. Stafford, Mrs M. A. Good and Mrs A. Ruff.

Finally, I am grateful to the sacristans, Jack Thorpe and Richard Harvey, who have assisted at the celebration of the Eucharist.

MRR.

Senior Christian Union

The Senior Christian Union started up this year out of a vacuum. A number of us had enjoyed JCU in Years 7 – 9 and now there was nothing in Middle School, so following a suggestion from Matthew Burnett we decided to start our own group. It began for Y10 - 11 and now includes Sixth Form as well. We decided to invite the girls from the High School and spent the rest of the term working with Mr. Knowles and Miss Storey, our local youth worker and the Headmaster trying to set everything up. By Christmas we were meeting weekly at the Boys School on Wednesday lunch times. At first 8 of us met but during the course of the year that number grew to 12. For the second half of the year the girls persuaded us to walk down to their school site, which I guess was only fair. During the year we consumed vast quantities of packed lunches and looked at many different issues including drugs, money, witchcraft and homosexuality. As time went on we took more of a leading role and some of us had a go at giving the talks ourselves. Christian Union is open to anyone in Y10 - 13 who is interested in finding out more about God, the Bible and their relevance in our lives today.

M JW Fox

JCU

"I have come that you may have life, life in all its abundance" John 10 v.10

What is this full, abundant and exciting life in technicolor which Jesus promised us? Can we find it amidst the pressures of prep and school assessments in the early years of the twenty first century?

This was our theme at JCU in the Autumn Term as we tried out mapreading with the Bible, experiencing the Holy Spirit, and a Talents Auction, as well as the annual Christmas party. In the Spring Term we read a variety of Psalms and explored our emotions and reactions to God in different circumstances. Our thanks to members of staff and to older pupils who came to share their beliefs and faith from Agnosticism to Genetic Engineering. JCU is open to all who like a good discussion, games and, of course, squash and chocolate cake!

JCF

Christian Union



GCSE Success

Stamford School pupils Daniel Millichip,16, of Stamford and Robert Thomas, 16, of Deeping St.James, who have each gained 10 A* passes at GCSE. Daniel's mark in Music was amongst the ten best from over 23,000 candidates in the country. Robert, who is partially sighted, is also one of only 20 nationally to achieve a gold medal in the Royal Society of Physics Challenge this year.



Economics

Bank of England Challenge

Each year a group of Y12 and Y13 students carry out some research on the state of the UK Economy and present their assessment to a panel from the Bank of England. In their assessment they look at the factors both domestic and international that will influence the inflationary pressures that are acting on the economy today and they give their prediction about where the consumer price index (CPI) – the official measure of the rate of change of prices - is heading. The Bank has been set the target by Gordon Brown to keep the UK inflation rate at 2.0% CPI. Currently the rate is running at about 2.3% which means that every pound that you have in your pocket is losing 2.3% of its value over the year. If the rate of inflation stays above the 2.0% target, then the Bank will attempt to curb its rise by raising its official interest rate, which will indicate to commercial banks and building societies that they should raise their rates to customers, so adding to mortgage and credit card costs. This should reduce demand in the economy and so ease the inflationary pressure, but could lead to a more miserable Christmas!

Current pressures on inflation are seen to be coming from the higher prices for fuel, in particular gas and oil and the above inflation pay rises that both the public and private sectors are securing. On the down side, the slow down in the housing market is affecting consumer demand and the lower level of confidence in the economy, coupled with the lower growth forecast, are acting to reduce the inflationary pressures. The foreign sector is also an area that is under our consideration, the value of the pound against the both the euro and dollar and our trade with Europe and China can influence the extent to which we can 'import' inflation.

The students involved in this year's Target 2.0 Bank of England Challenge are from:

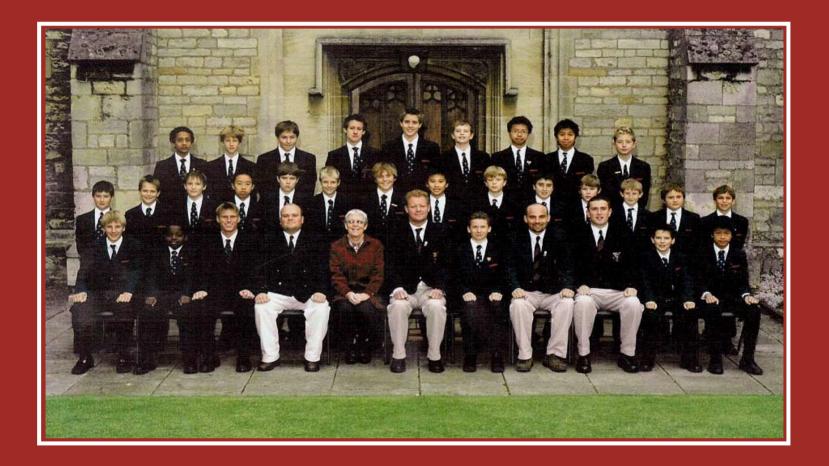
Y12: Hannah Ng, Edward Leech, Stuart Ellis and Pembroke Tenneson and from Y13: Samantha Bedford, Aysha Harwood, Tessa Yates and Tom Masters. All of whom, along with a band of dedicated researchers, have been meeting on Saturday mornings to prepare for the competition, which attracts over 240 teams from across the UK. I suppose that you want to know the team's decision. Well here lies your first lesson in economics, if you require information and research then you will need to pay for it!

Mr C. Killgren





Boarding - Byard House



Another busy year in Byard, tainted by the sad loss of Colin Clement, Matron's husband. He was a great friend of the school and the boarding house, we will never forget his friendly presence around the house and his willingness to help out. We will also never forget his white beard filled with fairy lights at the Christmas fancy dress party!

As always there is too much in one year to recall all here, but the year started welcoming the new boarders. Tom Dowdell was head of House for the first half and Charles Wilson for the second half of the year. The tone of the house was set by the difficulty getting the boys in from playing on the fields in the still light evenings. This was to be a good year. The weekend activities included Alton Towers, Quasar Laser (which saw Guy the GAP student being most competitive), Rock wall climbing, cycling to name but a few. The Christmas talent show was a highlight with a particularly memorable contribution from Tom Hanks, Iain Downer and Freddie Berridge (accompanied by Mr Wilkes) with songs from Oliver. Also the 'jam' session from James Cattermole and Chaz Wilson. We also had the international society Christmas party where the international students told us all of there Christmas at home. The Chinese New Year was celebrated in great style in the Dining Hall and, in the summer, the Boarder's Bar-B-Que saw many parents join us.

The boy's in Byard are a group to be proud of. I have never been more proud than last year when, along with the boyish energy and exuberance one would expect, there were a group of people who were polite, helpful and a [pleasure to look after.

JPH

Boarding at Stamford school is always a great way to get the most out of Stamford School life, educationally and socially.





'Life at the boarding house is brilliant, with something to do all the time. You are never bored. You can play sports in the gym and on Thursday night we go to the sports hall. Alternatively, when it is dark in the winter you can use the pool table, the computers, the table-tennis table and the table football table. In the summer we use the swimming pool and the cricket nets. We also use the fields to play football and rugby. Everyone does their homework together so if you are stuck then you can ask a friend or teacher to help. We do our prep at school where we have extensive computing facilities. There is a pleasant atmosphere throughout the house.'

By Iain and Ed (Y9 Boarders)



Up to Matron!

They're a TIDY lot in Byard, and also in Old San
They keep their clothes in neat array, and look so spick and span.
They jump up in the morning with faces clean and bright
And equally they're happy to go to sleep at night.

There always are exceptions – no need to name no names Who never have a clean white shirt, and lose their kit for games.

There are those whose lockers bulge with stuff, and some are empty – Sure?

Or is it just because it's all spread out - right across the floor

(or under - or behind the bed - or - or- or ..)

Some wear white socks when it should be grey Some have no combs – or so they say.

Some like to take the shortest showers And some stay there for hours and hours

And when they're fit for chapel, their shoes shine like the sun! It's a pity there wasn't more about, when they did the Burghley run.

They're a smashing lot in Byard, and also in Old San They're happy, healthy, tidy, so come and join the clan!

Boarding - Browne House

This year saw the final year of boarding in Browne under the reign of Mr Simon Mills. It was a very productive year in which the House saw a great variety of weekend activities. As a member of Browne I feel that I would be best set to report on life in the house this year. Firstly, we had the appointment of Richard Harvey as Head of House who turned out to be a very inspirational leader for all the boys. No one present at the Sixth form black tie supper with Park house will forget his witty speech. Even the young Charlie Clayton was overcome by the occasion!

We welcomed a new addition to the house, Mr J Hector Walker, aka Hector (Matron's West highland Terrier puppy). He was housetrained quicker than most of the Year 10's in Rusholme and possibly bathed more often! He is a firm favourite in the house and dog walking has become a popular past time for boys seeking freebies from the house tuck shop.

Browne itself is well renowned for its great variety of in-house activities. We presently have snooker and pool tables, table football and table tennis facilities with numerous related competitions. Jamie Roberts defied the pundits to achieve victory in the house pool tournament. He built his campaign on flukes according to a very bitter Mr Brewster (after he'd been knocked out!!). Obviously it's not all work, so we have plenty of leisure facilities after a hard day's graft, Sky TV, DVD and Video Players in both common rooms are all well used. This means the boy's always have something to do, and that's without mentioning the excellent facilities in school that are right on our doorstep. Our Sports Hall sessions in the evening are legendary.

Mr Fox is often amazed at the breadth of talent on display, the John Smith's ("Have it!"to the Thierry Henry's ("Va va voom") are all involved. Basketball is very popular, with the main members of the school team in Browne house. Regular evening sessions take place on the outdoor court in the Dell and in the Gym, watch out NBA – Alex Tam is coming!!

The outdoor swimming pool is a huge asset in the summer, when we use it every evening after prep. There's nothing better after a hard day's work or revision, then to relax playing the unique game of Browne house "waterpolo". It's a mixture of waterpolo, rugby and the ultimate warrior championship. Spectators watch at their own peril!!! It's not for the faint hearted, and certainly not for non-swimmers! The cricket nets are also very popular, and all year round impromptu games are visible around the mainfields cricket outfield. Several boys score for the staff team home games and we all like cheering on house staff involved, especially when Mr Stamp opens the staff batting.

Most of the house are very active in sports teams at the weekend and the Duke of Edinburgh awards



scheme and CCF are very popular. Chapel choir and Orchestra still have a strong boarders contingent. The Sunday activities have turned it to some what of a legend among day boys as there jealousy of our trips increases. Every Sunday the boys go with a member of staff to a variety of different places, these include going to the cinema, bowling, ice skating, karting, the Snodome in Milton Keynes, climbing, cycling and many more. There is one activity I have left out of the list, my favourite activity of the year - Paintball. I think the highlight for the boys has been to be on the opposite side to Mr Mills, or a friend who claims he's the fastest draw in the house. Scores are settled in a highly undemocratic way – a hail of paint! Prizes for the most extreme bruising!!! It is always a very competitive day, however last summer, Mr Mills risked life and limb to take a picture of the boys in action, he was duly advised against it by the marshals and banned for the day!!

The upcoming year sees the arrival of new members of staff (Mr Wilkes, Mr Hankinson and Mr Goldbrum) and a new House Master (Mr Brewster). All the boys in Browne are looking forward to this new look Browne house staff team and I'm positive that it will be another great year for the Browne House. I am sure that the boys will give them a warm welcome!

To the guys leaving, we wish them well with their future exploits. The keen academic minds which they have had nurtured at Stamford will be enriched in their forthcoming undergraduate experiences. Do keep in touch and remember you are always welcome to come back and see us in our house, Browne house.

Leavers 2004-5

Rory Gibson (sailing course in Australia), Tom Wilmot (Sedbergh school),

University

Matthew Waik, Paul Sarjeant, Alastair Davies, Matthew Ng, Alex Tam, Richard Harvey.

Staff Leavers

Mr Stamp has lived and worked in Rusholme for three years. He has finally decided to seek domestic bliss within the town, we wish him well. Thank you for one of the greatest paintball memories ever – speedball with a army helmet covering his modesty!

Mr and Mrs Mills (and family) are leaving to enjoy the challenges of Postsmouth Grammar school. The boys would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication to making Browne house a great place to live. Hopefully, Mr Mills can put to good use the wetsuit we bought him for a leaving present, as he continues his passion for sailing on the Solent. We also hope that he likes the box of space raider crisps which he consumed by the truck load!

James Wilson







Bronze Silver Gold





Bronze

Teamwork on the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

On the Duke of Edinburgh expedition I found that completing the route would have been impossible without working as a team within our group of six. The expedition left Rugby Group D with a sense of achievement because we had all experienced both the pain of blisters on our feet and the fun times throughout the journey. In everything we did, whether it was map reading or packing the tent, someone was there to help. This is the whole point of D of E, to bond and build good relationships with people. Now I will give an account of our trials, tribulations and the decisions we made together on our assessed expedition to Greatford and back.

We set off at 5pm from Uffington fresh from our A and B team victories against Mount St Mary's College. On both our practice and assessed expeditions our group decided to set a tight schedule with water and rest breaks at villages along the route. This proved to be a very good decision within the group, as we made up half an hour on the other groups so we arrived first at the campsite at 6:30 pm.

By working quickly and efficiently (2 people putting up a tent and the other setting up the trangia) we started our 3 course meal early and had packed away by 10pm. We set our alarm for 5am so that we would have sufficient time to cook and pack up ready for our long walk in the morning.

The morning came and we ate our food by the fire, after packing the tent we helped each other stuff all our belongings into our rucksacks and gather the final pegs from the ground. On our route home we sustained the same routine as we stopped at villages along the way: Oliver and I the map readers, Henry taking the bearings, Dominic setting the pace. Harry and Scott kept us going by making us laugh. This also was vital to our morale as we took on roles within the group. This too was a sign of our excellent teamwork because we showed our organisation and initiative in knowing who was doing what.

We were making good time along the route and the map readers were working effectively by communicating frequently between the points on the route. We found that our experiences on the harder Fineshade route made our map reading and compass skills a lot easier. As we neared Stamford we picked up the pace. Our morale was boosted and we pulled each other through to the end. We finished at 12:45 pm, an hour ahead of everybody else and we all felt a real sense of achievement in what we had done.

The Duke of Edinburgh Expedition was a fantastic experience and personally it was great to spend this gruelling test of endurance with 5 great chaps. By using our teamwork it really feels we did something really good!



Bronze D of E report

Day 1

We set off from Stamford School on a minibus to Ketton, where we started our expedition. We set off from Ketton, our group all happy at this point, everybody well prepared. We walked for about an hour across lots of fields. We all got hot and decided to take off our coats. We were walking for ages and the tracks never seemed to stop!

At Duddington we took a wrong turn and ended up going round in circles. This wasted a lot of our time; however we did see a beautiful church and graveyard. We were all tired now. Our legs were aching and the

group started to complain so we stopped in Duddington and had a quick snack.

After passing through Duddington, past the pub at the end of the village, across a main road and past a cemetery we got onto a track that led south to the Fineshade Woods. The group by this time was rather exhausted; we decided to take off our rucksacks for a quick breather. At last, we arrived at Fineshade Woods, and then we

we reached the campsite. We arrived at the campsite to find a small opening in a gap of trees. Our group then split to erect our tents, and then we collected our cooking equipment and began to cook our meal on the trangias. The other half of our group was struggling to get their

realised that we only had around a mile till

tent up in the bad light, so we lent a helping hand.

We then sat down as a group by the fire, which had already been lit when we arrived at the campsite. It was welcoming warmth and was a nice end to the day. Once we had warmed up and cooked our meal, we began to eat. I was lucky to have soup for starters, and a pasta sauce for my main meal. After this, we sat round the fire exchanging jokes and stories. We then got our heads down for the night.

Day 2

We were woken in the morning by our camp supervisors; when I looked at my watch it said 5 o'clock. We got up and sat round the fire again. After having a brief breakfast, we had the mammoth task of cleaning our trangias, packing away our tents, and packing our bags in the space of half an hour. We managed to pack our bags first, so we were first in line to start. However, the groups were set off in order, and seeing our group was NC once again we set off last and were last to arrive in Stamford.



But eventually we set off towards Wakerley Woods. The morning was fresh, and sky was clear and crisp. Once we came out of Wakerley Woods we got to the village of Wakerley, from here it was about half a mile to Barrowden. So we walked through Wakerley and then we found ourselves in Barrowden. We decided to stop here for a brief break and to have a spot of lunch. About five minutes later we set off again. We walked through Barrowden, across the playing field and out the north side. Luckily for our group, I was doing the map reading and because I live in the area I knew exactly where we were.

We then came to the village of South Luffenham, which so happens to be my village. There we followed the

route to the far side of the village, and walked right past my house and because the group were tired and our water bottles were empty; we decided to stop at my house to fill the water bottles up. After this we followed a public footpath out of South Luffenham, towards the village of Pilton. After a short walk we reached Pilton. It was very windy at this point and everybody's feet were really sore and painful. We needed to take a break. But we pressed on and walked for another half an hour. After this walk we reached Wing, and we had to answer a question about a building in Wing. So after we answered the question, we left Wing and had a relatively long trek north, till we met Rutland Water. We were nearly there! We walked along the footpath at the side of Rutland Water till we reached our final destination – Normanton Car Park. We had made it! After hours of walking, and the group trying to keep up with my fast pace (which I



did slow down after lots of moans) we had finally made it. It was the longest and hardest walk I've ever done in two days. Everybody had given their all, and felt like they had achieved something at the end. It was now time to go home, and have a nice hot bath!

Andrew Sampson



Silver



Duke of Edingburgh Silver Award Expedition

Day1: The first day of the D of E trip was the day we took our two hour journey up to the Peak District. The journey itself was uneventful and when we got there we unpacked our stuff and got allocated rooms. Our group of six had one room together. We started off with a few lectures from our instructors and we went on the ropes course. We also went for a short walk to practice our map reading and teamwork. After dinner (where we had to wash up!) we explored Thornbridge Hall and went to bed.

Day 2: This was mainly spent planning our two day practice expedition. This involved putting together menus and packing our rucksacks. Most importantly we had to plan the route. We had to walk a minimum of thirty five kilometres and we planned a 'beautiful route' which bought us to thirty seven km. We also went to the town of Bakewell to buy the food for our expedition. In the evening Mr Froggett sent us for a walk to see how our rucksacks felt. There were no problems and we were all excited about leaving in the morning for the practice expedition.

Day 3: Harry woke our entire group up at six thirty which didn't make him popular. However he did make it up by making all of us some baked beans. We all ate, did our final packing, put our bags on and set off for what was gong to be an enjoyable day. After a very tiring morning of walking we made it to the bottom of Froggetts Edge. This climb was extremely hard in the heat and being just before lunch meant there was minimal amount of energy left in us. After the climb we stopped at the top and had lunch consisting of pitta and salami and had a well earned break. We then walked along Froggetts Edge for two hours and got down to the bottom. I looked on the map and we were only a few kilometres from the campsite and it was all downhill. As we walked on we realised the contours were going up and not down! We got to the top. The campsite was in sight and our spirits lifted. When we got there we erected our tents and cooked our Pasta 'n' Sauce. That night we all had a well deserved sleep.

Day 4: The day started with torrential rain and when we all got up we found our kit very wet and my boots, which I had left outside soaked through and extremely heavy. The day, however, was very hot and we all stocked up on water. The map reading was a bit of a problem in the morning and we took a wrong turn. We found ourselves in a middle of a field and we had no idea where we were. However, we took a bearing and found ourselves at the right woods. We followed the path down the valley, jumped over a stream and came to a nine foot wall. Harry went first and we all found ourselves in private gardens. We later found out we were in Chatsworth House and we had skipped the entry fee of six pounds. The rest of the day was relatively easy and we got back to the home camp at around four p.m. We all had a snack, showered and had a rest.

Day 5: The next day was a rest day and we planned our main three day expedition which had to be a minimum of fifty kilometres. Adam and I went to buy some more food for the expedition while the others planned our route. When we got back we found that they had made good progress but Will and I had to do the route cards. We then had a lovely dinner and went to bed.

Day 6: Harry woke us up at six thirty again, which we had got used to! We had baked beans and set off. The morning was very tiring and there were very steep hills. The constant heavy rain didn't help. Our clothes were soaked through very quickly. As we entered the dark peaks the vegetation changed to marshes as far as the eye could see. We finally made it to the campsite and could see it over a wall. I chucked my bag over and I rolled quickly down the hill towards the stream where I landed right on the edge. Everyone else followed suit (we thought). When we put our tents up and started to cook someone asked 'So, where's Joel?' After an hour of looking we found him sitting on a road looking at the map with confusion. He hadn't jumped over the wall with us and had carried on through the woods and walked over two kilometres! After this we relaxed and had a sleep.

Day 7: With our feet already tired, the prospect of another night in the Peaks, and with the hardest climb of the whole expedition, in the morning morale was low. After getting to the top we had a huge break and relished the cool wind for thirty minutes. Being behind schedule we hurried on and walked for three hours non-stop in the rain. We went into a private wood to have lunch but we had to leave promptly as the midges were SO annoying! A few songs and arguments passed the time and we were at the reservoir with only a few kilometres to go. With forty kilometres behind us we were all incredibly tired and our shoulders bruised. With a steep hill to finish off the day we were all exhausted and the sight of the campsite raised morale and we put up our tents and had Pasta 'n' Sauce. I slept for a few hours in the afternoon and woke up with some pittas and went back to bed for the night.

Day 8: As we had walked over forty kilometres in two days our last day was a very short one. We had a lie-in and set off around nine thirty, and with only an hour behind us, we had the town where we were finishing in sight. The walk to the town took around two hours and we arrived in the car park where the minibus was waiting for us. We then went back to Thornbridge, ate, showered, packed and set off for the two hour journey back to Stamford.





Why Duke of Edinburgh was such fun; and my highlights of the trip

Duke of Edinburgh is an experience of a lifetime that I would recommend to any person that I might ever meet. The award scheme not only builds one as a person, it also is an extremely enjoyable experience, which compares to nothing else that I have ever done. The whole Duke of Edinburgh award experience is like no other, and this week away in the Peak District epitomised what the award suggested the scheme consists of.

There were many highlights to my Duke of Edinburgh trip, as the whole trip generally was thoroughly enjoyable. The scenery around the Peak District was incredible, with the views in every direction being amazing. The group that I completed the expedition with were great fun, and we all got on well with each other. This element made the expedition much easier, because it took the thought of your huge rucksack and aching legs off your mind, and enabled you to enjoy the experience that much more. I feel that doing the trip with 'Adventureworks' and staying in a youth hostel sounds a much better idea than sleeping in tents the whole week because we were all together and could enjoy our week away a lot more, as well as being able to meet new people and work as a team.

I also thought that the practice expedition was a fundamental aspect of the whole week, because it meant that we could make our mistakes in this period of time and learn from these to ensure a much more fulfilling and potentially easier expedition. The practice also helped us to learn a lot about map reading skills, and enabled us to get to know the area of the White Peak extremely well, so that when it came to the actual expedition we could find our way through the terrain very successfully.

Comparison between the Dark Peak and the White Peak

These two areas of the Peak District were extremely different in both the way they looked, and the way that they felt under foot, as well as the difference in weather conditions. The White Peak appeared to be a lot more open, simply because it was a lot flatter with what appeared to be a vast and stretching landscape. In the Dark Peak there were a lot more hills and rugged terrain that was both more difficult to walk on and more difficult to navigate. During our time in the Dark Peak the weather was a lot worse, and it was darker, because of the cloud cover. There were also moor land areas, which were a lot different to those in the White Peak, and had small trails leading through them, which stretched on for miles, and heather lined the side of the path. The White Peak was also much smoother under foot, with much more designated path areas, which were easy to navigate due to the landmarks all around. Yet in the Dark Peak, there were fewer landmarks, and paths, and we found ourselves walking along routes that only appeared to have been walked by two or three people before us. The Dark Peak was also a lot more difficult as the terrain was extremely boggy at times, and we often had to change our route to ensure our feet stayed dry. Yet these differences made for an extremely enlightening, enjoyable and varied expedition, as every mile or so we would appear to have travelled ten miles due to the difference in landscape.

On the whole the Duke of Edinburgh trip was great fun, and I will very much look forward to the Gold Award.





Gold

Factors Affecting Team Morale On Expedition

Weather - Probably the single most important factor affecting team morale while on expedition. Extremes of either hot or cold can cause a catastrophic crumbling of morale. However, wet weather by a large margin is the worst. Not only does it cause onset of depression because you're cold and wet, it can also make kit damp/wet if improperly packed, which makes life harder for the rest of the expedition. Extreme cold and wet can also cause hypothermia, as some of us found out at Easter...Extreme heat can cause hyperthermia as well...we found that out too! Fog is usually considered "good fun" until you get lost. Snow is great as well, as long as you don't have to be rescued off a mountain due to treacherous conditions.

Terrain - Hilly and Mountainous terrain lowers morale among certain "work-shy" members of any team where as some "keen" members quite look forward to it and find it enjoyable! Morale tends to improve dramatically in the work-shy members upon reaching the summit and during the downhill leg. Marshland has varying effects upon morale depending upon the severity and whether you get lost in it or not. Surprisingly, perhaps, having to cross streams, especially unexpected ones that have increased in size due to overnight rains, have a strong positive effect as they improve team working skills and are a good laugh, especially if someone falls in! Other such extreme terrain activities such as crag-walking, climbing up and down near vertical cliffs add excitement to an ordinary day's walk.

Getting Lost – This is never a good idea, usually the result of poor map reading and almost always means you have to climb up a mountain! It lowers team morale as it adds extra time and effort to a day's work. Good map reading skills are essential to keeping morale high.

Lack of decent food - It can be quite demoralising to find out after a hard day's work that the evening meal is going to consist of tasteless pasta or rice. Some more thought when buying the food can help avoid this situation.

Members of the Team - conflict between team members can often result in separate factions being formed in the team and disunity. Every team member has to be understanding and co-operative on expeditions to keep a close knit group from unravelling and morale dropping.

Rucksack Weight- A heavy rucksack on the back is one of the common problems for walkers, usually due to far too many unnecessary items being brought on expedition. Dehydrated food is a good idea and tinned food isn't. A light and well packed rucksack will not only make walking much more comfortable but also increase group pace, improving morale.

Lack of Water - lack of water can leave you dehydrated and cause headaches. In more severe cases it can cause heat stroke etc. This will in turn cause morale to drop.

Lack of Home Comforts – It isn't the most pleasant of things to have to live out of a rucksack everyday, having to brush your teeth in a river, often not taking a wash for days and smelling like a horse! But this is what D of E is all about and therefore it can't be helped.

Poor Facilities at Campsites - Unhygienic shower and toilet facilities at campsites are often a depressing feature after a long hard day's work. Some campsites have free shower facilities but most have coin-operated ones. Running hot water and electricity are an excellent addition.

Rucksack being Ravaged by a Wild Boar during the Night – An unusual situation but a true one. Imagine waking up on the first day of your expedition and taking the step outside your tent for a breath of fresh air... to see the remains of your rucksack that looks as if its been bombed! Well believe it or not a wild boar managed to rummage its way into a friend's rucksack through a bivvy bag (!) and munched its way through his food for that day! Needless to say it didn't help his morale but we all had a good laugh.

Patankar P C



Nicaragua

The expedition company in conjunction with the school organised initial meetings to plan for the expedition and outline expectations which were largely mutual. Formalities such as insurance, health and safety, and finance were clarified, the group was split into three teams each with two leaders, and the company introduced us to a range of team building activities. The shock of being in team with fifteen other people, of whom you know few, is daunting. Initially I regretted having signed up for trip, although with time social barriers are overcome and having such a major project in common brings people together. Alongside excitement about the trip itself, fundraising is a frightening thought. Although the ballpark figure of three thousand pounds initially seems unattainable it becomes more manageable as fundraising rolls into motion. Across the three teams fundraising consisted of raffles, discos, sponsorship and donations among other sources. Most managed to get regular jobs in order to chip away at their totals and by departure the vast majority had raised almost all of their money without parental help.

Regularly, through the year before the trip, the expedition company organised meetings for the three groups in order to improve teamwork and plan the specifics of the expedition. Although at times these meetings involved rather a lot of new age team building exercises and ice breaking activities, they provided a chance for team members to become more familiar with one another. The representatives from the company put across a very thorough range of information about the country and did their best to prepare us for the worst. An extensive kit list was issued containing items which many had never heard of and with passport applications being sent off and immunisations organised the mood became increasingly frantic. With visions of a dangerous, disease ridden third world country firmly implanted in our brains we were keen to make sure that we had all the kit. Needless to say, we were pleasantly surprised upon arrival and much of it was seldom used. The knowledge of expedition company staff was a valuable asset and although most had not been to



Nicaragua they were all highly qualified and had experienced of expeditions in similar places. Any questions were readily answered by representatives from the company.

As well as meetings held at school, leaders did their best to organise punting trips to Cambridge and such like in order keep everybody in regular contact. This was essential as the build up to the trip spanned almost two years and with such large groups, getting everybody together proved difficult. My group made use of school's barn in the Lake District as a base from which to tackle the British winter and prepare physically for the expedition phase. Our walks around the tarn and beyond, which every Duke of Edinburgh participant knows like the back of his hand, were a far cry from the cloud forests of Nicaragua. In practically blizzard conditions one route had to be cut short to avoid hyperthermia and was as challenging for many as climbing Ometepe. Strangely in such adverse circumstances we were able to form much more of a bond than in group meetings and punting trips. Fitness was an ever present worry for the less active participants, and to the credit of everyone involved, a substantial improvement in fitness took place over the preparatory months. Climbing volcanoes would still be a Herculean task for many but for most such challenges were a deciding factor in signing up for the trip. In the last few days before departure I think that all the teams were more than ready to go. It felt strange to be leaving as for the past year the thing which consumed hard earned wages and lurked in the back of everyone's minds had seemed distant for such a long time. Now that it was here, worries about losing passports and crashing into the Atlantic were amplified. However, the expectation that had been building up for such a long time far outweighed them, and everyone felt deeply excited about getting to Nicaragua. The Project Phase. All three groups were part of a project lasting one week, serving a community with manual labour that would otherwise cost large amounts of money. Following a lack of cooperation from the community at the first site, the project was moved to Di Pilteau, a small farming village forty minutes drive away from Ocotal. The local primary school, which holds roughly one hundred children, was in need of a canteen. With some well intentioned assistance from Leicester Girls School the three groups helped to bring the project from a muddy square of ground to near completion. My group arrived in the final week in the hope of finishing the project and presenting it to the local community. However, despite the preceding groups' best efforts the outer walls of the building were only a few courses high and it was clear that we would struggle to finish in time. After settling in to our accommodation which was surprisingly comfortable, we set about taking instructions from the local builder supervising the project. Through Everez our translator, who proved to be a very colourful character, instructions were sometimes distorted a little, but the builder was ruthlessly efficient and any - 38 -



substandard work was soon put right.

Every member of the team tried their hand at cement mixing and brick-laying during the week and I was lucky enough to be given the solo project of building a set of concrete steps. The stronger members of the team tended towards heavier lifting and digging but no team member was ever standing idle for long. On one occasion a lorry load of 300 breeze blocks were unloaded down a line of which every member was a part. The school was almost ready to have the roof put on when our time ran out. A new drain had been dug unearthing some less than desirable contents, a set of steps had replaced a mud path up an almost vertical hill and one of the outer classrooms had been painted inside and out. The teachers and children alike were very grateful. However, the children seemed more excited about balloons on pieces of string put up for the presentation than they did about a new canteen.

Not only did the project phase provide a real sense of achievement but it enabled a clearer less tourist

Not only did the project phase provide a real sense of achievement but it enabled a clearer less tourist oriented Nicaragua to be seen. Although most of the children seemed happy and healthy, this region was distinctly poorer in terms of wealth than in other phases. The children particularly were much thinner than in the city, and the surroundings mirrored expectations of the country more than the Managua or Granada. This place was almost untouched by the west. Pepsi and Coca-Cola had not even begun to fight for its custom. It struck home the message that money is not essential for happiness. In the city where money is available, children who are not desperately poor have begun to beg, more through desire than necessity. Here people survive happily with little financial capability and with the local scenery this is no surprise. At night fire-flies and florescent caterpillars light up the foliage and frequently there are two or three distant thunder storm on the horizon. However, the sky is usually clear and without city lights polluting the air, the view of the stars is stunning. If nothing else I will remember the valley at night with nothing but a candle to see by and speaking to Everez about the Nicaraguan people and their history.

Handing over the project to the local school was deeply satisfying. The teachers dished out some traditional attire which some male team members as well as Franklin, a local man co-ordinating accommodation and transport for the teams, donned without hesitation, along with several girls to whom the dresses were much better suited. Adam and Josh bashed out some very familiar tracks on the guitar and bongos to the delight of the local children before they returned the favour with a song they had learned. A Stamford School plaque was handed over. Mutual appreciation and thanks were conveyed via a translator and then we packed up and left the builder to bring the project to its completion.

San Juan Phase 'Rest and Relaxation'

Friday 29th. July 2005

Having got up at 8am after Alice's birthday celebrations the previous evening the group packed and ate another quick breakfast of banana, bread and fruit; we left Hostal Oasis in Granada at about 9am as planned.

With Mario our trusty bus driver at the wheel, we were driving in the direction of San Juan del Sur on the Pacific coast.

After passing the shores of Lake Nicaragua, and seeing Volcano Concepcion in the distance with smoke bellowing from its top, we cut across land to the west before arriving shortly in San Juan del Sur at around 1pm.

We realised that we had first and best pick of the dormitory rooms of Hostal Casa Oro as we had arrived before any of the other groups, so we began to settle in and unwind.

A little anxious about seeing the other two groups again, fearing that the experiences our group had had would become far less special when the other groups arrived, we wasted away the afternoon getting on with booking a restaurant for dinner, and a wander to see what sort of activities for the next couple of days were on offer. We walked down to the beach-front restaurant just as the sun was setting over the ocean. The group enjoyed food such as burgers, fish and chicken in various sauces, while I decided on soup and shellfish while watching the sun go down before having a paddle in the cool sea. It was a nasty shock to be stung by jelly fish just beneath the surface so I returned to the hostel in order for everyone to get a fairly early night under mosquito nets hung from the roof beams.

Saturday 30th. July 2005

I was leader again today – but not feeling quite right (for the first time in 3 weeks). People who had opted to dive left at 8am and Kelly and I went for a scout around the town to see what was going on and in particular find out about surfing and the times of water-taxis going to neighbouring beaches. We returned to the hostel no better off than before as San Juan doesn't appear to be the type of place that starts moving till about 10.30am. I decided to stay at the hostel due to feeling unwell, so handed my leadership over to Kelly and had a peaceful morning, while the others went to catch a water taxi to another beach nearby.

It sounded like they had a great day swimming in the sea, and a replica model of Ometepe was built in the sand!

Divers Scott and Alice arrived back at 2pm so after a while we all went down to the beach front for a drink and a little while later we watched the others getting off the water taxi. After an ice cream and a change of clothes we all pitched in to prepare an evening meal of pasta with sauce by candlelight.

We enjoyed a special moment where Ms. Bennie played a guitar and sang before a very hot and uncomfortable night.

Sunday 31st. July 2005

Up after a short lie-in, the group had breakfast and piled into the back of a pick-up belonging to Christiane, the owner of the hostel. After a hot, dusty and very bumpy ride, we arrived at a local beach with big waves and golden sand. We hired two surf boards and found a spot under some shade and from there shared the surf-boards to have a go at surfing in the warm water.

After an afternoon of sun-bathing and paddling amongst the rock pools which were full of blue and purple fish it was time to get ready to leave.

On our return to the hostel pizza had been ordered so we showered and changed in order to eat quick but filling pizzas and then were taken out in pick-ups to a nature reserve beach to see the turtles laying their eggs before swimming back out into the sea.

Although only one turtle was spotted it was very special and we amused ourselves by playing Mr. Froggett's legendary 'Dream Game'.

Woken after a peaceful snooze on the sand just after midnight we returned via the long dusty road to San Juan and went straight to bed.

Monday 1st. August 2005

There was the chance to have another short lie in this morning while half the group went fishing along with the divers and the other half had a relaxing morning at the hostel and around San Juan. Picked up at about lunchtime, we were taken to the port and awaited the arrival of the other half of the group who had been fishing earlier. Finally they came in with no fish at all to show for their morning.

We set off and once out of the port we let the lines go and it wasn't long before we were reeling in a large mackerel! After a few line tangles and lost fish, we headed to a different spot in a large bay where we reeled in a very ugly looking fish but it was edible so we kept it and went to find some other good fishing spots.

Getting hot and bored with no fish being caught, we decided to tell the boat driver that we were ready to go back. However, wanting to catch just one more fish we swept the bay once more before we were about to head back to San Juan. But unfortunately after getting the lines tangled again... the engine stopped and we were left stranded being washed towards some unforgiving rocks. We got the motor going again though not before some serious panic, and headed out of the bay and back into port.

We started to prepare the fish straight away on arriving back at the hostel. We were the first to be using the hostel owner's brand new barbecue and a great meal was prepared including the fish that we had caught and some that had been bought from a local market.

It was to be a night out for a drink in one of the local bars tonight so we followed a couple of beers with a very large Margarita. We returned to the hostel and went straight to our hot and stuffy beds.

Tuesday 2nd. August 2005

We woke up feeling a little worse for wear for one of the most special days of the expedition. Today we chartered a catamaran and her owner, Roger, for an amazing day on the ocean up and down the Pacific coast! We were barely out of sight of San Juan before we caught our first glimpse of huge whales on the surface of the water.

A little later there was excitement to see a number of dolphins swimming underneath and all around the boat... a great feeling... a very very special moment. Another pleasant surprise came when we saw turtles floating on the surface around the boat. It was a truly incredible moment.

We stopped in a bay to swim in the aqua blue sea and explore the shore and fine white sand. We stayed a little longer for some lunch in the hot sun and then set off along the coast again before sailing into another perfect bay with clear blue waters and white sands and jumped off the boat to cool off in the warm but refreshing water.

We set sail again just as the skies turned black and a great thunder and lightning storm commenced.

The rain and wind was surprisingly very cold so as many people as possible were squashed into the small cabin. I simply let the refreshing water wash my illness away and arrived back in San Juan with the group feeling very happy.

Having showered and changed we headed down to our favourite restaurant where we ate a dinner of fish, chicken and beef dishes as a celebration on our last night. While a few members of our group went out on the San Juan razzle I decided it would be wise to head back to the hostel for a much needed early night. A fantastic finale to an amazing trip.









Costa Rica

After going on an expedition with a group from school to Bolivia in 2004, this encouraged us to take part in further independent travel. After seeing a poster on the school notice boards, we decided that this would be a worthwhile and enjoyable trip. In July 2005 we set off for Costa Rica, and after a 20 hour journey via Atlanta we arrived in Alajuela late at night.



The next day we met the rest of the group for the first time and had a 14-hour minibus journey across the country to get to our new home for the next two weeks, Playa Caletas on the Pacific Coast. Our accommodation was a wooden hut with a bamboo roof. The basic facilities ensured that the team had to work together to survive. This included pumping water, beach clearing and camp maintenance and ensured we were busy every day. The day started at 6am and we were often asleep by 6pm due to the lack of natural light and electricity. The meals consisted of rice and beans three times a day for the whole fortnight accompanied by the occasional meat or salad.

Our duties each day required us to get up at 1am, in order to take part in the nightly patrols on the beach. These patrols involved us either walking along the beach searching for turtle tracks leading to nests, or to guard the beach in case any poachers tried to take the eggs or kill the turtles.

Once we had discovered the nests, we had to excavate the eggs and transfer them to the nearby hatchery, where the eggs were counted and put in an artificial nest. Around eight weeks later the eggs would hatch and other volunteers would take the hatchlings back to the site of the original nest and release them into the sea.

We had a weekend outing to the tourist town of Montezuma half way through the trip. We did zip wiring over the rainforest canopy, getting to over 1,000ft above the river travelling at speeds in excess of 60 mph. After this we did waterfall jumping and swimming in the River Bongo.

We had a great time on the trip, meeting and working with people from all walks of life including an American, a couple of New Zealanders, a Chinese and an Australian. Despite the very basic facilities, the project was very worthwhile and fulfilling. Not only did we help the environment, but we also learnt a great deal from the trip including improving our Spanish.

Millennium Volunteers

The Millennium Volunteers scheme was introduced at Stamford School in the year 2001. The scheme's aim is to encourage young adults to volunteer their time to give service to the local community. During this year boys have taken part in the following activities. sports coaching, child care, fund raising, special needs support, talking newspaper, charity work, heritage group support, first aid, wild country awareness, event organisation, charity entertainment, youth groups, teaching & leadership, eco schools.

2001 9,100 Hours 2002 8,400 Hours 2003 10,500 Hours 2004 11,600 Hours

Stamford School sixth form pupils have completed over 39,000 thousand hours of local community service during the last four years within this scheme. Many other national and international charities have also been generously supported during this period.

Design Technology



School Opens 1.7 million New Building

Students, parents, governors and staff of the Stamford Endowed Schools attended a formal opening of the new £1.7 million Design and Technology building at Stamford School's annual Speech Day on Saturday.

The stunning new building has taken just nine months to complete, and comprises five large DT classrooms and an IT suite, plus a further four teaching rooms. It will be used by students from both Stamford School and Stamford High School Sixth Form.

The building houses some of the most modern equipment available, much of it computer-driven. Most rooms are equipped with electronic whiteboards. Wood and metal lathes, milling machines and metal routers are state-of-the-art and will greatly expand the opportunities open to the students.

Representatives from architects Integrated Design Consultants and building contractors RG Carter Building Limited attended the opening ceremony and lunch. They also viewed an exhibition of some of the best student work.

Head of the Design and Technology Department, Mr Marc Livingstone, expressed his delight with the quality of the new facilities, and looked forward to the impact they would make on the standard and range of work achieved by his students.

Stamford School has an enviable record in Design and Technology. Results in external exams are consistently impressive, and students regularly win prizes at local and national level. In particular, a student has won a coveted Arkwright Award for outstanding GCSE Coursework in each of the last three years consecutively.



Young Engineers Success

The Young Engineers for Britain competition is a national event sponsored by industry and run by the Engineering Council to reward excellence in Science and Engineering Education. The competition is organised into four age categories; Years 6 to 9, 10 and 11, 12 and 13 and ages 16 -19 for students working in Industrial placements. The projects are judged according to a number of criteria including their design and development, the presentation and communication skills used, the originality and innovation and manufacturing potential, the quality of making including the visual appeal and the commercial viability.

Stamford School has an excellent record of success in this competition over the years as well as in other National events such as the Arkwright Scholarships and Audi Young Designer awards.





This year we had a smaller number of entries than usual due to the extra workload of moving into the new DT facilities. The two entries were of a very high standard and had been completed as part of the GCSE Resistant Materials course both gaining A* grades for the students.

Neil Michels had designed and manufactured a device to automatically rake the sand in an athletics long jump pit after every competitor has performed their jump.

Joshua Goodacre had devised and produced an automatic levelling device using



electronics with visual indicators to help installation engineers to check the accuracy of their work and to replace the traditional spirit level.

