





# Editorial

As I approach my final term at Stamford School I don't think it is uncommon that a sense of nostalgia seems to be seeping into my mind. As my final exams beckon and my Leavers' celebrations approach it's difficult not to envy the year sevens as their Stamford career only just begins. I wonder which of those will achieve high acclaim on the sports field, will win national recognition in science, will take the lead in one of Stamford's many marvellous performances and indeed who will be writing this column in the years to come. Whoever they are, I look forward to reading about their endeavours and achievements in future Stamfordian editions.

This annum has, as always, involved a lot of time and hours and for that a number of people have to be thanked. As I bow out, so do two other integral members, both of whom have modernised, functionalised and produced four excellent magazines. James Ho will be greatly missed. Furthermore, being in my last year devoting time has been difficult and the inclusion of some younger members has aided much of the work load. Tom Hughes and Ben Searle have both worked tirelessly and have added much to the function and design of the publication. I hope they lead The Stamfordian to further success.

The seven happy years I have spent at Stamford have gone quickly but at the same time, the speed at which the experience has passed only highlights how much I have enjoyed my Stamford career. The Stamfordian acts as a record of success and endeavour and producing this each year has alerted me to how much people get out of the school. Whilst leaving is sad it has to happen and I have no doubts or hesitations that I'm as prepared as I ever would be for the path ahead of me, thanks to my time at Stamford School.

J.Yeates



# Contents

Headmaster	4	History	58
Chapel	6	Kingswood	65
Leaving Staff	8	Exchanges	66
Boarding	15	CCF	76
Duke of Edinburgh	22	Drama	82
Art	34	Sports	84
Design Technology	42	House reports	124
Classics	46	Outstanding Achievements	136
Economics	49	Music	140
Geography	50	Creative Writing	144



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## Headmaster's Report



Summer 2007 brought wonderful news for our Year 13 leavers. Places at Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities hit an all-time high as a result of superb A-level examination results. Over 70% of the boys' grades were at A or B, reflecting the talent and hard work of boys and their teachers. Our parents too will have played a significant role in this success through their great support for their sons and the school. Our boys' AS and GCSE results, with high numbers of A\* and A grades, also showed what huge academic potential there is within the school.

I know, however, that Stamford School is chosen over many other good schools in the area because it does so much more than prepare boys for public examinations. The fact that our boys managed so many other activities and experiences during this past year is a tribute to their talent, the commitment and versatility of the staff, and the school's determination never to lose sight of the fact that it is our role to prepare young people for the broader challenges of life, to develop their all-round skills and to ensure that they maintain a sense of enjoyment and perspective in all that they do.

In the pages that follow in this edition of the Stamfordian you will see and read a great deal about the vast range of academic, adventurous, musical, sporting and cultural activities of the school, as well as get a feeling for the terrific spirit, strong relationships and sense of community that exists here. Once again, we are deeply grateful to the Stamfordian Editorial Team of James Ho, Tom Hughes, Ben Searle and Jonathon Yeates for their unstinting commitment to this project. I am sure you will agree that the quality of presentation, photography and artistic flair are quite remarkable for what remains an inhouse publication. All the work is done by the boys under the guidance of staff and we owe them a great tribute. To have talent is one thing – to use that talent to display the talent of others is a truly selfless act.

To complement teaching of high quality, it is very much our aim at Stamford School to prepare our boys for the future by exposing them to a vast range of other activities, through which they will develop the skills and self-confidence needed to thrive in the world that awaits them. We try never to forget that life is for living and enjoying. The school reflects this and within such an environment it thus becomes an easier task to cope and deal with all the ups and downs of a young person's life. We are deeply committed to the pastoral care of our boys and receive regular praise for the quality of this work from our own parents, as well as external agencies and inspectorates.

It is not for me to steal the thunder of the writers of the articles that follow, but I am so proud of and delighted by the efforts of the boys in so many fields: helping to build a school in Tanzania; competing in academic competitions of debate, economics, science or maths; exploring different lands and cultures; representing our school with great skill and courage on the sports field; parading as CCF contingent; entertaining great crowds with plays and concerts or helping in the community with our variety of charitable acts and services.

None of this would be possible without an outstandingly passionate staff, whole-hearted boys, understanding parents and ambitious governors. I hope I manage to get across the message that I know how lucky I am to be head of such a school and to work with the people I do. Of course, some colleagues move on: David Lovell Brown after 35 years wonderful work in the Music department; Mike Barton, who served us so strongly in Maths, PE, Games and pastorally through the house and year group systems for over 30 years; Andrew Wilkes, an inspirational head of RS and pastoral leader; Guy Bucknall, who gave so much time and expertise to Geography and Games; Ian I'Anson, who produced brilliant results for his mathematicians as well as contributing so much to charities, and Derek Patience who gave total support to the school as Assistant Bursar and regular umpire of the 1st XI. More can be read about these gentlemen and their superb work in the pages to come.

The future holds great excitement for a school like ours. There has been much development of our facilities in the past 5 years, particularly in science, art, design technology and information technology. I have always said that I want this to be a balanced school, where talents sportingly, musically and dramatically have their place alongside the many academic successes. Following work with architects and governors, the next phases of development and refurbishment will reflect this and assure the future of the school as it moves impressively from its 475th anniversary this year to its 500th in 2032. I hope by then somebody will have come up with 3 new golden rules for boys at the school, but in the meantime, mine will have to apply: be academically ambitious; contribute widely; show respect for all who work and study here.

Stuart Burns October 2007



# Chapel

Arriving for your first day at Stamford School is always going to be special whether you are a boy or a member of staff. There is a great sense of welcome and belonging.