The East Midlands Regional final was held at the prestigious Rolls Royce Learning and Development Centre in Derby in July which was a superb venue and a well organised event. Both students had to create a display of their design work and their product and then during the day they were interviewed by a number of eminent judges from education and industry.

Neil and Joshua both gave an impressive presentation to sell their product to a panel of three judges. So much so that the many other judges at the event also came to listen to the students and asked questions about the manufacture and commercial potential of the products. At the presentation ceremony held at the end of the day Neil won the best project in the Year 10 and 11 category and Joshua was unlucky not to take the runners up spot. The judges then had to select the best overall project from the four category winners.

Neil was the deserving winner and named the Young Engineer for the East Midlands 2005. He received a prize of £200 to be shared with his School and was invited to represent the region at the National Finals later in the year.

During the day Neil's project had received many favourable comments from the judges particularly for its innovation and also as it was topical as the next day London was awarded the Olympic Games, Hence during the Games in 2012 keep an eye out for the 'arake' © On the 12th of September 2005 Neil attended the National Finals held in the historical and stunning surroundings of the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich. The competition took place over two days and involved the same format as the Regional event as well as the displays being open to the public. The judges were from many top industrial companies and educational establishments as well as from the Armed Forces, including many senior ranks up to a Rear Vice Admiral. Neil performed brilliantly during a long day again selling his product to several groups of judges. That evening the competition culminated in an awards ceremony and dinner for all participants and honorary guests in the Great Hall. This had been designed by Sir Christopher Wren and features the most amazing murals. The awards were presented by the TV personality Richard Hammond of Top Gear and Brainiac fame. Although Neil did not emerge as one of the National winners he had performed with great credit and had enjoyed the tremendous experience of the whole competition. It had not been Neil's first success in the Young Engineers competition as he had been a Regional runner up in the Year 6 to Year 9 category two years previously.

Malcolm Milner.



Shell Eco Marathon

A couple of years ago, a past colleague and good friend of mine invited me to Rockingham Motor Speedway to see vehicles that would not go very fast. Further explanation followed; the event was the Shell Eco-Marathon (formerly the Shell Mileage Challenge), an annual event to produce low fuel consumption vehicles, open to schools, universities and industry.

Shortly afterwards, I received a copy of the regulations and decided that it was an excellent opportunity for budding engineers and technologists. I kept revisiting my trusty sketchbook over the holidays and returned to school with a half-baked idea of a possible design that a newly formed team could develop and build. A short presentation during assembly led to plenty of volunteers: "Sir, I'm a brilliant driver!" and "I don't think I'd be much help in building it but I know everything about racing". No shortage of potential drivers there, then.

Thankfully, the enthusiasm shown for the challenge that lay ahead was soon converted into action under the leadership of Liam Cattell and Gordon O'Neill who had recently started the GCSE D&T course.

To make and drive a successful entry in our first year was always rather ambitious, especially when the following self-imposed requirements were added to the task:

- 1. That we should aim for a zero spend project. All parts should be scrounged, recycled or borrowed (with consent).
- 2. That the vehicle would tilt as it cornered. The event attracts annual coverage from the Daily Telegraph and other companies. An eye-catching entry might increase our chance of achieving fame. The steering system employed would be a variation on that which Sam Willis successfully developed for his A2 major project, a motorised, off-road skateboard.
- 3. The vehicle should have infinitely variable transmission.

Lee Dobney deserves credit as a champion scrounger. His ability to turn up each Saturday with essential components never failed to astound. Richard Lester has become an expert in dissuading others from joining the 'hit with a hammer' school of engineering and has been most generous in donating his last go kart seat to the project.

Instructor Technician, Mr Steve Tindall, lent his expertise as to the welding of the chassis and the team remains most indebted to him.

Progress understandably slowed as the Design and Technology Empire abandoned its outposts on the very perimeters of Stamford School and commenced the great move to the outstanding complex that is the New Technology and English Centre. Moving the project up from DT3 (Formerly The Woodwork Shop, presently the New Drama Studio) was tactically decided to occur one Saturday morning in the Summer Term. Pace quickened, though it became evident that we were unlikely to complete construction, test the vehicle and make necessary modifications prior the 2005 competition. 2006 would provide us the time to ensure that we had got everything right, especially the safety requirements on the vehicle.

Finding an engine suitable for the task proved difficult; we were looking for a new, or nearly new, small 4 stroke petrol engine. It would indeed be a challenge to find one in working condition; the chances of scrounging an engine in good order prove daunting.

Then, fate landed. The Telegraph article covering the 2005 Shell Eco Marathon explained details of how schools new to the competition could acquire a brand new, free 4 stroke Honda engine. Not only that, but also get a local engineer's expertise thrown in as well!

One considered e-mail later and the dawn of a new school year uncovered that we were one of the teams whose application had met with success. This was excellent news! Finally we could stop repairing chainsaw



and lawnmower engines and concentrate on developing the rather ambitious drive system, the untested efficiency of which was at the forefront of all our minds.

By having a rear wheel with a solid hub, by replacing the spokes on a bicycle wheel with a solid ply core, which would act as a flywheel, drive would be supplied by a small pinion wheel which, in theory would provide thrust to the wheel so as it would turn. By moving the pinion closer to the wheel's axle, a greater gear ratio could be achieved with seamless transition.

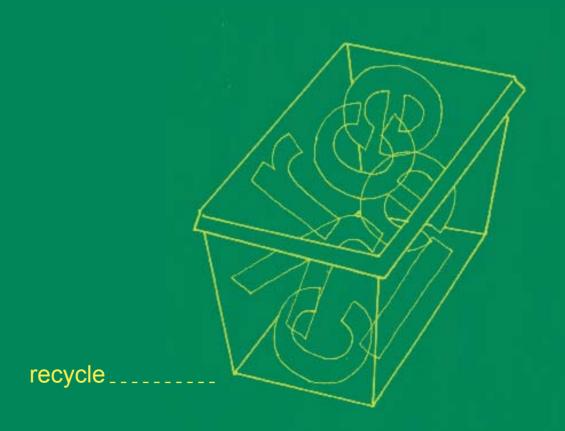
The build, has involved much 'thinking on the spot' in reaction the materials and components brought in, and all have enjoyed the truly 'scrapheap challenge' approach to engineering. The boys have all demonstrated much initiative and some excellent problem solving skills, not to mention perseverance over some of the less pleasant and tedious chores!

Once our chassis of butchered bicycles has been declared successful, we aim to make a monocoque fuselage which will allow for personalised seats for drivers to be used. We are looking for some fibre glassing materials to scrounge. We won't pay, but you can have you name or logo on the vehicle's bodywork in exchange for glass matting, polyurethane resin, white and maroon gel coat pigments or part thereof. Advertising on a sports vehicle does not come any cheaper!

Please visit the team at Rockingham Motor Speedway- 12th & 13th July 2006!

MVH

Eco-Schools Award 2005





ECO SCHOOLS SCHEME

Stamford School was proud to be presented with an Eco Schools Green Flag award towards the end of the summer term.

The award was the culmination of a great deal of hard work by the school's Eco Committee, made up of boys across the year groups. They carried out a review of the school's impact on the environment and devised an action plan. An Eco Code was then drawn up and approved by the whole school community.

The school was inspected by two Eco Schools representatives on 13th June. They were given a tour of the school site by members of the Eco Committee. The inspectors were pleased with what they saw: our extensive recycling scheme, our improved cycle store, our S.O.S. (Switch Off and Save) scheme, our new allotment, and our plans for a garden at the rear of Southfields. They were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of the boys involved. They also met with the Headmaster to talk about the school's environmental initiatives. A couple of days later, the school received the good news that it had passed its inspection, and shortly afterwards it was sent a Green Flag certificate and flag. We were able to fly the flag next to the pavilion on several occasions before the end of term!

The Green Flag award is designed to recognise the efforts made by a school thus far, and a commitment to continue its efforts during the two years for which the award is valid. Receiving the award does not, therefore, mark the end of our environmental initiatives; now that we are able to 'fly the flag', we have standards to maintain! The Eco Committee has plans for a number of new ventures during the coming academic year, as well as seeking to improve our existing schemes.

The Eco Committee would like to thank everyone at school for supporting our Eco Schools scheme and playing their part in raising environmental awareness. Our initiatives are, of course, a mere drop in the ocean, but we hope that everyone in the school community will be keen to take our environmental ideas home with them and encourage family and friends to play their part. More and more schools are now getting involved in the Eco Schools scheme, as the need to care for our world becomes more pressing. ARW.



Washington AAAS

Skating in the park overlooked by the Capitol building or being seen dining out with Dr Gosling at the Hard Rock Café in Washington cannot be offered by any normal school trip. Certainly the 2005 February half-term trip to Washington DC was no ordinary adventure. A brilliant venue to a world-renowned event represents a trip to remember for the 2005 science team heading off to the USA. Teaming up with Oundle School we took a small group of talented Sixth formers to attend the AAAS conference in Washington DC. AAAS stands for the American Association for the Advancement of Science and it is the premier forum for the science community to reveal the results of their current research. As such, it represents science at the cutting edge and provides a golden opportunity for our pupils to experience what is happening outside the classroom. There were hundreds of lectures to choose from; ranging from the nanoscience as the science of the very small, the next big thing, to the latest on stem cell research. We listened to Nobel Prize winners and esteemed scientists from around the world. It was a fantastic academic experience against the backdrop of a great city.

Stamford Endowed Schools were ably represented by Sam Alsford, Catherine (has anyone seen my glasses) Faux, Sarah Fern, Alice Hegarty, Lindsay Holden, Tom (the bear) Holyoake, Spencer Lai, Pushkar Patankar, Caroline Pearce, Charlotte Walker and David Whittaker. Some thought the S in AAAS stood for shopping as they set about reducing their parent's wealth by a significant amount. Light luggage on the outward bound flight being replaced by cases requiring lifting with block and tackle on the return journey. Dr Hill and Dr Gosling were working 24/7 to keep order and making sure everybody got to the right place at the right time; it was a tough job, but someone had to do it.

The conference was a golden opportunity to celebrate the centenary of Einstein's earth-shaking 1905 papers on relativity and quantum theory. Sketch a thicket of unruly hair, a soup straining moustache and perhaps a thought balloon full of scientific equations, and people around the world will know who you mean as easily as if you had drawn Mickey Mouse or Superman. At least eleven students in Stamford Endowed Schools knew that 2005 was the World Year of Physics. There is probably even a scientific explanation founded on relativity as to how Catherine managed to lose her specs somewhere over the Atlantic, without passing within the Bermuda triangle.

We were in a hotel within walking distance of the centre of Washington. The hotel had miscalculated on the number of beds required and 'hunt the bed' was the first planned game on arrival. Other ad hoc activities included the 'smelliest' room competition, comfortably won by the boys. We were also able to fit a college Basketball match into our itinerary and we had a great time with all the razzmatazz that is American sport. George Washington University won the match but our ears were the losers as we were sitting too close to the band that burst into music at every opportunity. We also did the cultural and educational bit of going to a number of the top quality galleries and museums in Washington. Touristy type things were also fitted in, ranging from the White House to the Lincoln Memorial. All in all it was a marvellous trip and the Stamfordians were a real credit to the Stamford Endowed Schools.



A

Birth.

Po

Top of the Bench

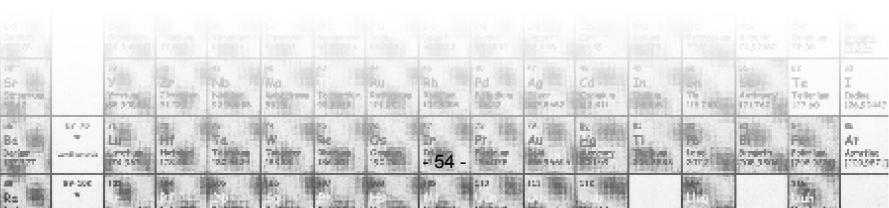
Top of the Bench is a national competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. To qualify for the final the pupils completed and won a county competition (Lincolnshire) and a regional competition (East Midlands). The team consisted of two students from Year 9, one from Year 10 and one from Year 11.

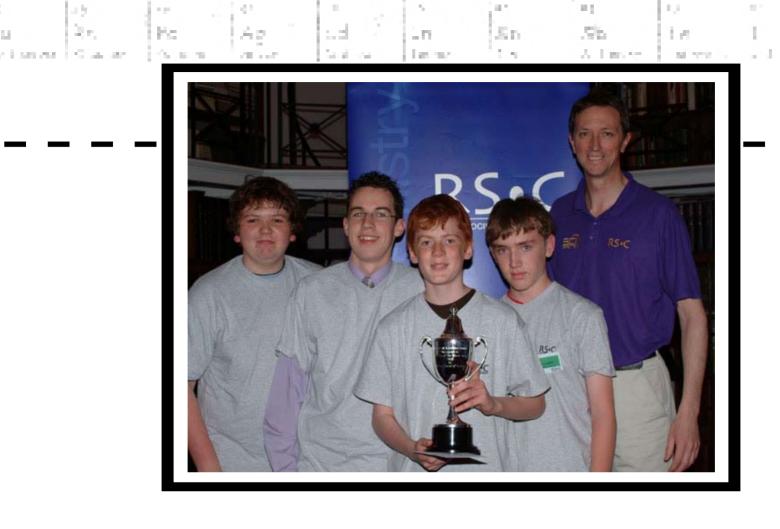
The final was held on Saturday April the 16th at the Science Museum in London. It comprised of three events: a short test of factual chemical knowledge, a practical chemical problem-solving team exercise and a recall exercise following a chemical demonstration.

Robert Thomas the team captain and Y11 student led the team to victory and when asked to comment he said "All in all, not a bad day out", and how true that was! The school is very proud of the teams' triumph. Alex Hammant from year 9 was less able to contain his excitement; he was thrilled to be a part of such a prestigious competition. James Laughlin also in year 9 proudly carried the trophy around for the rest of the day and brought it back to Stamford safely. Owen Cooke was overjoyed by the victory and the icing on the cake was a ride on the London eye as a treat.

The boys are all budding chemists and the competition revealed they could work well in a team; the problem solving section involved making a timing device from Alka-Seltzer, which in their case was accurate to 1 second!

The pupils won a magnificent trophy, presented by Geoff Parsons (Olympic high jumper) and book vouchers. Our chemistry department received £500 to spend on equipment. In some ways the best prize was to come - as a bonus for the first and second team this year we were invited to a RSC book launch in collaboration with the 3-star Michelin chef Heston Blumenthal, at his restaurant the Fat Duck in Bray. His talents as a chef reveal to us how important Chemistry is in many aspects of our lives.





100

Sec

24.785 ST 1 1 2 2 3 3

Att

2.40

1,7

100 Later

36

 $\mathbb{X}_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{F}}}$

3.000

101

Declar 126,50447

I

66

At. Appeties (200,967.i)

Te

SE.

| Zn |

20.00

160

350 SEC 55.

like .

Ca

45

200

Sr Stranous State

Bd Dorlan Backer

Ro.

86,00

well stocks

89-000

*

3000h 30000



GCSE Art





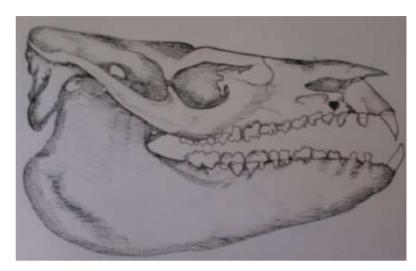




Neil Michels



Nicholas Rowland



Jacob Alsop



Stuart Melton













The Welland Valley Art Society



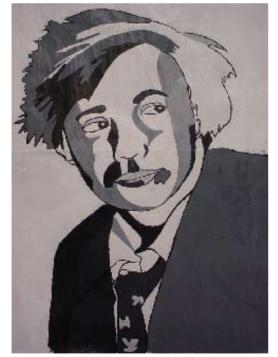
BEN WINS WELLAND ART AWARD

Stamford School pupil Ben Murphy (16) is the first-ever winner of a new competition for local school artists.

The Welland Valley Art Society (WVAS) has celebrated its Diamond Jubilee year by creating a special Young Persons Award for the best picture or sculpture by a GCSE pupil from the four local secondary schools.

Four works were judged by the Society's Exhibition Selection Committee, and, after quite a long debate, Ben's picture, a self-portrait in acrylic on canvass after the style of Paula Rego, was selected for the Award. Each entrant received a small prize of art materials and a commemorative certificate.

Said WVAS President, John Sharp: "The judges agreed that the works revealed considerable artistic imagination and appropriate skill in execution. Including them in the Society's Exhibition will help extend the range of work on show, and we hope to kindle a long term interest in the visual arts in the four young artists and their friends."



Joshua Slater



Daniel Murphy





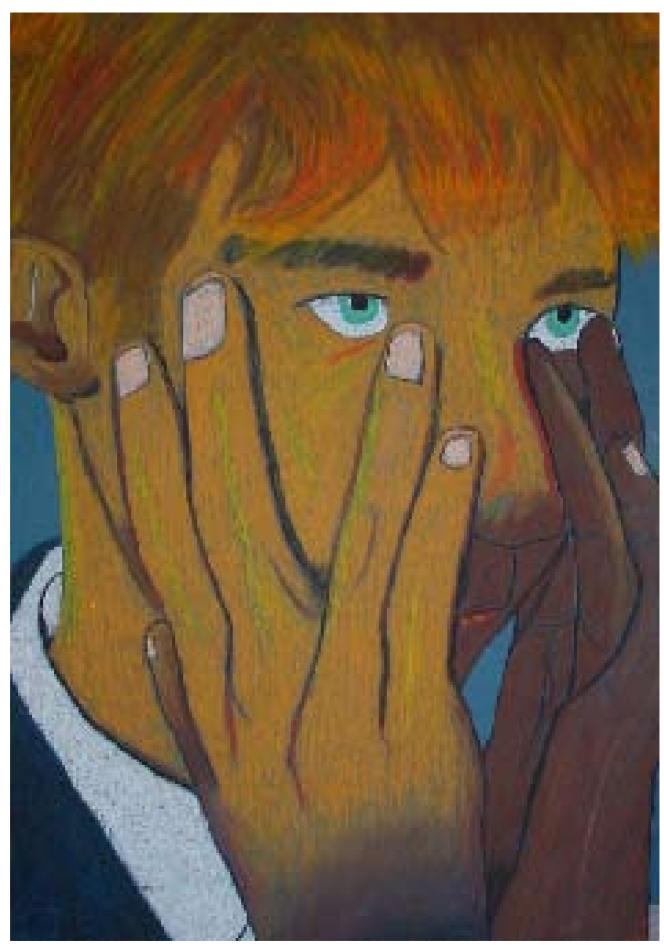




GCSE Art



Neil Michels



Stuart Melton





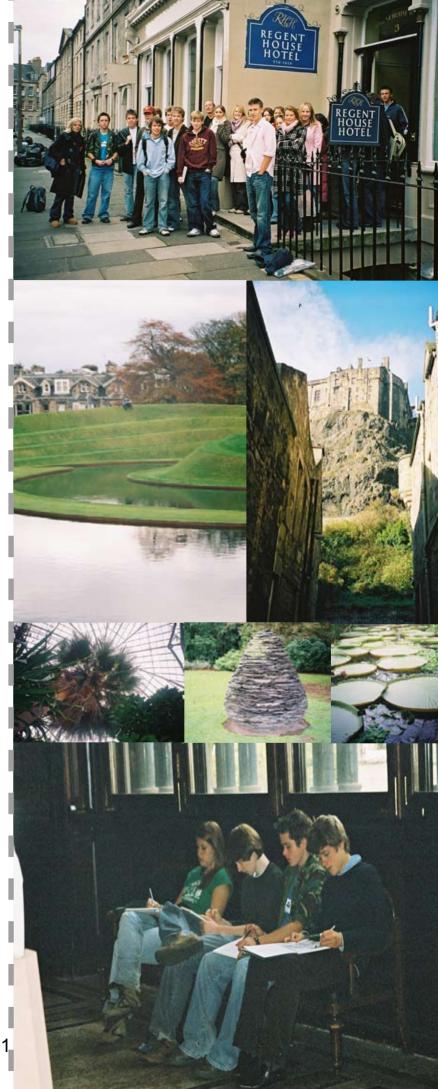


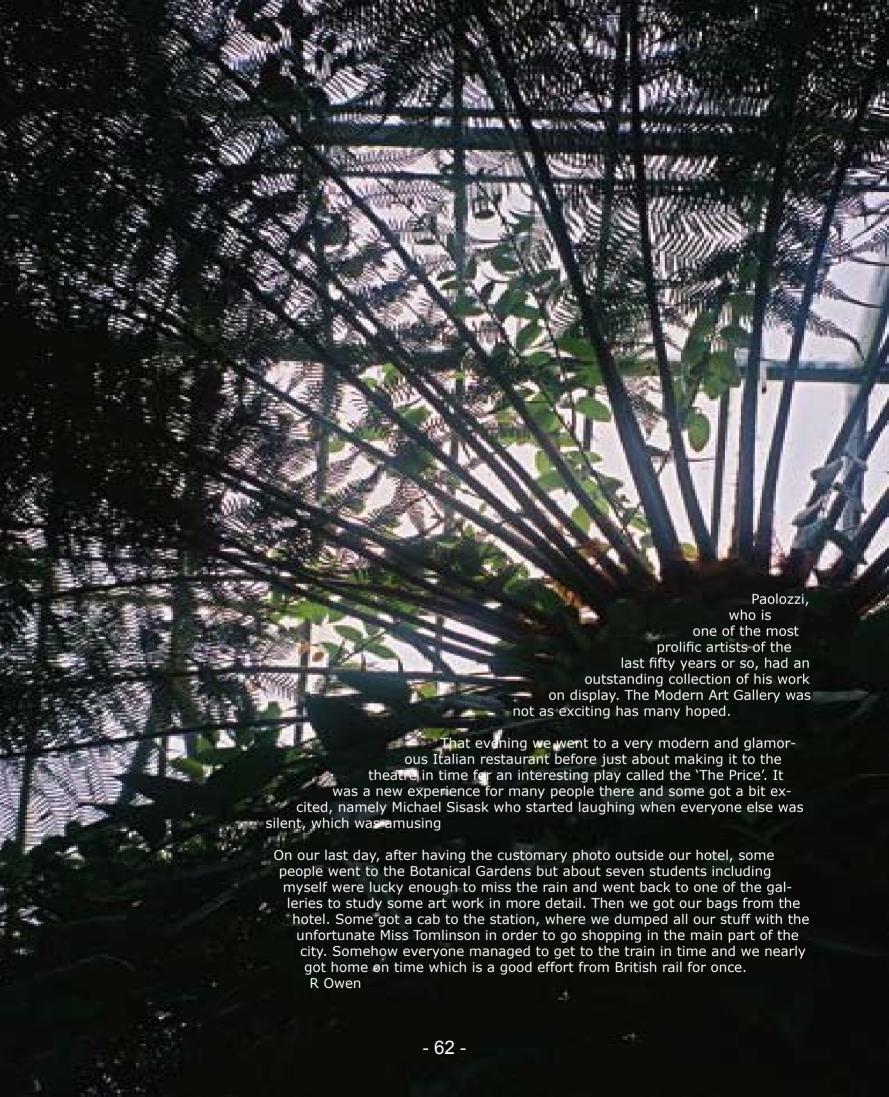
The only quick way to get to Edinburgh is by train so wisely the Art Department made the right choice and we left Peterborough train station early on the morning of Monday 18th October. It was half term. This meant that we did not get to miss any days of school, which was a disappointment to some! When we got to Edinburgh it was a very nice sunny afternoon, which I was told is rare in Scotland so we were very lucky. We went to our lovely hotel, which was located quite close to some of the galleries that we would be visiting later in our short stay. It had three floors and had two huge staircases for either side of the building so it was very impressive (for a school trip anyway!).

We dumped all of our stuff and headed off into the centre of Edinburgh to the National Gallery, just across from McDonalds so it was a popular destination with a lot of us. The main exhibition was of Titian and the other masters of his time, Tintoretto, Bellini, Catena etc. They were simply beautiful and many people agreed with me when I said they were the best paintings I had seen. Of course the art teachers are a little more cultured than the boys and girls so they were not quite as blown away but they were very impressed! Everyone bought loads of books and postcards, as this would be the best exhibition we would see.

When we came out it was raining so going up to the Castle was not as much fun as it could have been. The Castle is a magnificent structure but looks a lot better without the rain. We all drew various parts of it and visited all the cobbled sections inside the main walls. After this visit we wandered gently back to the hotel where we got our rooms sorted out. Dan Robottom and myself probably got the best room in the place by some fluke as it contained a grand piano and a huge bath, so it was about a million times better than anyone else's room, including Mrs Walklin's and Miss Tomlinson's! That evening we went to the Hard Rock Café and some really 'cool' people sported some ridiculously tacky souvenir clothing. For example Louge, or Matthew Howitt, wore his tartan hat and unfortunately I decided to wear my new ultra fashionable tartan pyjamas. After a very nice meal the rebellious girls in the upper sixth went to the nearest bar and everyone else milled about, moving in and out of various rooms of the hotel.

The next morning after a fantastic cooked breakfast in our hotel we made our way to the next gallery, which was the National Portrait Gallery. It had some very bold and impressive paintings but the emphasis of the exhibition was on the huge range of portraiture. It contained work from several different centuries and a wide variety of subject matter from the Queen to the homeless to famous comedians. Then we got a free bus to a large site, which consisted of the Modern Art Gallery and another less well-known gallery. However, this relatively low profile gallery currently had the Eduardo Paolozzi exhibition which was very popular.











A - Level Art





Matthew Ng

Robert Owen





Richard Fuller

Tom Heesom













A - Level Art

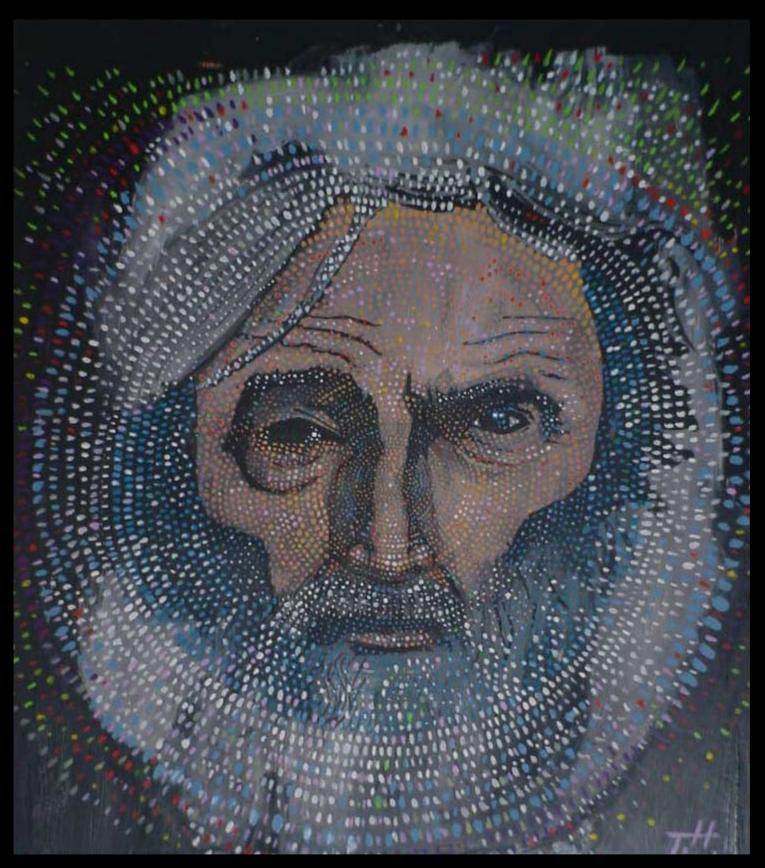








Mark Adkin



Tom Heesom







A - Level Art







The scene was set after 10 months of frenzied combat. The entire House competition was to be decided by the 4x100m relays. On the day only one point separated the Exeter and Ancaster Colts Athletics teams. Overall, there was a mere half point lead to Ancaster. To add to the drama a torrential downpour had sent athletics and the few diehards in the crowd, scurrying for cover. From beneath cricket covers, brollies and trees all eyes turned to Mr. Knowles. Surely he would call the event off. However, with a mad glint in his eyes he signaled that the relays would take place whatever. Eventually the teams could line up for their final briefing. Ancestor's three quartets knew that at last they had the chance to end Exeter's years of domination. Heroes all - Alex Reeder, Dominic Bangay, Jack Goutage, Darren Wesley (A Squad); Will Epsom, Jack Turner, Henry Kerr, Robert Cole (B Squad); Stuart Roche, Josh Sweet, Chris Kaye, Tom Wallington (C Squad). We got off to a good start with the C squad finishing 2nd. High drama however, as a red flag appeared on the far side of the track. A vital ruling! Who could it effect? Exeter had been disqualified. Would there by a steward's enquiry? As Mr. Brewster wrestled with the track officials the A and B squads ended the controversy by romping in first for a glorious victory.

How had Ancaster got so close to the mighty Exeter in the first place? On paper they probably possessed a more talented group of sportsmen. In part, the answer could be found in our Head of House - Richard ""The Sleeping Warrior" Sedgley. He had led from the front all year. He was backed up by a splendid Upper Sixth. James Ogden, Jonny Goodson, Guy Cunningham, Hugh Jackson, Colin Crichton-Turley, Richard Murray, Mat Leiper and Richard Flather represented all that is good about the school and are very talented sportsman. After our usual slow start in the 5-a-side football and basketball tournaments we recorded victories in the Y13 quiz, led by Hugh Jackson and the Y10 quiz in which Owen Cooke, Scott Jones and Henry Kerr all starred.

Could we maintain our momentum in the all important music competition? The previous year we had recorded our first victories in the Part and Ensemble. Expectations were high. Could we end the longest losing streak in House Competitions? Unfortunately our choice of "Mama Mia" by Abba said it all. Only our conductor/ disco king, Tommy Rowlands saved us from last place with a memorable performance. Our "Caravan of Love" sung by Robert Thomas, Jack Eiffon-Jones, Matthew Howitt and Tommy Reynolds amongst others, had been sounding good in rehearsal but it didn't gel on the night. And now to our unforgettable ensemble: Last of the Summer Wine". I have tried to forget it. I have sought therapy, but nothing can rid me of the memory. Two weeks previously I had asked Chris Dorrington how the ensemble was going, "Trust me, Sir" he replied confidently. The moral being - don't trust anyone! Three minutes into the performance and we still seemed to be tuning up, but no, this was "Last of the Summer Wine". Bless 'em, they "rocked through" to the end to wild applause. Just as I was getting comfortable, I would have to move to another school! Fortunately we won the prestigious Rock competition. Matt Arnott, James Gilchrist, Dan Darby, Andrew Rogers, Tommy Reynolds and Richard Sedgley thrashed their way to victory. Maybe I'm getting old because it sounded like a baby getting beaten with a cat. However, it seemed to impress the judges. Radcliffe enjoyed tremendous and deserved success in the music contest and throughout the autumn term. We lay in third place, but crucially, Exeter had not got away from us. In the Spring our Colts performed splendidly. One of the highlights being when Will Epsom, Stuart Roche, Liam Smith and Darran Wesley finished second in the swimming gala. Left short by last minute no-shows, they had to compete in 3 events each plus relays. They were all left exhausted. This was the pattern of the term. Y11 stalwarts such as Tom Wilmott, Tom Wallington, Stuart Ellis, Alex Reeder, Liam Smith, Alex Eagles, Jon O'Mara and Chris Kaye being backed up by the talented sportsmen of Y10 such as Jack Turner, Darran Wesley, Mark Bond and Stuart Roche. If they didn't come first, they came second. Not only on the sports field did we find success. Owen Cooke and Robert Thomas triumphed in a debating contest of a very high standard. They were also involved in our maths challenge victory along with David Anders and Tom Masters.

Despite game efforts in the past, we had usually fared badly in the Burghley cross-country. This year we scored heavily across the board. Rob Farmer, Freddie Holland, Matthew Howitt, Tom Lindley, Scott Yates and Phil Streit from Y12 all ran bravely. The Colts won both their sections. We had turned one of our traditional weaknesses into one of our strengths and we finished the term actually in the lead in the overall competition. In the Summer Term, Exeter came back very strongly, winning many of the events. Although we won few cups this term, led by Richard Sedgley, we kept competing. Grimly we hung on. When Exeter again triumphed in the Senior Athletics, it seemed that the game was up. That is until that unexpected and

glorious victory in the final Colts Athletics.

More important than the overall victory has been the superb spirit displayed throughout the House. We have few superstars but our sum is better than the parts. Apologies to all those that have competed gamely without a mention in this report. Well done all of you!



Head of house - Paul Sarjeant

With 66 trophies now available over the year, the house activities' programme is now very full and provides ample opportunity for most boys to contribute in both sporting and non-sporting activities. It is very pleasing to note that even if junior house credits are discounted 34 Brazenose boys secured awards this year (bronze, silver, gold or tie.)

First places proved difficult to come by in the autumn term, being limited to the Year 10 Christmas quiz, although we did secure second place in the colts five-a-side "B", colts basketball "B", senior five-a-side, Year 10 tug-of-war, Year 11 Christmas quiz, and, in the music competition, both the unison and part-song. We had more success in the spring term competitions, with wins in the senior table tennis, Year 10 hockey 8s, senior swimming and Year 11 football, and second places in the Year 10 shooting, colts rugby 10s, Year 12 spelling and senior Burghley "A" run.

In the summer term we secured first place in the senior badminton, Year 11 badminton, Year 10 volleyball and senior water polo, and second place in the colts cricket 6s and senior pentathlon.

Most of the above events took place during Thursday lunchtimes, although of necessity some could only be fitted in after school, and it was always pleasing to see the willingness and enthusiasm with which boys approached these "out-of-hours" activities.

Singling out individuals is always difficult, and runs the risk of omitting others deserving recognition, but the following do merit special mention: the leading holders of credits in each year are, in Year 10 James O'Shea, Jak Garner, Matthew Yeates and Andrew Fowler; in Year 11 Cameron Park, Ashley Stretton, Callum French, James Duffin and Daniel Millichip; in Year 12 Robert Owen, Steven Mills, Spencer Lai, Luke Cripps, Lewis Chisholm and William McMillan; and in Year 13 Paul Sarjeant, Alex Tam, Paul Batten, Richard French and "Jack" Thorpe. All these boys have taken part in a wide range of activities, and most of them have been willing to turn out for the house even if the activity is not their forte, which is really what the inter-house competition is all about.

More specific mentions are deserved by (in no particular order) Slava Malyshevsky for his first place in the colts "A" shot; Cameron Park for his first places in the colts "B" shot, colts "A" discus and for his single-handed effort in the colts pentathlon; James O'Shea, Steven Mills, Robert Owen, Matthew Yeates, Jak Garner, James Burley, Edwin Williams and James Allan for accepting the considerable challenge of the triathlon; William McMillan for his first places in the senior hurdles "A" and senior discus "A"; Chris Birks for his first place in the hundred metres "C"; Steven Mills for his first places in the 800 metres "B" and triple jump "A"; Steven Mills, Paul Sarjeant and Robert Owen for their efforts in the senior 3000 metres; Callum French, Luke Parkin. James Holt-Martyn and Ashley Stretton for their efforts in the colts 3000 metres; Paul Sarjeant, Steven Mills, Jonathan Lawrence, Roderick Park, Jack Thorpe, Ben I'Anson, Alex Tam, James Wilson, Callum French, Luke Parkin, James Fowler, Bradley Hawkins, Matthew Mercer and Matthew Green for their contribution to the Burghley run; Steven Mills (first and two seconds), Robert Owen (two firsts), Jason Wallace (three firsts) and Michael O'Shea (three seconds) in the swimming competition; and Chris Birks for his impressively enthusiastic excellence as unison song choirmaster (our good performance in this event was due in large part to his contribution.)

My thanks go to all members of the house who took part in any events, and I hope they will add to their credit totals next year, when it is likely that even more opportunities will be on offer. To those few who remain unwilling to take part – turn over a new leaf for 05-06, and remember that you don't have to be good to make a worthwhile contribution, you just have to be willing to turn out and get stuck in.

In conclusion, I would like to pay special tribute to Paul Sarjeant, who not only finished his house career with the remarkable total of 91 credits, but also proved a first-rate head of house. He not only organised any number of teams, but was also one of the first to take part in any event. A fine example of genuine

leadership throughout the year.

MGS



The "Green Army" marched on victorious for our forth consecutive year last year, ably guided by George Bailey. Another year, another challenge.

With Richard Baker as our new head of house, we had style and commitment on our side. We were also blessed with an Exeter led school Upper Sixth, with William Clough as Head Boy and David Whittaker as Deputy Head Boy. Prefects also included Gihan Petangoda, Seb Richardson and Tim Roome.

The autumn term kicked off to the usual festival of basketball. This year, A and B competitions for colts and seniors meant an extensive and protracted campaign. We were pleased with victories in the colts B and seniors B competitions. The main event, naturally, is the music competition. This is my favourite competition of the year and with recent victories we were feeling confident. Mr Mills, our resident music coach, and I decided we should showcase our talented musical house by trying a more demanding number. Had anyone performed a number from the classis Rock and Roll band Meatloaf??? So with rehearsals sung with gusto (especially the Baker, Clough, Mellor, Tombleson quartet!), we perfected our "interpretation". Unfortunately a calendar mix up led to a delay in the competition so we performed after half term. Best laid plans and all, with a brilliant performance in the actual competition, the dour judge (not a Meatloaf fan obviously) gave the honours to Radcliffe. Honour was restored by the brilliant ensemble. Mark Rogers, David Whittaker and Jamie Roberts performed an outstanding folk number which really highlighted what talent they have. The part song was performed with great dedication, but it unfortunately fell away in the heat of competition. The rock competition, sadly, was disappointing.

Strangely this year, we had an overload of racquet sports. Alas, true to form, Radcliffe swept the board. But we put up a brave fight in table tennis and squash. Rugby 7's is always a key event in the calendar. Brilliant performances in the seniors A and B events led to us winning the B's and being runners up in the A's after six blood and thunder performances.

The term ended with the traditionally well supported year group tug of war competition, of which we won three. The Mr Sawyer Christmas quiz led to us putting in a poor performance, mainly due to my mistake in not fielding a full strength set of teams. The term therefore ended with Exeter in a distant 2nd place to the "musical and racquety" Radcliffe.

The spring term began with the great performances in the senior table tennis by Will Mellor, Richard Baker, Will Clough and Scott Colley, holding Brasenose to a tie. Colts hockey 8's were unluckily drawn against the stronger hockey houses and didn't progress to the final. The house swimming was a close fought encounter. The colts literally swam away with it. With Adam Neill, David Purcell, Josh Cuevas, and Rob Murray in imperious form, several house records fell. The senior's struggled somewhat missing the likes of Ross Martin and George Bailey, but highly creditable performances saw us narrowly beaten into 3rd place. The term finished strongly with a sound showing in the year group shooting and clear wins in the Colts Chess (Pranav Bandi upholding a strong family tradition!) and senior rugby 10's (with an outstanding team performance in all three fixtures). The Burghley run was, as usual, Exeter's trophy, with clear wins in colts A & B and seniors A & B events. The term ended with Exeter a narrow second to the dark horses Ancaster.

The Summer term is normally "our term" and so it seemed business as usual with colts and seniors Tennis, senior Cricket 6's, colts and seniors paarlauf (with the colts team of Adam Neill, Ross Cutteridge, Rory Gibson, Toby Simpson and David Purcell finishing 3rd overall), colts Water polo (thanks to the towering performance of half man / half fish Adam Neill). The seniors Sports day was a wonderful event. It was a beautiful sunny day and the girls joined us for the second year. The boys performed with distinction and swept the day for the 5th time in as many years.

The competition all came down to the final event. Unfortunately the gods of weather were not being kind and Sports day was washed out. The final Thursday of term was the last opportunity. The competition was neck and neck throughout the afternoon, with Mr Mills in the announcement booth calling out results from the track and field. With the relays starting Ancaster held the lead by one point. There could be no better ending if Exeter were to win. However, the baton was dropped in the last race and the honours went to our great rivals and deserved winners Ancaster. Obviously we were highly disappointed. The Exeter dynasty of 5 consecutive winning years was broken.

Well done and commiserations to Exeter. No one could fault the effort and determination shown by all. My more than able lieutenant Mr Kendall Mills, who has given so much of his time over the years, will take over the reins in September 2005. I will be taking over as Housemaster of Browne House.

RAB



My second year as Housemaster of Radcliffe started with confirming the appointments of head of House as Duraid Jalili, who was to be ably assisted by the deputy Heads of House, Andrew Raymond (Culture), Patrick Burke (Sports) and Richard Peckett (Sports). We acquitted ourselves well last year, but the question at the beginning of the year was whether Exeter House could be prevented from winning the house competition for a fourth year in a row. We certainly felt that we could be instrumental in ensuring that they did not but only time would tell. The beginning of the year got off to a mixed start, with the points available being distributed pretty evenly among the houses. We did, however, win the colts (A) and seniors 5 a-side competition which kept us in contention. During this time we practiced for the forthcoming house music competition which had many points available, not to mention the house rock competition. The latter took place first and I don't think I will ever forget Tom Heesom's performance that night, particularly the rendition of the Rainbow classic "Since vou've been gone!" He should have won it on his own. As it happened, we came second behind Ancaster and I thought we were unlucky not to win. The house music competition followed the next day, and we were hoping to go one better than last year's second place in the unison song. Andrew Raymond led the house with a spirited delivery of "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid". The talented singers of Y13 (plus Adam Rimmer) performed "Fun, Fun, Fun" by the Beach Boys brilliantly for the part song, complete with the now seemingly traditional "Radcliffe Rap" at the beginning. A cheeky little rendition of "You've got a friend in me" from "Toy Story" for the ensemble piece completed the excellent trio of performances from Radcliffe - but was the judge impressed? She certainly was! Radcliffe won both the unison and part song competitions and came what must have been a close second in the ensemble. We picked up 26 out of a possible maximum of 28 points on the day - a first in the history of the music competition. I felt very proud of everyone, and then remembered a rather rash promise I had made to the sixth formers on the terrace if we won - I wondered whether I could actually afford to buy them all beers at the Radcliffe Christmas Dinner! As far as the rest of the term was concerned, there was mixed success. Radcliffe is not known for its rugby, and we struggled a bit in the tug of war competitions. However, we won both the seniors squash and colts table tennis. We finished the term with the now established Radcliffe Christmas Dinner at "The Balti Hut" ten points ahead of our nearest rivals, Exeter. The proud Radcliffians consumed curry and listened to the winning

The spring term offered an eclectic array of house competitions, most of which we were not very good at. Having said that, we did win the Y11 Hockey and seniors Chess and Volleyball, oh, and also not forgetting the Y12 and Y13 spelling. Liam McEntee and Sam Waudby represented the whole house in the debating competition and acquitted themselves brilliantly only to be pipped at the post by Ancaster. Although we came last in the swimming, the legendary "Radcliffe Spirit" was there, epitomised by James Graham diving into the pool and swimming with his glasses on! In truth, however, it was a rather disappointing term. We saw our once handsome lead being whittled away as the term progressed, and finished in third place by the end of term. However, it was not Exeter that had nosed ahead at this point, but Ancaster.

part song as they drank the beers that I had bought them!

During the summer term, it was always going to be difficult to pick up points with such an emphasis on athletics – we are not known for our running either! However, the colts took the pentathlon with a winning performance from Ollie Flaxman. We also won the colts cricket 6's ably led by William Felgate. However, it was not to be – winning the overall house competition was always going to be difficult – we could not even defend our seniors water polo title that we won so ably the year before.

However, did we manage to prevent Exeter from winning it once again? Indeed we did! I'm sure, much to Mr Brewster's chagrin, Ancaster won by 1.25 points! Congratulations to Mr Jones, although I constantly remind him of the major part that Radcliffe played in contributing to Exeter's downfall. But more seriously, it was a pleasure to be part of what was a much more open house competition this year and I thank all the members of the house who contributed - you know who you are! Thanks also to Mr Sawyer, Mr Jones and Mr Brewster for making the whole year so enjoyable. Special thanks to the Y13 students who presented me with the "Moral Victory" house cup at the end of the year. For me, that says it all! NJP









Autumn Term:

The first competition that tests how completely summer lethargy has been left at home is the tug-of-war. The event was extended over two weeks. The Y8 team won all six of their pulls and set the standard for the Y7 boys.

A ridiculously large Willoughby team faced them and burned our hands with their power. Similar difficulties with St. Peter's meant that St. Paul's stood between the boys and a rather sad start to their careers – but they did themselves proud with two wins.

Typically autumnal weather led to the postponing of the Y9 competition for a week. The first of many close matches with Willoughby ensued. Counting the wins and losses across the three year-groups, we were disappointed to lose the overall trophy by a single point.

General Knowledge: Michael Patterson, Calum Storey, Adam Bradshaw and Matthew Jones faced the barrage of ARW's imaginative questions. Willoughby were out for some kind of revenge following last year's defeat. After one round, we were seventy points in arrears. Our end game was excellent, scoring a round hundred without reply, but the clock ticked on inexorably and defeat was by sixty points.

St. Paul's were swept away by a score of 590-180, and St. Peter's by 560-220 but Willoughby secured expected victories and wrenched the trophy from us.

Rugby: Perhaps lessons were learned before the rugby matches, for the 1st XV scored early tries against St. Peter's to settle nerves. An injury to an opposition player interrupted the game, and, with no replacement available, Reuben Slater was sacrificed at half-time to balance the numbers. A variety of tries were scored and the final margin of thirty-four points was satisfactory.

The match with St. Paul's was closer. Jake Wilkinson benefited from a kind bounce to open the scoring, but St. Paul's matched the try with the final play of the first half. There was all to play for in the second half after a war of attrition, Ross Cutteridge scored to level the points with perhaps a minute left. Craig Felston had the responsibility of kicking for the match. Many more experienced players might have baulked at the pressure, but Craig slotted the ball through the centre of the posts.

Another deciding match with Willoughby followed.

The 2nd X enjoyed two wins of fifty points against St. Peter's and St. Paul's. Willoughby had enjoyed similar and in the decider (again) the match was finally lost 15-20. The standard of handling, tackling and teamwork was very fine from both teams. It was only a pity, to use a cliché, that there had to be a loser.

The 3^{rd} X played for experience, and enjoyed their best match against St. Paul's. A 25-25 draw was a right and proper result.

The Y9 boys were not forgotten. The 5-a-side football was kicking along nicely and hockey was played for. Experience was a little lacking here, but effort was not – and at least we did not finish last on our own. During the course of this long term, the House earned over 2000 merits.

Spring Term:

Football: A rash of seven-a-side teams were transformed into two slick elevens in time for the first round of matches against Willoughby. Despite spirited defence, the team was stretched out of shape and conceded three goals. The second team competed well in similar conditions, and only lost by the odd goal in five. There were chances of trophies for all teams on the final day of competition, and it had already been worked out that, with a draw being the likely result in the Willoughby and St. Peter's match, that a single goal could seal the silverware.

A 0-0 result on Upper Drift meant that one goal in the final two minutes would do it. Iain Downer had struck the bar in the first half, and pressure increased as news of the other stale-mate filtered through. Two 0-0 scores must have been a first, but there was the excitement of a 5-5 scoreline.

The second XI secured a comfortable 3-0 victory, and so valiant second place was both teams' reward. The term contained – apart from the football – the Burghley run , music, hockey, rugby, chess and table tennis.

Burghley Park was a picture. The boys lined up and waited for a whistle or shout to begin their charge. For Cecil, Charlie Kay, Isaac Wilkinson and Ross Cutteridge finished in the top ten of the Y7 race; Jacob

Wilkinson, as expected, won the Y8 race, with Reuben Slater, Lee Dobney and Norman Law ably supporting him by also finishing in single figure positions; Tom Plant, Tom Ladds and William Thompson finished within twelve seconds of each other towards the front of the Y9 race.

When the overall results were published, Cecil were gallant runners-up once again.

Perhaps the most frantic preparations of the term were for the music competition.

Invitations to parents meant a full Hall. We began with the ensembles. Cecil played an arrangement of the James Bond theme, and the adjudicator commented on the 'consistent rhythm' of the loud instruments, although the tune, she suggested, was slightly lost. Earlier in the day, Matthew Jones had won the prize for electric guitar playing.

The singing was a mixture of early adrenaline and later sedative. 'You're the One...' was praised for its 'powerful start', 'electric shivers' and 'first class intonation'. Energy was lost at the end and this was reflected a little in the second song where, despite a 'good start' there was 'less zappiness'.

As the results were awaited, the Housemasters tried to work out the positioning before the announcement. We were smack on, with Cecil winning the House song and St. Peter's the own choice.

Chess was practised less regularly this year, for some reason, by the squad members, and, disappointingly, we only finished third despite Reuben Slater's unbeaten series.

The Y9 rugby players also finished third, but consolation came with the indoor football – despite the 'A' team finishing fourth, the 'B' team did well enough to secure the overall trophy for the House.

The new competition of the term was the table tennis. As expected, both the 'A' and 'B' team competitions were decided in the final round against Willoughby. With the Felston brothers, Thomas Dowdell and Norman Law all school team players, the results would surely not be in doubt. They weren't.

During the term, boys in Cecil earned 1607 merits at an average of 22.3 per boy. This was just two per boy behind the winners.

Summer Term:

'Get in on the ACT' is the not-very-original request to the boys at the beginning of the summer term. Parents were sent to shops to buy ingredients for cakes, biscuits, photographs, paintings and a variety of model constructions. The top earners for the House were Bradley Felston with 11 points, Sean Perry with 13, and Anthony White with 23.

Cricket: Willoughby managed to beat St. Peter's in the final over of a high scoring match to snatch the 1st XI trophy.

The 2nd VIII was filled with players of stout heart, good eyes, but less experience. In the more relaxed atmosphere that characterised their games, they won all of their matches comfortably.

The Y9 boys were confident before their competition. Certainly we boasted big hitters in Plant and Spurr, and they dominated proceedings. The contest with Willoughby was rather too close for comfort, but 4 runs is as good a win as 400.

Athletics: In the tri-activity, the top three available athletes from each year group of the House ran 400 metres, long jumped and shot putted under a merciless sun. Jake Wilkinson and Charlie Kay finished second in their competitions, while Vincent Spurr was placed fifth in the Y9 event.

And so to Sports Day itself and the promise of late rain. Controversy with disqualifications added to the drama at the end of an excellent afternoon's competition, which resulted in the expected win for Willoughby. Individually, Cecil boasted a clutch of winners: Charlie Kay, Sebastian Watson, Jack Clarkson, Craig Felston and Robert Salt in Y7; Jake Wilkinson, Charlie Mays and Freddie Berridge in Y8; and Philip Moore and Vincent Spurr in Y9.

The inter-House relay competition consisted of 8 \times 100m, 4 \times 200 and a medley for each year group. Tired legs at the end of a draining term did not prevent all of the boys running hard and well. Third place was no disgrace.

Swimming: Anthony White was quite determined to complete his Stamford (and Cecil) career with more than just a splash. This he managed with wins in all of his events, and one school record to boot. Ably supported by other event winners, namely Joseph Harrap, Calum Storey, Ross Cutteridge, Norman Law, Charlie Kay, Iain Downer and Reuben Slater, Cecil secured the Y7, Y8 and overall competitions. And it didn't rain. With weeks taken for examinations, fewer merits were earned this term. However, 880 at an average of 12.2 per boy meant we were once again third here.

At one point in the term, it seemed that there was a chance that Willoughby's grasp on the overall House trophy might be loosened, but it was not to be.

RJBH.









For new boys to Stamford School the phrase 'learning the ropes' has taken on a whole new meaning with the recent introduction of the annual tug of war competition. The concept of team-work underpins everything that we do as a House, it is very appropriate that the inaugural House event each year quite literally sees the boys 'pulling in the same direction'!

Having suffered some disappointing and narrow defeats against Willoughby and Cecil in the first two rounds of the House rugby there was some consolation for the first XV with a 37-9 victory against St. Peter's but it was, as the cliché has it, too little too late for a team that could so easily have won all three of their matches. Congratulations go to the members of the B and C teams for some dogged displays of good team work. The House rugby was thoroughly enjoyed by all and I congratulate all of those that took part and in particular their team captains, Matthew Fuller (First XV), Ben Searle (B team) and Dan Warren and James Chin (C team). Later in the term the rugby sevens once again proved tough for the first team, this time ably led by Rhys Owen but the B team tournament was won comfortably by St. Paul's with some excellent rugby from Chris Brice, Edward Cameron, Sami Doyle and Peter Wilson.

The year nines play hockey in the Autumn Term and were looking to retain the trophy for the House with a determined team led by Alex Hammant. The team was frustrated by two scoreless draws against St. Peter's and Cecil and could not live with the strong Willoughby team, eventually losing 3-0. However, the boys did not do themselves any injustice and played well in all three games. Particular thanks to Alex Hammant, Mark Robins and Ben Chew for an excellent effort here.

For those seeking the dry and warmth of an indoor House competition there is that perennial favourite, the General Knowledge Competition. For those that have never attended this event on a Monday after school it can best be described as like University Challenge but without the aggravating presence of Jeremy Paxman. Instead Mr. Wilkes organises and presides over each round and on behalf of the boys I thank him for yet another excellent competition. No glory for St. Paul's this year but thanks go to the 'squad': James Bramley, Ben Chew, Edward Cameron, Peter Wilson, Chris House and Peter Burnett.

Spring Term

When recalling the events of the Spring Term I am rarely put in mind of spring but usually remember wind and rain swept school fields and muddy boots and so it was as the house matches continued with the year seven and eight football. Unfortunately this was not to be a vintage year but I thank all the players and in particular Chris Brice, Miles Redding and Matthew Fuller in the A team and James Chin, Jack McEntee and Ben Searle in the B team for their fine contributions.

The Burghley Run is of course a highlight in the annual calendar of House competitions and this year we enjoyed fine weather for the occasion. Having run the year eight course myself I can vouch for the fact that it is no mere jog in the park for many. There were those that managed some impressive times and for St. Paul's House I must give particular credit to Giulio Montaque and Andrew Patterson in year seven, Chris Brice and Charles Griffin in year eight and Jonathan Stoddart, Alex Hammant and Michael Smyth in year nine. Back inside Edward Graham, Alex Hammant and Guy Michels were representing St. Paul's as the A team table tennis squad while Greg Leech, Dan Warren and Edward Cameron comprised the B team. Thanks go to Mr. Henry for running this lunch time competition. The St. Paul's chess team were also busy and convincingly won the rather splendid Junior Chess trophy back to fill a (large) space in the St. Paul's trophy cabinet. Special thanks go to their captain Rhys Owen and to Miles Redding and Chris Brice for winning all of their games.

More space was needed in the trophy cabinet as the year nines picked up a win in their rugby tournament and the year nine football league and the year seven and eights proved a dominant force in their hockey tournament.

The music competition has been a strength for St. Paul's in recent years and although we could not manage a singing trophy for the fourth consecutive year there was an excellent ensemble featuring James Bramley in fine form singing 'Whiter Shade of Pale', ably accompanied by Edward Graham and Tom Campbell on trumpets, Alex Hammant on bassoon, Peter Wilson on violin and Chris Brice on drums. The above mentioned also put in some fine performances in the individual classes.

Summer Term

A short but very busy term started with the 'ACT' competition and some fine contributions from St. Paul's boys notably Andrew Patterson and Giulio Montaque in year seven, George Cliffe and Ben Searle in year eight and Edward Graham and Sebastian Kong in year nine.

The cricket teams battled hard this year with the first eleven led by Peter Wilson not quiet able to capitalise on their opening victory against St. Peter's despite some impressive displays by their captain's 'Man of the Series' Ajwad Jabbar. Dan Warren led the second team to two wins and an unlucky defeat against Cecil with impressive contributions from Chris House Miles Redding and Sami Doyle.

The inter-house athletics is always a monumental undertaking from the organisational point of view and involves virtually every member of the House. Injury and illness usually have a part to play in the team selections but as always St. Paul's put out a competitor for every event. Special thanks go to Giulio Montaque(100m), Dan Griffin (shot), and Ajwad Jabbar (high jump) in year seven, Charles Griffin (100/200m; Long Jump), Greg Leech (triple jump) and Chris Brice (hurdles; high jump) in year eight and Guy Michels (100/200m), Dawson Bannister (javelin) and Jonathan Stoddart (hurdles; high jump; long jump) in year nine.

The swimming sports are not traditionally a St. Paul's strength so it was very pleasing to see year nine win their year group with a fine team effort and outstanding swims from Charles Wilson, Seb Kong, Mark Robins, Will Cooper and Peter Gibbons. Thanks go to all the boys who swam for St. Paul's – it's a big swimming pool and racing in it over one or two lengths requires real stamina, particularly for the less accomplished swimmers.



St.Peter







Autumn Term

The year did not get off to a bad start with the year 7s putting in an admirable performance in order to win the tug of war competition. They were led by Oliver Baker and it was fought to the last, but we were victorious and achieved our first trophy win of the year. Unfortunately the year 8 and 9 teams could not match this success and we ultimately fell to a 3rd place finish overall.

The year 7 & 8 Rugby competition was always going to be a hard fought affair. The 1st XV were ably led by Thomas Williams and he was helped out by Joshua Green, Robert Burley and Josh Manby. The 2nd and 3rd XVs were led by a variety of captains including Samuel Bodily, Adam Cox, Andrew Fox and Kevin Sharp. Other notable performances were produced by Curtis Clissitt, James Harrod, and Luke Holmes. The 2nd and 3rd teams were successful in avoiding the wooden spoon by finishing a highly creditable 3rd place.

The rugby 7s competition showed a similar pattern of high commitment from St Peters. However, we ultimately succumbed to the inevitable final place finish, although the 2^{nds} briefly showed a great fighting spirit to achieve a draw.

Success in the general knowledge competition continued to elude us this year. Thanks go to Daniel Bell (captain), Adam Cox, Conor Baum, and Timothy Moore for representing the house in this competition and taking us to 3^{rd} place.

Meanwhile, our Y9 hockey team, led by Joe Robinson, was enjoying some unusual success. Despite being unable to score we finished in 2^{nd} place on goal difference with Chris Van Niekirk being the outstanding player, not only for St Peters but for the whole competition.

At the end of a fairly disappointing term, we were hoping for success in the merit competition. Unfortunately a lacklustre display and a failure to hand in merits saw another trophy slip from our grasp. Credit has to go however to Arjun Maher and Dan Moses who fought valiantly on St Peters behalf.

Spring Term

The Spring term is crammed full of house activity.

The year 9 footballers rushed off to an amazing start with victory after victory. However, their focus began to wane as they lost interest. Before you could even say that the novelty had worn off, the A team had slipped to 3^{rd} place and the B team to 2^{rd} . This was a portent of things to come as time and again we had a chance of

success, but a lack of effort cost us a win and handed victory to our opponents.

The Table Tennis was a competition that we would rather forget as we were comprehensively defeated by the clear winners, Cecil.

The year 7 and 8 football competition was tight and we had high hopes of gaining revenge on the more rugby orientated houses. Going into the competition, St Peters were narrowly the favourites with Robert Burley captaining an all star team. With Joshua Green, Thomas Williams, Joshua Manby, Joshua Frisby, Stephen Bryant, Richard Sims, Nicholas Reiss and Adam Richardson in the team nothing could go wrong, could it? Two soft goals gave Cecil an early victory over us despite an excellent free kick from Robert Burley. With revenge on our minds we faced St Pauls and the poor blues were easily dispatched by an Alex Smith hat trick and a comfortable score line. This set up an amazing last match finish. If we could beat Willoughby we could actually win the competition. However, the match finished 0-0 meaning that our best hope of a trophy finished with us in joint 2nd place. The 2nds were well led by Daniel West, but an early thrashing of St Paul's could do little to prevent the rout against Cecil and 3-0 against Willoughby. A 3rd place final finish was a fair reflection.

The Burghley Run: With the same result in all 3 year groups, St Peters managed 3rd place, a long way behind both Cecil and Willoughby. Those boys who could hold their heads up high with good finishes were Year 7: James Harrod (8th), Adam Richardson (12th), Joe Forsythe (13th) and George Sharman (26th); Year 8: Robert Burley (3), Joshua Green (4), and Andrew Holland-Jones (15th); Year 9: Edward Beardshaw (10th) and Dominic Pollard (11th).

Thankfully the music competition was there to save the day. Chris Birks, a sixth former in Brazenose house volunteered to help out and his energy saw us home to a comfortable victory. The own choice song of "I'm a Believer" was tremendous. The set song "All Shook Up" was the much tougher but again our efforts were impressive. Unfortunately those who favoured St Peters were not the judges and we ultimately finished 3rd. It was a delight, however, to get my hands on one of the most prized house trophies.

The spring term also saw the Y9 rugby competition. Andrew Forsyth led the team with great maturity and he was helped by the efforts of Paul Edmonds, Daniel Abbott, Andrew Cowan, Edward Beardshaw and Matthew Green who all did themselves proud.

Our Y7/8 hockey team got off to an excellent start by defeating the tough battling Cecil outfit with a late goal. The next 2 games, though, were too difficult and despite periods of good play and some excellent goalkeeping from Adam Cox we lost and finished 3rd overall.

The chess competition was eagerly awaited as again we felt that St Peters had a strong chance of victory. However, despite some fine individual performances, particularly from the captain Andrew Cowan, we could not manage to finish higher than 4th place.

Spirits were a lot higher than they had been at the end of the autumn term as had achieved our first victory and this was to continue as we were reunited with our old friend the merit trophy. Technically it was a tied first place finish with Willoughby, but as we had improved we took the trophy.

Summer Term

Another term crammed with house activities.

The ACT competition has long been a favourite of St Peters. Entries from people like Jack Enright, Robbie Everett and Sam Barkhouse were very pleasing to see, but Cecil smothered the entry table and we fell behind Willoughby into 3rd place overall.

The Saturday athletics sports competition is rightly regarded as one of the premier house events of the year and it was eagerly anticipated once more. Some of the younger boys in the house tried their very hardest and you can ask nothing more than that. The year 8 boys, especially, finished strongly in 2nd place. However, the reluctance and overall lack of effort from the year 9 boys meant that a 3rd place overall finish was the best we could manage.

Linked to the previous sporting endeavours we competed in the tri-activity competition. This competition required three skills during one lunchtime. The running, jumping and throwing elements were all recorded, not by their placed finish, but by how much they actually achieved. The boys who bravely stood out and tried for St Peters did themselves proud (Year 7: Nicholas McPherson, Joseph Forsyth and Charles Lang; Year 8: Robert Burley, Nicholas Reiss and Joshua Green; Year 9: Grant Walwork and Dominic Pollard).

The cricket competition was an explosive event. Hopes were again high for an impressive performance with Robert Burley, Thomas Williams and Joshua Green leading the way and solid support from Arjun Maher. Unfortunately our strength did not run deep and we were to throw away dominating positions against both St Pauls and Willoughby. The final place finish did not truly reflect the standard at which we played

Tension had been mounting yet again in the merit competition. Dan Moses and Arjhun Maher were once again leading the way with very high individual scores. However, Willoughby was able to push on at the end and win fairly comfortably, but a 2nd place finish was a pleasing result as we held off a very strong challenge from a resurgent Cecil.

So, finally, to the swimming sports, another event where our hopes were high. Things got off to a very good start in the diving. Although not in 1st place we were on the shoulder going into the final straight with the extra fuel tank about to be ignited. Our main man was Jeremy Cunnew, captain of the swimming team, a stout member of year 9 and long time servant of St Peters. For victory all that was required was success in the final year 9 relay. As the final leg was completed by the St Peters' team the other houses were still finishing the 3rd leg. Victory was ours. Yet it was not to be. Our celebrations were as short because an early handover meant we were disqualified. Denied the trophy, we had to accept 2nd place again.

I took my final house meeting on the penultimate day of the summer term. Among my duties was saying farewell to our departing Y9 members of the house. Some of the boys have provided dedication to the house above the call of duty. They will be sorely missed, and Mr Sawyer is most fortunate to have them in the ranks of Brazenose. I was delighted to announce that Mr Bucknell will be my successor.

DLS.







This was a vintage year for the boys in Willoughby House. More young men represented the House than ever before and there was a tangible sense of pride whenever a red shirt was worn.

Following the overwhelming success of last year's inaugural tug-o'-war competition it was decided to hold it again this year. It was extremely close in all three categories with boys from all houses giving it everything they had and then a bit more. All 3 year groups in Willoughby were magnificent and, when the scores were combined, we came out on top.

The hotly contested General Knowledge competition was the next event. Robert Ker now reports:

"Match 1: Willoughby v Cecil: Willoughby started off strongly, getting a clear lead in the first ten minutes. However, a loss of concentration from the team led to Cecil almost taking the lead. But some speedy answers from Jack pulled Willoughby into the lead once more. Final Score: Willoughby 420 Cecil 360.

Match 2: Willoughby v St. Peters: St. Peters took an early lead, with Daniel Bell setting a fearsome pace on the buzzer. But Willoughby stuck at it and after winning all the 'year questions' Willoughby snatched the lead from St. Peters. After that there was no stopping them, Willoughby ended with a monumental victory. Final Score: Willoughby 580 St. Peters 360.

Match 3: Willoughby v St Paul's: The team of Robert Ker, Jack Atkinson and William Joyce got off to a flying start and never looked back. Victory had been won!"

The Y7 and Y8 rugby competition saw over 40 boys pull on the red jersey. All 3 teams battled hard and some had very close games as Sam Cole reports:

"On Monday 1st November Willoughby played St Paul's in a close encounter. The match was eventually won by Willoughby with the final score at 12-10. Scores from Sam Cole and Dominic Powell secured the victory even though we conceded 2 tries. The back row had an awesome game. James Hounslow was tackling like a demon along with Sam Andrews and William Joyce."

The other games were all competitive as you might expect but Willoughby managed to keep their noses in front and emerged as eventual winners of the competition.

Rugby 7s and Y9 hockey tournaments followed and I am pleased to say that Willoughby kept up the winning streak, scoring 5 goals in the hockey and conceding none, with Matthew Outen and his replacement John Murphy both outstanding in goal.

So, the autumn term was drawing to a close with only the result of the merit competition to be announced. This is always a moment of great tension with PTF milking the crowd and keeping the housemasters in suspense. Every single boy in LMS can contribute to this competition so in many ways it is the most important of all. A great cheer erupted in the hall as the Headmaster said the words, "and the winning house is.....Willoughby". Willoughby House had secured 32 points from a possible 32. Who could ask for more? The spring term saw an early flurry of competitive activity. Football, the infamous Burghley Run, the equally enjoyable singing competition, Y7 and Y8 hockey, Y9 rugby, chess, table tennis, the on-going Y9 football league and, of course, the merit competition. Willoughby continued to perform in the sporting arenas but couldn't quite produce a convincing performance of the classic Oasis song 'Wonderwall'. Last place was probably a fair result. The 'monkey song' from 'The Jungle Book' was the highlight of our performances.

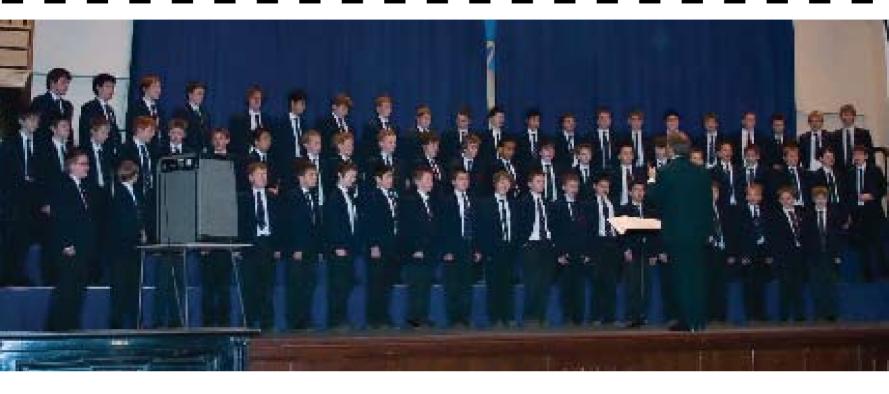
Most boys did a great job of impersonating monkeys and the crowd was certainly entertained! A creditable second place was earned. Special thanks are due to Tom Tew, Oliver Joy and Tom Crees who all performed so admirably in the chess competition. 11 wins from 18 boards was good enough to secure second place. The summer term is, in many ways, the highlight of the House competition. Cricket, swimming and athletics dominated with Willoughby emerging triumphant except where water was involved! The athletes were particularly impressive on Sports Day with James Hounslow, Tristan Roper-Caldbeck, Nathan Graham and Tommy Mitchell all performing well for the Y7 team. However, everyone did their best on the day and a comprehensive victory was achieved. Well done to all involved!

All in all, 2004-2005 was a very successful year for the boys in red. Practices were very well attended and there was an excellent spirit within the House. The boys worked together to produce some outstanding team performances and I am grateful to each and every boy who has contributed to Willoughby House this year.

ANP







LOWER SCHOOL MUSIC COMPETITION FRIDAY 11th February 2005 RESULTS

Individual Winners

The Kelham Prize for Strings Sam Blackmore, Willoughby

The Tinkler Prize for Piano Edward Graham, St. Paul's

The Hare Prize for Wind Edward Graham, St. Paul's

Alex Hammant, St. Paul's

Electric Guitar Matthew Jones, Cecil

Singing Prize Thomas Hanks, Willoughby

Percussion Prize Christopher Brice, St. Paul's

Keyboard Prize Peter Burnett, St. Paul's

Singing Set Song House Song

P J White

Cecil (Highly Commended – Willoughby) St. Peters's (Highly Commended – St Paul's)

Senior House

SENIOR HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITIONS 2004

RESULTS

INDIVIDUAL CLASSES

Strings: Hugh McGregor Radcliffe

Voice: Robert Thomas Ancaster

Woodwind: Daniel Millichip Brazenose

Piano: Christopher Lewis Radcliffe

Organ: James Graham Radcliffe

Guitar: Lewis Saunders Radcliffe

ROCK SHOW Ancaster

ENSEMBLE Exeter

HOUSE SINGING

Part song Radcliffe Unison Song Radcliffe

P.J.W.





Stamfordian Report: House Music Competition '04

Hats off to Radcliffe! Only days after their namesake restored her world supremacy in the New York Marathon, Mr Porteus' blue tie brigade similarly came up trumps by winning both the Unison and the Part Songs, a feat unfamiliar since the days when the well-drilled efforts of the Byard boarders regularly held sway. Less familiar was the Mexican wave technique with which conductor Andrew Raymond brought his chorus to their feet: just how is it possible to keep on thinking up ever new ways of doing this essentially mechanical act, one asks!

It might even have been three in a row, following Radcliffe's polished and stylish rendering of Randy Newman's "You've Got a Friend in Me". But Exeter were to deny them this, and make up for their (presumably) narrow defeat in the Unison Song and also the earlier House Rock Competition, by scooping first place in the Ensembles with their highly accomplished and hugely enjoyable Irish folk music, skilfully arranged by Mark Rogers and giving a perfect showcase for Jamie Roberts' supreme violin skills. Mark's own mandolin provided an unusual and appealing contrast in sound, which was perfectly suited to the chosen pieces. Brazenose too must have scored very highly in the Ensembles with their "Feeling Good" (Muse), which featured an impressive jazz piano solo from Jack Thorpe.

Ancaster's Tom Rowlands was arguably the most entertaining conductor of the event, with a set of movements which recalled a certain recent Renault car campaign, as well as the girls from Abba, whose song "Mamma Mia" was their House choice. Unfortunately, the lady judge, Mrs Reid, was by her confession so entranced by Tom's performance that she forgot to listen to the music! However, there was no chance of her not taking on board Exeter's hundred decibel rendering of "Bat Out of Hell", whose words were remarkably clear, given the speed of the piece and the number of singers involved.

The Part Song was quite closely fought, with an encouraging range of styles, despite the continuing prevalence of the "Doo-wap" style, although Chris Birks did strive to break the mould by singing "Rama Lama Ding Dong" at the most breakneck speed possible. Exeter chose a barber's shop formula for their strangely discordant version of Mr Sandman, whose ambitious harmonies did not quite match the quality of the range of gimmicks, with which they richly entertained their audience. Ancaster followed suit, their "Caravan of Love" proving more challenging than they probably imagined, but supplying the exit of the day, with the group slowly strolling off stage waving as the final refrain died away. But once again it was a Beach Boys song which brought home the bacon for Radcliffe, and although not every face on stage was smiling as they very capably took on the intricate harmonies of "Fun, Fun, Fun," the audience and the judge were more than pleased with the appealing pace and spread of pitch, which held the interest throughout and proved a worthy winner.

In her summing up comments, adjudicator Mrs Reid richly congratulated the various entries. She particularly remarked upon the number of "great musicians in the School" and claimed to be highly impressed with their skills and their efforts.

House Rock 2004.

First up were Brazenose, and the angst-ridden lyrics of Chris Birks, as always, made for interesting listening. This, combined with the band's tantalizing strip tease, made sure that the night got off to an excellent start, although Chris did disappoint the girls by keeping his (last) top on at the end!

Next, Tom Heesom, Sam Illsey, Andy Raymond, Steven Hunt and the ever-present Hugh McGregor joined forces as Radcliffe. The 'Top Gun' style sunglasses only added to the rock 'n' roll feel, as did Tom's open shirt and skin-tight jeans...! 'I love Rock and Roll' and Sam's acoustic version of the Bob Dylan classic 'Knockin' on Heaven's Door' were definitely among the best songs of the night, especially with Andy's stunning work on the drums. (Personal Opinion – they should have won!)

Exeter. What can I say? Jamie Roberts' resemblance to Brad Pitt when he bared his house name for all to see was uncanny and I have to admit that his work on the violin and 'piano' was outstanding. Mark Rogers and Dave Wilcox were awesome on the guitars and Deputy Dave Whittaker deserved a standing ovation all of his own for playing the drums with a broken foot!

Last, Ancaster. Richard Sedgley was exceptional on lyrics, as was Chris Dorrington on the keyboard! The band's rendition of Jet's 'Are you gonna be my girl' got everyone singing along, and no doubt secured them their much deserved win for all their hard work. Congratulations!

Well done to everyone involved, this just keeps getting better every year! Anni Salvat U6





Nick Rowland Rally Driver



Nick Rowland would be described by most as a laid back and quiet A-level student, living life like any teenager. However, behind his deceptively calm exterior lies a dangerous, committed future sporting personality with a taste for living life in the fast lane - literally. I have yet to see someone who is unsurprised at being told that Nick has been driving since the age of thirteen and has the potential to be the next British World Rally Champion. As my first assignment for The Stamfordian Magazine I have been given the chance to interview the young sporting champion and my fellow pupil Nick to find out more about his career as a rally driver...

Driving a rally car isn't one of the more common careers for a young man to commit himself to. How did you come across the sport of rallying in the first place?

I was always interested in off road motor sports and at one point was considering taking up motocross

racing. Rallying took my interest from the first moment I ever saw it on TV, when I was watching the Safari Rally. I was only about twelve at the time but was so enthusiastic about the sport that I joined an under seventeen's car club, where I learnt how to drive, all over the country, including on race circuits like Castle Coombe Race Track. Through the club I was able to get in contact with the Ford Rally Academy, where I was put through a series of tests in one of their rally cars – it was my first real rallying experience. After monitoring my driving, the Ford Rally Academy told me they were impressed with what I had achieved. I was lucky enough to get a visit from the world rally champion, Richard Burns, as I already knew his sister, Jo Burns. He was just as impressed as the rally academy and Jo was able to get me a job at Peugeot Sport UK, where I was involved in learning about and testing rally cars, learning about skills in PR, doing tasks and reviews for various magazines, as well as developing my

And was Richard Burns involved with developing your driving further? No, I've only met him a couple of times. I did however get in contact with the current British Rally Champion, David Higgins, who has given a lot of time, along with his dad, Tony Higgins, to coaching me. They live in Wales so I did have to travel a lot at one stage so I could learn more about the sport and practice my driving. By this time the Ford Rally Academy had closed down so I couldn't practice with them anymore. They were both very encouraging mentors and coaches and gave me a lot of confidence, as well as the practice required.

Had you entered any competitions at this stage or had the chance to compete against others of your age? Yes, during my time with David and Tony I entered into two junior rallies and won both. I also entered a rally in Wales where I was the only competitor under the age of twenty-five. I didn't win this one but was impressed with coming third, considering that everyone else had had a lot more experience than me.

Have you been in any other rally events since?

championship in 2006.

driving skills.

I have competed in a lot of auto testing and training for next year. I had been preparing for the Nicky Grist British Championship for about four months in 2005, but was let down when the rally championship was called off at the last minute. This was a big knock to me. The rally was meant to be the biggest championship I had entered in, the one to get me noticed by potential sponsors, but instead I had lost a lot of my own money through their lack of organisation. At one point I feared that I wouldn't have enough funding to go on. However, things started to look up again when I managed to get some money back, and I entered myself in the British Autotest Championship, and the F1000 British rally

How much of a problem is the financial side of the sport? It's extremely difficult. I often find myself swamped with sorting out sponsorship packs, promotions deals and organising competitions and practices for the future. So far, I have got by with borrowing money from my parents, and working on some sponsorship deals. I am always looking for new sponsors however, and at the moment I am keeping my fingers crossed for a few potential big sponsors, who would hopefully wipe out any financial struggles for a long time. I do get quite a bit of publicity through magazines such as Motorsport News and Performance GTi, and a recent deal that has been made with a big rally magazine, 'British Rally Championship', means that they will be following my progress and writing an article about me in each issue as part of their 'Stars of future' column.

With so many things on your plate at once, have you ever found it hard to cope at school?

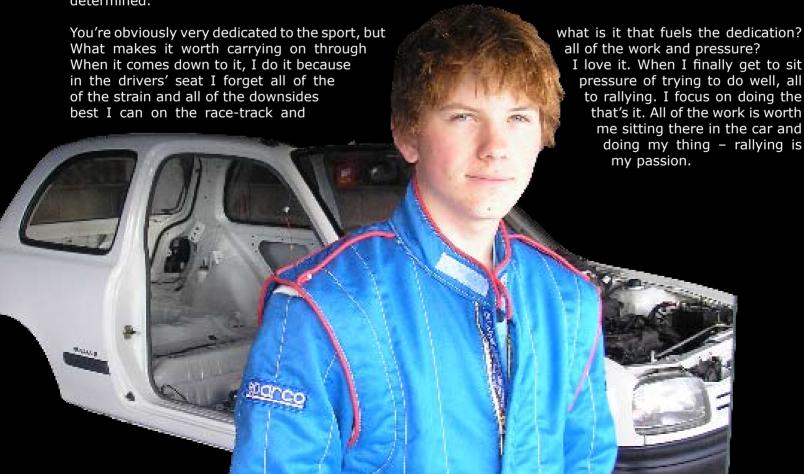
It's not been too bad in the past, I've always been able to arrange events around school, and have plenty of time for school-work and socialising. This year, however, things are really kicking off and it's starting to become a full-time job. I've already had to drop an A-level subject to help buy me time for working on a car which I bought a few months back. It needs to have a lot of work done on it to make it suitable for rally driving. I've been working at a garage for a few months now and as well as getting paid there and learning about working on and repairing cars, I've also been allowed to store my car at the garage and work on it in my own time. I'm spending most of my free time there, both working for the garage and modifying my car. Although I am spending most of my free time working now, when I do get a chance to socialise, I must say being a rally driver has its benefits. I can't say that it doesn't impress the girls - hand-brake turns and reverse-spins are always a good party trick.

You seem to be very busy already, is it likely to get much busier in the future?

Yes, definitely. The British Championship organisers are monitoring my progress, and if they decide to help me with my career then things will get very busy. For 2007 I'm hoping to be entering the 'stars of the future' British Rally Championship. By the end of that year I hope to be competing at an international level. Beyond that I'd love to get into the World Rally Championships – that is my goal.

Have you ever encountered anything that has warded you away from rally driving or wavered your determination?

My biggest actual setback was when I lost money over the whole Nicky Grist affair. Apart from that, nothing has actually been stopping me from pursuing my career. Sometimes the work and the pressure gets me down and I wonder why I'm doing it at all. A couple of months back I was a spectator at a rally in Wales where the co-driver of Markko Martin, Michael Park, was killed in a collision with a tree. That made me think about things more carefully, and brought home just how much I have to dedicate to the sport. That gave me a new view to the dangers of the sport but I am still as determined to do well as ever before – if not, even more determined.





INTERVIEW BY DAN MURPHY

If you would like to find out more about Nick, or if you are interested in helping with sponsorship on behalf of a company, then please visit his webpage at www.nickrowland.co.uk or send an email to nick_rowland@hotmail.com.

West Highland Way



The West Highland Way adventure run marked the tenth SES staff run since the first, which was the Viking way in 1992. When I or others put up the signing on lists for these runs, several questions tend to be asked; why; what; where; who; how?

The answer to the why is for the physical and mental challenge, plus the camaraderie, and banter we exchange. In short, SES team building that brings the three schools closer together and forms friendships. We are also sponsored, and over the ten runs, we have raised thousands of pounds for local and national charities. But the big pull is the commemorative T Shirt.

What exactly is an adventure run? Well it is a combination of relays and orienteering (yes there have been times when we have got lost) across wild (important part) terrain. The last run was from Fort William near Ben Nevis to loch Lomond near Glasgow. It covered eighty plus miles and the rise and fall of the terrain was 3543m. It was a testament to the outstanding fitness of the staff: 8 females 8 males from the boys and girls schools' (no SJS this year) that over that type of wild, challenging terrain we averaged just under 10 minute miles and on one eight mile stretch under 7 minutes per mile.

Who is mad enough to take part? Well that covers to my reckoning 39 different members of staff. Mr Chadwick and Mr Froggett are the veterans of these affairs, both doing nine out of ten runs, with myself and Mr Mitchell close behind with eight. In recent years, the following have been involved – Mr Hodgson, Mrs Johnstone, Mrs Cliff, Mr Scriven, Mr Hart, Mr Holdsworth, Mrs Bennie, Mrs Holden, Mrs Evans, Mr Knowles, Mr Blissett, Ms Marshall, Mr Mills, Mr Leech, Mr Wilkes, Mr I' Anson.









Where do we run? We have done the following – we began with "The Viking Way" from the Humber to Oakham followed by "Coast to Coast" through the spectacular scenery of Lake District and Yorkshire dales, then came the "Yorkshire 3 Peaks" followed by the flatter "East Anglia Way". "The Pilgrims Way" from Winchester to Canterbury was the longest - 175 miles. Then came "The Rutland Run". A few years passed and then in 2003 I organised the first of three runs, "The 3 Peaks" within 24 hours, which took in snow running at the top of Ben Nevis, seeing a solar eclipse at daybreak on Scafel Pike. Seventeen and a half hours was the best time in the group for that run. Last year we ran Coast to Coast along "Hadrian's Wall". This year we took on the "West Highland way".

How do we go about it? Usually it involves a daybreak start, we then run 3 or more relay legs from 5 to 12 miles. The longest anybody has run was on Hadrian's Wall when two runners covered 42 miles each, we also had a mountain biker cover all 175 miles of the Pilgrims way. What is next? Who knows but it must be a big challenge!

J M Livingstone 1st October







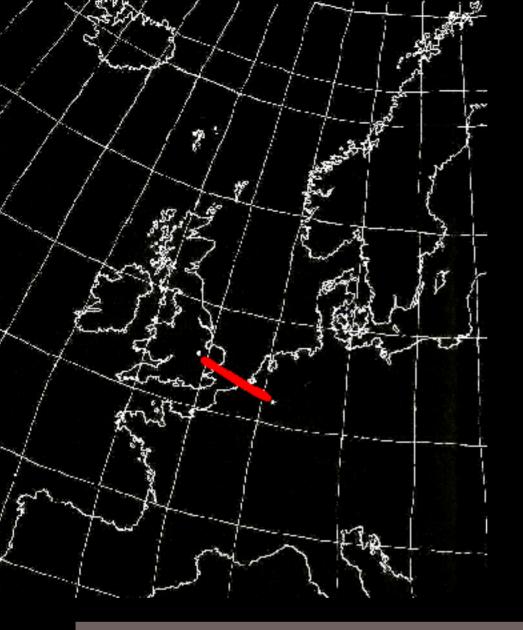












ERNST-KALKUHL-GYMNASIUM

13TH - 3RD APRIL 2005



Having been on the German exchange in 2004 to Bonn, and having had a really fantastic time staying with my host family, the Schneiders, I decided that this year, instead of going out on the day trips and visits as the previous year, I would like to do a work experience placement!

Herr Bewerunge, the deputy headmaster of Ernst-Kalkuhl-Gymnasium, our partner school, was contacted, and because I am interested in architecture and civil engineering, he found me a suitable placement in a Vermessungsbüro, a Chartered Surveyors office.

On the first morning I was greeted warmly and enthusiastically by my boss Herr Langendonk. I had put on my best suit that morning, however, when I arrived, one of the first things I was told was that I was looking far too smart, and was showing the German workers up!

I was introduced to the other surveyors in the office, who showed me their interesting projects, and I spent the week shadowing two of them. My work involved a great variety of tasks and projects from detailed technical drawing in the office to visits around the area. On one occasion I was marking out boundaries for twenty new building plots where the Japanese Embassy had previously stood when Bonn was the provisional capital of West Germany. Another day I was helping to calculate subsidence across Cologne. Our trail of points led straight up to the walls of Cologne Cathedral on the very day the city was buzzing with the announcement of the new German Pope!

Work Experience on the German exchange is a great opportunity to discover what living and working in a foreign country is like. I enjoyed my independence and I am so glad I had the chance to take part. I wish I could do it all over again! Harry Biddle.



At 7:15am on Wednesday 13th April, the Stamford Endowed Schools German exchange left for Bonn and the Ernst-Kalkuhl Gymnasium. Luckily no-one forgot their passport and the journey passed smoothly. As we arrived at the school at around 4 pm we were all very nervous about meeting our partners again, but we soon relaxed as they gave us all a warm welcome. During the afternoon, I went to play football with my partner and his friends, who also had English exchange partners, and later

I ended up playing in a basketball match with my partner and his father at a club. In typical English style, I showed no mercy and showed them how it was done!

On the second day, we went on a walking tour of Bonn - the first of many long walks! Later on in the day, I went by train to Cologne to visit the radio station where my partner's father works. He works for WDR5, the German equivalent of the BBC. I was taken to a studio and saw a live broadcast, which was very interesting. In the evening we went to a chemistry evening at the EKG which was very funny because the experiments did not always work and we could hardly understand a word!

The next day, we went to the Marksburg Castle, and then by boat down the Rhine Valley to Rüdesheim. There was meant to be a chairlift operating to take us up to the Germania memorial, but it was not open until later on in the month, and so we had to walk! Later we had a stone skimming contest at the famous Lorelei rock. In the evening, my partner, his friends, their partners and I tried

to go bowling but it was full, so we ended up by the Rhine educating them on such English traditions as chavs!

On Saturday, I went into town to buy a pink shirt, (more of that later) and in the evening we went to a party in a park by the Rhine. It was an excellent party but we were slightly worried by the people who were fire-breathing for a laugh!

During Sunday, I took the chance to relax. I watched the English version of Lord of the Rings and then Star Wars in German. We finally managed to go bowling later that day and in the Germany v England match, Germany won comfortably.

We spent the next morning at school and went in to Bonn during the afternoon as the Germans finish school at lunchtime! In the evening there was a party at the school celebrating their 125th anniversary, and the 45th year of the exchange between Stamford Endowed Schools and Ernst-Kalkuhl Gymnasium. Mr Gombault had been so 'kind' as to produce a song for us to sing at the party. It was a version of YMCA and all the boys sang in pink shirts. Considering we had about eight hours to learn it, we performed like superstars! The single is out now in all good record shops!

The next day, it rained, and I have not seen so much rain in a day for some time. The trip to Cologne was slightly hindered by that, but the Cathedral was still extremely impressive. I was one of a brave few who climbed up the 560 steps of the spiral staircase to the dome of the cathedral. Everyone enjoyed the trip to the chocolate museum, especially with all the free samples!

On Wednesday we went to the Haus der Geschichte (House of History) which was all about twentieth century German history. In the evening, one of my friends and his German partner came over to watch the German equivalent of the FA Cup semi-final. We took the opportunity to learn some German football vocabulary for the match on Friday.

During Thursday we went to the beautiful old Roman town of Trier with its Roman amphitheatre and old Roman gate Porta Negra. This involved more walking but the weather was absolutely fantastic. After this we enjoyed some free time in the town for shopping, and ended up eating ice cream sundaes at the Eiscafé.

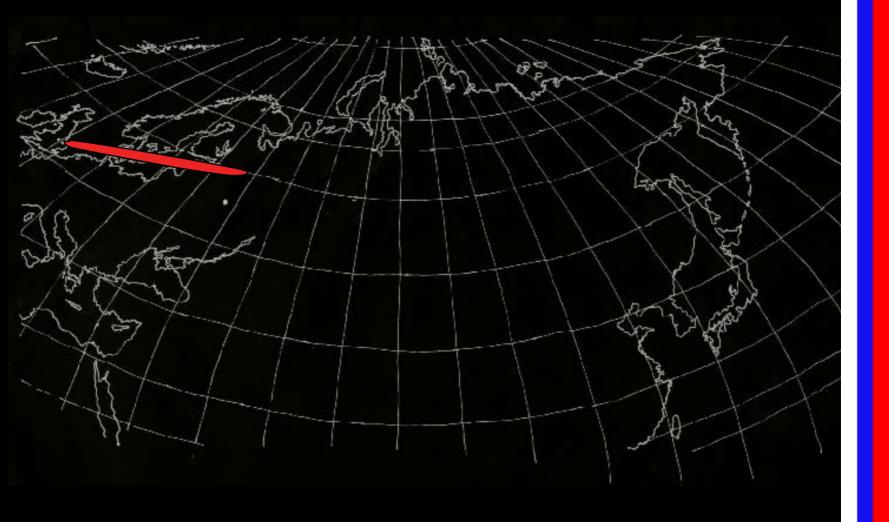
On our last full day, I had perhaps the strangest morning of my life. The school were having a 'Poetry Slam'...a poetry contest in English. We were the judges and to say some of the entries were different would be an understatement! After this we had the traditional football match. We went in to the match confident of an upset because we had beaten a few of them in the evenings in our groups. However, we were soundly thrashed 9-0. We might have won 3-0 on another day, honest! Our final evening was spent much like many others, down by the Rhine.

On the day of our departure, everyone wanted to stay on longer. A few of the group were in tears and everyone promised to stay in touch, something I am intent on doing as I have made a true friend from the exchange. We arrived back at Stamford at around 4pm, and that was that. I absolutely loved the exchange, one of the best things I have experienced in my life.

Stuart Ellis.









Россия

Русский обмен

Лицей 4, Химки

Sunday 12th – 21st December 2004

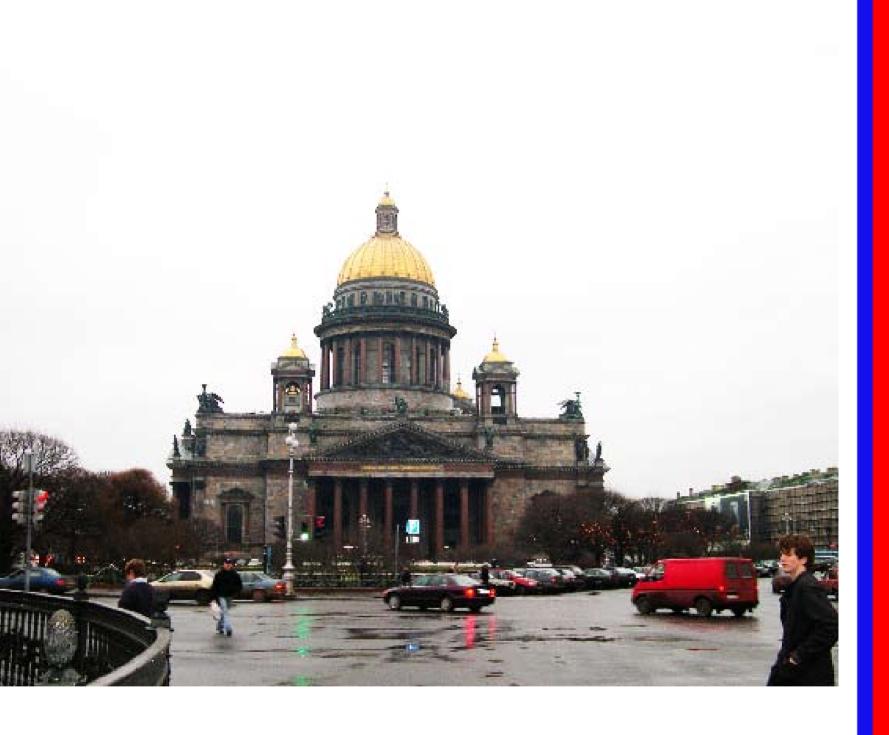
As with any Russian exchange we started in Heathrow ready to set off. We had been dropped off by Mr Bentley, and Miss Legard was getting the tickets. After an uneventful flight we arrived in Moscow to a temperature of about -3°C but no sooner did we arrive than we were whisked away by our hosts. After a rather tense one hour car journey when I tried to use some of my choice Russian phrases I arrived at Khimki. It had changed remarkably since I first came 2 years earlier. There were massive retail parks and new developments everywhere. The exchange really started the next day with the usual trip to the centre of Moscow to the Kremlin and Red Square and despite the fact that I had been before it is still an impressive sight to behold. Unfortunately we were one person short; Miss Legard had got the flu and was unable to come for the first day so it fell to Mr Dawson to lead us.

The next day we travelled to the cosmonaut training centre at Star City but once again we were short of people. Miss Legard was still ill and I had to go to hospital to have an operation on my cheek. A rather worrying experience! But luckily I was well enough to go to St. Petersburg on the train that night. This was a new section to the exchange and the one I was most looking forward to. It was fair to say that St.Petersburg didn't disappoint. The spectacular Hermitage and the cathedrals out-shone anything I had seen before.

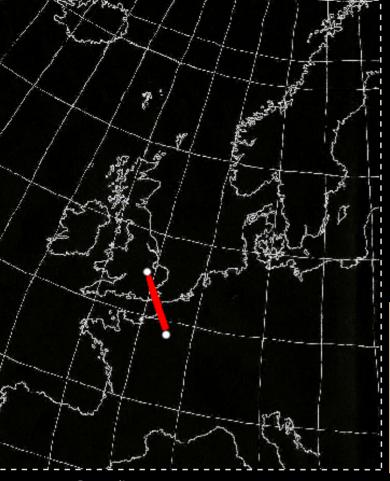
After two great days in St. Petersburg we returned to our hosts back in Khimki. We spent the remainder of the trip around Moscow visiting the Borodino panorama and a Russian folk museum. Also we went on a tour around the school which our hosts attended. It is a building with over a 1000 pupils but is no bigger than our middle school. We enjoyed a few lessons and ended with a concert given in our honour, which included comedy sketches in English, and belly-dancing. Unfortunately the trip soon came to an end with the traditional emotional goodbye in the airport. After an hour of waiting we eventually arrived on the plane and we said goodbye to Russia for another year and goodbye to our hosts until the summer.











COLLEGE SAINTE MARIE EXCHANGE

16TH - 23RD APRIL 2005





Samedi

Après un long voyage nous sommes finalement arrivés à Nemours. On est parti passer le weekend avec nos familles.

Dimanche

Nous sommes allés faire un tour du village à vélo. Nous avons fait une grande promenade à pied dans la forêt. Il a fait très beau. Ensuite nous avons rendu visite aux grandparents de mon partenaire, Lancelot. Une très bonne journée.

Lundi

Aujourd'hui nous sommes allés au collège avec nos partenaires. On a assisté aux classes le matin. À midi nous avons mangé à la cantine. Après nous sommes partis en car à la forêt de Fontainebleau. Nous avons fait une longue et fatigante balade. Le soir nous avons joué au basket chez Lancelot et je me suis couché bien fatiqué.

Mardi

Aujourd'hui je me suis réveillé à 7h. J'ai pris mon petit déjeuner et nous sommes partis à 7h30. Arrivé au collège, j'ai retrouvé tous mes amis. Nous avons attendu le car qui nous a emmenés jusqu'à Paris. Nous avons visité la tour Eiffel et le musée d'Orsay.

Mercredi

Aujourd'hui nous sommes allés à Euro Disney. Nos correspondants nous ont accompagnés au parc d'attractions. une fois dans le parc nous avions quartier libre jusqu'à 16h. Nous nous sommes bien amusés sur les grands huits.

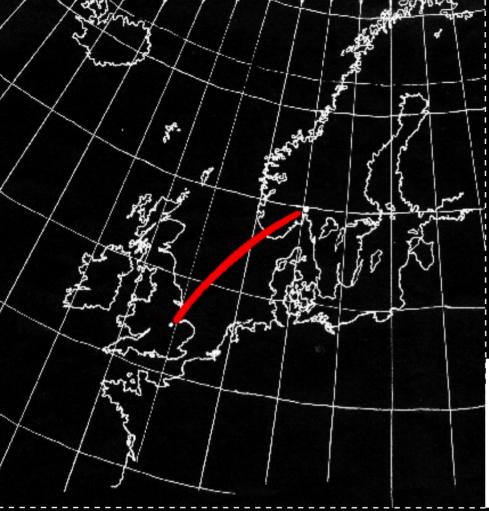
Jeudi

Comme tous les matins, nous avions rendez-vous devant le collège. Nous sommes partis pour la seconde fois pour Paris. Nous avons commencé notre visite à Notre Dame et ensuite sommes allés au quartier du Monmartre. Sur la butte de Monmartre on peut voir tout Paris. Après on s'est promené le long des Champs Elysées où nous avons fait du shopping. On est rentré à la maison à 19h. Encore une journée bien chargée.

Vendredi

Aujourd'hui nous partons pour rentrer à Stamford. Je voudrais dire merci à la famille qui m'a accueilli. Je me suis très bien amusé.





RØYKEN VIDEREGÅENDE SKOLE EXCHANGE

11TH - 18TH FEBRUARY 2005





I think it is safe to say that the cultural exchange to Norway has been a resounding successfor both staff and students. Relationships that were started in England were cemented in the return trip to Norway. Every one of us greatly enjoyed the winter sports that were on offer, particularly the skiing at Kongsberg and open-air, night time ice-skating in the centre of Oslo with our exchange partners. Although I believe all of us would have hoped for slightly more snow the frozen fjords and wooded hills were breathtaking.

During our trip we were lucky enough to be taken to see an ice hockey game of the local favourites the "Frisk Tigers". The atmosphere was brilliant and the game itself very exciting - more than a few of us left with a new found interest in the sport. We were also privileged to be allowed into the Norwegian national air-traffic control bunker, which was enthralling to look around as it was built during the Cold War to withstand a nuclear attack. There was always plenty to do either organised through the school or through our exchange partners.

All the Norwegian students and their families were very hospitable and took us under their wings on the ski slopes and around the school and nearby towns. The school itself was very different from ours, being a college for 6th form students only. It was very modern and much more informal with the students referring to their teachers by their first names and the lessons optional to a certain extent. Although we all made the best efforts to get our tongues around the language most of us found it very tricky! However, we all came away with enough to thank our hosts. We soon realised that Norwegian culture was at the same time both very similar and very different to what we would experience at home. It helped to highlight the shared history of the two countries whilst still reminding us we were in a foreign place.

I think I can speak for all of us when I say we very much enjoyed our week in Norway and any one of us would recommend the exchange to members of school considering it. I would also like to take this chance to thank the teachers who came with us, Mrs Matthews and Miss Tomlinson for a fantastically organised and thoroughly enjoyable trip.

This Page - Top Right Ski Day in Kongsberg

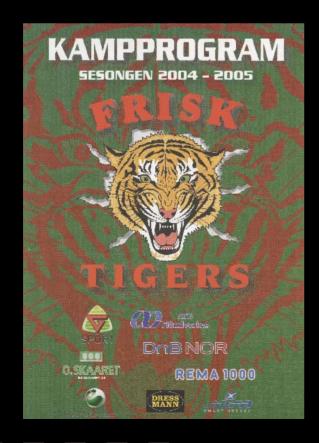
Bottom of Page - Ice Hocky Match

Opposite Page- Top Left Ice Skating in Oslo

Top Right City Hall Bottom Left Holmenkollen Ski Jump

Bottom Right Kulturkveld





















With a new year comes another ski trip and this time a large group of around 80 boys and girls from across the Endowed Schools set off on the 2005 Senior School Ski Trip to Courmayeur, Mont Blanc, Italy.

After a long journey down to Dover, the group were still in high spirits and most were looking forward to the ferry crossing. After a relatively calm crossing the group began the next leg of their journey late on Saturday evening. By this time most people were very tired and with 'Monsters Inc' being our film of the evening many people drifted off to sleep.

After a long 20-hour bus journey we arrived in Courmayeur about 11.00 on the Sunday. We then went and had ourselves kitted out with boots, skis and boards before finally being allowed into the hotel. Hotel Edelweiss would be our home for the next 6 days. We were assigned to our rooms, and then everyone relaxed, ate, and was briefed before finally setting down to some much-needed sleep.

The next day brought with it our first day of skiing and with sunny skies and everyone in high spirits, it looked as though it would be excellent, and it lived up to expectation. Everyone was assigned into groups of ability, from complete beginners right up to excellent skiers. The groups all seemed to have a good day despite the fact that there was no free ski. The first day ended with a trip to the ice skating arena in Courmayeur and afterwards most of the groups explored some of the bars.

On the second day many members of the party were feeling rather tired and under the weather after the night before, but the skiing continued again beneath sunny skies and warm weather. It was also the first day of free ski and everyone seemed to enjoy the free ski as for the first time, people were allowed to go off and ski and snowboard freely. After this the party returned to the hotel, hit the showers, got changed and went into Cormayeur. Our destination was a pizza restaurant in town with unlimited amounts of pizza, garlic bread, and salad all washed down with water and coke. For the older members of the group, however, beer and wine were the





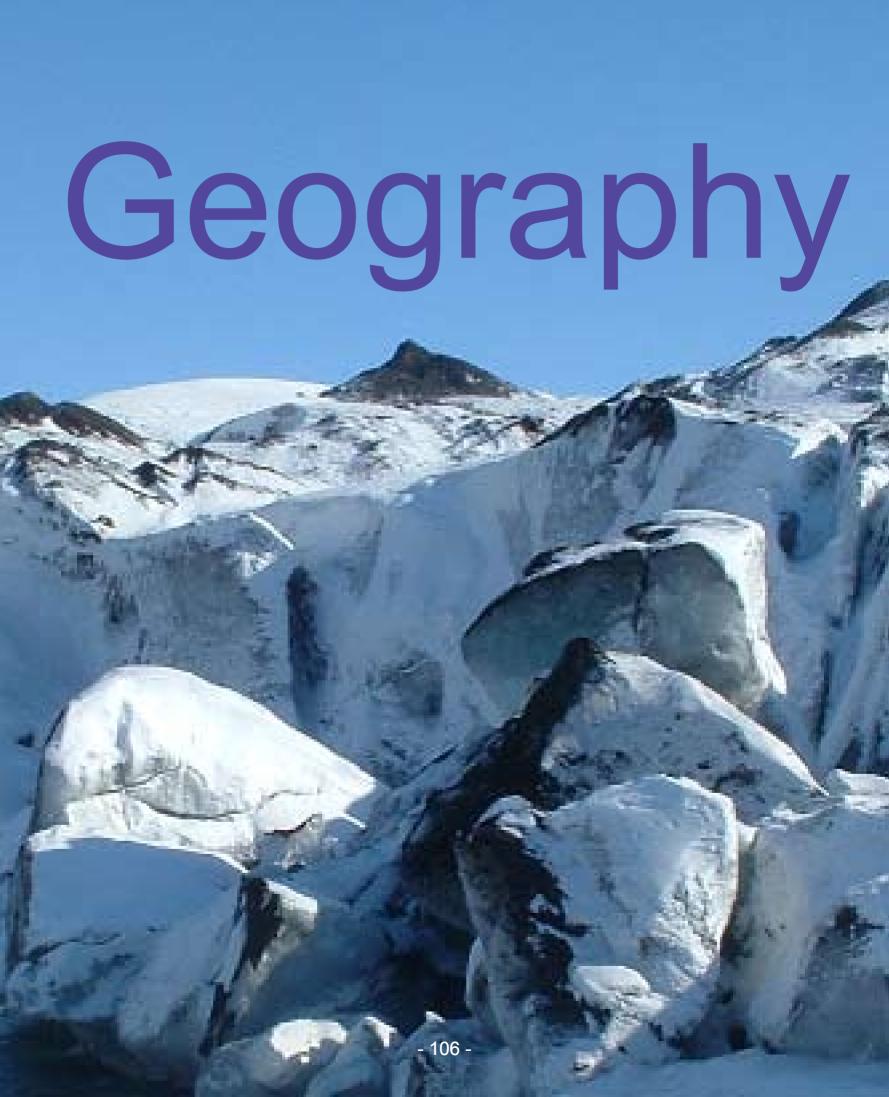
threatening some bad crashes. It wasn't long before an accident came about and Mrs Kilgren was the one who took the fall, injuring her shoulder in the process. It turned out that she had broken her arm and damaged her shoulder, and it kept her out of action for the rest of the holiday. Perhaps with this in mind and the poor snow conditions many chose not to go on the free ski at the end of the day. Instead, many preferred to go into Courmayeur before returning to the hotel. Bowling was the event of the evening and it was a good chance for many to chill out and have fun. With Charles Bennie looking after the arcade machine tokens, it wasn't long before they ran out. So after the game many chose to play or watch the snooker. The evening ended well again. Many chose to get a night's sleep before the penultimate day skiing.

It was to be another hot and sunny day on the slopes. By this stage most of the snow by the ski hire shop was all gone, and slush and isolated patches of no snow were common on most of the pistes. With the last full day of skiing ahead though, many choose to brave it out and hope for the best. All the sessions ran well, and the last free ski of the holiday also proved a success with many riding the now slushy snow really well.

The presentation evening was to be the last night's entertainment and with everyone achieving the best grades for their ability, it proved to be a happy affair with all the instructors being awarded with gifts from their groups. Afterwards, the instructors and party hit the bars and partied together long into the night.

As many opened their curtains on the last day of skiing, they were greeted by fresh snowfall and powder on the pistes. With everyone riding in knee high snow it really proved to be a great end to the holiday. After everyone had said their final goodbyes and handed all their equipment in, it was time to head back to the hotel for a final pack up and shower. After a lavish meal, which the hotel staff put on, the final room checks were done and our thanks were said. It was time to head home. The 2005 Senior Ski Trip to Courmayeur proved to be a success, with many highs, lows and funny moments. The only problem was, we had a 23-hour bus journey home!





Iceland Trip

We started our trip at school loading up mountains of kit into the trailer and piling aboard the mini bus for the journey to Stansted. After a comfortable flight we arrived in Keflavik airport in Iceland and were driven to our hotel and checked into our rooms.

Day1

The next morning we awoke to a raging snowstorm, and after a good breakfast we left Reykjavik. We arrived at our first stop, Hverageroi, where there are many geothermal greenhouses. Here there are even bananas grown where outside the temperature is well below freezing - all heat courtesy of the earth's mantle. We then headed off inland for our next visit to the Icelandic parliament at Pingvellir.

Shortly after arriving at Pingvellir (Thingvellir) we walked down the rift valley separating the European plate from the American plate. This is the only place in the world you can do this without being covered by the sea. It is still growing as fast as your fingernails and every year the two continents are a few centimetres further apart!

After Thingvellir we travelled further inland to go to Geysir. When we arrived there was a fierce snowstorm and we were nearly knocked off our feet. Here we witnessed the Geysir erupting around 5 times, which was spectacular. It was a highlight of the whole trip.

Unfortunately by this time visibility was only about 10 metres - pretty much a complete whiteout. Therefore we had to cancel our visit to Gulfoss (a huge set of waterfalls), and instead we headed off for our next hotel at Dyrholaey on the coast.

Day 2

We awoke bright and early to find the snowstorm had blown itself out, but the events from the day before were evident. Whole cars were under snowdrifts and the bus had to be dug out. Eventually we headed off to the lava fields around Vik where we saw some spectacular rock/ lava formations. Most of us collected a souvenir piece of lava and we saw the expansive sandur (or meltwater) outwash plains left by glaciers heated by volcanic action.

Later we arrived at the basalt beach below our accommodation at Dyrholaey. From here there is nothing but sea between Iceland and Antarctica. The cliffs are very unusual with tall hexagonal columns of cooled mag-



ma and the sand is all black from the volcanic output of the area.

Later that night we managed to catch a glimpse of the spectacular Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights) I think most people would agree with me that this was amazing - something that none of us will ever forget. I will not try to describe what it is like because unless you have seen it for yourself you cannot comprehend how amazing it is, any description would not give it the credit it deserves.

DAY 3

We were now half way through our trip and loving every minute of it. Today we were going to visit a glacier and also two waterfalls. First we went to the Solheimaajokull Glacier. This involved an epic bus journey by our very experienced driver, Stefan. He was a hero and navigated us safely up a very snowy track to the snout. We were not allowed to walk onto it as we could not see any fissures and we could have easily fallen down them. While walking around the base of the glacier we saw where the melt water ran out, undercutting the ice and creating caves that sparkled in the sun and that were dripping with icicles several feet long. From the glacier we headed to the first of the waterfalls called Skogafoss, This has to be one of the most impressive waterfalls I have ever seen. The water drops for around 80 metres from under the fresh layer of snow, and crashes as it falls into the deep plunge pool at the bottom. At this waterfall we were able to walk quite close to the base. As we came away from the waterfall the water froze on our waterproofs leaving us with droplets of ice covering us. We visited another waterfall just down the road at Seljandsfoss. (Foss is the Icelandic word for waterfall and jokull is the word for glacier).

Later in the day, as we were nearing Reykjavik, we stopped at an old farm house where a large crack had opened up in an earthquake in 2004. Tim Roome and Chris Jamieson both fell into the side of this to the amusement of the rest of the group, having to pull themselves out of deep snow.

We returned to Reykjavik, where we visited the Perlan viewing platform which has large geothermal storage tanks and the viewpoint on top. After this many of the group headed to the local geothermal swimming pool for an incredible outdoor swim – while it was snowing. The water was as hot as a bath and there were many Icelanders relaxing after a hard day at work.

DAY 4

This was our final day in Iceland. We first visited a geothermal power station to look at the Gjain exhibition on the power of the earth and the creation of Iceland. Then came what everyone had been waiting for - the Blue Lagoon. This is a massive outdoor geothermal pool which is piping hot. It is created with the water from a local geothermal power station and is world famous with its special blue silica mud, sauna and an incredible surrounding of lava. We spent a few hours in here with everyone in high spirits and having great fun. All too soon it was time to leave for the airport where we all sat and thought about our time in Iceland, coming to a group conclusion that we all loved it and wished we weren't leaving.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Iceland and will hopefully return there sometime, although it will never be the same without the people I went with. I made some great friends who are the only people who truly know how good this trip was. For future Geographers I will advise you that if you get the chance to go to Iceland with school - take it. It is an experience not to be missed.

Thank you to Mr and Mrs Mills who accompanied this trip, and we all wish you well down in Portsmouth. I must also thank our guide Siggy, who, although not mentioned in this article, made the trip fun and humorous throughout, and also our driver Stefan – we wouldn't have got anywhere without him (especially to the



Dorset Trip

Fifteen students from the Upper Sixth Form visited the Dorset coastline during the October Half Term of 2004. This wonderful part of the country clearly demonstrates the influence that rock type and structure play in the development of a wide variety of coastal landforms. The landscapes are stunning, beautiful and unique, and the students were able to study a number of very important landforms including Lulworth Cove, Stair Hole, Kimmeridge Bay, Durdle Door, Old Harry rocks and Chesil beach (a 29km long shingle beach that connects the Isle of Portland to the mainland). The impact of humans and flood defences at Chesil beach were also examined. Fortunately, the weather remained fine throughout and the fresh, crisp air proved a stimulating environment to work in! Mr Bucknell, Mr Mills and Miss Allen led the trip and enjoyed the hospitality of the Brenscombe Field Centre near Corfe Castle and the company of those Upper Sixth Geographers who attended.



Classics



Another Greek Odyssey... A non-classicist's perspective

Six thirty one morning, too early we woke, 'Bright eyed, bushy tailed!' was quite a poor joke. 'This had better be worth it' I for one thought, But too late now, as we left for the airport.

The first night in Athens was quite a kerfaff, Too many drunk men and too many staff. The hotel wasn't much, the rooms were quite small, No inter-room mingling, not even a pool.

Day two and the Parthenon was first on the list, But not for one chap, who preferred playing whist! We went up a hill in search of a sight, And on reaching the top, we saw Athens by night.

In the Athens museum we got value for money, It was really too long and not very funny. We leapt on the coach, without much of a fight, Past many 'big hills' and arrived at our site.



At Delphi the sun had his hat on at last, Mr Blissett then showed us all how to run fast. He took it too seriously, many agreed, But perhaps to impress Penny he wanted the lead!

Olympia played host to the very next race, But Blissett's torn groin rather slowed down the pace. Our guide here was fun and when given the chance, He showed Disco Stu a few things about dance.

We then went to Pylos, a small fishing town, Where some went swimming, but no one was drowned. This said, there were sea urchins and pupils got stung, And reports hint that A & E wasn't much fun.

Next day and more travelling, to many new sites, Up to a castle and towering heights In a classical theatre, as it poured down with rain We had endless group photos, which proved quite a pain.

Back on the coach, and by now we knew Christos, After a couple of hours we knew he had missed us, With our food and our drink on his nice new bus -We caused quite a mess, and he made a big fuss.

Final day and we searched for quite a long time, For some guy in the hillside, and for 'owt that would rhyme. Then we got on the plane and were on our way home. How about 2007, and some place called Rome?

Tom Wallington



history

Battle Fields Trip

At the end of an eventful winter term, the History Department took a party of fifty Stamford School year 9 boys on a trip to visit the battlefields of World War I across Belgium and France. At an obscenely early hour of the morning, the coach departed LMS bound for the Dover to Calais Ferry. Following what can only be described as a boisterous but exciting coach trip we arrived at our first stop - Mesines Ridge on the Ypres Salient. In an attempt to expend any latent energy the staff set all the boys a 'challenge'. We were challenged (forced!) to run as a WWI soldier would have done to get to his trench (i.e., we had to run up a hill from a farmyard back to the coach - a distance of ¾'s of a mile). Cameron Payne excelled as a WW I soldier beating us all by several minutes.

Exhausted we returned to the coach and made our way to the Tyne Cot Cemetery. Sir Herbert Baker who wanted to recreate an English churchyard in Belgium designed this cemetery. The cemetery is the largest British military cemetery in the world with almost 12,000 graves and the names of over 34,000 missing soldiers. This experience was moving and gave an incredible impression of the sacrifices made by young British men for our country.

Donning Wellingtons and waterproofs we made our way (in our now very familiar coach) to Sanctuary Wood, with its re-dug trenches and the Hill 62 Museum. Although no challenge was set by the masters the opportunity to expend the very last of our energy was overwhelming and many attempts at puddle jumping over a large water filled shell hole reduced us all to the point of exhaustion. Again the curious blend of history and actual physical evidence was amazing. To think that every footstep we took had been taken by a soldier under fire!

The last stop of the day was to the Langemark Cemetery. This is a forbidding place. All of the German graves were made of black marble and laid flat on the ground. The English graves in the surrounding cem-



eteries were white and stood proud and upright, like the backdrop to a good vs. evil American movie

Emotionally drained and slightly starving we arrived at our hotel. At the Hotel Munchenhof, accommodation was basic but comfortable. The food was not necessarily a true reflection of the country's cuisine but after the long day welcoming none the less. A vigorous and hysterical football match followed with almost all taking part. After Mr Stamp's amazing 'headers' on hands and knees and a final score of 4:3 we staggered to bed.

It was an early start the next day for the hardcore historians. We visited the Somme battlefields. Starting with the Thiepval memorial, which was an amazing memorial to 73,412 men who died between 1916 and 1917 who have no known graves. This memorial in red and cream smooth stone stands out for miles against the bare backdrop of the Somme battlefield. Behind the memorial is a small graveyard where Private Rees Hughes who died aged 28 on 8th September 1916. Private Hughes was a soldier of the Black Watch battalion and is my father's great uncle.

Our coach driver, Paul, now a familiar character then took us to Newfoundland Park where original trenches can still be seen. It was here that 1% of the total population of Newfoundland, in Canada were lost to war. The feeling of all the boys was subdued, the poignancy too dramatic for any of the usual antics. At Delville Wood a quiet and reflective group of boys and masters ate lunch. A large proportion of the group including myself recovered an amazing amount of shrapnel. A bit of retail therapy improved the boys' mood no end when they visited the souvenir shop at the site. I was amazed Customs and Excise were so lenient about the amount of ammunition and shells disguised as pens, door stops and key rings that were brought back into the country.

The visit to Lochnagar Crater, the largest crater on the Western Front was the last destination of the day, although we were advised not to walk through the crater, as there were a number of unexploded shells in the area. Cautiously we returned to the coach and the Hotel for more football, bowling and Black Jack!

On the third day, the dramatic Vimy Ridge, the scene of fierce fighting in 1917 was in store. The deep craters, dense woodlands and quad bikes were memorable features.

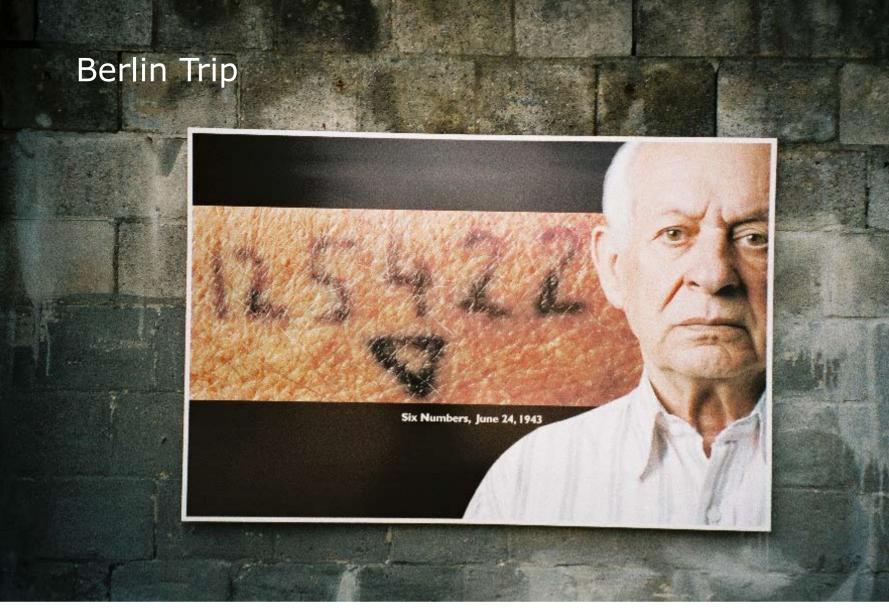
Following a packed lunch the exceptional cemetery at Notre Dame de Lorette was unquestionably the best place to study the French experience of the war. Our story- telling coach driver then whisked the party swiftly back to the hotel for supper and then on to an evening visit to the Menin Gate Memorial and a unique opportunity to take part in the Last Post Ceremony performed by local fire men and women. This moving experienced was sweetened by a visit to the local chocolatier where most of the boys purchased large quantities of very fine Belgium chocolate.

Thursday began with a scramble to load luggage and Wellingtons into the coach ready for the return home. At the Cloth Hall the 'In Flanders Fields' Exhibition showing the horrors of war, particularly the gas exhibition showing the effects of gas on a WWI soldier imprinted themselves on my mind more than any other museum exhibit.

And so to the last leg of the journey ... after a long but leisurely coach trip with entertainment from the 'Boys at the Back' the ferry sailed us from the French shores to England and the drive home accompanied by more unique and original stories from the coach driver, though both words mean the same the stories were neither!

My thanks on behalf of all the boys who attended the trip extends to each master whose relentless enthusiasm, energy and foresight made history more like play. Lots of travel, good hospitality and a fine homecoming: a story worthy of any battle-scarred soldier returning home

Michael Morgan-Williams



We all arrived at the school car park tired, but quietly excited. After checking we had our passports three times over, an uneventful minibus ride (we were all falling asleep), and a short time at Stansted, we set off for Berlin with high hopes.

A sense of relief came over us as we arrived at the Youth Hostel. However, there was no time to look around and, after a few minutes, Mr. Brown's carefully planned timetable sprung into action! Our first visit was to the Checkpoint Charlie museum, which, despite being crowded, showed the various means by which Germans attempted to escape across the border to West Germany. After a good look round, we discovered attempts ranging from a mother pushing her baby through the checkpoint in a shopping trolley as the guards turned their backs, to driving an armoured car through the checkpoint. Such a car is still intact and on display at the museum, complete with a great number of bullet holes.

Mr. Brown then led us, on foot despite the terrible weather, to the famous Reichstag via the now-finished Holocaust Memorial, which is situated on top of Hitler's bunker. We then moved on to the awe-inspiring Brandenburg Gate and the magnificent Unter den Linden Street. This gave us a very real picture of what the parades and marches in Nazi Germany must've looked like, and the pretzel stand nearby only enhanced our enjoyment. The Reichstag was also an architectural spectacle (if only it wasn't pouring down with rain). Unfortunately, the queue was far too long. So we began the long trek back to the hostel for dinner and rest. After dinner, in which we debated the flavour of our 'fruit' juice, and a shower, our first trip to the pub began. After a short walk we arrived at a small pub complete with a dartboard and pool table, which were immediately popular. After a drink, pool games and darts competitions, we began the much more entertaining walk back home. Due to Mr. Brown's knack for spreading great enthusiasm for his subject, we all looked forward to the rest of the trip.

Saturday 9th

We should've known why Mr. Brown insisted an early return. We were woken-up terribly early for an all-day trip to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. Despite the long journey on the amazingly efficient subway system, what we saw at Sachsenhausen made up for it. The gates reading 'Arbeit macht frei' (Work sets you free), the outdoor showers, the track used to run prisoners on endlessly to test army boots, and a visit to a barracks and human experimentation centre, not only gave us a sense of how efficient the camp was, but also made our trip to the camp a thoroughly interesting if depressing experience. Mr. Brown's tour of the camp, although we couldn't tour the gas chambers, completed our stay. We learnt of the horrendous living conditions endured by the prisoners and the inhumane ways in which the SS guards treated them.

We were taken to a very different pub that night as Mr. Brown said visiting the pub was more for the experience, which raised some suspicions. The 'experience' turned out to be sharing a huge bowl by using long catheters. There were about 4 per bowl. Odd, yes, but it's always nice to try something new.

Sunday 10th

The next day was a busy one. After the usual train ride we arrived at the Olympic Stadium. It was a truly awesome example of Nazi architecture. There were statues of Aryans dotted around the place and we were taken aback by the sheer massiveness of the structure. We ascended the Bell Tower, which was so high a few of us were hesitant at first. From here, we had magnificent views of the stadium, the vast entrance from which the spectators entered, and the enormous bell which boasted a huge hole courtesy of a flak gunner.

Our next stop was the Stasi museum. This was housed in the former headquarters of the Stasi, the East German Secret Police. Here, we learnt about the tactics used by the Stasi to spy on people and to gain information efficiently, which ranged from keeping huge archives of body odours, each representing one of their victims, to simply torturing captives for information. As well as this, the offices and meeting rooms of Stasi officials, as well as those of the leader, Erich Mielke, were left as they were at the time of the fall of East Germany. We could clearly see the differences in quality of technology each side of Germany used. A fantastic museum, given the fact that, due to the Stasi's ruthless history, the Government is threatening to cut its funds!

We then visited another tower, the Fernsehturm in the centre of Berlin. The 362-metre-high TV tower gave us spectacular views over all of Berlin, and for the first time we saw the huge difference between East Berlin and West Berlin's architecture.

It was our last night, so Mr. Brown, as part of our night out, treated us to a meal at Pizza Hut (finally, a taste of German cuisine!). Afterwards, we again graced our favourite pub with our presence. It was an entertaining night, and after Robert Batten had bought an unusual amount of roses and games of pool and darts, we returned to the hostel.

Monday 11th

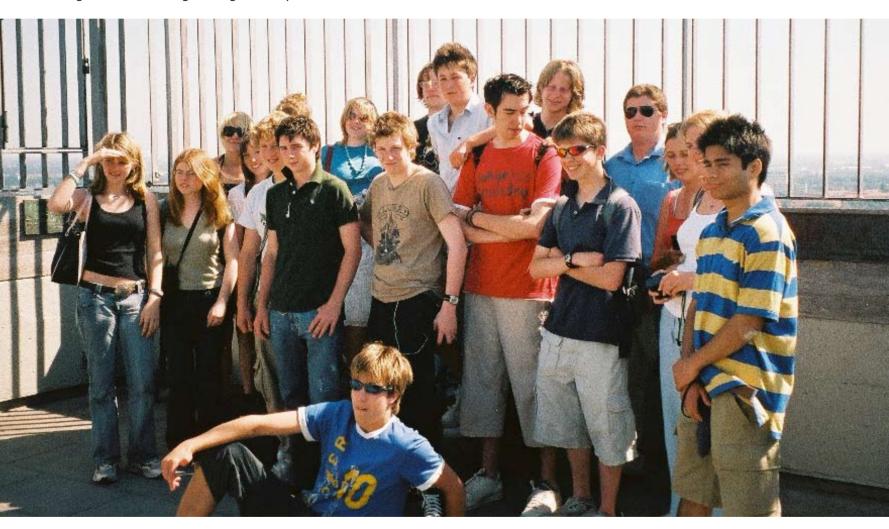
On our last day, the weather was perfect. Therefore, conditions were ideal for a boat trip, a visit to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, and a wander round the shops of Berlin. However, Mr. Brown first took us to the German Resistance museum, the same building where General Beck and his staff, who themselves attempted to take Hitler's life, conduct their affairs. Inside, there were stories of Germans from all walks of life who dared to defy National Socialism. As usual, Mr. Brown complimented them with his tour, enlightening us with the fact that many of the rooms of the museum were offices of high ranking German officials, such as von Stauffenberg, the man behind the July Bomb Plot of 1944, which almost succeeded in killing Hitler.

Mr. Brown took us through the huge, modern Sony centre and after a long lunchtime rest, we headed off to the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. It was a remarkable sight. The original church, still standing, was bombed heavily and half destroyed. It is a shame that such an architectural feat is now covered in scars and holes, which show tourists the extent of the bombing. It is now a museum and houses a cross of nails, given to the church by Coventry, a city also reeling from bombing raids, as a sign of goodwill. The new church next to the memorial was an ultra-modern building made mostly with panes of stained blue glass. After this short visit, we all went our separate ways to sample Berlin's shops and stalls. We were also lucky enough to stumble across a group of breakdancers and a particularly hilarious man, who possessed the invaluable skill of making very, very funny faces. Max Craston and Tom Hammond had the pleasure of a photo opportunity.

Back at the Youth Hostel, we packed our bags and reluctantly said goodbye to our hosts (and some Italians who got to know Alex Jarvis a bit too well). After a long train journey, we arrived at Berlin Schönefeld Airport and presented the teachers with gifts we had bought during our shopping excursion. Mr. Brown, Mrs. Fox and Ms. Lesser thoroughly deserved the appreciation for their efforts in making the trip an entertaining as well as educational trip.

After some remembrance and reflection on the trip, we went through the usual security checks, where we were all mercilessly frisked and where Richard Fuller, in an amusing moment, turned round to find a vast security guard inches from his face. During our wait, the mood amongst the group was tired, but nonetheless good. We were all sad to leave, but also ready to go home.

The journey home went by with few mishaps. That was, until myself and Alex lost our passports. Despite our desperate attempts to find them, we were unsuccessful, and we were only let through the last security check by the kindness of a lady at the desk. After that particular hair-raising moment, we piled into the minibus and headed for Stamford School Car Park. We arrived at 1:45 am (exactly as Mr. Brown predicted in the itinerary), said goodbye and went home. We were all very weary after an excellent four days. However, the trip would've been nothing without Mr. Brown's generosity, organisation and light-hearted attitude. Credit must go to him for organising this trip to Berlin.



Lincoln Trip

On Tuesday 28th June Yr 7 went to Lincoln on a history trip. We went to visit the wonders of the castle and the cathedral, and we had a trip down the steep hill (no prizes for guessing how it got its name!) and a trip round the museum. My group stared in the Victorian rooms in the museum, though they all seemed to be 1945 – they were doing a one year exhibition on the war to commemorate the 60th anniversary of V.E day. This meant that the questions in the booklet about Victorian rooms were quite hard to answer! Then we went into the transport museum and managed to find a good video which saved us reading lots of

signs. Unfortunately we did have to draw the plan of a tank, and although this sounds simple a missing ruler and flat surface were needed.

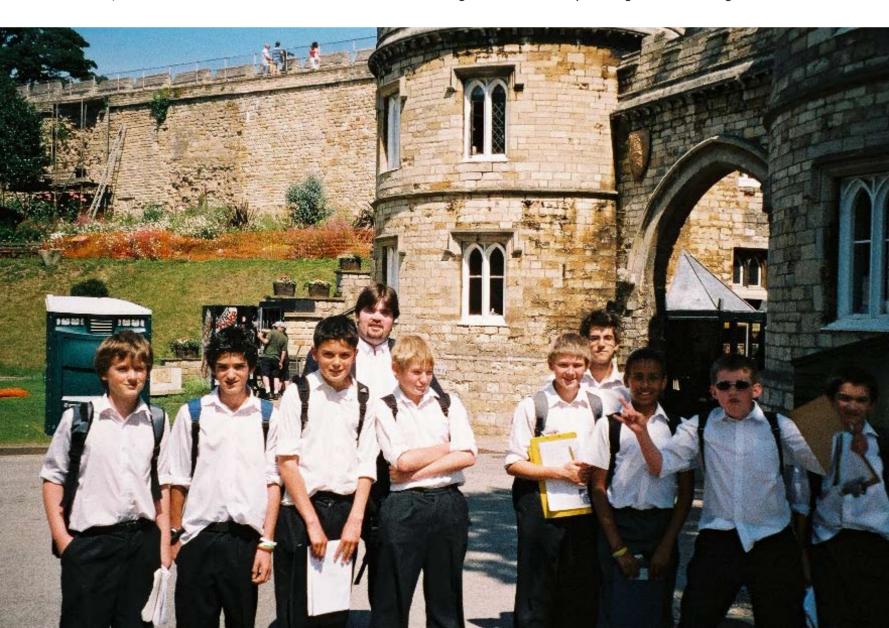
We then proceeded to visit the cathedral where a familiar guide who happened to have the same name and appearances as our divinity teacher (Mr Wilkes), gave us a very good tour. Probably the two most memorable facts are:

- 1. The Lincolnshire imp. This cheeky chap had been sent by the devil himself along with a sidekick to cause mayhem in the cathedral. His sidekick wouldn't go inside, but this little fellow caused chaos inside. But thankfully the angels turned him and his sidekick to stone.
- 2. A series of unfortunate events. William the Conqueror built the cathedral, but mainly from wood. A fire burnt it down. They rebuilt the cathedral, mainly of stone. An earthquake took it down. St. Hugh rebuilt it, all stone and magnificent. The ceiling fell down. Luckily there were no more tragedies but who knows....

We then had lunch, mercifully. It was odd that it was the first time I had brought extra water, and the first time we were given extra water. Life's not fair! Much trading and bartering went on: one person managed to end up with three packets of biscuits but no drink whatsoever, and another with twice as much as he had started with!

After lunch we went to the castle and its grounds. To put it simply, the walls were big. The climb was steep. The castle was huge. It was amazing to see that nearly 1000 years ago people could build such things. We went up to Lucy's keep and found a graveyard with initials and a date on the small headstones. On the way back down the 54 steps my classmate decided he didn't like steps so he went onto the grass bank and slid on his bottom down the hill. Only when he was covered in grass did he remember about his hay fever!

As we proceeded around the grounds we came to a prison. We eventually got round to seeing the Magna Carta, inside the fort. It was a lot smaller than I had imagined. I had always thought it was in a giant box





which covered about a 5m by 5m grid, but instead it was about an A3 piece of square paper. Luckily we just had time to see the Prison Chapel. After a couple of minutes of looking round and giving each other sermons on how eating Mars Bars every day would increase our chances of going to heaven, we had a little talk by the one way door, where one of our classmates had been locked out!

Finally we went on a walk down the steep hill. At the bottom of the hill we looked at the "Jews House" and Mr. Stamp tried to get us figure out how we could tell it was Jewish, and after 5 painful minutes of "it's got Jew's house written on it?" we got an answer. I'm not going to spoil it for you Yr 7's so I'll keep the answer to myself! Of course Mr. Stamp got his payback, making us have a race back up the steep hill. The losers were sour and blamed the person who won.

Then, at last, we returned to school at a surprising 5:00, and the day was done.









Upper Sixth Rugby Tour to Ireland: October 2004

Frightday

I knew this was going to be another excellent tour from the moment our jet touched down at Knock airport. The entire tour party reached to reclaim their belongings from the overhead lockers. Just then, a very striking colleen with a West Coast brogue began a conversation with 'Geoff' Flather, our tour captain. 'What are you boys up to, then?' she asked, with a twinkle in her eye.

We're on a rugby tour' he replied gallantly.

'Oh really? And whereabouts are you touring?'

'Ireland!' came the wholly serious reply.

This was by no means the only faux pas of the week, but it probably was the funniest.

Soon afterwards we met our coach driver Tommy and we set off for Galway with the strains of a specially commissioned tour CD ringing in our ears. We met our hosts from St Joseph's, Galway, and headed off into the evening for our first taste of Irish hospitality.

Shatterday

Our first match took place at the ground of the famous Irish League side, Galwegians.

Lock forward Seb Richardson made an early bid for player of the tour by running in two 'Barbarian' style tries during what eventually became a comfortable 42-0 victory. Flather and Park also crossed the line, and full back Matt Lieper racked up 21 points in an impressive display.

However, our pleasure was tempered by the cruel injury that befell 1^{st} XV skipper Richard Sedgely during thewarm up. Sadly, this accident was to keep Richard off the pitch for the whole of the tour. He spent much

of the rest of the week filming anything that moved.

On Saturday afternoon, we watched a Celtic League clash between Connacht and Edinburgh, before returning into town to watch the sun go down on Galway Bay.

Shunday

Next morning we headed north, through the beautiful Hills of Connemara, to the delightful seaside resort of Westport, where, during a lively session of paint balling, Aaron Woodford, our Aussie gap student, proved a surprisingly popular target.

Moanday

Suitably refreshed, we arrived the next morning in Sligo where we renewed our rivalry with Sligo Grammar School. At half time we trailed a tough and skilful side by a fair margin. Following some wise words from the coaches we rallied successfully, and with tries from Johnny Lawrence and Will Mellor, backed up by excellent kicking from Will Clough, we secured a hard-fought 20-15 victory.

Tearsday,

Travelling ever further north, we paused awhile at the picturesque village of Drumcliff to pay homage at Yeats' grave. We then wound our way to Donegal where we spent a leisurely afternoon exploring the town before enjoying a meal with the entire tour party.

Wailsday

Our final tour match was against Strabane Grammar School. Strabane is a very interesting town that straddles the border between Ulster and the Irish Republic. Our players were temporarily put off their stroke by the skimpy school uniforms worn by the many female spectators who surrounded the pitch, but they focused sufficiently on the match to win 35 –7. Needless to say, all members of the party were delighted to finish the tour unbeaten. We then moved to our hotel in the interesting town of Limavaddy, where we spent our final evening.

Thumpsday.

En route to Derry airport the next day, we visited the impressive Giant's Causeway. Following this, an educational trip around the Bushmills' distillery seemed both an inevitable and appropriate ending to a very convivial tour.

On the final leg, from Stansted to Stamford, a number of prizes were awarded. Best back of the tour was Rod Park, best forward Will Mellor, and best tourist Richard Flather. But it wasn't merely on the rugby field that the boys' combative instincts came to the fore. Tim Roome won the 'tackiest souvenir under 5 Euros' competition, with a foul musical fridge magnet.

DL

Stamfordian rugby report an overview

The 2004-2005 season will be fondly remembered by all those involved. It saw the unearthing of new talent and many many competitive fixtures in the wind, rain and sunshine of the usual English Autumn. The First and second XV enjoyed successful seasons as did the Under 15A XV. The stand out teams however were the under 12 and under 14A side who both marched their way through their respective fixture lists only losing one match. Over 300 boys have represented the school and even more have represented their house with the new Tens and Sevens competitions. The Upper VI tour to Ireland was again a success returning home battered and bruised but undefeated. All in all another very healthy year! There is evidence to suggest that next year could be even better. A great deal of work goes into the season and great applause and thanks must go to all the coaches and referees who give up so much time and to all our support staff in the dining room and on the grounds. Here's to 2005!

FIRST XV RUGBY REPORT - 2004

With eight players in the squad that had played for the 1st XV in 2003 the team had experience and a determination to improve on the last season. From the pre season training in Durham the experience soon got passed on to the new team members and the team gelled very well. The determination of all the players to succeed and represent the school paid off with more wins than losses and some great individual and team performances.

Unfortunately we returned to Stamford with a few experience players injured. Johnny Goodson managed to twist his ankle whilst vice captain Will Clough had his ankle damaged by the ruthless Richard Baker. Despite these injuries the majority of the squad returned fit and eager. The first match was against Stowe. On a warm afternoon Will Mellor led the boys to a victory. Johnny Lawrence cut the Stowe backs to pieces. John Cleveland is a renowned rugby school and a heavy side to play against. It was our first performance at home and with a large group of supporters which was to be seen throughout the season the team had their second win. The pre season training was paying off.

Unfortunately we then saw a dip in performance losing our next three matches. Oundle School were probably the only team in the season which were noticeably better than us. Although we lost to them we tried extremely hard, never giving up right to the end of the match. On the other hand our performances away at Bedford Modern and Trent College were poor and easily our worst of the season.

Mount St Mary saw the return to fitness of Will Clough linked with his terrier of a scrum half Phillip Streit who was maturing into a great first team player. It was great to see the team return to form and come away with a comfortable win.

A new fixture for Stamford School was Rugby School, the home of rugby. The very fact that we were playing on the pitch where the game was invented seem to really lift the performance. We were ahead for most of the game with our defence managing to stop every attack the opposition made.

The second of the local derby's was against Oakham. We dominated the match and the final result should have been a win but at the end of the day we lost the match and everyone was exhausted and extremely disappointed.

Bedford School was another new fixture and as with Oakham it was a game that we should have won. After these two close losses the team became more determined than ever and this resulted in wins for all the remaining fixtures. Gresham and Nottingham High were both away matches with the performance against Nottingham High being the best of the season. Princethorpe College and Loughborough were not as strong as the teams we had recently played but this did not mean a drop in intensity with the key to our success being our strong defence and the simplicity with which we played the game.

This leads us to the final match of the season, against Uppingham. For the upper sixth players a win was the only outcome. A large crowd of parents and school members gathered to create an intense yet inspiring atmosphere. The team did not let the support down with every player doing their job. It was a close game but one in which we always had a slight advantage. The back page of the Stamford Mercury the following week said "Stamford finish with a flourish"

It was a great year to play Rugby at Stamford School with Mr Laventure's guidance being exceptional throughout and the support by parents, staff and boys was highly appreciated by the team. In addition to the first team season we were also hosts to a touring side from Chile and went on our own tour to Ireland made up of all the upper sixth players from the firsts to the fourths.

2nd XV Rugby report 2005

After an exhausting pre season trip to Durham and the loss of the second team captain James Barker to the firsts the seconds started the season with 6 fixtures in the first 3 weeks. In the absence of the captain, vice captain Richard Flather took on the captaincy – as it turned out for the first half of the season. The season opened with a tricky fixture against John Cleveland College. This is always a physical game and would be a stern test. In the end a well organised pack led by Paul Batten and Tim Roome, whose lineout work throughout the season was of a high order. This match saw the try scoring machine ofum.....prop James Allan shift in to gear (he was to end the season as the top try scorer!) In the end Stamford won a close game 14 -12.

It is the start of the season which sees the second team play a number of local first teams. This year we produced 2 of our finest performances against Kings Peterborough and Spalding Grammar. In both matches we scored over 40 points. The forwards showed that, despite not being a big pack, we would punch well above our weight and control the break down area. The mobile pack was quick to the break down and then Mossy would arrive to lend his considerable support! Guy Margetts quickly learnt his trade at scrum half, making incisive breaks and getting his forwards moving up the pitch.

The win over Oakham 25-5 was a good performance which saw the side grow in stature. We were starting to control games. Keeping possession and building up phases. Adam Rimmer, standing in at 8 for James Barker, was starting to make some telling runs and Richard Flather was controlling the backs. Richard's kicking game meant that the opposition would often find themselves back in their own half. In addition the younger players like Matthew Plumb and Tom Lindley started to contribute more and more both on their decision making and ball carrying.

One of the teams most memorable matches was away to play Rugby school for the first time. Playing on the main fields next to the William Webb- Ellis statue at the birth place of rugby football was a special treat.

Accordingly the second team acquitted themselves well with a 25 – 5 victory. This match marked the return of James Barker, who marked a return with a needless sin bin in front of his father – a careless piece of rucking, James! Around half term we were forced into a couple of changes. The influential hooker, Duraid Jalili, broke his thumb forcing Matthew Plumb and other to hooker. Also injury led to Patrick Burke moving into the back row where he flourished, adding some real oomph!

In the final part of the season we had good wins over Greshams, Notts High and Bedford School. Arguably our best performance was against Loughborough when, as they say, everything clicked. It was a dry but windy day which meant that the team decided to play with the ball in hand. In this game the 'total rugby', so often talked of happened. Tom Lindley and James Ogden in the Centre along with Paul Sargeant at full back regularly ripped through the Loughborough defence. Stephen Mills had returned from long term injury to add extra pace on the wing and often Loughborough could not cope with the pace and support of the Stamford team. Guy Margetts was exceptional in this game.

Once again the support for the seconds was exceptional and I would like to thank all the parents for turning out and support. My thanks to Mr Lennie for his refereeing and Mr Laventure for the use of his phenomenal rugby brain. My main thanks to the players for making this job so enjoyable both on and off the pitch. Gents, it's been a pleasure.

JPH

3rd XV Rugby Report (2004) – for Stamfordian

After the "dizzy heights" of last season when we were victorious in the majority of our matches, this has been a far less successful campaign for the 3rd XV. All of the outstanding players from last year's squad had either left the School or had deservedly graduated to a higher team. This meant that only a few stalwarts in Year 13 were left with us and so the greater part of the squad was composed of ex U16B players. Some of these younger players acquitted themselves very well throughout the season but the overall lack of quality in the team did not enable us to cope with the more accomplished sides on the circuit. At least the three games in which we emerged as winners were dealt with in some style and we chalked up no less than 170 points in the process. We played particularly well in all departments against Loughborough GS in the penultimate match of the season and this compensated, to some extent, for many of the previous disappointments. Before this we were very unlucky in the game against Rugby School when we were beaten 19-20 after a valiant revival in the second half. However, it must be said that in all the other games we were defeated fairly and squarely since we simply did not possess the necessary "ammunition" to floor the opposition.

Finally, my thanks go to Seb. Richardson who did a good job in his sometimes unenviable role as captain and to Mr. Pike who did his best to inspire the squad with his customary superlative style of coaching during the week. Personal report number 27 to follow next year?!

Squad: S. Richardson, M. Waik, J. Dedynski, B. Worley, L. Rudd, R. French, H. Jackson, T. Masters, T. Hammond, M. Gent, M. Dorr, D. Robottom, P. Dawson, J. Shipp, M. Howitt, L. Doddington-Boyes, P. Nelson, J. Pearce, J. Holland

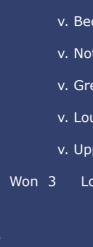
v. Spalding GS.	Lost	12-19
v. Bedford Modern	Won	24-0
v. Oundle	Lost	0-51
v. Mount St. Mary	Won	82-0











v. Rugby Lost 19-20 v. Oakham Lost 0 - 417-20 v. Bedford Lost v. Nottingham Lost 3-17 v. Gresham`s Lost 3-37 v. Loughborough GS. Won 64-0 v. Uppingham Lost 0 - 41

Played 11 Won 3 Lost 8 For 214 Against 246

G.E.M.

U16A RUGBY

It was a very difficult season for Joe Allen's team as the results of 'won 1 lost 11' clearly indicate. Huge credit must go to the whole squad who turned up regularly for training always believing that victory would come soon. It is a great sign of character of all the players that each match was approached with fresh hope and we never really gave up. Each performance got better and better and that is what really counts. Our forwards, though committed and industrious, didn't manage to supply enough quality ball for the backs to use effectively. Huge amounts of effort from Wallington, Michels and Jones often proved unproductive due to lack of support at vital times and as a general, rule we were just a bit too slow to breakdowns. The backs didn't penetrate defensive lines on a regular basis and the lack of any real pace was a limitation to the attacks we launched. Dan Cracknell developed into a safe and steady full-back but was often left with too much to do defensively.

On several occasions there was some excellent work in the mid-field by captain Joe Allen and by scrum half Laurent Ross who was very effective around the base of the scrum in attack and defence. He also put his foot-balling skills to good use chipping through the defence on many occasions. It was a pity we could never really capitalise fully on these probing attacks.

I have no question that all of the team gave what they could to their rugby and that they all developed as players, the results of which we will no doubt see in senior rugby sides next year.

15 A Rugby Report

The rugby season beckoned and all the players were anticipating what could be our first unbeaten season in a Stamford School shirt, if we were to do this then we would have to overcome a tough set of fixtures

including Oundle, Oakham, Uppingham and Rugby. There was only a short time to prepare before the first match so we were unsure how the match would turn out, especially as we hadn't played John Cleveland College before.

We went into the first game full of confidence. Our fitness had clearly dropped over the holidays, but a well-worked try from Felgate and an excellent solo score from 14 A recruit Guy Michels, both in the second half, saw us home comfortably 14-0.

Our first away game of the season saw us return to Spalding Grammar School where we managed a comfortable win 24 points to nil.

We travelled to Bedford Modern after a heavy night at Beckingham CCF camp. David Purcell and Josh

Cutteridge were both sidelined by injury adding to our troubles and the Bedford Modern forwards rucked us off the park and their backs ran in for simple tries. It ended 22-5. The dream of an unbeaten season had gone.

After the disappointment of Bedford we returned to play Trent College. We battled hard despite their pack being bigger than us, but clear decision making were our downfall. Trent levelled the scores a few minutes before the end and our die hard defending in the forwards earned us a well deserved draw against good opposition.

After 2 wins, a loss and a draw in the opening matches came the local derby, Oundle vs. Stamford. After a try conceded in the first minute Stamford came back with grit and determination. The score at half time was 10 all. After a reality check from Mr Williams we managed to play some excellent rugby with forwards and backs interlinking well. Although we didn't play our best rugby in the second half a win is a win and victory against Oundle made it even sweeter.

Against Mount St Marys College Andrew Fowler scored a wonderfully executed try after going through all the back line's hands before scoring in the corner. Further tries came from half way line dashes from loose-head prop, David Purcell, second row, Liam McEntee and flanker Mark Bond, all converted in fine form by Sam Edwards. The match ended 31-0 with Liam McEntee getting man of the match.

Perhaps our easiest game of the season was against Deacons. William Felgate was man of the match for controlling the backs well as well as his two tries.

One of the performances of the season came against the inventors of rugby, Rugby School. An early try from Dominic Bangay and a penalty from Edwards gave us confidence and at half time a lead of 8 points to 5. Early in the second half Rugby scored twice and meant we were 11 points behind, but our secret weapon, Guy Michels scored twice and earned us an excellent win.

The next of our big rivals was Oakham. We were confident of winning but it was the first match back after half term and we may have just gone of the boil with the match ending 28-19

Unfortunately our next game was another disappointment against Bedford School.

Nottingham High school marked a change back to form with an excellent first half in which Sam Edwards scored twice and the forwards dominating play. The second half wasn't as good as the first but it still was a decisive victory 24-5.

The next match continued our good play with a victory over the notoriously good Greshams school.

We then faced Princethorpe College. This game was little more that a practice session with numerous tries and many excellent solo runs. The match ended an impressive 53-0.

The next match was against Loughborough. It was an excellent match with a brilliant performance from the whole team against a respectable school.

Uppingham was perhaps the toughest game of the season for Stamford with the team never taking their chances when they came and many mistakes being made by all players, but there was one piece of magic with Sam Edwards excellent solo try set up by Felgate.

Although we did not achieve the so far illustrious unbeaten season we did go an unbeaten 8 games at home. Long may the success of this team continue!

By Liam McEntee and Henry Ker

Under 15B Rugby Report

The under 15 B squad enjoyed their rugby and were a hard working group. After a well-contested draw, with John Cleveland College, the results in the first few weeks were disappointing. A side with less determination might have lost their will to improve, not this group: led by Jak Garner, when he wasn't on A team duty, the boys worked hard in the training sessions for which I am very grateful to Mr.Pike for his efforts and inspiring practices.

After a big defeat at Oakham the game against Oundle was very well contested and saw the side develop some belief. This was partly due to outstanding tackling by Josh Sweet, there were times when he seemed to be holding the opposition backs at bay on his own. The forwards were well led by Carl Downer, Tim Allan kicked well and Garner kept encouraging all to work hard.

Wins against Mount St.Mary's and Rugby School followed, Graeme Bacon was beginning to have a greater influence in the forwards and Tim Allan in the backs as he varied his passing and kicking to good effect. Slava Malyshevsky scored his first try against Rugby and he has the potential to become a powerful influence in the future when he learns the rules and greater self-discipline.

There followed a fine match with Bedford School, the result in no way reflects the play, although Bedford controlled the early play Stamford held them out until shortly before half time. In the second half Stamford controlled the play and got a score back. Unfortunately while we were pressing the Bedford side made a couple of breakaways, with fast backs, and built a healthy lead.

Apart from a heavy defeat against Uppingham the second half of term saw good wins against Greshams and

Loughborough GS and a well-contested draw with Notts High.

All in all this was a thoroughly enjoyable season with a very enthusiastic group of players. A number such as Jon Yeates, Bob Johnson, Adam Hunter, Jon Bedford and Chirag Faldu did not get many opportunities to perform but when they did always contributed well to the team's performance. It was also very pleasing to have the international students Malyshevsky and Joe Hanback come in to the squad and challenge the experienced hands.

MRB

Under 14A Rugby report for the Stamfordian 2005

Could the side build on last years very successful season? This would be difficult on such a strong fixture list and the combination of injuries and the wonderful English weather would contribute to a frustrating but ultimately successful season.

The season kicked off home against at Stowe School in beautiful sunshine and perfect conditions for running rugby. Great work from Cunnew, Jones and Plant up front set a great platform for the side to run in three scores. A Stowe try in the last minute provided some tension but ultimately a home win.

The visit of Oundle saw a frustrating game go the way of the visitors even though top games from Cole and Michels put the home side ahead twice. The following week produced a fine display against Princethorpe College. Almost as pleasing as the 9 tries scored were the zero points conceded. A fine effort by all but a mention must go to Dowdell, Fairbarn and Stoddart who were outstanding.

A week later saw a similar result as a dry day brought with it entertaining attacking rugby. Another fifty pointer and not a point conceded as all the hard work on the training pitch was starting to pay dividends. New A team member Charles Wilson had a stormer alongside fellow lock John Murphy.

Seven days later the team finished the half term in style running in 8 tries against Deacons School. On a glorious Sunday, RGS Newcastle appeared on the scene for their annual weekend trip. This was a great game in many respects. In an entertaining and very physical affair both teams traded blows for most of the game. It was however the power and strength of the home pack that did the damage. RGS could not cope and 32-12 was a fair reflection.

The visit of Uppingham proved to be the tough physical encounter. Outstanding rucking and ball carrying from Griffin, Murphy and Cole did the damage for Michels and co. to deliver the killer blows. It was a very well fought victory.

Loughborough Grammar School failed to cope with the power of the pack and Outen, Wilson, Plant and co. were in no mood for holding back as ruck after ruck produced quick ball for Whittingham and Michels to do the damage. It rained tries as Stamford touched down their tenth try before the final whistle.

The team prepared hard for the second test against Oundle and were determined to avenge their only defeat. It was not a game for the faint hearted as the tackles flew in from both sides. Again the Stamford pack found themselves on top and Stoddart and Dowdell the beneficiaries of quick ball. By the end of the game Fairbarn, Jones and his pals up front had strangled the life out of Oundle 28-15.

The final game of the season saw us travel to Wellingborough School in bright sunshine. It is fair to say the boys saved their best for last, as marshalled by General Spurr, the backs enjoyed their best game of the season, The forwards provided great support and made yards every time they attacked. At 59-0 it was a great performance to end the season.

With only one narrow loss this season the potential of this team is enormous. They should respect their opponents but fear nobody. If they can maintain their focus on the training pitch and keep their desire to improve, then they will be a very difficult team to beat.

Under 14 B Rugby report 2005.

This was a very encouraging tern of rugby, and perhaps when you consider that the two lost matches were lost by a total of 3 points you realise how impressive this team were.

The first match against Oundle saw a 21-14 win. As always with the first game it was a scrappy affair. Dawson Bannister and Tom Ladds impressed with strong ball carrying and hard tackles. In the backs Bradley Felston distributed the ball from scrum half with great effect and Tom Dolby kicked intelligently. In the next game against a big Stowe side there was far more cohesion with the backs and forwards running well. The pack out-rucked the opposition. In this game Tom Dowdell and Jonathan Ball were proving to be A team contenders.

In perhaps the most exciting game of the season we, unfortunately, lost by a single point to RGS Newcastle 19 points to 20. This was a hard fought battle with some excellent phases of rugby from both teams. The next game saw our second loss against Oundle.

In the final three games we drew against Uppingham 12- 12 and beat Loughborough and Wellingborough.

At the end of the season it was clear that improvement had been made and that this was a team with huge potential. A number of forwards made selection difficult with good performances. Andrew Forsyth, Nathan Pape and James Blair all played prop at some stage and all proved to be good in the tight as well as good ball carriers. Ben Chew at hooker always gave 100%. In the back row Harry Coups, Max Physick and Cameron Payne showed great determination when carrying the ball. Cameron, along with Tom Ladds, put in a huge number of tackles.

Finally the competition for places in this year group speaks volumes. All gave of their best and contributed toward the success of the team.

JPH

Under 14 C Season Report

Whilst not having a successful season in terms of results on the rugby field, the under 14 C's knowledge and skills of the game improved greatly throughout the season. With next to no time to establish a team before the first game and a much disrupted playing roster, it was incredibly hard to establish a consistent atmosphere at training. However, the boy's work ethic improved greatly throughout the season and though little consistency in performance was able to be gained, they were always willing to learn and represent their school with pride on the field. This was exemplified in the final game of the season against Loughborough, with a narrow loss of 10 - 5 - our best result and first points of the season. Rob Small, Joe Robinson and Mark Robins were always willing to push forward in the pack and Tom Crees, Ben Pounsett and Grant Wallwork always stood up in defence in the back line, often making covering tackles to prevent tries. The best player of the season due to his consistent solid defence and work ethic was Grant Wallwork.

Tom Galvin

U13A Rugby Report 2004

Expectations were high as the players returned from the summer break. The majority of the squad had trained and played together for Stamford Town for a number of years and it became apparent that the strength of the team was centred around the strong running and good communication of the backs in particular.

The U13A fixture list is a very tough one and there are few 'easy' games. This certainly proved to be the case against the likes of Spalding GS and Wellingborough who were no match for Stamford in terms of skills, but nevertheless emerged victorious as a result of superior strength. This was to prove to be a major problem for the comparatively small U13As of 2004. They fought bravely at all times but lost to a very strong side from Gresham's, an unbeaten Nottingham HS and a very large team from Bishop's Stortford.

However, the team did play some fantastic rugby at times. Highlights included a majestic performance away at Oakham where Stamford really played as a team to beat their local rivals 43-15. Fierce tackling, relentless rucking and some excellent handling combined to produce an entertaining display of rugby, making both the supporting parents and coach very happy indeed! Bedford Modern saw another determined performance which resulted in a solid victory. Convincing wins followed against Mount St Mary's and Witham Hall. The second half of the season was very tough indeed. There is no harder place to go and play than Gresham's. Some remarkably accomplished handling and some lightning running saw Stamford suffer their

Gresham's. Some remarkably accomplished handling and some lightning running saw Stamford suffer their biggest defeat of the season 0-43. We had been brought down to earth with a crash

.However, good sides bounce back and I am pleased to report that the U13s did just that. A fantastically brave performance against a strong Bedford Prep was, perhaps, the highlight of the season. Stamford lost by 3 points but were awesome in defence

Princethorpe College and Loughborough GS were the remaining sides to visit Stamford. The U13As proved to be too strong for Princethorpe. Loughborough GS have always been strong opponents and this year was no different. A hard-fought game witnessed some bruising tackling. It stayed 0-0 for 20 minutes until sustained pressure form Stamford saw a well worked try from the forwards. The 2nd half was very exciting with Stamford stretching their lead only to concede immediately afterwards. However, commendable determination in the tackle, led by captain Alex Jones, kept Loughborough out.

U12 Rugby 2004

A very tough first game against Bedford Modern was our only defeat of a great season. Our opponents were a lot bigger than us and made a quick start scoring twice. As the game wore on we came back as our forwards gelled and began to dominate. Tries from J Parfitt, G Wrigley-Pheasant and D Griffin were not quite enough to prevent us going down 17-15.

Our next game against Wellingborough showed our true potential as we cruised to a 38-0 score line with T Mitchell scoring 2 tries and J Hounslow, I Wilkinson, D Griffin and S Watson all scoring tries. The game against Mount St Mary was equally convincing as the score line, 44-0, shows. Leicester Grammar School proved to be a tougher fixture as it was an away game on a Monday afternoon. Despite never reaching top gear, 3 tries from R Cutteridge and 1 from W Joyce allowed a 22-0 victory. The traditionally tough game away to Greshams was next up. Excellent tackling from everyone and tactical kicking from C Felston, combined with tries from T Mitchell and R Cutteridge led to a 15-0 triumph.

Bishop Stortford was our next obstacle and our boys managed to climb it quite comfortably winning 30-0 with tries from R Cutteridge (2) C Kay (2) R Salt and W Joyce. The traditional derby match against Oakham proved to be a comfortable match with the 24-0 not really reflecting the dominance that we had during the game. Our next game against Notts High was another comfortable victory despite the shock of conceding a try for the first time since the first game of the season. The final score of 37-12 reflects the hard work of A Park, J Hounslow, R Salt, R Cutteridge and C Kay (3) who scored the tries.

Princethorpe is often seen as an easy fixture which can lead to complacency and thus defeat, but this team showed no mercy in racking up a 31-0 victory with tries from C Kay (2), J Hounslow (2), R Cutteridge and T Mitchell.

In the final game of the season the boys showed great fitness and endurance to continue racking up the points with a superb final score line of 27-0. Tries came from J Parfitt, R Salt, W Joyce, C Felston and C Kay. Special mention should go to the most improved player Robert Salt, the two leading try scorers Charles Kay and Ross Cutteridge, the player of the season James Hounslow and the inspirational captain Isaac Wilkinson. This is a great season from a great team and a promising future awaits them.

12 B Rugby 2004

Following a very successful rugby season last season, the current crop of Year 7's had a huge reputation to live up to. Our first match was very early in the season against Bedford Modern at home. A bright start to the season was spoiled early in the first half as Ben Cave broke his arm and went off to casualty. This was the catalyst for a collapse of morale and fear of tackling as we crumbled to a resounding 48 - 0 defeat. This didn't bode well for the season but with dedication in training and a re-jigging of the team, we put together a string of wins (Trent College, Oakham 45 - 0, Mt St Marys 29 - 10).

Playing Carre's Grammar School A team we enjoyed a load of possession, but couldn't break their line. Against the run of play they broke away and scored. Time and time again in mauls we failed to recycle the ball and we disappointingly lost 5.0.

Again dedication in training saw us finish the season strongly, beating Bedford school 34.5 and drawing 10 all with Nottingham High School in a fantastic game where we trailed for a long period and scored a try in the dying minutes against a much larger team. There were large wins against Princethorpe and Loughborough with wonderful performance from George Wrigley-Pheasant and Karl Meers, both scoring hat tricks of tries. The only blot during the second half of the season was a loss to a very talented Bedford school. We competed well up to the final quarter of the game, when the bigger and more physical opponents ground us down and scored a couple of late tries to finish us off.

The team was very ably led by Tom Smith. Our scrummaging was wonderful all season, with our front row rotation of George Wrigley Pheasant, Ed King, Robin Copley and Jake Adams and with our locks Nathan Graham and Nick McPherson we out performed much larger and older teams. Our back row marauding around the pitch was typified by the routine performances of Ed Fitzgerald and Karl Mears. The wonderful kicking of Jack Spriggs and the powerful tackling of Sam Andrew helped to turn matches.

RAB



Hockey

1ST XI HOCKEY REPORT 2005

The final record of won 6, drawn 2 and lost 8 was a little disappointing, although if results had been different in just a couple of the games, it could have been an excellent season. The season certainly began well with a very encouraging 5-1 victory over Stowe. This was followed by a close encounter at Uppingham, where the eventual defeat (3-5) flattered the host side somewhat and proved to be a missed opportunity for Stamford. The rest of January and February was frustrating. Despite the customary victories in the County Cup over Spalding GS (2-1) and King's Grantham (7-0), there were defeats against Repton (0-7), Wisbech (0-2) and Worksop (1-8). It also became evident that although the side was strong and efficient, it would struggle to compete when confronted with players with the outstanding skill that Repton (via the continent) and Worksop were able to produce. Although the group matches at the East of England finals were more promising (defeats to Framlingham and Gresham's preceded victory over Forest School), as coach I was somewhat apprehensive about what might happen after the half-term break as six tough fixtures lay ahead of the team. In addition, injuries were to start to hit the squad. Colin Crichton-Turley was one of the senior players in the team and was playing outstandingly well, before ending up on crutches as a result of sustaining an injury during a house rugby match in March. Worse was to follow when James Barker's took a blow to his hand while defending a short corner. His fingers were trapped between the ball and the stick and ended up in a bit of a mess.

Pleasingly, the boys played their best and most consistent hockey upon returning from this break. The Bishop's Stortford match was of high quality but like the Aussie cricketers this summer during the Ashes, we were never quite able to get ahead and were constantly being put under pressure. However, the standard of play during this 3-4 defeat was positive and just a few days later the Lincolnshire Poachers were beaten. It had been a number of years since we had last overcome the experienced Poachers and it is greatly beneficial for the boys to play against men, some of whom have been involved in competitive league hockey for many years.

It is always nice to win one or two games a season that perhaps you did not deserve to, and this is exactly what happened when we entertained The Leys. The visitors clearly had the better of the game, but top-scorer Chris Fletcher calmly put away a penalty stroke towards the end of the game (one of fourteen goals in the season for Chris) as we 'stole' a 1-0 victory. Two high scoring drawn matches were to follow at home to Oakham (3-3) and the Old Stamfordians (4-4). The Oakham game was particularly tense and in the final minute the opposition scored what they thought was a fourth and winning goal. However, the goal 'didn't look right' and their umpire bravely disallowed it, much to the disappointment to all those from our Rutland neighbours.

The final game was against an awesome team from Trent College. Stamford played as well as they possibly could, trailing only 1-2 at half time. The eventual defeat was heavy (1-7), but it could have been a lot worse. This match represented the last time that many of the senior players would represent the school on the hockey pitch. This included William Mellor who made exactly 50 appearances for the 1st XI in goal. William's attitude and performances have been first-class throughout, but he was not the only player to have contributed in such a positive manner over the past few seasons. William Clough and the vice-captain Richard Peckett played in the 1st XI for a third season, Richard Sedgeley leaves having scored 30 goals, while James Barker, Colin Crichton-Turley, Rod Park and Nick Baverstock have been outstanding for the past two years. In his last year at school, Michael Arthey also became an important member of the team and despite popular belief, he was held in high regard by his coach!

Fortunately, a strong core will be returning in 2006 in the form of Philip Streit, Chris Fletcher, Michael Gent and Josh Holland and I look forward to building a team around these players in the future.

GAB

Second X1 Hockey 2005

The second team season kicked off with a tough match against Stowe School. Good attacking play from Lewis Chisholm and anchorman Will McMillan enabled us to get off to a winning start. The next game was to be one of the toughest games all season against Uppingham School. We fought back from 1-0 down at half time to draw 1-1 due to some fantastic saves by substitute goalkeeper Luke Doddington-Boyes and a great

finish by Matthew Plumb after strong attacking play down the right by Josh Holland. We then suffered our first defeat in a very close game against Repton. After being 2-0 up at half game, to lose 3-4 was very harsh and felt unfair. After a disappointing loss it was important to get back to winning ways against Wisbech. It was a difficult first half and Richard Harvey in goal repeatedly made some fantastic saves. Good defending from Tom Masters and Andrew Beaumont enabled the midfield to push up more in the second half. A terrific goal from Lewis Chisholm put Wisbech on the back foot and after a good dribbling contribution from Guy Cunningham we wrapped up the 3-1 victory.

The next game against Worksop was very close and after defending tightly for most of the match we finally slipped up and lost 3-2. Bishop Stortford was to be one of the closest games, which finally saw us winning 3-2. This was only through some more amazing saves from Richard Harvey and strong attacking play from Matthew Plumb (who scored an outstanding flick goal) and William McMillan. However, the highlight of the game was one of hardest shots we managed to produce all season by Lewis Chisolm, and the glorious sound of ball against wooden backboard won us the game. The game against The Leys at home was to be the easiest game of the season. A solid team effort saw the second team put 7 goals past the Leys goalkeeper, 4 of which were scored my Matthew Plumb. Matthew has played for the firsts on a few occasions this term and his current form clearly indicates his ability.

The best game of the season came near the end against Oakham. The whole team performed extremely well with some really determined defending. Every time we scored, Oakham answered back with a goal until a goal in the last two-minutes by captain Guy Margetts won the game 5-4. This was to be the best victory for the second team, as all the players peaked and performed well. The last game would prove to be a disappointing end to a great season. After the loss of so many key players, our weakened side lost 5-2 to a strong Trent side, away.

This was a positive and successful season, which saw an average of 3 goals scored per game. There were a number of players, who performed extremely well throughout the season. Fortunately, most of them still have another season for the school next year. Performances from Paul Batten, Tom Masters David Whittaker and Richard Harvey in defence were key to many victories through the season. The reason for such a high goal tally is down to the great strike partnership between Lewis Chisolm and Will McMillan. This season was to be one of the best seasons by a Stamford Hockey Second team which saw us lose only 3 times, all of which were close games.

Report by Guy Margetts 3rd XI Hockey

Another season, another smart new shirt design, and renewed hope of great success. Early training sessions showed spirit and some potential and we set off on the long trip to Stowe for our first game with a fair amount of confidence. We played on the town Astroturf pitch in Buckingham and the game proved to be fast and furious and quite how neither side managed to score I still cannot fathom, but it ended goalless and we travelled home a touch disappointed as we felt that we had had the better chances.

Loughborough Grammar School cancelled the following Saturday's game (because of frost) as we boarded the coach to leave and so our next trip was to Wisbech where a highly contentious opposition goal cost us a share of the spoils with a 4-3 reverse in a somewhat 'agricultural' encounter. A home win against Worksop by the only goal of the game followed and the trip to Bishop's Stortford saw us lose out by the odd goal in a five goal thriller! A goalless encounter with The Leys on the Springfield grass and mud followed, along with a sound defeat away to Oakham, 3-0.

The long trip to Trent rounded off the season and, in front of a big partisan crowd we found ourselves 4-0 down at half time. Deciding that we had nothing to lose we went all out to fight our way back into the game and scored two quick goals, a third coming with ten minutes to go. We didn't quite manage to grab a draw but the season certainly finished on an upbeat note.

As always, the spirit within the 3rd XI was fantastic and at each and every turn we enjoyed our hockey, win lose or draw. In all matches the whole squad played their part but, in particular, I must commend our captain James Ogden who was efficient and led from the front. In particular he was adept at cajoling players from their beds for all those early morning starts (12 noon) for our many away games!

KJC U 16 B Hockey Report

Played 8 Won 1 Drawn 1 Lost 6 The start of the U16 B season was very promising. The first game was a hard fought draw against Stowe. After that game, the boys showed real promise to win some games. The games to come would be a real test for the team and so it was. Teams like Uppingham and Repton were just too strong for the side. The guys wanted to bounce back from the defeats and did so by recording their first ever victory with a 1-0 win over Worksop. The following games were real testers; oppositions like Oakham, The Leys and Trent were all going to be tough games. The guys really played good hockey but were severely out played by the schools they encountered. A fairly disappointing season but the team did salvage two good results. From a coach's point of view, a special thanks goes out to the team for always pitching up for games. Players like Robert Murray, Jonathan O'Mara, Sam Cartwright and James Goose were all dedicated to playing every week. Thanks. BVN

Under 15A hockey 2005

Overall the season was a great success and, although not all of the matches were won, the team's standard has improved. Individuals in the team progressed tremendously and each member of the team gave their best effort in practice sessions and in the matches. This commitment was reflected in the team's results, with 3 wins and 3 draws – a great achievement considering a number of the side have only been playing hockey for two terms.

Whilst the combined team's effort has been the most important aspect, a few individual performances have been particularly outstanding. That of Andrew Ward, in goal, whose determined defence was crucial; without him we might not have won or drawn the matches that we did. In midfield William Felgate and Stuart Roche were always on the move, feeding the ball through to the forwards and having a go at goal themselves. Two players were promoted to the squad, Mark Bond and Josh Cutteridge came from last year's C team to the A team, a great achievement. Mark, at left defence, stopped everything that tried to squeeze past him and Josh worked hard as a striker, using his speed on and off the ball to run circles around the opposition. The team can feel pleased with their performance and the way that they have worked together, giving their best to all aspects of the game. We thank Mr. Barton for the efforts that he has put into coaching the team during hockey sessions, both in games periods and after school and for giving up his Saturdays to help with the matches.

All the players are looking forward to next season and the opportunity to build on this year's successes. Jack Turner

I am grateful to Jack for his notes on his team's performance and for his leadership of the team throughout the season. A good number of the squad gave up two mornings of their Christmas holiday for pre-season training. This proved tremendously valuable and got the term off to positive start. There was a lot of athleticism in the squad and the games were played at a very good pace, this meant that a squad of fourteen were used for most matches and the majority of the players had to adapt to playing in more than one position. All players responded very well and it meant that there was still some pace in the play right to end of the games.

A number of players have not received individual mention but all must recognise that this was a whole squad performance that progressed this year. As the captain said it was their application to tactics, training and playing that helped the side to make the progress that was achieved. We also owe thanks to our South African coach Barry van Nierkirk, I was grateful for his help and input to the training sessions.

Junior Hockey 2004-5

The year began with the annual trip to Leicester for the SLY tournament. The standard at this competition has certainly risen over recent years and with three players unavailable the Stamford boys found the opposition more skilful and determined. Never the less it was valuable experience for the boys playing their first competitive hockey.

In the Spring term both the under 12's and 13's played in the Lincolnshire round of the national mini-hockey competition. Both sides played some good hockey and the under 13's reached the semi-final. Chris Brice led the team and was well supported by Greg Leetch, Rhys Owen and Tim Anders.

Sixteen members of Y7 played a series of indoor matches against the junior school Y6's which proved a useful warm up for the mini hockey. On the day Charlie Kay led the side very well and Tom Mitchell, Ross Cutteridge and Craig Felston played well together, whilst Giulio Montague made some fine saves in goal. I am very grateful for the work that Barry Van Niekirk did with our young players both in games lessons and at this event.

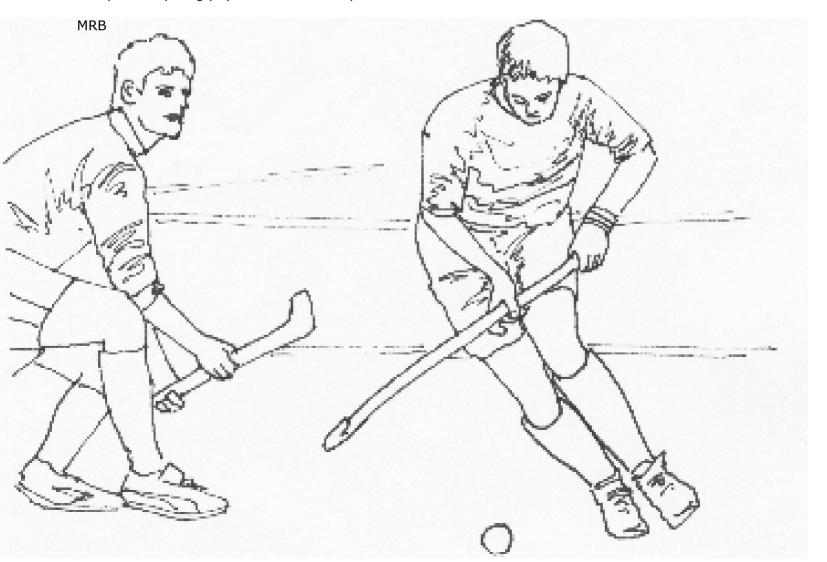
The finale for the season was a pleasant evening of indoor hockey against Prior Park Prep School. Both under 12's and under 13's played 2 matches against each other as well as against Prior Park. Both the Stamford keepers were kept busy with George Wrigley-Pheasant, on his debut for the under 12's, making some fine saves.

The outfield play became rather frantic at times with players looking to run with, rather than pass the ball. Greg Leetch dropped back into midfield in the latter stages and responded well. Tim Anders, Rhys Owen and Matthew Fuller supported him well and Chris Brice created problems, with his skilful dribbling, when he moved up to striker.

The under 12's combined well as a team, Charlie Kay and Tom Mitchell led the way and were well supported by Ross Cutteridge and Joe Harrap. Robin Copley played for the first time and made some important interceptions at left back.

The Prior Park boys were hosted by the boys' families and at St.Michael's and Byard house. The event was much enjoyed by all concerned.

The biggest regret of the season was the absence of the Brigg Festival from our calendar. Stamford boys have been travelling to this event for 15 years and it has been a significant element in the development of many of our young payers. It is to be hoped that it will be back on our calendar in 2006.





Barbados Tour 2005

The preparation for the tour started in January with winter nets. Funding for the tour was also in full swing with a number of different fund raising events such as several hours work bag packing at Morrison's, a number of discos and mugs.

The morning of departure was an early one with a meeting time of 5am but with the threat from Mr Laventure that if we were late we were left behind; everyone was there in plenty of time. Arriving at Gatwick airport at around 9am for an 11am flight left enough time for Jonny Goodson to survey breakfast options in the terminal. Ahead of us was an 8 hour flight but with the early start many opted to sleep as soon as we boarded. We landed at 2pm local time and departed for the hotel 'Time Out At The Gap'.

The rest of the first day consisted of relaxing on the beautiful white sand.

The second day started early with Elliot Wilson getting us up for run. The beach was the main attraction of a free day with many choosing to jet ski and others checking out the local culture. Richard Sedgley blended in perfectly to the Caribbean life style by getting his hair braded.

Another free day again started with the beloved early morning run before the staff went off deep sea fishing. After everyone had some lunch we had a practise session on the field adjacent to the hotel. The session allowed us to experience the rock hard, flat wickets and the lighting outfields of the Caribbean.

A shortened jogging session followed by yoga was a relaxed way to start the day before the game in the afternoon. We departed from the hotel around 12.30 on a short journey to Lodge School. After the warm up Will Clough won the toss and elected to bat on a pitch that resembled a road. A shaky start saw the two openers Clough and Goodson dismissed for 3 runs a-piece before Murray and Lawrence soon followed. Jackson and Eifion-Jones steadied the ship but the rest of team were dismissed for just 15 leaving us in the position of 95 all out. After tea was a different story for Stamford School. Clough and Steel opened the bowling taking the first 3 wickets in 10 overs before economical spells from Lindley and Eifion-Jones picking up another two wickets for 17 runs. By the 25th over Lodge had been reduced to 92 for 9 with exceptional bowling from Jackson and Steel before Eifion-Jones picked up the final wicket to record the first win. Although the batting

performance wasn't up to scratch the bowling performance was a big positive to take in to the next game. Everyone was allowed to have a lie in the next morning in order to rest up before the game. We departed early from the hotel to take a look round the national cricket stadium, The Kensington Oval. Pumped full of Caribbean cricket knowledge we moved on to our next game at Alexandra School. We were told beforehand that this would be our hardest game as Alexandra were the island champions and we soon found this out for ourselves. We lost the toss on another hard flat pitch and even though Clough picked up wicket with the first ball with a great catch from Eifion-Jones at gully Alexandra soon got into their stride. Alexandra finished their 35 overs at 279 for 6. After tea and a tough team talk the new opening partnership of Goodson and Jackson went out looking to be positive. It was another poor start losing a wicket in the 3rd over. Jackson and Murray battled bravely before the most significant partnership between Lawrence and Clough who both showed some great attacking and defensive strokes. By this time the light was fading and Eifion-Jones played stubbornly before the Umpire offered the light to the batsmen who duly obliged leaving the match drawn.

A well deserved lie in was followed by the eagerly awaited catamaran cruise along the western side of the island. By the time we arrived back at the hotel there was just enough time to squeeze in a game of volleyball and ride some waves before heading out for the evening for a meal.

It was a quiet start to the day of the 3rd game. We departed the hotel around midday for Foundation School. Foundation won the toss and unsurprisingly decided to bat on yet another flat pitch. They got off to a solid start before Clough broke the deadlock in another impressive opening spell. A couple of overs later the secret weapon of the bowling attack, Richard Murray came on and bowled his first spell of the tour picking up the wicket of the opening batsman. The fall of this wicket meant the run rate lowered and a number of wickets fell quickly. Foundation finished on 153 for 8 after 35 overs. Another partnership at the top of the order of Lawrence and Epsom still couldn't get runs together with Epsom being dismissed in the 5th over. This however was not a sign of what was to come. Lawrence batted on making an impressive 36 supported by. This set us up for the victory and Clough and Eifion-Jones knocked off the final runs with three overs to spare. A comfortable win.

The next day we made our way to the ground that was furthest away from where we were staying along the coast to Alleyne School. This was the most picturesque of the schools surround by mountains and palm trees. This was also a downside as the mountains blocked out any breeze from the sea meaning the hottest game we played. Alleyne won the toss and batted first. We struggled early on but wickets fell steadily throughout the innings. They finished on 157 for 8. Lawrence and Epsom got off to the best start of the tour but it was slow going. Good bowling kept us to 35 for 0. When the first wicket finally did fall it put pressure on the remaining batsman to push on and against a good bowling attack that proved difficult. We lost the last four wickets for 15 runs leaving us on 134 all out, 23 short of their total. A quick turn around was in order as we were booked in to the Harbour Lights restaurant that made for a fitting end to a superb tour. Music, reggae singing and limbo competitions were only some of the entertainment for the evening with the whole tour party able to enjoy, take part in and relax after a demanding ten days.

Tom Lindley

Domestic Season

After a well deserved few days rest, the first games of our domestic season were against local rivals Uppingham and Oundle. We travelled over to Uppingham on the Sunday before the start of term on a sunny but cool spring



day.

After winning the toss, Clough chose to bat expecting there to be some movement off the seam on a slightly moist but flat wicket. Clough bowled superbly but without success in his opening spell. Lindley backed the opening pair respectably with both Jackson and Lawrence reaping the rewards after a slow start from the opposition. The attitude and general fielding of the team was exceptional throughout, causing Uppingham to set a mere 139-7 off 40 overs.

In reply, we also struggled at the start of the innings and lost Lawrence and Baverstock after they had weathered the opening barrage. When Clough quickly followed we were reduced to 55-3 off 20 overs, at which point the game really hung in the balance. Jackson and Murray batted superbly putting on 65 for the 4th wicket, before we finally won the game with 2 overs to spare and 5 wickets in hand.

Two days later we were in action again with our first home game against Oundle on the first day of term. The opposition struggled right from the start and were reduced to 54-6 off the first 21 overs after fine spells from Clough Eifion-Jones and Lindley Felgate also made a respectable debut and picked up his first wicket in his third over. Mellor chipped in getting their key batsman caught at the wicket for 45. We were confident of chasing a lowly 110-8 set for us at the end of the innings.

Our reply stuttered early on but Clough then batted superbly under great pressure before controversially being given out LBW at a crucial stage in the game with the score on 95-5. After losing 2 more wickets in consecutive overs, 9 runs to win seemed a long way off. The youngsters, Epsom and Felgate showed great maturity and composure in guiding us home to a memorable 3 wicket win. I had truly hoped that these excellent victories would prove to be a spring board for a successful season when we made our way to Wisbech the following Saturday. The less said, about this awful performance, the better.

2005 saw Stamford entering a new national competition, the 20/20 Cup. Following our heavy defeat the previous day we had hoped to bounce back against Oakham, Uppingham and Wellingborough in a 20 over round robin played at Oakham School. However, this proved to be a weekend to forget.

We needed a win to get back on the right track when Notts High came to Stamford on the following week end. The visitors limped to a just competitive 139-10 in 43 overs. Lawrence and Lindley got us off to a solid start. Jackson to the crease and when Lindley fell in the 29th they had put on 100 between them. The stage was then set for the skipper to hit the winning runs with 15 overs to spare in a superb 8 wicket victory.

It was a similar story a week later away at Bedford Modern. Clough joined Lawrence put on an unbeaten partnership of 106 to guide us to another outstanding 8 wicket win.

Confidence was now high as we made the journey to Cambridge to play The Leys. For the third match in a row we won the toss, and needless to say decided to field. An uncharacteristic start saw the opposition cruising before Lady Luck smiled on us. The Leys had reached 142-4 with 10 overs left. Realistically I was expecting to be chasing a total of near 200 from here but it soon became clear that our purple patch in the innings was yet to come. Jackson Clough and Lawrence picked up the last 3 wickets in dismissing The Leys for 159 off 39 overs. The last ten overs were truly remarkable. The team took the last 6 wickets for just 17 runs setting us a reasonable target of 160. It was to be another 8 wicket win with 6 overs to spare.

Loughborough Grammar were our next opponents but unfortunately the game was washed out when it was just 9 overs old.

After half term, we made the long trip to Greshams still on a high from our last three results. A lacklustre performance on a good wicket saw us fall well behind the run rate after a solid start from the openers. We finished on 149-8 off our 40 overs.

Greshams had a nervous start when they lost 2 wickets in the 9th over, a smart thinking run out by Epsom and Felgate picking up the other wicket. A stand of 81 in 14 overs then followed, largely thanks to some loose bowling, which put the game beyond our reach.

Disappointed with our performance we returned to Stamford to face Kimbolton. We lost the toss and were inserted. We lost both openers with needless run outs in the 3rd over, having only scored 12 runs. I could not have dreamed of the recovery that took place thereafter. Jackson and Clough destroyed a fairly average bowling attack with a superb display of aggressive stroke making. Jackson's 103 included 9 fours and 4 sixes while Clough batted magnificently for his 136 not out. This included 14 fours and 2 sixes, in a stand of 198 in 31 overs. We finished our innings on 279-3 off 40 overs, with Murray also unbeaten at the end.

In reply, Kimbolton never had a chance. In the end the victory was by a massive 149 runs.

The boys batted first the following week against the Staff. Clough and Jackson continued their fine form with a stand of 134. Eifion-Jones batted well to be unbeaten at the end, with the score 222-7 off 40.

Another fine performance in the field led to an easy 89 run victory with the Staff dismissed for a meagre 139.

Lincs Gents visited the following day and decided to bat first. Despite a couple of early breakthroughs, the visitors typically scored a competitive 216-6 in their 45 overs. In reply, we struggled to keep up with the rate after losing early wickets. Jackson again batted well with little support from the other end apart from a stand with Clough. Despite some swashbuckling shot making from Sedgley, we were eventually bowled out 30 runs

short in the last over.

Our third game in three days saw us travel the short distance to Oakham for traditionally one of our hardest fixtures. We won the toss and bravely decided to bat on the best looking wicket we had experienced. We struggled to score early on and finished on 158-8 off 40 overs, 40 runs short of what we thought we needed. In reply, Oakham always looked like they had matters in hand, maintaining the required run rate of 4 per over throughout their innings. At 100-2 with 13 overs left the game looked all but over. Jackson then bowled a fine spell, and with wickets falling at crucial pressure began to build. With Oakham needing just 4 runs to win off the final over, they played and missed the first 3 deliveries as the tension mounted. They some how managed to scramble 2 off the fourth ball and missed the fifth, leaving 2 to win off the last ball! A full length ball was played to mid-on and the batsmen immediately set off. It missed by millimetres and the match ended in a tie. A remarkable achievement considering we were never in the match until three balls from the end! Old Stamfordian's weekend turned out to be a disappointing one for the 1st XI.

After the match against Kings, Grantham was washed out we faced the MCC on a windy final day of term. Needless to say, the MCC batted first and scored 196-7 of 53 overs. We again lost early wickets in reply and at 79-5 had no hope of winning the game. The MCC bowled extremely well and gave little away. Epsom and Felgate saw us home in a forgettable drawn match.

All our success and achievements during the year were severely overshadowed by the tragic loss of Graham Morgan. Graham, our cricket administrator, worked at the school for 26 years and made a considerable contribution to cricket during that time. Many of the boys and staff will remember with affection his regular journeys from the pavilion to the nets in pursuit of equipment and balls, aptly naming the route Chesty's Highway.

In memory of Graham and all he did for Stamford School cricket, the boys decided to introduce a new award at the end of season dinner. Although I knew Graham for a very short time in comparison to many, I believe that an award decided by the players for the team mate who is held in their highest regard, would be appropriate for a man who was held in such high regard by so many.

Awards 2005

Bowling- Jack Eifion-Jones
Batting- Will Clough
All Rounder- Hugh Jackson
Fielder- Richard Murray.
Most Improved- Tom Lindley

Graham Morgan Memorial Award 1st XI Players Player- Will Felgate Special Award for Services to School Cricket- Will Clough

DGC

2ND XI CRICKET REPORT SUMMER 2005

Following last season's brilliant performance of only losing one out of the eight matches played, it was going to be an interesting season. Unfortunately our pre-season fixture against Uppingham was cancelled so we started relatively cold against Oundle on a highly unpredictable Northfields wicket. Put into bat we were soon in trouble. Wickets tumbled regularly as our "rusty" looking batsmen struggled on this un-Caribbean like wicket. Facing a total of 73, our bowlers exploited the unpredictable wicket, but a sensible middle order partnership saw Oundle home by 5 wickets.

Our next match away at Nottingham High school saw us put in a much more motivated performance. Putting the opposition into bat we gave them too many runs early on, but tight bowling by Rob Murray and Tom Holyoake saw the balance swing our way. A great spell by Jon O'Mara of 6 overs for 11 runs and tight fielding saw the runs steadily dry up and desperate slogging saw Tom Wallington take 3 good catches from different fielding positions. Needing only 127 runs to win, we set about the total with quiet determination. However, when on 48 and looking like going on to make a big score Jon Goodson was given out LBW. This triggered panic in the ranks and a mini collapse ensued. Unfortunately we ran out 6 runs short. A match we clearly should have won slipped agonisingly away.

Our next match away against Bedford was rained off, so we had to wait until the following week to face the Leys. We put them into bat. Our pace attack again bowled tidily and accurately with Sedgely, Mellor and Barker all taking wickets. Rob Murray and Tom Holyoake put their medium pace deliveries on the spot and bogged the Leys down and they could only put on 120 runs. Jon Goodson and Philip Streit put on a solid opening partnership, ably supported by some big hitting by James Barker and Andrew Beaumont. We finally clinched our first win of the season.

Hoping to capitalise on the previous week, we played poorly against Loughborough the following week. We struggled to a total of 115 all out with several overs left.

Although we did make inroads into the Loughborough batting, they were good for their 4 wicket victory. We received terrible news before the visit of Gresham's. Graham Morgan, our much loved and respected cricket administer and 2nd team coach tragically died. He was a legendary figure in the Common Room and a highly talented sportsman and academic. He was Stamford School cricket to hundred's of boys past and present and his loss was a terrible blow to all. Therefore the next match was an emotional day for all, we held a minutes silence on mainfields, and the boys wore black arm bands as a mark of respect for "The Chest". We seemed to enjoy opening the batting and several batsmen got into the runs, the ever reliable Jon Goodson scored a fine 54 runs, and put on a great partnership with Rob Murray who really sparkled, playing some fine strokes for his 48. He was unlucky to reach his half century and was annoyed to be caught at on the boundary; we could have gone on to a big score. However, a healthy 185 runs were scored before tea. What followed was possibly the worst opening spell of bowling in my 7 years as 2nd XI coach. We conceded far too many runs in the opening 10 overs and a sensible last wicket stand saw us lose the match by 1 wicket with 3 balls to spare.

Lacking recent match practise in the exam season we next travelled away to Oakham. Put into bat we hoped to continue our batting performance from the Gresham's game but a series of rash shots saw us skittled for 50 runs. Searching for some pride we took three early wickets, before wayward bowling saw the runs knocked off.

At the cricket dinner all the boys enjoyed the humorous stories of the Nottinghamshire legend Derek Randall. The winners of the 2nd XI trophies for 2004 richly deserved their awards: Jon Goodson was the outstanding run scorer of the season. Rob Murray was a revelation with bat and ball and he narrowly shaded Richard Sedgeley and Will Mellor as the leading wicket taker. The trophy for the best all round contribution could have gone to several players but the one outstanding and consistent performer all season was Philip Streit. and he richly deserved the trophy.

RAB

Under 15A Cricket Report

The 2005 season for the Under 15 A's was full of both flashes of individual brilliance and disappointing all round team performances.

The season started off with a victory against Wisbech. The team's performance was rusty but this was to be expected as we hadn't played in a proper competitive game for a year. Bowling first, we restricted Wisbech to 119 runs for 6 wickets. The bowlers having done the hard work, it was now down to the batsmen to win the game. Solid knocks from Captain Jak Garner and all rounder Sam Edwards, both scoring 28, saw off the Wisbech attack and gave us a relatively easy win.

The first home match of the season against Nottingham High School proved to be a much improved performance from the previous Saturday. Batting first, we posed a competitive total of 147, with contributions all the way down the order. The bowling performance had dramatically improved, with Stamford bowling Nottingham out for 118. Edwin Williams and Tom Bownes claimed 3 wickets each and were backed up well by Dan Smeeth who claimed 2 victims with his vicious leg-spin. Our catching had also improved with Burley, Evans, Garner, Fowler and McEntee all taking their chances.

One of the toughest fixtures of the season was going to be Bedford Modern. It was perhaps the performance of the season against one of the best batting teams around. Bowling first on the First XI pitch we rattled off the Bedford line up for just 48 in 18 overs. The star bowlers were Bownes and Edwards. Also great fielding displays from silly extraordinaire William Evans and Sam Edwards at slip, who helped keep the runs down. We made hard work of gaining the runs required, with both openers going for ducks, but in the end Burley, Fowler and Evans guided us to victory relatively easily.

Having won all our games thus far, we believed that we could go the first half of term unbeaten and have a high level of confidence in the second, and tougher, half of term. But first we had to beat the Leys. Bowling first on a wicket that wasn't really doing much was always going to be tough, and we eventually bowled them all out for 127. Evans' magnificent bowling gained 5 wickets for 28, and significant contributions also came from Bond and Williams in the field, both fielding majestically. The spin was obviously our main weapon in this innings with Smeeth gaining 2 wickets. However, the batting lacked any such quality with Sam Edwards and James O'Shea making the only significant contributions to the total. So the dream of the unbeaten season had gone.

After 2 weeks apart due to half term and work experience, the team reassembled and travelled to Greshams. We knew beforehand that this would be a long way to come to lose. After winning the toss and choosing to bat first we soon found out this was the wrong decision as the ball was swinging a mile. A large collapse in

the top and middle order saw Stamford facing a humiliating total but the lower order managed to give us a total of 105 that we could defend. Stamford came out all guns blazing, with Captain Jak Garner setting a very attacking field, including 3 slips and a gully. The opening bowlers did everything but get a wicket, with the ball bouncing and swinging, but the resilience of Gresham's openers shone through with them gaining the required total in just over 20 overs.

The next match came against a strong Kimbolton side. Bowling first, we restricted them to 163-3, yet the score did not reflect the quality of fielding from Edwin Williams, Andrew Fowler and James Burley. Edwin's pace and accuracy rewarded him with 2 wickets. Our batting again let us down in our reply. After a solid partnership of nearly 50 between Edwards and Bond, a platform was set, but the middle and lower order faltered in the hot sun, with only Fowler achieving a score.

The penultimate game of the season came against our local rivals, Oakham. Jak Garner sent Oakham into bat and one of the best performances in the field all season rattled off the Oakham XI for 130. The 3 best catches of the season came in this innings. However not for the first time this season Stamford came unstuck while batting. Burley and Bond weathered the storm with 13 and 19 respectively but nobody else managed to kick on from this solid base. Ultimately, we were bowled out by a polished Oakham attack for 76

The final match of the season came against Spalding Grammar. The match was held on the day of Stamford's famous festival, Rock on the Meadows, and we hoped to rattle up a quick and easy win so we could get back and party. Bowling first, we took no time at all in bowling them out for a measly 40 runs. Great bowling from Edwards and Williams reflected a great season for them. Evans took 3 wickets and he took his place as highest wicket taker for the season. But the afternoon belonged to Ryan Whitehead who took 2 wickets in an over in his last match for Stamford School. Stamford took 6 overs to rattle off the runs with James O'Shea hitting a mature and brisk 23.

So the season ended on a high note. Nice one lads!

U15B Cricket

This year's U15B squad was never short on numbers or enthusiasm and, although our season was a mixed one, we always enjoyed our cricket and played it in the right spirit. Our season began with a tough match at home to Deacons 1st XI. We began brightly and Chirag Faldu took the first wicket with the score on 28. Another followed soon after when the second opener got into a tangle and hit his own wicket but that was the last of our successes. Batsmen 3 and 4 settled themselves in and between them amassed a total of 221, something which proved too intimidating for us and, despite a great knock of 53 by James O'Shea, who thereafter we lost to the A team, we succumbed by 100 runs to a very strong and talented side. The match at Loughborough was lost due to rain and our next match took us to The Leys in Cambridge. Tim Allan, Carl Downer, Chirag Faldu and Oliver Joy set about the opposition's batting with venom and fair skittled them out for less than 50 runs. Joel Shipp, Fred Durrant, Carl Downer and Martin Dunk saw us through to a comfortable victory after which we enjoyed a 15 over a side game amongst ourselves until the 1st XI game finished and we made our way home.

The beautiful 'Edinburgh' pitch at Gresham's School in Holt was the setting for our next encounter. Here we were the victims of a single opposition bowler who was clearly in a class of his own. Running down the hill, his sheer pace made him deadly and in the end we did well to amass a total of 50! Nonetheless, our 'never say die attitude' saw us take six wickets before the opposition passed out total.

The last week of term saw us travel to Oakham, post a score of 94, and ultimately lose by 4 wickets in what threatened to be our most exciting finish of the season.

In terms of results, the season was a pretty poor one, but in terms of camaraderie and fun it was very successful indeed. Personally I enjoyed the training sessions and the matches and thank the squad for their excellent commitment and companionship. In particular Tim Allan, who captained the side in an exemplary way.

Those who played regularly were: Tim Allan, Carl Downer, Matthew Yeates, Andrew Trott, Joel Shipp, Henry Ker, Chirag Faldu, Jack Hardy, Pranav Bandi, Rory Rudd, Martin Dunk, Oliver Joy, Fred Durrant, Harry Farnsworth.

KJC

U14A Cricket

The winter nets boded well. Apart from the obvious talent within the squad there was also great depth. On Wednesday evenings the Sports Hall was overflowing with U14's.

The side was very lucky in being led by Oli Lindley. He set a fine example with both bat and ball, whilst always



listening to advice. With so many good cricketers in the side, one of his main challenges was to give everyone a game.

The first game against Wisbech ended in an easy win. They were out for 75. Oli Lindley returned figures of 4 for 12 in a skilful display of slow bowling. Dawson Bannister and Charlie Wilson polished off the tail without fuss. Despite losing James Allen to the first ball of our innings, Oli Lindley and Bahle Mhlanga closed out the game with ease.

Our only defeat of the year was in our second game against Notts High. Having to wait for a sodden pitch to dry out before we started an hour late, we lost a vital toss. We limped to 60 for 7 when Tom Dolby launched an assault. He got to 30 in 3 or 4 overs with some impressive clean hitting. A score of 106 was competitive but just not quite enough. Despite some accurate and hostile bowling by Vince Spurr and Tom Plant, Notts High squeezed in.

After one solid start, James Allen blasted an excellent 30 in our next game against Bedford Modern. When he gets going James hits the ball very clearly. A score of 160 for 3 proved out of reach for Bedford.

James Allen starred again in scoring 50 in our easy win against Gresham's. This game was followed by a "winning draw" away to Kimbolton. After yet another good partnership between Oli and Bahle we ended up with 160. Oliver Lane and Tom Crees added vital impetus in the middle of the innings. By this time Tom had also taken over the gloves and was learning fast. Oli Lindley finished 81 not out – a quality knock!

Our closest game was a one wicket defeat of the Leys. Toby Cole bowled a superb spell. Michael Fairburn also chipped in with 2 for 3 as Leys were bowled out for 97. In reply we made heavy weather of completing the win. Eventually it was left to Vince Spurr and Dawson Bannister to close out the win with some sensible batting.

Tom Plant was not having a good season with the bat although he bowled well all year. So it was pleasing that he should nurse us home against Oakham. Chasing only 74, wickets were tumbling. Perhaps unwisely, we had reversed the order. Oakham gained momentum. Thankfully Tom and Toby Cole nursed us over the finish line.

The season finished with an easy win against Spalding GS.

TPJ



Under 14 B Cricket

A mixed season. The team started with a good show of strength at the Leys, thanks in no small part to a "captain's innings" from Ben Chew (33) and a very handy 22 runs from Freddie Tattersall. Joe Robinson and Cameron Payne managed to bowl very economically, and we went on to win the match by 3 wickets. We were not so fortunate against Loughborough or the Deacons (who fielded an exceptionally strong side), losing against the latter by 7 wickets, despite a blistering 66 from Guy Michels in baking heat. Perhaps the highlight of the season was the match against Greshams. Stamford managed to chase down their 160 all out and eventually won by 2 runs.

Ben Chew captained the side with intelligence and efficiency, and he was assisted ably by vice-captain, Joe Robinson. As the season progressed, Cameron Payne proved himself to be a fine wicket-taker, and James Cattermole worked very hard at his batting and bowling throughout the season. Strong support was also provided by Michael Smyth (when he wasn't playing for the A team), Tom Dowdell, who turned into a confident Number 2, and Freddie Tattersall.

Under 13A Cricket Report: Summer 2005

Well-attended winter nets and a squad bursting with enthusiasm looked forward to a busy season of competition.

First on the agenda was a Saturday morning appointment with Wisbech. We made a steady start, but the tempo soon increased as captain Tim Anders moved through the gears once joined by the bustling and purposeful Josh Green. We set Wisbech a challenging total. Victory was assured with eleven overs still to go. A great start.

We were looking for a repeat performance against Deacons but this time the batting did not go to plan. Good quality bowling lured too many batsmen into rash strokes and we failed to bat out the full allocation. Deacons' innings was certainly entertaining if not always packed with quality cricket. It all culminated with Stamford snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, to lose by one wicket with one ball to spare. The following game at Notts High pitted us against a very good side. Batting first we carefully made our way to a respectable, if smallish, total with Peter Wilson and Tom Williams sensibly accumulating what was on offer from a mean bowling attack and slow outfield.

Bedford Modern had been scoring runs for fun and continued in the same vein for our visit. We spent a long afternoon chasing the ball around in windy conditions before being given the opportunity to chase over two hundred for victory, or we had to avoid being bowled out in order to claim a draw. Tim Anders did well up the order but with eight wickets lost and sixteen overs to bat out all was not well. Rob Burley, Charlie Mays and Mark Palmer then began stubborn resistance against an increasingly irritated home side and we managed, through some heroic defensive duties, to sneak a draw.

We returned to Bedford on the Monday for another difficult fixture. Winning the toss for the first time we decided to bat and take the game to the opposition. Tim Anders and Alex Jones got us off to a great start and Tom Williams, Freddie Berridge and Josh Green all chipped in at the end. We set the home team a challenging target. Unfortunately they were equipped with some powerful players. Despite the loss there was lots to like about our cricket, a performance which set the tone for future matches.

On the main square the side was finally given a chance to show off its talents to the school. Grantham were the victims of an efficient performance which saw Tim Anders and Alex Jones set up a challenging total. Wickets were shared around as the visitors, in murky conditions, struggled to mount a serious assault on our score.

FA Cup final day and a forecast suggestive of heavy rain accompanied us on our trip to Loughborough. Under leaden skies we batted first and scrambled our way to a respectable score. As the conditions darkened Loughborough mounted their challenge, but the umpires came to their senses and opted to call it a day. A visit to Oakham brought the first half of term to a close and although we managed a healthy total, we bowled with a little too much width and allowed Oakham to get past our score with a couple of overs to spare.

Oundle presented the first opportunity for glory after the exams. Good opening bowling from Tom Williams and a fast spurt from Freddie Berridge undermined their top order but they still managed to get up to a hundred on a difficult surface. This did not look like being an easy chase, but the composure of Tim Anders and hitting of Tom Williams soon took the game way from a dispirited side and we cruised home to the delight of the local crowd.

Our final game, back on Northfields, was an opportunity to equate the win column with that of the defeats. A strong team bowling performance reduced Kimbolton to a gettable total. Despite some early nerves Tim Anders' mature batting and the aggressive stroke play of Josh Green, who never lets the short ball go unpunished, saw us home in very quick time.

MJB

2005 U12 cricket review

The season began very well with some excellent nets sessions. We clearly had a great collection of cricketers. The test came in the usual opening fixture against Wisbech.

First ball of the season saw the stumps go flying and the same with the 15th and 16th balls of the season. With this desperate start out of the way, we attempted some sort of recovery, but with Charles Kay top scoring with only 18 we struggled. Our saving grace was that we stole 81 extras mainly in wides and byes giving us a total of 127 off 30 overs.

Our bowling started very well securing 2 wickets in the first 2 overs and it was game on. Well, at least until their number 4 came out to bat. It was the same guy who bowled us out and he is as good with the bat as he is with the ball. A quick fire 65 and defeat was inevitable. All in all we lost the game by 3 wickets. The second game started badly as well. Nott's High thumped us around the park for a massive 182 off their 30 overs. We lasted less than 15 overs, top scorer got 4 runs and we lost by a mammoth 140 runs. In the 3rd game against Bedford Modern the loss was by less than a hundred this time - we were improving. Next up was Bedford Prep - we batted first and decided to set the pace. Losing only 5 wickets we scored an almighty 60 runs off 30. We believed that the game was done; anybody could beat 60 runs in 30 overs surely. However the opposition struggled, and with Robert Salt taking 3-6 and William Joyce taking 4-18, the impossible seemed a reality. But it was a cruel twist of fate teasing us as they sneaked home by 2 wickets. This did however give us confidence for the challenges that lay ahead, and next up was Kings Grantham. The least said about this game the better as we were bowled out for 34, although conditions for batting were significantly worse during our innings than our opponents, it does not take away from us the fact that this was a poor display.

We felt that vengeance would be ours at Loughborough as their pitch is very small. However, fate was against us as the heavens opened and the proverbial cats and dogs enjoyed the pitch instead. At least we had not lost.

The St Hughes game was one to be remembered as some year 8 boys joined the team to play against an opponent who had in recent times had easy victories over us. This was different. A solid 108 runs was a good

start, especially by Joshua Green who hit his first ever half century but an impressive performance ended only in a winning draw.

Deacons! We scored 78 all out; they won by 9 wickets in less than 15 overs. This was nothing but a blip in our resurgence and nothing could prevent our march to glory.

At least nothing could stop Arjun Maher or Ryan Cutler. Arjun took 3 wickets as Kimbolton scored 126 runs off their 30 overs and Ryan scored another half century, ably supported by Robert Salt, as we destroyed the enemy to win by a landslide 9 wickets. This was a great finish to a very tough season.

DLS

U 12 B Cricket report

The team had high aims for the 2005 season. For most of the players, it was the first time they had ever played cricket. The team didn't have many matches to prove themselves and improve their cricket, however, they did manage to put in a superb effort in all the games they played. We didn't manage to win a game but the boys did manage to score some runs and take some wickets. The cricketing future is bright for the U 12 B group of boys.



Athletics

The weather to accompany the athletics season was condemned to be poor from the moment Chris Fletcher uttered the immortal words, 'This athletics hoodie is going to be the most pointless piece of kit I have ever bought'. Admittedly this was said on an early summer term afternoon, when the weather was at its transient best.

These words came back to haunt us all with a vengeance, as for the first fixture at King Edwards, we set off from sunny Stamford to arrive in grey and progressively more rainy Birmingham. It was a tough start to the season with quality athletes from a range of West Midlands schools as well as some of our more local rivals. Once again it was proved that talk is not cheap as Will McMillan took one look at the cinder track and announced that was not going to hurdle on that as falling over would remove all the skin on his legs. Having persuaded him to compete his words became a self – fulfilling prophecy and yet he still finished in front of other athletes! There were spirited performances throughout the age groups, despite few first places, and the team spirit everyone showed on that cold grey day was to manifest itself throughout the season. Of note that day were Steven Mills, with a win for the Senior A team in the triple jump; the senior relay team with a second place; Alex Reeder with a win in the Colts long jump; Jonathon Stoddart with a second in the hurdles and a win in the high jump and John Murphy and Jake Wilkinson with seconds in the Javelin and 1500m respectively.



The following weekend again dawned grey and dubious as we set off for Loughborough for a triangular with local rivals Uppingham, Rain fortunately held off as the fixture was on grass, so all events were able to go ahead. The senior team were possibly one of the smallest squads we have had for the past few years, but what they lacked in number they more than made up for in their willingness to participate and fill in events that were possibly not their first choices. Tom Hammond's hurdling style has yet to be technically analysed and entered into the coaching manuals, but I am sure his day will come. For the Juniors, competing against a strong Loughborough squad there were a swath of second places, but outstanding that day were Guy Michels who produced an superb winning long jump, immediately after a first in the 100m and second in the 200m and Jonathon Stoddart with 2 seconds and a first in the high jump. The stalwarts for the Colts were Oliver Flaxman with second places in all of his three events and Alex Reeder with a win in the long jump, closely followed by Laurent Ross who was also second in the triple jump. The seniors had a good number of

firsts, with Will McMillan in the hurdles and discus, Chris Fletcher in the shot and long jump and Lewis Chisholm in the 200m winning with a season's best. Kyle Tombleson was available to run for us this week, being free of county commitments and he also secured a win despite feeling a little under the weather as he began his 19th year! The colts won their competition, and we won the overall competition by the narrowest of margins – half a point! A phone call from the Uppingham coach on the way home suggested the addition was incorrect, but we stood by the final figures on the piece of paper!

Corby was the site for the local derby v Uppingham, Oakham and Oundle and was unsurprisingly another cold grey day. The senior team was quite depleted but most spaces were filled by generally willing volunteers from the colts. In fact some juniors were prepared to take part in the senior 400m! Steven Mills managed to get third place in the triple jump despite a horrendously swollen ankle and the colts jumpers seemed to be inspired, with Alex Reeder winning the long jump, with a second in the senior triple event, and Laurent Ross winning the triple jump, with a first place in the senior long jump. With Jonathon Stoddart winning the junior high jump, Adam Neill the colts event and Lewis Chisholm winning the senior event, casually clearing 1.75m whilst still wearing his hoodie, we should have a strong team in this area next year. Tom Mackinnon and Slava Malyshevsky added to the field events tally by wining the discus and shot. The overall team position was second behind a very strong Oakham team, with Uppingham third.

From this point on the whole school team events were decimated, first by the cancellation of the Rugby fixture due to and incomplete track, and then by the weather firmly knocking out the grassy Worksop fixture for the second year running. This just left the Lincolnshire championships which was yet another uninspiring day weather wise. The competition was tough and in the colts competition there were three creditable third places, Joe Allen in the Hurdles, Laurent Ross in the long jump and Slava Malyshevsky with a season's best in the shot. The juniors had Jonathon Stoddart third in the hurdles, Alex Jones with a season's best in the 800m and Jake Wilkinson with a personal best in the 1500m. Several seniors qualified for the Anglians, including Chris Fletcher, Steven Mills, Paddy Burke and Paul Batten. All those who qualified for the county championships had produced some excellent performances to get there including part time athlete Josh Cutteridge who ran a season's best to qualify.

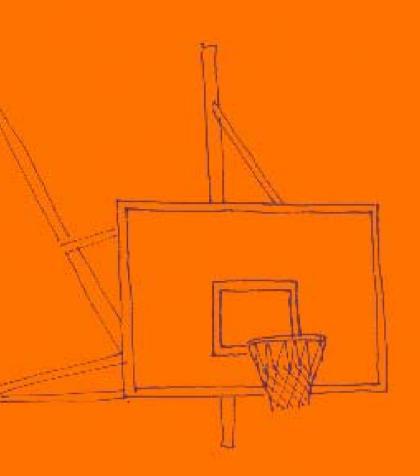
The colts and juniors also participated in the English Schools Cup the colts coming a creditable third and the juniors wining through to the next round. The entire team scored consistently well, especially Chris Brice, Jake Wilkinson and Charles Griffin. The next round was tough with schools from a wide geographic area and the boys faced stiff opposition and all gave of their best. The year 7's had a chance to shine in the District Championships which they won with victories from Tom Mitchell, Tristan Roper-Caldbeck, and Sebastian Watson amongst others. Year 8 were involved in inter school fixtures with at Bourne and Loughborough and alongside this students were participating in a full programme of inter house events. Particular mention must go to our stalwart captain of Athletics, Paddy Burke, not only for his commitment throughout the season, but for his tremendous performance in the senior pentathlon; to Chris Fletcher for wining the Victor Ludorum and to Mr Knowles whose enthusiasm for athletics meant that more structured and event specific training sessions took place and that turnout to practices was always good.

On paper this year's athletics results did not quite match up to previous years but perhaps more importantly every athlete made great improvements to their own performances, showed commitment, team spirit and determination and all bodes well for another enjoyable season of athletics next year.

ALJ / C. Fletcher

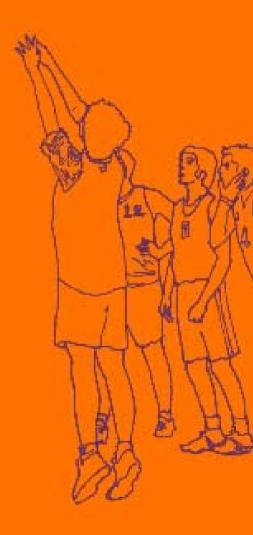








Basketball



It has been a good season for the senior basketball team and we have had one of the strongest teams in Stamford School basketball history. We returned from a short Christmas holiday but we were well prepared for a good season ahead.

Moreover, the players were the most important features in the season. Alex Tam was the captain and one of the key players and he has played his best in every match. As the results of this, the Headmaster has awarded school colours to Alex for his services to basketball. The vice-captain was Spencer Lai, who organised the pre-season training and led the warm up for every match. Spencer has developed his skills in the court after playing in every match, and although Spencer did not score many points, he was the most improved player of the season. One of the highlights of the season was to watch Phillip Nelson score over ten points in every match. Phillip is a skilful player who joined Stamford for two terms from Washington. Phillip has played in the American college league for many years and before he joined us he had the opportunity to play for a NBA team. Phillip brought his skills over to England, and not many opposing players were successful in stopping him.

Further more, one of the longest servicing players was Matthew Ng. Matthew has played for four years and has always been one of the five starting line up. Matthew was especially good at attacking and he was one of the leading scorers in the season. It was always difficult to communicate during matches because of all the Matthews in the team! Matthew Au made his debut to the senior team when he was only in Year 9 and he has made a massive difference to the team. The best player for the side at all times was Matthew Leiper. His skills both with and without the ball were unforgettable. His focus, movement and shooting allowed the team to gain more points every time. He was man of the match every game and he was also the players' player of the season.

This year we had a player over six feet tall for the first time – Luke Cripps gave us massive supports in the air and his height was very useful. Also we had C. Oliver who played centre for us in many matches and we would like to thank him for his efforts. Also, T. Jia was a key attacking player for us and has scored a good number of points for the team. Finally, both S. Williams and A. Kong were also very important to the team, and Sam had made a special effort to keep his hair long for the basketball season. The season ended with three wins and three losses. The three wins included Stamford College both away and home and an away win against Oakham. Every player finished the season a much better player, and the ups and downs will live long in our memory.

Spencer Lai Basketball captain 2006







Cross-Country



Juniors

The 2004-5 cross-country season must surely rank amongst one of the most successful ever seen at Stamford School. The year 7 & 8 team became so accustomed to victory that on the few occasions they did not return with silverware, the minibus seemed unusually empty. In what was a much fuller fixture list than in previous years, the team notched up no fewer than 6 victories out of 7 fixtures. They came out clear winners of the Fenland League having won all three fixtures in their age group and confirmed their dominance when they were crowned District champions in December. Having won the first round of the English Schools' Cup, they gained qualification to the semi-final in Leeds where they narrowly missed out on a place in the national final, finishing 4th and only 1 point away from qualification. Had it been possible to field the full squad on that occasion they would have almost certainly secured their place in the final. In the closing fixture of the season the team once again triumphed over their local rivals by securing victory in the Fenland Relays.

The success of the team was due not only to the exceptional talent of Jake Wilkinson in year 8 and Tristan-Roper Caldbeck in year 7, both of whom dominated on every occasion, but also to the depth of talent in these years. Cameron Payne and Jona-

than Stoddart in year 9, Alex Jones and Rhys Own in year 8 and Tom Mitchell and Charlie Kay in year 7 regularly produced top ten finishes that clinched the match in our favour. These were backed up by many other stalwart performances from the regulars in the team whose contribution was just as important. Well done to all the boys for an excellent season – I look forward to their successes as they move up through the school.

Colts and Seniors

Toby Simpson and Kyle Tombleson led their teams admirably in what was a rather uneventful and relatively brief season for the older runners. We competed in 4 fixtures in total, having missed the fifth due to a mix up over minibus bookings!

The main positives from this year are that we sported new tracksuits, escaped finishing last in any fixture and managed to notch up 3 victories out of the 8 possibilities. Things are definitely moving in the right direction! Our successes came at the Oundle Relays – fine performances from all involved with clear proof that Adam Hunter in year 10 and Daniel Robottom in year 12 were our best milers on the day in each age group. The senior team, bolstered by the presence of Kyle Tombleson and the efforts of Paul Sarjeant also achieved victory in the match against Oakham at Hambleton Peninsular whilst the colts did well to finish second.

In the match against Uppingham we secured a historic 1,2,3 in the seniors with Steven Mills putting in a tremendous performance to finish behind Kyle and Daniel Robottom. Sadly this was not enough for victory but both teams finished a creditable second on that occasion with Rory Gibson and Adam Neill leading the colts team home.

Individual Championships

Congratulations should go to the following who all represented South Kesteven at the Lincolnshire Championships: Tom Mitchell, Tristan Roper-Caldbeck (y7)

Jake Wilkinson, Alex Jones, Cameron Payne, Jonathan Stoddart, Rhys Owen (junior)

Rory Gibson (inter)

Kyle Tombleson, Paul Sarjeant, Matt Dedynski, Steven Mills, Phillip Dawson, Chris Lewis (senior)

Kyle Tombleson won his age group in the Lincolnshire championships and had it not been for confusion over the last few metres of the course Tristan Roper Caldbeck would have done so too: a fantastic achievement for them both. Both they and Jake Wilkinson went on to compete with distinction in the Anglian Championships and Jake and Kyle then took part in the English schools. For Jake, still at the bottom his age group, this was the first step towards greater things and an excellent experience. Kyle, now a seasoned performer at the highest level, finished a superb 23rd. We wish Kyle every success with his running as he leaves us to take up a place at university.

Full details of all the athletics and cross-country results can be found on our website: www.flyingstarts.net/athletics

R. Knowles





U12 "A" Football

Training began in early January, and the squad members were aware that a tough season lay ahead with so little time to prepare and several difficult fixtures waiting. Having never played together before, it was vital that the team could pull together and gel as a unit.

Our first match was against Oundle, a team we were expected to beat heavily. Initially, things did not go well. At half time, we found ourselves two goals down, and in dire trouble. Our strikers were receiving little or no service, the midfield were all at sea, and the defence looked shaky to say the least! Only a stern team talk and substitution could save the day. It worked. The second half was all ours and within minutes we had pulled a goal back. Sending on Joe Harrap at half time to bolster the midfield proved crucial, and an equaliser quickly followed. It looked as though a draw was almost certain to ensue, but there was a final twist in the dying minutes as we grabbed the winner with only seconds remaining. We were off to a winning start.

We travelled away to Ranby House in confident mood. Indeed, we scored the opening goal. Nevertheless, it was a particularly cold day, and our boys must have been thinking about a half time cup of tea, as two lapses in concentration allowed the opposition to score twice before the interval. After the break, the team looked toward our captain, defender Nathan Graham, for a bit of inspiration, which he delivered within seconds of the restart. We had been awarded a free kick on the edge of the area, which Graham dispatched, Beckhamlike into the top corner with the keeper caught in no-man's land. There was nothing to choose between the teams, and a draw would have been a fair result, especially with players like Chris House in such fine form, but it wasn't to be. Ranby scored twice late on to win the game. A result that flattered the hosts.

King's Grantham was always going to be a tough match, especially so away from home. Sadly, they were to prove too strong for us. Despite the dazzling skills of Ryan Cutler and Michael Sharp on either wing, they scored a total of seven, yes seven times in the match without reply. This was a result that prompted calls for the manager's head!

In order to save his job, the manager made some sweeping changes for the next match against Wellingborough. The introduction of cultured midfielder Tommy Mitchell, and sharp striker Charlie Kay made all the difference to the remainder of the season. We now had a solid unit, with players like Sam Andrew, Richard Sims and Ross Cutteridge hitting good form. We went on to win the game, and went into our final two matches in buoyant form.

The first of these was a heated affair against Boston Grammar. This was a bruising encounter, and one could be forgiven for thinking the likes of Roy Keane, Duncan Furguson, or even Henry Cooper were included in the Boston line up! Fortunately, and due in no small part to the delicious Rooney-like play of Josh Manby, who took his goal superbly, we prevailed once more.

The final match was against Carres Grammar. This was a good natured encounter away from home. The defence, midfield and attack were all in fine form, but it was the inspired goalkeeping of stopper Charlie Lang that kept us in the game and earned us the draw we deserved.

Results:

Oundle – won 3-2
Ranby House – lost 4-2
King's Grantham – lost 7-0
Wellinborough – won 2-1
Boston Grammar – won 2-1
Carres Grammar – drew 1-1

C. D. Fox

Under 13 "A" Football

An enthusiastic and well organised squad began training in temperate conditions for early January and expectations for a successful season were high.

The first of our fixtures was at home to Oundle, and on an overcast and blustery afternoon we enjoyed a fine victory. It was not all plain sailing, a rather tight first half in which we were the stronger side but no goals to show for it. A burst of four goals in ten minutes in the second half demonstrated our overall control. Chris Brice had arrived at half time eager to make a contribution and helped drive the team into more attacking areas.

The next fixture took us to Ranby House, and on a positively spring-like afternoon we hoped for a performance to match the optimism of the weather. This was a good game, but rather puzzling too. Ranby dominated early before we started to play. After ten minutes of being in complete control they scored and went into the break in front. Two goals in the first minute of the second half complimented the coach's team-talk, goals brought about by good, aggressive passing and cool runs from the Farrell brothers and Rob Burley.

Form then on we looked in control and Sam Cole looked strong behind a well organised defence.

Away to King's Grantham in our next match, we seemed dwarfed by the dimensions of an enormous pitch and rather forgot our route to goal. Alex Jones took the fight to Grantham in the second half and we finished much the stronger. Although they looked dangerous on the break they were unlikely to break down the spirit and organisation of Charlie Mays and Josh Green. We lacked the predatory instinct in front of goal and had to settle for a share of the honours.

After a lengthy half term break we entertained Wellingborough and we looked a little rusty in the early stages. In boggy conditions it was a question of being strong in the tackle and keeping one's balance. Unfortunately the big boys from Northamptonshire did this well and opened the scoring. We fought back immediately and played some super football for ten minutes and really should have scored more than once during this period, again temerity in front of goal proved the Achilles heel. This turned into a great game. We passed the ball well through midfield with Rob Burley in full control. At the back Charlie Mays had his most effective game, but Wellingborough edged back in front with a well taken effort leaving us with it all to do. The goal of the game came from Tom Williams with an excellent header from a free kick. He attacked the ball bravely to nod it above keeper and just under the bar. A passionate final quarter saw both sides with plenty of half chances but neither side, it seemed, deserved to take all the points.

Boston GS has always been the bench-mark fixture. A positive performance against our fiercest rivals would set the standard for the season and this was an opportunity to settle old scores, suffering on their turf in the previous season. The first half saw Stamford at its best, (that is after conceding a goal in side three minutes which went in straight from the corner), with flowing passing moves and Alex Jones running the defence ragged. We quickly got back on terms. A penalty from a rather obvious hand-ball. After that it was a question of how many we got before half time. Unfortunately the answer is not many! The second half was a lack lustre affair notable only for the increased moaning of the opposition. It is timely to note that this Stamford team played fairly and with the highest degree of respect for their referees in every game. t The final scoreline did us no justice.

On a cool and gloomy morning, we reached Carres GS having suffered the short sightedness of Lincolnshire County Council's road resurfacing strategy. On a huge, heavy pitch we battled hard and competed against a very dangerous side and we matched their performance with organisation and attacking potency. It was a hard fought game and one that probably should have finished as a draw, but a well worked goal that was firstly brilliantly saved by Sam Cole was enough to lead us a first defeat of the season. The performance deserved better, although it must be recorded that the opposition keeper did not have to make a challenging save during the game.

On the whole the record reads less impressively than the performances and potential of this team. They worked hard during training and gained in quality as the season progressed. Well organised and disciplined they went out an played as a unit and they must take heart from an enjoyable and competitive season. Most satisfying of all perhaps are remarks made by opposition parents who spoke very highly of this team's performances and behaviour on the field.

Squad:

Robert Burley (capt), Josh Green, Charlie Mays, Tom Williams, Tim Anders, Chris Brice, Sam Cole, Sam Farrell, Will Farrell, Alex Jones, Rhys Owen, Matt Fuller, Peter Wilson.

Results:

Oundle - won 4-0
Ranby House - won 2-1
King's Grantham - drew 0-0
Wellingborough - drew 2-2
Boston GS - drew 1-1
Carres GS - lost 0-1

M. J. Blissett

Under 13 "B" Football

The season kicked off with an away game at Ranby House. The superb pitch was ideal for the team's slick passing game. The back four of Cameron, Berridge, Bryant and Downer quickly settled into a cohesive unit. Particularly impressive were Freddie ('no man shall pass') Berridge who dominated the centre and Iain (Cafu) Downer whose strong running from full back created a lot of openings. A goal in either half from the poacher Jordan and the free scoring Slater were enough for a comfortable win over spirited but limited opposition.

Suitably encouraged the team turned in an expansive attacking display against King's Grantham, creating a bushel of chances and converting four of them. The same players were on the score sheet, this time bagging a brace apiece as we cruised home by 4 goals to 1.

The first home match of the season was an early morning fixture against Wellingborough on a difficult surface on Upper Drift. The boys adapting well playing a longer ball game with the midfield runners Leech, Redding, Wilson and Hanks supporting well. Palmer was switched to the right of a back three and put in a composed performance, covering with the timing and composure of a young Beckenbauer. The opposition were tall but ungainly and gifted us two own goals to go with strikes from Wilson, Slater and Jordan. 5 – 1 was a fair reflection of Stamford's dominance.

Our next opponents were Boston Grammar School and proved a stern test. We were again grateful to the back four where Cameron made some excellent challenges and behind whom, goalkeeper Ford was at last given the opportunity to show his talents. Several times he was brave and quick to thwart breaks from Boston. Boston were playing an offside trap and both Stamford's first half goals came when well timed runs sprung the trap. Boston pulled one back on the stroke of half time setting up a tense and battling second half. Two late goals gave Stamford a flattering 4-1 scoreline but a deserved win. Scorers: Hanks, Leech, Slater and another own goal.

The last match of the season was away at Carres GS. Could the side maintain their 100% record? Would the strong team spirit epitomised by the enthusiasm of Teasdale-Brown, the reliability of Wilkinson and the endeavour of Anders (when twice released from the A team squad), be enough to see us through? Five straight wins; was it possible?err, well no actually. We were roundly beaten by Carres who gave Stamford a footballing lesson and romped home 3 –1. Hanks's late strike being a mere consolation.

Nevertheless, the team played some very good football in an excellent season. More importantly, they played their football in the correct way. I never heard a moan or a groan at each other, at an opponent or at a referee. Congratulations.

Squad: Ford, Berridge, Bryant, Redding, Palmer, Wilkinson, Leech, Cameron, Jordan, Slater, Wilson, Hanks, Anders, Teasdale-Brown, Downer.

W. C. Chadwick

Table Tennis

Senior Team: P16 W6 D1 L9 Junior 'A' Team: P11 W8 D1 L2 Junior 'B' Team: P12 W7 D1 L4

At the beginning of October, the senior table tennis team sat proudly on top of Division One of the Stamford and Rutland Table Tennis League. RJBH's boast in the Stamford Mercury, following last season's perfect record, that 'one or two teams might be surprised by the scorecard at the end of a match...' seemed perfectly reasonable. However, once the doughty performers had mobilised muscles that had seized up through comparative summer inactivity, youth counted for less.

To finish fifth in the top division was a very fine effort, given the disruption caused by examinations or other evening commitments. Alex Tam's wins over messrs. Peacock and O'Gorman, and the doubles victory with RJBH over Williams and Goodacre were highlights of his final season with the team. Norman Law seems primed to take Alex's place as top junior, but had to concede to him in the final of the County Closed Championships, hosted by the school. The sub-editors will have enjoyed the result, if only to have been able to use the headline: 'Alex lays down Law in victory'.

The junior teams enjoyed two very busy Sundays and earned respect from opponents and coaches alike. The standard of these leagues is improving each year, and the 'A' and 'B' teams finishing second and third respectively represents a fine season.

The A.G.M. was graced by the presence of Gareth Herbert, the player currently ranked two in England, and who is a double commonwealth games gold medallist. Alex, Norman and James Ho were present to collect their trophies from him.

The team will miss Alex, for he has been heavily involved in the sport for a number of years. He took the bat(on) from Leigh Ware, and now hands it on to Norman. Some of the junior team members are ready to graduate, and I hope that geography will not preclude them from playing in the evening matches that are typical of the senior league.

I have confidence that the popularity of the sport will remain in the school, and I hope that the Saturday and Monday sessions will continue to attract potential team players. There are tournaments and trophies galore waiting to be won!

The following represented the teams:

Senior: RJBH, AJW, Norman Law, Alex Tam

Junior 'A' Team: Bradley Felston, James Ho, James Graham

Junior 'B' Team: Craig Felston, Tommy Mitchell, Thomas Dowdell

R. J. B. Henry

Golf

Quadrangular match

The school golf team competed against Oakham, Oundle and Uppingham at Luffenham Heath GC. Hugh Jackson captained the team to our first win in this competition. Jon Lawrence was the outstanding individual with 40 points, which was a splendid score on a very blustery day. As only three of the Stamford boys had played the course the victory was a fine performance. The top six scores were combined to give the team score and Stamford's 188 points was 10 better than the second placed school.

Team: Hugh Jackson (capt.), Jon Lawrence, Andrew Ward (33pts.), James Cliff (32), Lewis Chisholm (30), William Clough (27), Jak Garner (26) and Andrew Rogers.

School v Staff v OS

In the School v Staff v OS the boys were narrowly beaten into second place by the Old Boys. Lewis Chisholm captained a young and relatively inexperienced school side but this was very much a case of the tail coming in strongly at the end for the school. With 4 matches in the clubhouse the OS and staff were ahead with 8 points each to the school's 4 points. By the time the final game got to the eighteenth green the staff were beaten and the match hung on the final result. Oliver Lindley (school) and William Roome (OS) halved their match and both beat the GAP student Barry Van Nierkirk to clinch a single point victory for the OS.

Teams: School – L.Chisholm (capt.), Josh Holland, Charles Tattersall, Andrew Ward, Oliver Joy, Edwin Williams, Joe Robinson and Oliver Lindley.

Staff – D.F.Williams, M.R.Barton, J.P.Hodgson, D.J.Laventure, D.Lennie, T.P.Jones, T.Galvin and B. Van Nierkirk.

O.S. – Geof Holyoak, Jon Sewell, James Bust, Edward Saunders, Christopher Meadows, Alex Glover, Vic Benns and William Roome.

School Golf Cup

On a miserable afternoon in the summer half term break eleven hardy boys braved the Burghley Park golf course to compete for the School golf cup. Considering the conditions and the fact that the competition was played off $\frac{3}{4}$ of their handicap the top 3 did very well. Oliver Lindley with 32points was third, Jon Lawrence (33) second but Mr.Fraser presented Joe Robinson, who is in year 9 and clearly a very good prospect for the future, with the cup for his fine 36 points.

M. R. Barton

Tennis

The opening match was against Uppingham School. Uppingham traditionally field a strong team and this year saw no exception. Richard Peckett and Paul Sargent salvaged the only point for the 1st VI. Similarly the 2nd VI only gained a single point.

The 1st team had more success against Nottingham High School. Both the first and second pairs managed to gain three points.

The match against Oakham also proved difficult although the first pair did achieve a point for the 1st team. The 2nd VI also struggled against the strong opposition.

The most closely contested match was versus the Leys School. All of the pairs achieved a degree of success. In particular the third pair (Andrew Raymond/ James Watson) had a tense and dramatic match against the opposition's second pair. They were narrowly defeated in a tie break which meant that the overall match result was a draw. The 2nd VI performed well defeating the Leys by five points to four. Notably the second pair (David Hardingham / Matthew Waik) won two out of their three matches.

The 1st team achieved an impressive victory over Oundle School by five and a half to three and a half points. The first pair (Richar Peckett / Paul Sargent) won all of their matches and the second pair (Josh Holland / Christopher Dorrington) gained two and a half points. Unfortunately the 2nd VI lost six – three. Again David Hardingham and Matthew Waik won two out of their three matches.

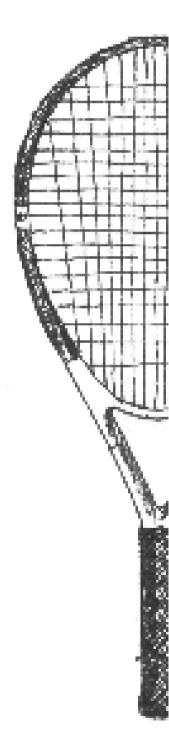
Although the season was not memorable in terms of victories, the team worked hard and competed throughout the duration of the season. The team would also like to thank Mr Williams for his support and coaching throughout the season.

1st VI 2nd VI R Peckett M. Clift P Sargent A Isles

C Dorrington S Illsley J Holland J Marx

A Raymond D Hardingham

J Watson M Waik





A blustery, grey September afternoon at Rutland Water was the venue for our sailing match against Uppingham School. Uppingham kindly lent us three of their 420s and the team began with a warm-up sail to familiarise themselves with the boats. "More stable than my Hobie 405 but a bit sluggish" was the verdict of one of our team. The wind proved very unpredictable all afternoon with alternate gusts and lulls, which required a range of sailing techniques.

The afternoon was divided into three fleet races. The first race got off to a slow start for the three Stamford school boats and they never really recovered the ground.

By the second and third races the Stamford boats had improved their line starts and gave their rivals a more competitive race. Matthew Fox and Matthew Burnett sailed well to finish fourth in the second race. Ben Wilkinson and Andrew Sampson were a tight, well-disciplined partnership and had a promising start to the third race but mistakenly turned back thinking they had been called back for crossing the line too soon. It was in fact the Uppingham boat which was recalled but they sailed on blissfully unaware. However, Ben Chew and lames Wilson held third place for much of the last race, only losing ground to Uppingham as they tacked to the finishing line. Overall the afternoon proved to be good experience for the team and increased their resolve to try and get Stamford School to buy some boats of it's own both for training and racing.

Team:

Ben Wilkinson and Andrew Sampson (captain)
Matthew Fox and Matthew Burnett
Ben Chew and James Wilson





Squash

PDL Squash 2004/05

The 2004/05 Peterborough District League season had all the potential to be successful for the Stamford Juniors as the lower order of the team: Andrew Raymond, Richard Peckett and Stephen Hunt had all had previous experience in the league, something which is absolutely essential as the technique for playing in a local adult league is guite different from that required in a school match. The season got off to a great start with a string of consecutive wins against the regular division three teams and personal averages were high. By Christmas, however, it emerged that two teams could stand in the way of a victory for Stamford as Ramsey who had come down from division two and a strengthened St. Neot's side were playing quality squash. The excitable and perhaps mathematical among us

had realised by Christmas that our second match against the first placed team St. Neot's would decide who was likely to come out top of the league. We were, however, unfortunate to lose this match which went right to the wire, the final score being 3-2 in favour of the opposition. From then on the second half of the season seemed somewhat harder and with a depleted team losing against Uppingham we no longer retained any chance of winning the league. This wasn't to say that team-members slackened and we performed well towards the end of the season, only losing to Ramsey. An overall result of third place in the league was very commendable and our thanks must go to Mr I'Anson for representing us at number one and consistently winning some tough games. I would, however, like to thank, above all, Mr 'Roadrunner' Blissett for giving up so much of his time and being a patient captain both on the balcony and in the kitchen.

Andrew Raymond

The 2004/05 squash team remained largely unchanged this season with the stalwart players Andrew Raymond, Richard Peckett, Stephen Hunt and Sam Illsley representing the school at numbers one to four for the second year running. With a year's experience under our belts, morale was high for the first four, accompanied by regular number five Ben I'Anson and sometimes Chris Dorrington and Will Epsom. A combination of previous experience and great team spirit was no doubt a large contributing factor in what would turn out to be a very successful season in which our main three rivals Oakham, Oundle and Uppingham would all suffer defeat at our hands.

Our first fixture away at Oakham in November had all the potential to be a difficult introduction to the season. However, much to everybody's surprise and due (for the top three) to some earlier Peterborough District League matches, everybody seemed to be on top form and the team won 5-0, a comprehensive victory the likes of which hasn't been seen against our rivals in Rutland for some time. By the Easter term, which played host to the majority of school matches, Mr Williams' 'boast, drop, drive' exercises had instilled in the team a confidence and readiness to play some competitive squash. Indeed, notable victories were claimed away at Oundle and at home against Bedford, Rugby and Uppingham. The only losses of the season were at home to Oundle and away at Uppingham, both particularly strong teams this season.

With regards to individual performances, I personally would like to congratulate the whole team for playing with great determination and sportsmanship. Sam Illsley began the season in true style at number five by going in with his much famed smashing the ball harder than seems possible tactic and on more than one occasion breaking his racquet due to small errors in judgement! He nevertheless enjoyed a successful season winning almost all of his matches. The up and coming Will Epsom showed great potential playing number four against Oakham and performed well for the first team when it was required of him, as did Chris Dorrington. Having made steady progress both in his technique and his fitness throughout the sixth form, Stephen Hunt was a great improver and very strong number three who barely lost a match all season. Richard Peckett also had a very high win-rate at number two showing tough resilience on court. At number one Andrew Raymond had a good season and some tight matches against, on occasion, very able opponents.

As captain it has been a pleasure for me to see such a great quality of squash evolve from a team whose commitment was unparalleled and it only remains for me to thank my team-mates for always giving their best and playing an excellent season's squash. Above all, however, thanks must go to Mr Williams for taking his time and sometimes much-needed persistence to ensure that our experiences of squash at Stamford School have been nothing other than positive.

Andrew Raymond







Swimming

On February 7th the annual senior swimming sports took place at the High School indoor pool. The results are below and I was particularly pleased that all of the lanes were full for every race, so a big thank-you must go to all housemasters.

Final adjusted results 1st Exeter 113 2nd Brasenose 99 3rd Ancaster 94 4th Radcliffe 59

Also, the CSLA helpers –Richard Fuller, Jonathan Pearce, Tom Holyoake, Chris Fletcher and Tom Lindlay – were outstanding and not only helped with the smooth running of the event, but started clearing away after the event without having to be asked!!!!

Eight NEW Swimming Sports records were achieved. Remember that these are records which have to be recorded on the day and are not necessarily School records. Adam Neill took 0.99s off Inter 2L back and 1.64 off inter 2L breast.

Liam Smith took 2.16s off B race Inter 2L breast and 1.25s off B race inter 4L free.

Robert Owen took 1.83s off Senior B race 2L back

Freddie Holland took 1.28s off senior A race 2L breast

Inter medley relay was broken by Exeter House taking 1.8s off the previous record. The team was - Neill, Marotta, Robert Murray, and Joshua Cuevas. Exeter also took the Inter freestyle relay by a massive 7.04 seconds, the team consisting of Adam Neill, Robert Murray, David Purcell, and Laurent Ross.

At the South Kesteven District Gala on February 8th we took, as usual, all age groups. Everybody swam competitively, especially Charlie Kay who managed two first places. Results below; Year 7 - 2nd 46 points-winners got 49 Y8+Y9 - 2nd equal-44 points Y10+Y11 - 1st 58 points

The STOWE relays were a new event for us and the Seniors – Freddie Holland, Richard Murray, Robert Owen, Jason Wallace and James Cliff - came very close to making both finals - 7th and 8th after heats. Our freestyle time was 1 minute 59 seconds, the winners swam 1:41 which is outstanding to say the least!!!

Inters - Murray, Purcell, Cunnew, Neill - made both freestyle and medley finals and came 6th in the freestyle in 2:01.15, 5th in medley 2:18. A very strong competition indeed!!!

Jeremy Cunnew unfortunately broke his ankle and missed the gala against Loughborough on March 10th. We swam different age groupings which seriously affected us, but at least more y10 boys had a swim. Unfortunately we lost all age groups but made up for this against Worksop where we won all age groups. Jeremy Cunnew's ankle was better and he managed to achieve a new school record 1 Length fly.

On Tuesday 2nd MAY we had great gala against the Leys. No exceptional swims but everybody did their bit. Our girls were very strong and helped the squad to an overall 30 point victory. On 10th May we won All age groups at Oakham with some excellent swims from the whole squad.

Results:

	Stamford	Oakham
U19	96	92
U16	94	90
Girls	100	84
	290	266

The Bath and Otter cup was held at Whitgift School this year and it was a pleasure to see such amazing facilities. The School has a 14 million pound state of the art sports complex and the pool would not look out of place as an Olympic venue. 8 lanes, with starting blocks at both ends, huge computerised scoreboards which calculated split times for all competitors and coverage of the event on huge t.v. screens dotted around the complex.....wow!!! Several of their pupils were working out in the fitness room on running machines and rowers and watching the swimming gala live on big t.v. screens as they exercised.

In the medley we didn't make the final and in the freestyle, where we had more of a chance, 4:07.29 wasn't quite enough to get us into the Aldenham cup final which we won last year and set a record. In this final our old record was beaten by over 2 seconds!! Lovely as our outdoor pool is, I think our ability to compete at this level is severely limited by the lack of an indoor facility.

It was nice to beat Uppingham at all age groups,U16 by 14 points, U19 by 12 points and The Girls by 22 points. The final gala of the season at home against Stowe was a noisy and exciting one. The atmosphere at the High School pool was fantastic and due to some truly excellent swims by some of the Stowe swimmers and some of our swimmers, it somehow felt appropriate that the gala ended up as a dead heat.

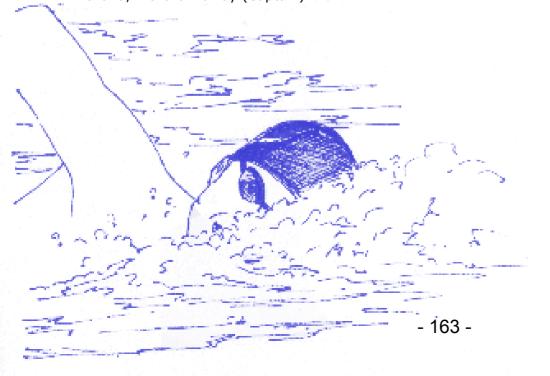
	Stamford	Stowe
U19	44	33
Girls	47	30
U16	27	50
U14	36	41
Totals	154	154

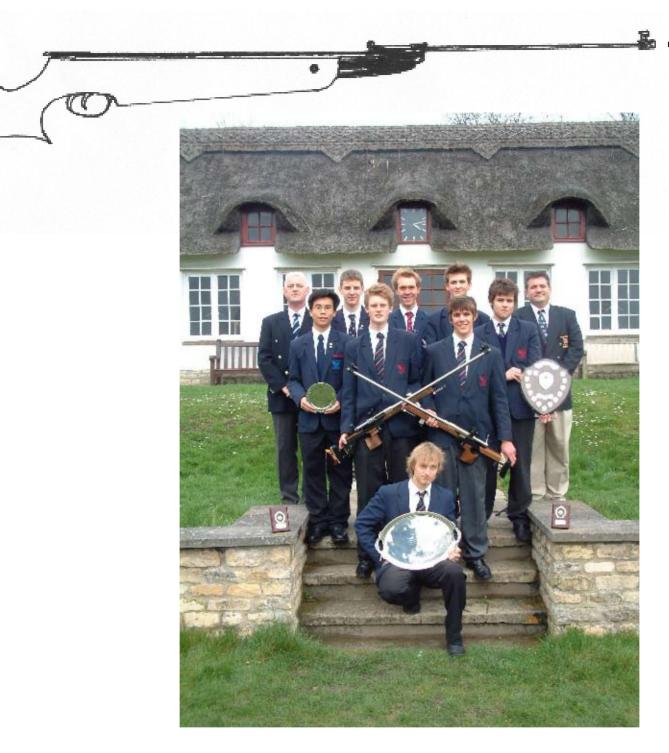
Well done to Jeremy Cunnew who finished the season with a new 1 Length butterfly school record of 10.62s which is a very impressive time. My thanks to Richard Murray who was an outstanding captain and to the whole swimming squad who were a pleasure to work with.

G. Mitchell

Swimming Squad 2005:

Tom Mitchell, Charlie Kaye, Angus Park, Edward Haggett-King, Anthony White, Jeremy Cunnew, Reuben Slater, Matthew Fuller, Andrew Holland-Jones, Iain Downer, Chris Brice, Tom Plant, Robert Murray, Adam Neill, David Purcell, Alex Reeder, Robert Ford, Liam Smith, Stuart Roche, James O'Shea, Laurent Ross, William Epsom, James Cliff, Robert Owen, Jason Wallace, Matthew Plumb, James Ogden, Michael O'Shea, Freddie Holland, Richard Murray (Captain).





Stamford School Shooting Team has achieved great successes in 2005. We maintained our high standards and we continue to be the most successful sport in Stamford School.

The Shooting team started their training programme for The Green Howards Country Life Competition in October 2004. This is an indoor competition which normally takes place in March, Stamford School has always done well in this competition, and therefore, our aims were very high so our training was very intense throughout the cold winter.

Before we shot in The Green Howards Country Life Competition, we shot in a local competition at Uppingham School, on a Sunday in March. This was the Mini Bell Competition, this competition is very similar to The Green Howards Country Life Competition which is shot with a .22 rifle in a 25 yards indoor range. After our long practices throughout the winter our coach's Mr Maksimovic and Mr Jackson selected the 'best eight'. The team for Mini Bell 2005 was R. Peckett- captain, N. Thorburn- vice captain, S. Illsley, S. Lai, O. Williams,

----Shooting Team

T. Fitzgerald, R. Coale and T. Wallington. In the Mini Bell Competition we have came first in the past 5 years and this year we defeated Uppingham, Oundle and Wellingborough to come first again. Notable performances were produced by Richard and he won the best shot in the competition with the score 99 out of 100.

After Mini Bell our next focus was The Green Howards Country Life Competition. This is a national competition with approximately 70 Schools competing, although Stamford had won the 'B Class' four times in succession we had never won the 'Class A' competition before. The team for the Country Life was the same as Mini Bell and L. Dodington-Boyes was the spotter for the team. After two hours shooting we have achieved a very high score and this score enabled us to win our first ever 'Class A' competition in Country Life.

In early July, Bisley became the main setting for the team shooting. The School Competition started with the 300 yard. At 300 yard, 500 yard and a new competition at 600 yard we shot very well and five members of the team received their Cadet One Hundred badges, this is awarded for high scores and you are classed as one of the top one hundred young shooters in the Country. Nick Thorburn, Sam Illsley and Richard Peckett came within the top 30s. On the final day of the School Competition was the Ashburton Competition. Despite the team having a nightmare at 300 yds, they managed to produce some very impressive scores over 500 and 600 making a massive came back moving up the leader board from 21st and finishing 3rd overall in the competition. This was a very good result for a competition which is biggest national school competition in the world. The team also won two major competitions and came second in one other competition. The team for Bisley 2005 was R. Peckett- captain, N. Thorburn- vice captain, S. Illsley, T. Fitzgerald, O. Williams, S. Lai, L. Dodington-Boyes, M. Fox, T. Wallington, R. Coale and C. Hillier.

Moreover, in the Imperial Meeting, eight members of our team joined by many Old Stamfordian took part in more than 10 open competitions achieving many individual successes in the meeting. Tom, Owen and Spencer gained a place on the 'prize' list in their individual competitions. Richard and Nick took part in the Cadet National competition along with Sam who took part in the County Competition and captain of Great Britain 'Athlings' team both in the meeting and in his tour to Canada in August.

The season, although compact in schedule, was very enjoyable and a memorable experience and the team hope to continue its consistent record into 2006. Finally we would like to thank our coaches, Mr Mik Maksimovic and Mr Marc Jackson for all their efforts they put into the team whom without the team would not achieve the success it has.

The adopted motto of the Shooting Team : Success a place where Training and Opportunity Meet.

Spencer Lai Captain of shooting 2006





Navy

For the Field Day expedition this year, the Navy Section went to Portsmouth. This included an overnight stay on HMS Bristol and a day at the Navy Base HMS Collingwood.

We travelled up on Wednesday evening, arriving at 7pm. Firstly we had a video warning us what to do in case the ship sank or there was some other disaster, then we made our way to the mess hall nicely in time for supper! The rest of the evening was spent upon the very educational pursuits of table football, pool, watching a video and an extremely violent form of table tennis, which rarely involved the table. We finally had lights out at 10:30, although the boys failed the intelligence test of finding the light switch.

We were all up bright and early the next morning, looking forward to the busy day ahead. In the refreshing drizzle, we marched across to the mess hall for breakfast and got completely soaked, but Leading Seamen Dawson and Dorrington still looked stylish in their fluorescent jackets. Then it was off to the base HMS Collingwood where the remainder of our day would take place.

At HMS Collingwood, the first visit was to the building holding the Phalanx. This is a machine on board a ship which protects against aerial attack. It has a range of roughly a mile, fires 3000 rounds per minute and can track any objects from the surface of the water to straight above the ship using radar. From this demonstration, we went next to another weapons system, called the MK8. It is mainly used for onshore bombardments. In this role the gun is capable of firing a 21kg shell at 25 rounds per minute in excess of 22,000m. The MK8 can also be used effectively against surface targets at sea as well as a limited anti-air capability.

Following this, we visited a museum at the base about the history of telecommunications in the military. The curator was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about his topic, talking at length about the various historical models and his experiences with some of them, including how he built his first radio! There was also an explanation of the history of HMS Collingwood and the previous ships which had borne the name. Unfortunately, we did not have time to go round all the exhibits but we all learnt a lot from him and were able to listen to Radio 1 in the background.

Before lunch, we had a session of drill. This involved marching around the parade ground for an hour under the tuition of a drill master, learning how to do a turn whilst marching and other useful skills. Once we had improved to a decent standard, we were dismissed and marched to lunch. After the meal we were taken to the bridge simulator. This is a room which has been set up to look exactly like the bridge of a ship, with computer screens outside all the 'windows'. All the conditions can be manipulated and the images on the screens alter accordingly. This has the interesting effect of making you feel sea-sick when standing on a firm floor and not moving! They then changed it so we were looking out from an aeroplane and there were many



other amazing viewpoints available. We were given a chance to control a plane on the simulator and try to bomb a ship. However, this was in 200mph winds so the flying was not of the highest standard.

To finish the trip, we visited HMS Victory, which was the flagship of Nelson during the battle of Trafalgar. He was shot upon the deck and died below. We saw both of these points but unfortunately Nelson's cabin was being refurbished, so we only saw the cabin of his first mate. One interesting fact is that the officers slept in their coffins! There was not enough space to carry separate coffins on board, so if a man died they would be shut in their bed with a plank nailed on top. Of course, most of the crew would not have the luxury of the bed and slept in hammocks in very cramped conditions. The guide was an entertaining Scot and he kept us amused throughout with these kinds of anecdotes.

This was the end of the day, so we had to come back to Stamford after picking up our bags. I would like to thank all the staff and navy personnel who helped to organise and run this trip, especially Mr. Killgren, as everyone had a great time.



Section Commander: SQN LDR M G Sawyer

Section Officers: FLT LT K Bentley, FG OFF R A Brewster,

PLT OFF A J M Holland, PLT OFF C P Williamson

Senior Cadet: F SGT Alex Wells

Members of the section were again involved in a wide range of activities, not only on Friday afternoons, but also at weekends and during the holidays. Although numbers attending are small, we had an Easter Camp at RAF Cosford, summer camps at RAF Leuchars, and RAF Linton-on-Ouse, at camp at the National Air Cadets at a centre in Windermere, and riat camp at RAF Fairford. All those attending enjoyed the various experiences on offer, and have requested to be considered again next year. Thanks to the kind officers of F SGT Crighton (our former test NCO formerly based at RAF Marham) 37 cadets had a most informative and enjoyable field day visit there, taking part in both indoor and outdoor activities. Senior cadets were on hand to help run the recruits training weekend at Beckingham, and their input was much appreciated.

During the year 49 cadets flew in the Grob tutor at 7AEF; 14 flew in vigilants at 643 VGS; 18 passed the proficiency 2 examination, and 8 passed proficiency 3; and 16 had interviews with the RAF careers Liaison officer.

The section was well represented at the various parades held throughout the year - 20 took part on Battle of Britain day, 33 on Remembrance Day, 14 in the mayor's parade and 6 on the Peterborough ANZAC day commemoration.

In our usual competitions we were placed 4th out of 34 in the Assegal trophy and 7th out of 16 in the ground training competition held at RAF Cranwell.

Flying awards were gained by a pleasingly large number of RAF section cadets – Steven Mills, Freddie Holland, Tejas Ingle, Alex Eagles, Tom Barnes and Pushkar Patanker all successfully completed gliding scholarships; Ben Miles was a awarded a civilian gliding club cadetship; Chris Griffin, John Ferdinand and Freddie Holland gained air cadet pilot scheme wings, and further applications are pending at the moment.

Sam Waudby and Freddie Holland are to be congratulated on their success at ACLC, Sam gaining a good pass and Freddie a merit, and Alex Wells deserves a very well done for being awarded an RAF 6th form scholarship.

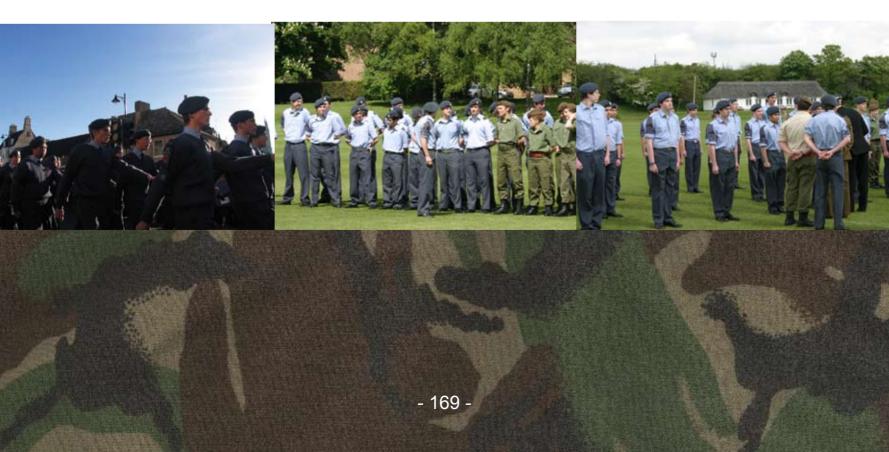
I would like you to thank all the section officers for their help and support over the year, and also offer praise to the cadets for making the section as well thought of as it is by the staff of HQAC. In any CCF the cadets make it what it is, and ours is one of the best. Well done to all concerned.

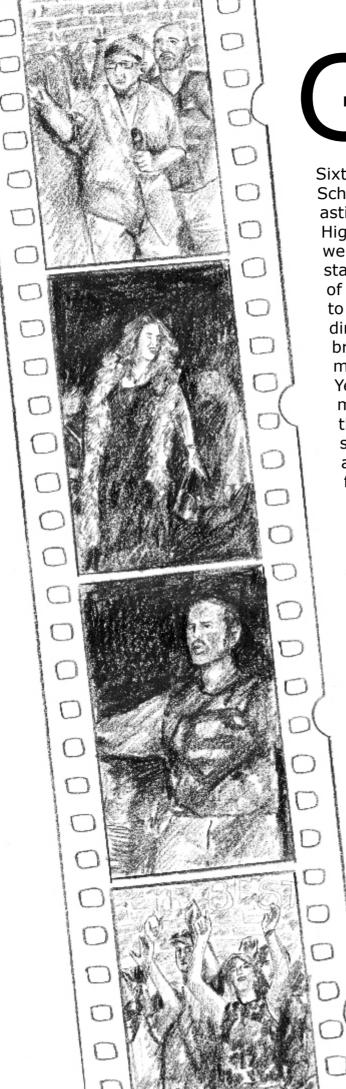
MGS.



Air Cadet Pilot Scheme

Before Christmas 2004, I was lucky enough to take part in the Air Cadet Pilot Scheme (formally known as the flying scholarship) after being awarded it during my U6 year. I had already completed my advanced gliding course, gaining my gold wings, which certainly helped with my selection chances! The course basically consists of about 2 weeks or 12 hours flying time with the main aim of going solo. Unfortunately, I was dragged all the way up to the barren Scottish highlands for mine...well, Dundee anyway! My accommodation was a hotel, a far cry from the metal beds and green mattresses of the average cadet quarters, because the ACPS was with a civilian flying school (Tayside Aviation). My dad had actually learnt to fly at the very same place while he was at university there, although I went solo in fewer hours than him (the cause of much controversy in the Holland family at the moment!) So, after desperately trying to understand the broad Scots accent of my instructor, and learning to handle the Katana DA20, I managed to go solo in about 10 hours, despite the cold weather. Some days, the frost never melted and there was at one point a sprinkling of snow. Thankfully, I was home in time for Christmas. The learning experience was harder than I expected, because it consisted of the Air Law exam (multiple guess!) and we were pushed to do as many other PPL (private pilot licence) exams as possible during our time there. The solo itself was a daunting experience, especially the landing. Staring down at a runway which is much too far away from you when you're all alone in a little plane is quite unsettling, especially when over the particularly choppy Firth of Tay! Despite all this, the ACPS is the first step to a career in aviation and anyone who has the opportunity to apply should definitely try. It looks good on any CV and it certainly made a more interesting answer to 'What did you do over Christmas?' when I went back to University! VH



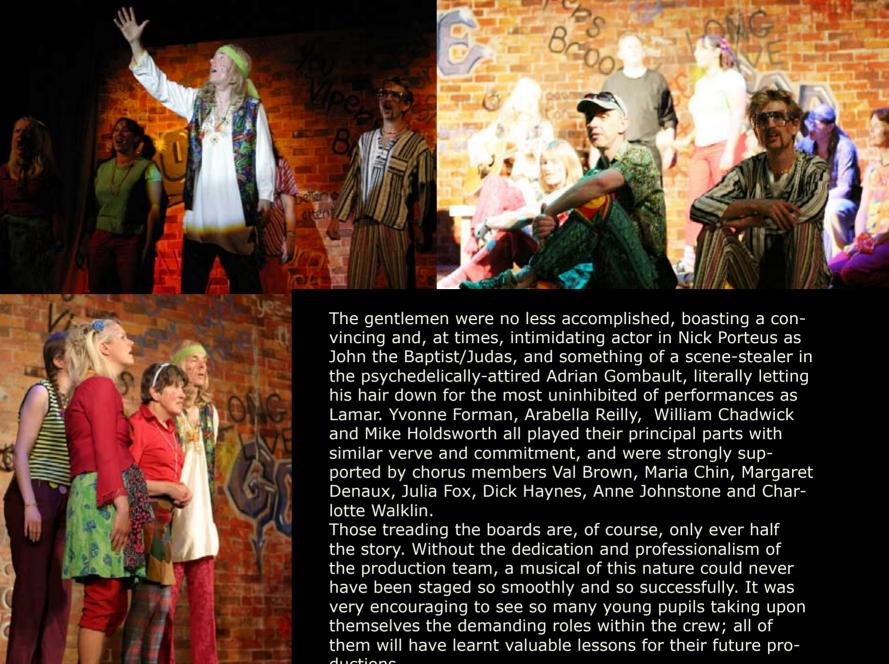


Godspell

Sixteen years had passed since the Stamford Endowed Schools had last staged a staff musical, but the enthusiastic audience at the first night of Godspell at Stamford High School on Tuesday 28th June found that it had been well worth the wait. For the already overworked teaching staff of a school to stage a full-scale musical at the end of a hectic term was quite an achievement in itself, but to have chosen a controversial piece of theatre which, as director Kendal Mills stated in the programme, had been branded by many fundamentalist Christians as 'blasphemous' and 'heretical', was an even more ambitious target. Yet, with the help of a well-drilled production team and musical trio, the seventeen cast members from across the Endowed Schools' common rooms approached this show with a great deal of confidence and energy, and as a result put on an impressive spectacle for governors, families, friends and goggle-eyed pupils, who would never see their masters and mistresses in the same light again!

Based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Godspell saw Jesus Christ (played gently yet incisively by Kieran Nally) preaching to his disciples through parables and storytelling. This recounting of a series of well-known Bible episodes could so easily have become monotonous, but it was here that the cast really triumphed, by varying most effectively the way that Jesus communicated his messages, and the manner in which the disciples in turn responded to them. Using theatrical devices such as pantomime, vaudeville, charades and puppetry, the cast was able to bring the different stories to life and, crucially, to draw the audience into the action so compellingly that its attention never wandered.

A host of excellent performances brought colour and humour in abundance, as the staff demonstrated their talents as actors, dancers and singers. On the ladies' side, Claire Bysshe as Joanne stood out for her irrepressible vim and vigour, whilst, in sharp contrast to the touching, haunting rendition of the prayer song 'Day by Day' by Sarah Angove as Robin, Tessa Bennie as Sonia provided an enticing opening to Act II with her sassy version of 'Turn Back, O Man'.



ductions.



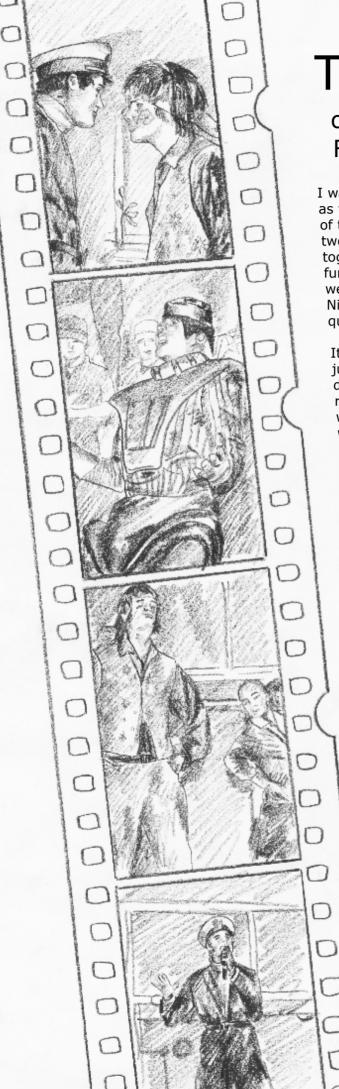




Jak Garner did a marvellous job as Stage Manager, very ably supported backstage by James Burley and Jonathan Yeates. Matthew Brown controlled the lighting perfectly, whilst Edward Cameron and Michael Morgan-Williams operated the follow spots with great assurance. Sound was in the capable hands of Kendal Mills, while the set itself, designed and constructed by cast members Charlotte Walklin and Mike Holdsworth respectively, provided a striking, gritty backdrop to the unfolding parable tales.

The experienced Paul White once again proved to be a fine choice for Musical Director, ensuring not only confident singing from the cast, but vivacious playing from Nicholas Taylor on piano and Joe Applewhite on drums. Thanks to the work of Anne Desbruslais, the choreography, which can so often be the undoing of certain amateur productions, proved vibrant and joyful, complementing the tone of the whole show extremely well. Finally, and most importantly, it is the producers, Messrs Mills and White, who must be applauded for their drive, single-mindedness and creative vision in making Godspell such an enjoyable experience. Not only did they resurrect an old and popular school tradition with great aplomb (revealing to an unsuspecting audience a host of previously latent staff talents), but they excelled in making from this complex and daunting musical an enchanting all-round piece of theatre.





Tom Baylem

on Sleuth and Return to the Forbidden Planets

I was first approached about the possibility of performing "Sleuth" as the senior school play with Chris Birks by Mr Mills at the end of the summer term. According to him it was about time that the two of us put something on, since we'd been in all the school plays together since year 7. Great I thought, it sounded like a lot of fun. The two of us would just bundle something together in a few weeks and have a few laughs in the process. Then I saw the script. Ninety-three pages of duologue to learn over the summer. Not quite what I had imagined.

It was a really great experience though. Performing a play with just two people was utterly different to anything else I had ever done before – for one thing you need a lot of stamina. It was a real privilege doing it with Chris in his last year, since I'd been working with him in every school production I'd been involved with. He was as brilliant as ever, playing an incredibly camp rich aristocrat who succeeded in bullying my character around the stage for most of the play, which incidentally culminated in my death. Many people were unsure before they came to see it whether it was possible to pull off a duologue for a couple of hours, but it really is an astounding play which keeps the audience guessing throughout. The response we received was all positive, I'm glad to say.

Before we had even finished the performance of "Sleuth," we were already involved in another production, the modern Sci-fi musical "Return to the Forbidden Planet." To be honest, I don't think it could have been any more different. For one thing it was a musical, which was unfortunate as it meant that the cast actually had to sing. I still haven't quite managed to forget the sound of Adam Humphreys singing the shoop shoop song...lets just say I preferred the original.

This production though was the light relief I had expected on taking on "Sleuth" and again it was great fun. You can imagine my horror as I was informed that I was to play a roller-skating robot with silver make-up and (very fetching) silver tights, especially as I had never skated in my life. Learning how to skate was often a painful experience.

I think that the whole cast have great memories of that show - there were so many hilarious moments that I do not have space to mention here. I don't think that anyone who came to see the show will remember it for it's all-round professional quality, but I can guarantee that they all thought it was a good laugh.





Sleuth

Two Stamford School Sixth Form students excelled themselves in November, staging a demanding, but masterful performance of the famous Anthony Shaffer play, "Sleuth".

The production was staged in the Stamford School Main Hall, and members of the audience were treated to glasses of wine in the course of the two evenings. Proceeds were donated to the BBC's "Children in Need" appeal.

The play is unusual, in that it features only two actors throughout, which meant that Chris Birks (17) and Tom Baylem (16) had an unusually large number of lines to learn.

Christopher was outstanding in the role of Andrew Wyke, giving a mature and convincing portrayal of his complex, devious but ultimately flawed character. Tom met the challenge of having to play two quite different roles very capably, and impressed with his range of delivery and characterisation.

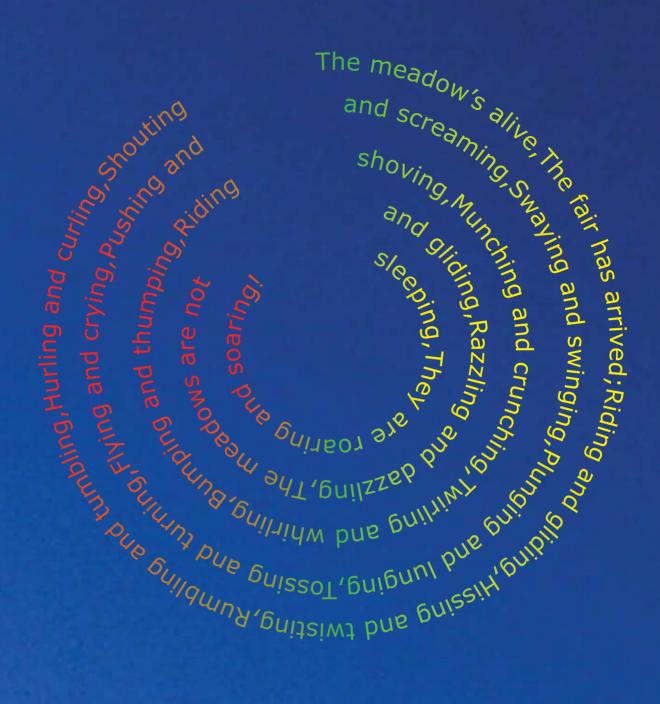
The boys' achievement was all the more remarkable, because both of them have already had extensive musical commitments in the school this term. They also shared responsibility for some of the preparatory work themselves with the director, Mr Kendal Mills. It was wonderful to see two of our finest actors exploring the full range of their acting abilities.

After the final performance, Chris spoke of how pleased he was that the school was willing to allow a two-hander: "I never thought I would get to do something as intense as 'Sleuth' at my age. I am so pleased that we were given the chance!" Tom also declared it to have been "a richly rewarding acting experience".

Forthcoming dramatic productions at Stamford School include a Senior School play, "Donkeys' Years" by Michael Frayn (directed by Mr D Lennie) in March 2006 and a Lower School play, "The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew" by Robert Bolt (directed by Mr K J Mills) in June 2006. Reviews of these performances will appear in the next edition of the Stamfordian.



Noting Creature Writing Creature whiting Creature ireature Winting Greature Winting Creatitie Writing Creatitive Writing Vutina reature Winting Creature Writing Creature Intima Greature Writing Greature Writing Great Intima agastine Wating areative Wating areas eating Withing Conditions Winting NTW/ W MA A COM A VIII THE THE A VITTAL reat re a at MM. reature Writing Greature Writing Greatitive reate Antique Witing Creature Winting MATAIRE MATING CHEALTH while a a me Little Greature Writing reature Writing Greature Writing CHEMITA nmo Creative Withou Creative Within gataire Withing Creatitre Writing Created Creature Writing Creature Writing /hiva eastaine Writing Creatisise Withing Creature agature Witing Greature Writing Ger lutiva Gestine Withing Greatine Writing nthong reactive winting creative writing creative Creature Witing Greative Winting WHW a castive Witing Creaters reattive Without Greature Winting Greature Wighting intha reature writing Greature writing Cheature





The Fair on the Meadows

Josh Manby

Holiday Highlight

My life was spared twice as two hurricanes hit the inland section of Florida. The first came with 135 miles per hour winds. I found it really scary as never in my eleven years of life had I ever experienced anything so dramatic.

I was with Shelley, my cousin, who told David (her husband) and me, to get into the closet for safety reasons. A few minutes later, we were all crouching in the closet with a mattress over our heads, as we heard the branches of a nearby tree hitting the roof. The wind was still howling as we stepped out of the closet. We looked out the window and saw a portable toilet fly past the house. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Two hours later, the storm had passed and the thrilling tale had ended, but we didn't know what horrors were yet to come as the second storm approached. We stepped outside and saw the wreck that my cousin used to call her front garden. We circled the house and noticed five trees which had been torn from the roots and thrown across the garden like toothpicks. We left the garden and entered the house to find the next hurricane staring back at us from the local television weather channel. Before it arrived, we went to my



older cousin's house as we thought it would be safer than the wreck Shelley called her home. However, little did we know his house would end up more of a wreck than we had expected.

Once we had arrived at Clayton's house we had a quick cup of tea before rushing around the house trying to find the safest place to shelter from this terrible storm. For an hour and a half we sat in the same place listening to my cousin's moan about how their houses would look after Hurricane Frances had passed by. I, however, was more concerned about the fact of missing the first few days of school, and getting lost, as I would not know my way around.

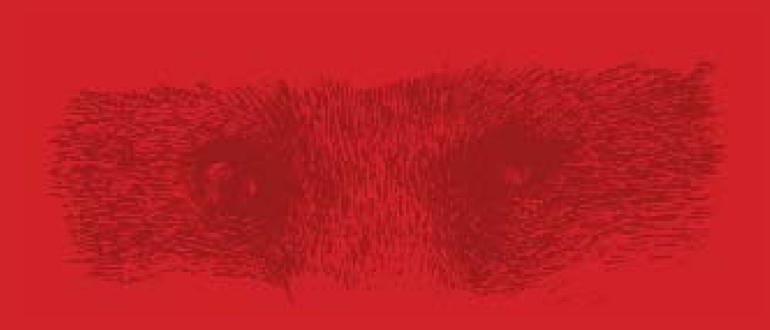
When the hurricane had finally passed, we were all relieved that the damage done was not severe, or so we thought. I sat staring at the ceiling in shock as I watched the water slowly dripping from the cracks. I noticed that the ceiling was peeling and stared in amazement as bits of pink fluff gracefully floated to the floor, just after the bedroom ceiling came crashing down.

I will never forget the summer when I experienced two major natural hazards that put my, and millions of other lives in such danger. I am lucky to have survived such a great danger. It made me realize how precious our time really is.

Brandon Heard



Pursuit



He darted swiftly through the silent threatening field. Although he could not hear them, he knew that they were behind him somewhere. He was totally aware of his surroundings, placing every foot with precision, making sure that he would not stumble or tread on anything that would hinder his remarkable pace.

He reached the edge of the field, halting suddenly and turning around to see his position. He was only stationary for a second but it was long enough for him to find a moment of complete silence and to feel the faint but menacing rumble of his pursuers in the distance behind him. He turned again without wasting a sliver of a second and dived through the gap in the hedge.

He burst through onto the side of the road and into the bright morning sunlight. He was dazzled for a moment but did not waste any time in darting over the silent country lane. In just a couple of strides he was over the road and into the next field. His pounding heart drowned out the remote sound of the usually comforting chirping birds. Although it was beating faster than it ever had, he was not panicking – he was a logical thinker. He knew what he must do to get the best chance of survival and panic was not on his list. He brushed through the long dry grass that had been damp with dew just an hour before. Thin, wispy, insignificant spiders-webs clung to his well-built, sturdy figure as he ran, but he was only focused on what lay ahead and behind. He knew that his only advantage was the distance between him and his pursuers; they were faster than him but they were a long way behind and he planned to make the most of this.

He heard their call behind him; a distinct single musical cry - like a bird might make - but this was no natural sound. If he had been able to he would have picked up the pace, as he realised that they were closer than he was hoping they would be, but he was already going as fast as he could and he was even beginning to slow. The woods that he was heading for loomed on the horizon ahead but he was becoming more and more aware of the threatening rumble coming from behind. For a moment he panicked, but he managed to regain control and resume his focus. He realised now that his real enemy was his fear and he did his best to push it aside, despite the lack of energy; the energy that had been keeping him alive up till now.

Before reaching the end of the field he turned around. Not as he had done before, quickly and efficiently, but this time slowly and clumsily, juddering to a halt. He could see his pursuers clearly now. A group of around fifteen creatures, not dissimilar to him, darted over the field behind him letting their bloodthirsty calls echo across the countryside. Behind them was a smaller group of larger beings. These appeared to him as more elegant creatures and although they were behind the group closest to him, it was clear that they could have left their companions behind them if they really wanted to. He waited on the spot for another few seconds, deliberately wasting valuable time but not quite knowing why. It was a peculiar feeling but he managed to escape from it. He darted down the slope and made his last glorious dash for the woods. Although he was tired from his long run, his desperation and determination to survive allowed him to move faster than he had done before. The rough, churned field that would have proved tricky to run on in normal circumstances he covered with great agility. For a second he was surprised by what he was achieving and even once thought that he would make it, but the mad shouts of the group of ruthless animals behind him, now close on his tail, reminded him that despite his greatest efforts, he had no chance now.

His first steps into the wood were only just ahead of the pack and before he knew it, the first of them was on his back, sinking its teeth into his red fur coat. He felt his hot blood spurt from his throat and onto his back. He fell and skidded along the ground as a second dug its fangs into one of his hind legs, his grip never loosening but thrashing violently about from side to side. Others joined in around him and those that could not find any part of his body to sink teeth into continued to bark and growl, drowning out his howls of pain. Despite the hopelessness of the situation he still thrashed wildly, trying to throw the overpowering creatures off. He could feel his warm blood now, matted on his fur. After his final effort to break free he felt one last stab of pain at his throat. He knew that was it. He had done all he could do to survive but realised just then how insignificant he really was in comparison to the world and that this was the brutal way that life worked. The barking and growling of the dogs around him were becoming quieter; the mess of mud and hot blood surrounding him on the ground were blurring from his vision; his punctured lungs let out one last pathetic breath. Finally his head fell limp on the ground in defeat and his fox's eyes lay staring at his own mangled corpse strewn out on the woodland floor before everything went completely black.

Daniel Murphy

An Appoitment with Fate

It was three hours since I had left the interview room and I was still sitting on the fifty-second floor anticipating the outcome. From where I was I could see the whole of New York, which as a first timer in America was a surreal experience for me. I had seen it on television but I had never imagined that it would be like this.

I had flown over from Heathrow the previous day and stayed in a hotel on the outskirts of New York last night. It was a splendid hotel, full of businessmen and a few tourists. I checked in at the reception and suitcase in hand, made my way to the nearest lift I could find. It took me up to the nineteenth floor where my room was located. I exited the elevator and started to journey down the seemingly neverending corridor. Eventually I arrived at my room. The view out of the window was vast and the room itself was immaculate. I'd never felt happier in my life – I was in one of the most exhilarating cities in the world, applying for a top job, staying in a five star hotel. If I got the job I knew that my life would change forever. Feeling tired, I decided to get some much-needed sleep.

This morning I woke up to the buzz of the big apple and the euphoria surrounding me had remained present throughout the day. It was a day which I had been looking forward to for weeks. Nearly two months ago I had completed my finals at Oxford and applied for the position of a Wall Street Stock broker.

At twenty-three this was the ideal job for me, and, similarly, I was the ideal man for the job. Charismatic, confident and intelligent, I had travelled over to New York with a positive attitude that I would get the job. Travelling was one of my main hobbies, so I knew that working in America would be ideal for me.

At around nine o' clock this morning I arrived for the interview and it wasn't long before I was being seen by one of the bank's most powerful executives, Miss Angela Creech. She was a tall, attractive woman with lengthy black hair which had been combed to perfection.

"Graham Pears," she said with poise as she opened the interview room door. I stood up, took a deep inhalation and entered. There was another man in the room, who sat beside Miss Creech. He was a short, stout man with greying hair, a beard and spectacles which perched precisely on the tip of his nose. He leant over the desk and shook my hand:

"Henry Faulkes, pleased to meet you. Please take a seat." The interview passed quickly but I must have been in the room for at least an hour. They stressed that the field was very competitive, yet they seemed encouraged by my responses. The interview finished; I rose and shook the hands of the two interviewers and left the room.

There was very little action coming from the sitting area where I waited, munching my confectionery which I had purchased from a vending machine in the corner of the room. My nerves were gradually building. I knew that this job could change my life: I would be on a good salary and would live in this incredible city of New York.

Three hours had passed and I was still sitting on a slightly uncomfortable chair in an empty waiting room when finally Miss Creech came out of the interview room.

"Would you like to come back in, Mr. Pears?" I anxiously followed the woman into the room where I had been three hours previously.

"Sit down," she said firmly. I was unsure at this moment in time what the outcome would be – she certainly wasn't giving anything away in her facial expression; neither was the other man who sat beside her.

"Mr. Pears, we have spent a great deal of time discussing your prospects for this job. It is clear to us that you have many talents and you are an extremely intelligent young man. We do feel, however, that you are lacking experience in the

stock broking field and we are going to offer the job to another candidate. We would like to thank you for applying for the post."

My heart sank and my face dropped. It was as if a bomb had exploded inside me. I got up, shook their hands solemnly and left the room. I couldn't believe it - I was perfect for the job. My day could not get any worse. I had never felt like this before. I had traveled nine hours by plane just to be rejected in an interview. I approached the lift which took me to the ground floor. I walked through a shopping mall where I had previously bought some goods in the morning. I was not in the mood to do any shopping now. However, I was desperate for a cigarette. I walked through the scores of merry people, living their lives happily in one of the most vibrant cities in the world. Unfortunately for me, it just wasn't to be. I arrived at a kiosk which sold drinks and cigarettes. The queue was endless. I waited for about five minutes but it was moving at such a dawdling pace. Although I needed some cigarettes, I was not prepared to stand in a slow moving queue for much longer. Full of anger, I left the shopping mall. My luck could not get any worse.

I walked out of the revolving door and just stood there on the top of the steps. The sun was still shining – everywhere was buzzing. I could see a cab coming my way. I trotted down the steps and signalled to the driver.

As the yellow cab pulled up I took one last look towards the fifty-second floor of the World Trade Center. All of a sudden there was a deafening noise directly overhead...

Jonathan Fisher



Revenge is sweet

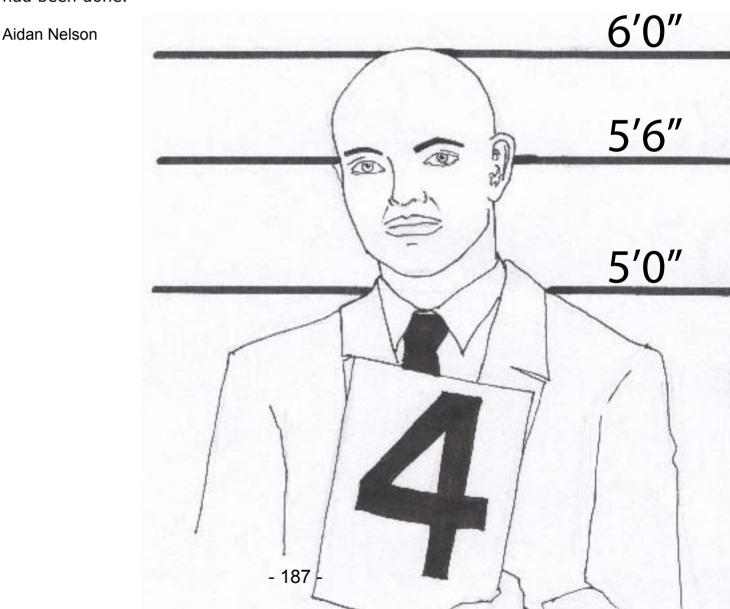
My earliest memory was laying next to my twin brother, mother making a fuss over us, she was smothering us in kisses. I felt warm, safe and extremely happy. I flashback to playing tug of war with my siblings. I am sure I was part of a large family because it was always noisy and meals turned into rugby scrums during which biting ears was more than acceptable. As a family we loved going for walks, just the mere mention of taking us for a walk would have us children straining at the leash!

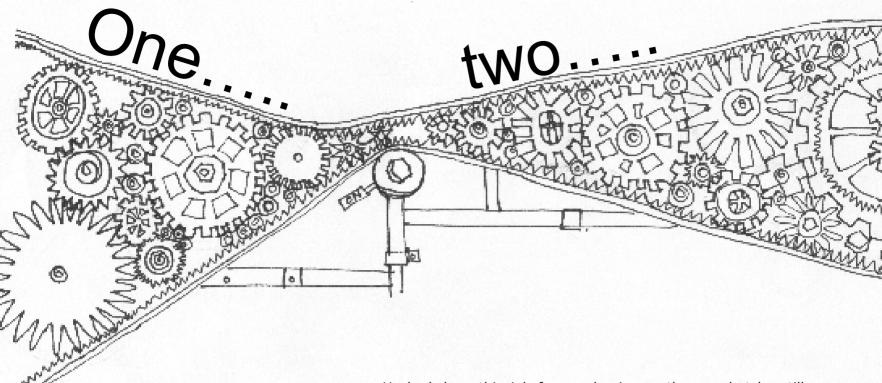
I know I sound like I'm reminiscing but they were uncomplicated times, playing in the garden, swimming, lying in the sun, but it wasn't long before the visitors started to come. I know we didn't have much by many folk's standards but we were all healthy, fed, learnt fast and had a roof over our heads. Maybe the fact that father had never been seen to my living knowledge is the reason that us children were taken away from her. Mother became upset the moment she heard footsteps on the gravel. The pebbles grinding into her heart as each time one of her children was taken from her. I suppose being the youngest and smallest was the reason I was the last to be taken. I had the advantage of being the last to see her, but I think by the time I was going she was resigned to her fate and didn't look back as I cried being wrenched from her side.

The family that took me were kind though, they tolerated my bedwetting for the first few weeks, and in time my own family became a distant memory which has only surfaced in recent days. I can hardly blame my adoptive family that I ended up being taken into the authorities. You see they were victims of a hit and run driver. I was in the car, but unharmed. A drunken youth driving recklessly came head on into us. Our car skidded into the ditch trying to avoid him but it overturned. The driver ran over, didn't see me in the back and realising he had killed people, panicked and fled the scene. Little did he know I would hound him to the rest of his days.

I suppose being brought up by the authorities it was inevitable I would find work in a similar field having not experienced much of a normal childhood. Initially I worked with the blind but later I joined the police force following my nose as I had seemed to have developed a sense for danger. In fact this is why I am now in the situation I find myself now. You see all this time I have been looking, trying to sniff out the driver who took my loving adoptive parents away. I had heard that I was a substitute for the child they never had. They had loved me, cared for me, adored me and through no fault of their own their lived had been taken away from them. I was seeking revenge on that driver and I knew I would find him one day. Today in fact. Because there in the line up for drug dealing, was my man. I was supposed to have followed any leads on the guy possessing drugs. In fact my nose told me that he was innocent on the drug charge which is probably why he stood in the line looking confident, innocent in fact. But I was going to have him. He was going down. I pointed him out and that was all that was needed for him to be sentenced for 10 years.

Guilty as charged? Hmm perhaps not as charged, but every dog has his day. And me, Tod, the yellow Labrador, felt that justice had been done.





He had done this job for nearly six months now but he still didn't know what the machine did. A cardboard carton was placed on a flat metal tray, the meat, cold and damp in its cellophane wrapper slid off the conveyer belt and into the box. When four pieces had landed with a wet slap he pulled the lever. He heard the clicking of cogs and a faint whirring. On the rare occasions he looked inside the jungle of pipes and wires he could see metal arms swinging down and out of sight. Then the conveyer belt moved on, taking away the fully sealed box and delivering the next piece of meat simultaneously.

The room he worked in was a vast warehouse constructed of corrugated iron bolted onto a rusty frame. It was filled with similar machines, all whirring and clicking away like some demented mechanical orchestra, all performing tasks of such ridiculous simplicity in comparison to their size.

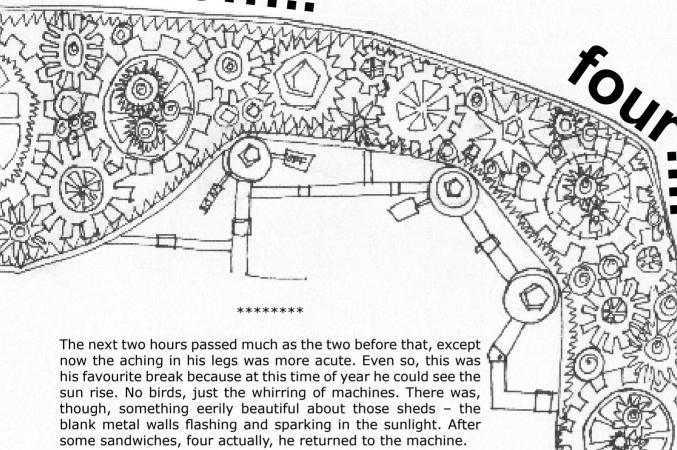
One...two...three...four...pull...one...two...three...four...pull.

That was the pattern printed indelibly on his mind. He counted everything in fours, even the steps he walked. When he lay down in his flat, staring into the darkness, he still heard the clink and whirr every four seconds. Every four, one...two...three...four...pull.

The monotony of the task was dwarfed only by the physical discomfort. You had to stay standing, awake, counting, from eleven p.m. to seven a.m. The warehouse was dimly lit by a single row of strip-lighting in the apex of the roof and in the winter months it was permanently cold, a problem only aggravated by the steady trickle of water from the ventilation system above.

A tap on the shoulder (nobody talked) let him know it was time for his fifteen minute break. Outside the darkness was broken in places by security lights which shone over the car park; there was the constant sound of lorries coming and going and the hum of refrigeration units. He found his spot – shielded from the wind by damp walls on either side, hot air from a grill in the floor pressed his trousers against his leg. Taking out his packet of cigarettes and holding it up to the fluorescent light which glowed behind a small pane of frosted glass, he checked how many were left. One...two...three...four...pull...five. Five left. He looked out into the night. In the distance a trail of light, the road that would carry him home. He looked over to the car park; right to the last security light, as far as he could to the shadowy outline of another shed. Another set of people doing another set of jobs. When you do a job so devoid of skill and variety, you might as well be a machine. That was the simple, depressing truth. If someone swapped him with someone in that other shed, nobody would notice. What difference would it make to him, or anyone else? He tried not to think about these things, he tries not to think about much anymore. Anything but the one...two...three...four...pull.

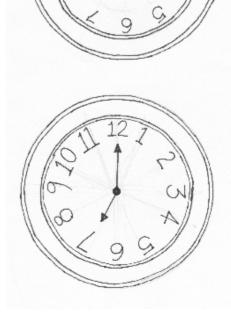
three....



He sat down in the mini-bus and the door slid shut. Seven o'clock, the end. He was tired now and his legs felt horribly heavy, like stone. All he remembered of these journeys was the buzz of the radio and his head rattling against the window pane. A tap on the shoulder and he was outside again. His breath clouding in the air, he headed straight for the wing doors. Inside again, the concrete stairwell and the four flights up to his flat, the ice cold railing and each tortuous step. One...two...three...four...home. Key in the door, he stepped straight over the junk-mail in the corridor. Bed - that was all he wanted. Heavy curtains blocked out as much light as possible. In the gloom he stumbled over the clothes which were strewn on the floor. Still dressed he pulled the covers around him. He counted himself to sleep. It wasn't sheep he saw, but shiny pieces of meat dropping into a

box. So he counted. One...two...three...four...pull.

Matthew Wyatt



Chapter 1

Light crept over the mountains and valleys on the far horizon, the formidable range known as the teeth. The mountains lived up to their name quite well as they all had the sort of sharp edge to them, with ridges crisscrossing the tops and sides. The mountains appeared a hazy purple from the distance at which the small house stood, atop the hill in the middle of nowhere. The teeth ran north to south along the horizon almost as far as the eye could see; only stopping when the range reached the great inland sea of the acetonian continent. The forest that the house stood in once stretched from the inland sea to the edge of the world, as it was known, where the land ended and there was no known land for hundreds of leagues, or so the stories said.

From the window, looking north, Elayne could see it all through the still greyness of false dawn and thought to herself, as she did every morning, how she would love to go out and see exactly what was over the teeth.

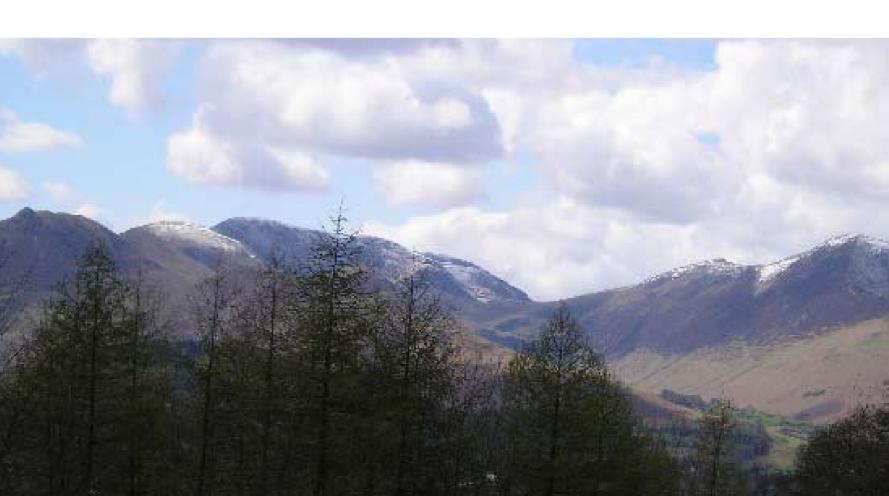
"Get a move on..." Elayne mumbled to herself as she stared out over the seemingly lifeless forest. She had heard tales of cities full of thousands of people, all living right on each other's door step and of great libraries containing thousands of rooms and countless volumes of anything from weather lore to the great history of the Deindé empire or the making of water tight barrels all in the enormous building. She had often hoped to visit such a place but always forced herself to disown such ideas. She lived in the middle of the great southern forest and the nearest human settlement was over ten miles away and to go there was a gratification in itself and was only allowed when her father acknowledged particularly hard work on her or her sisters' part.

After quickly dressing herself Elayne ran out into the kitchen, being careful not to wake her family on the way and slipped off towards the back door to do some last minute practice with her bow before they left, for the nearby town of Hallowwood for the feast day celebrations of midsummer's day. Elayne was fond of archery and was one of the best for close to 5 leagues from the town, often boasting to her sisters of her skill of being able to shoot any target of the size of an apple from as far as one hundred paces. As she picked the bow up from the stand by the back door she stopped to look at herself in the mirror. Her emerald eyes stared back appraisingly. She was a good head taller than most her age, around 16 winters and had deep auburn hair that reached down to her waist. She was well muscled considering the work needed to string and draw her long bow, which was almost as high as her. My bow needs polishing she thought to herself and noted that she should buy some proper resin before the contest to be held that afternoon at Hallowwood.

By the time she had her quiver slung over her back and her bow strung and an arrow nocked the sun was starting to rouse some of he forest's inhabitants and the trees gradually filled with the sweet melody of bird song and the chitter of squirrels and the likes. Elayne had lived in the forest all her life and danced along feeling the song of the trees throughout her being. She lived for these times, when she was alone with the forest and would have liked to be nowhere else apart from maybe over the other side of the teeth, exploring the great beyond. Her target range was a small clearing just out of direct sight from the house and this was where she went with her free time, just like now. Even if there was a greater purpose behind her visit, she felt as free as the birds singing all around her. As she decided on her target, a knot of wood in a nearby rowan, she cleared her mind of thought and cleared herself of conflicting emotion, focusing all possible concentration on the target in her sights. She had trained herself to do this in even the most strange circumstances and as quickly as possible and could get a good shot in even if a war was being fought right under her nose.

She loosed her arrow and drew another from her quiver in a smooth motion, not bothering to check how the first shot went, and then loosed that one as well, continuously shooting until all fifteen of her arrows were embedded a few centimetres in the rowan knot...

James Laughlin



Explosions ripping through bodies, metal, everything, Fire obliterating the surroundings, burning and melting, Winds crashing, blowing all buildings down with ease, Oxygen burning out, suffocating living beings, Particles drifting, settling, killing slowly.

Missiles, continuing to fly over the world,
Vaporizing all matter, so nothing remains, save,
The desolate, black landscape, full of radiation,
Death is a stench, smelt by the rare few survivors,
Soon to die, contaminated by the aftermath of the bomb.
Into the bunkers the particles flow, there is no escape,
Always coming, floating, killing.

All dead.
Nothing alive.
The world-as we know it,
Is no more.
Nothing will live again on Earth.

Calum Storey

Asia had them
The Americans had them
So did Europe.
Enough to annihilate everyone on earth,
Not one, not two but three times over
There were missiles,
Thermonuclear warheads
Hidden under the waves,
In the desert,
In the sky,
Waiting paitently to be launched at their
indiviually – programmed locations
Nothing could stop them:=--

It was a game of chicken, "You launch yours, I'll launch mine,"
But then someone sent them off.
Nothing could prepare the poor souls below

Maybe they have an hour, maybe two.

It didn't matter, for most people on Earth

Would either be vaporised or coated in a invisible, deadly snow.

Wandering the land with no hope, no help and no life. Ryan Cutler.



H.M.S. Victory

It was the best, the apple of England's eye, For on its deck, many a man would die. The navy of France and Spain combined, Tried to take almighty England one more time.

The people of England bold and vain, Demanded that the enemy's navies should never rise again. Admiral Nelson accepting the nations plea, Took all of England's sailors and set out to sea.

The English sailors, truly scared, began to quail, Praying that God and England, they didn't fail. But when the English horn was blowing in the ears, Battle enraged them, and they laughed at their fears.

Because they'd fight for England, and for England die, And as long as it was for England, it didn't matter why. H.M.S. Victory, Nelson's and England's flagship, Was to break the line with her own tip.

She crashed through 8 enemies surrounding her, She thought on with all of England's valour. She attacked the French flagship, which for all it's pride, 400 of its sailors lay down to die.

Then the redoubtable sailed into her sight, And here began the most dramatic fight. For in comparison the French ship was small, And her masts would never be so tall.

As the English ship attacking her side, Even though half her crew, had been wounded or died.

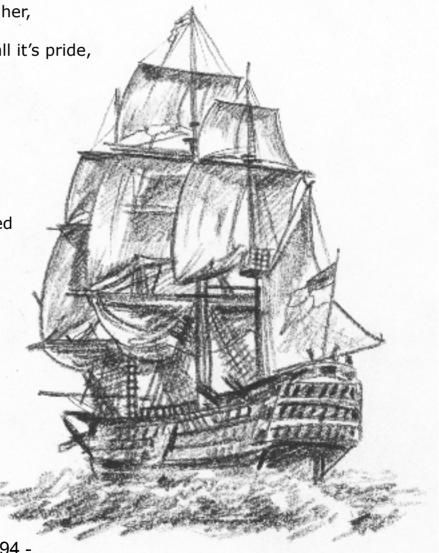
Still she fought on, and her cannons blasted

And with heroism that made France proud.

Then one shot from her sailors, as deadly as a knife,

Hit Nelson, and took away England's greatest admiral's life.

Jack Pridgeon



LMS Library

'Education...has produced a vast population able to read but unable to distinguish what is worth reading.'

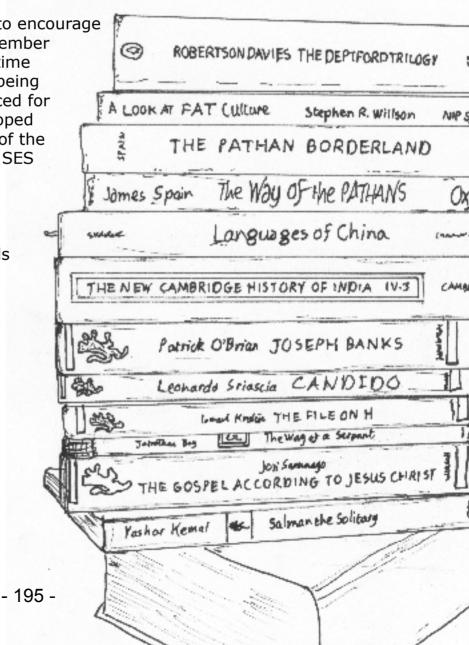
So wrote G.M. Trevelyan in his 'English Social History' of 1942. I wonder whether it would be pertinent to suggest that not much has changed sixty-three years on. Shop shelves are kaleidoscopic with the colour of covers, and the variety of teenage literature is increasing: but how easy is it to distinguish what is prime as opposed to pulp-fiction?

One aim of the LMS Library is to ease this problem, and, with some help from our teenage customers, we learn what is popular, and can judge for ourselves what is worthy of advertisement. But, when distinction <u>is</u> made, the task then extends to cajoling these customers to read what is worthy.

Mrs Winstone's book club continues to encourage an enjoyment of books, and the November Book-Fair invited the boys to spend time browsing. Updated reading lists are being collated, a Reading Passport introduced for Y7 boys, and Library activities developed for English lessons – some courtesy of the Schools' Librarian Group that visited SES during the year.

This partnership with other schools, allowing the exchange of ideas and recommendation of titles, further aids our work in developing a respect for books. All this may not be as exciting or immediate as media hype, but it will lead our boys towards being able to read <u>and</u> to distinguish.

RJBH.







Playing with the Band of the Life Guards

On Friday 24th September members of the Endowed Schools Concert Band (Together with pupils from Jack Hunt and the Kings School Peterborough) were invited to rehearse and then perform in concert with the Band of Her Majesty's Life Guards.

Rehearsals started at 2 pm and first we were assigned to our different sections. I was placed in the First Trombone section! As we had not seen any of the music beforehand the afternoon was extremely daunting and our sight-reading abilities were really put to the test. The first piece we played through was a bit rough as it took us time to 'warm -up' and gain confidence but soon we got into our stride and started to sound like a real band. Rehearsals finished around five and we were back performing at seven.

I am told that the concert sounded good and very professional. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and managed to stop shaking towards the end! I was well tired after a total of four hours of near continuous blowing. I am very glad to have had the opportunity to play with such a great band.



The Choral Society

It is a pity that circumstances prevented the Choral Society from operating right through the school year. Despite this, its quality remains good as was demonstrated by the performance in the Autumn Concert of "A Beatles Medley". The choir rose to occasion magnificently and even I was impressed with what was the concluding piece of the concert programme!

The choir's other function this year was to lead the SES Carol Service. Tavener's "The Lamb" has become a favourite and the choir sang this with tenderness and expression.

Smaller groups from the choir also sang other numbers. The SHS Chamber Choir sang the "Song of the Nuns of Chester" to its medieval tune in the Lydian mode; the SHS girls sang Stanley Vann's "Sweet was the Song" (again another favourite over the years) and the SS boys roused the congregation with an arrangement of the Boar's Head Carol, the solo part ably sung by Robert Thomas.

PJW

The First Orchestra

The First Orchestra has had a busy season, preparing for the Autumn Concert, the Carol Service, and, most important of all, the First Orchestra Concert.

The orchestra's contribution to the Autumn Concert was Dvorak's Slavonic Dance in D minor, Op. 46 no. 8 - a rousing start to the programme. Many members of the orchestra played in the SES Carol Services at the end of the Autumn Term.

The chief event this year is the Concert given by the orchestra at the end of the Spring Term. At the time of writing this is still in preparation. The programme includes the theme from the film "Titanic", Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture", Violin Concerto No 8 in D by de Beriot played by Emily McGregor, Elgar's 4th "Pomp and Circumstance" march and Malcolm Arnold's "Little Suite for Orchestra, No.1".

That the orchestra can rise to such a challenge is indicative of the quality of the players. They are to be commended for the tireless work through the long winter nights preparing what should be a memorable concert. So too, it is fitting that Emily should appear here for her chief swansong. She has been an outstanding musician all through her school career. Although Mr. Taylor has been preparing the bulk of the programme, it is good that Mr. Fred Applewhite, Emily's violin teacher, should appear to conduct the concerto for her.

PJW



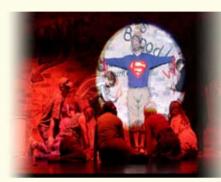












STAMFORD SCHOOL Southfields House St Paul's Street Stamford Lincolnshire PE9 2BQ

Head of Stamford School Mr S A Burns, MA (Cantab) Tel. 01780 750300 Fax. 01780 750336

E-mail: headss@ses.lincs.sch.uk stamfordian@ses.lincs.sch.uk