Being entrusted with the task of being Chaplain to Stamford School is great honour. You cannot fail to be impressed by the school's history and heritage. However, as the community continues in its work and worship so it also changes. The task of the Chaplain is not just to be Chaplain to Stamford School but also to Stamford High School and Stamford Junior School, to the family of the Endowed Schools.

So once where there was the Stamford School Chaplain, there is now the Stamford Endowed Schools' Chaplaincy. I am thankful to colleagues who have led the worship in the Chapel when I have been leading worship or assemblies in the other schools, in particular to Major I C Hankinson for his support in this task. Stamford School is a living tradition. At the heart of school life at Stamford is its weekly worship, for the Lower School, Middle School and the Sixth Form. Christian worship continues to frame the life of Stamford School.

During this year there have been new services for Sunday worship for the Boarding community in Chapel. The Chapel Choir, directed by Mr P White, had a wonderful year in Chapel. We have also had visits each term from the Stamford Junior Choir, led by Mr D MacIlrae and Mrs J Robertson, and also Cantare from Stamford High School, led by Mrs M Bennett.

The Chapel Choir also led the new Ascension Day service held outside the Chapel doors. There were Advent Sunday Services for Year 7 pupils and their families (from both Stamford School and the High School) and the Boarders and their families which filled the Chapel to overflowing.

A great joy has been being involved in the SES prayer meetings for Parents and Staff. I am very grateful to Mrs J Fox for hosting the meeting at her home.

The Chapel bell which had been out of action was repaired and restored. This was arranged by Mr D. Patience, the former Site Services Manager. The Chapel bell now rings out before weekday Chapel and Sunday services.

The Confirmation Service was led this year by the Rt. Rev'd

The Confirmation Service was led this year Tim Ellis, Bishop of Grantham. Twenty students from Year 7 to Year 11, from both senior schools were Confirmed.

As the year came to an end in Chapel, the final

Sunday was the occasion that the following years' prefects at Stamford School and Stamford High School were commissioned for their task. This was done in the presence of Old Stamfordians and Old Girls; past, present and future together in the Chapel.

M Goodman



### Leaving Staff



### Mr. David Brown



Where does one begin? David Brown has been at Stamford School now longer than any other current teacher, having joined the staff in 1972. When I came to Stamford in 1982 (and that seems aeons ago) he had already notched up a decade here!

David has, through all those years, been a mainstay in classroom provision of music. He has huge experience of teaching at all levels from Y7 to Y13. In addition, I and my colleagues have depended on him for so many things – organising concerts, administering exams for the Guildhall board, accompanying at all sorts of functions, heading up some of the house music competitions, to give but a sample.

David read Music at Edinburgh and is a sound musician with a wide range of knowledge. He is also an organist of formidable ability. Not only did he for many years accompany in Chapel, but he undertook to oversee the installation of the school's two organs. The one in the Hall was selected by him after sampling a number of makes, and it was installed in 1988. A computer organ at that time (this one used the Bradford system) was still a pretty modern concept, but the instrument has stood the test of time and is certainly an improvement on its predecessor – the big old black upright piano still visible in that area.

Perhaps the crowning glory for David in the realm of organ installation was the selection of the high-tech Allen computer organ for the Chapel in 1998 – the pipe-organ there having succumbed to old age and broadcasting the fact on Sundays with its own extra recital of strange noises. To fit the organ into the Chapel would probably have cost us anything up to an extra £18,000. David designed his own speaker brackets and had them made up. Then he and the caretakers fitted the speakers up into the ceiling of the Chapel! The bass speaker was ingeniously wedged into the remains of the old spiral staircase in the middle of the South wall. This organ has to be the best one in Stamford for visiting recitalists (with apologies to traditionalists who will not entertain the idea of a non-pipe instrument). Years after David has gone, this instrument will remain as his legacy.

One of David's most memorable achievements was as Director of Chapel music. He directed Stamford School's boys' chapel choir for many years and to a very high standard. It seems remarkable now, looking back, that the choir was able to sing all the weekend services at Ely Cathedral (on two separate occasions) and be offered an Evensong at Westminster Abbey. Those were heady days! I remember choir visits to several other venues, including Peterborough Cathedral, Clare College, Cambridge and Emmanuel College, Cambridge. David's knowledge of the Anglican repertoire and his ability as an organist stood him in good stead for being able to maintain a choir of very high ability. In latter years, reorganisation of the schools, the changing school day, pressure of everlasting exam periods and general change of culture (to name but a few reasons) made it increasingly difficult to maintain this type of all-boys' choir at that level, and we have now a mixed choir across all three schools. Despite this, we can look back to a golden period for the Stamford School Chapel Choir under the direction of David Lovell Brown. David has continued to support the newly formed choir as organist and his advice and encouragement have been invaluable.

During his early years here, David had already made his mark not only on school music but also in other

areas. He had already directed a productions of Smike and The Beggar's Opera and been Musical Director for A Christmas Carol, and Blood Relations. He was running the film society and had been connected with numerous musical functions outside school. Since then, he has been musical director for other SES musical productions, including Noye's Fludde, A Threepenny Opera and, more recently, Return to the Forbidden Planet. For me, the most memorable and impressive of his musicals was West Side Story. This ambitious project was staged in the confines of the High School Hall, so David arranged the music for a small ensemble with much high tech sequencing. The result was stunning!

David is a superb compère, and has eloquently articulated at concerts, house music competitions and other functions. This ability has extended out of school, as the narrator in Peter and the Wolf and also in Paul Patterson's Little Red Riding Hood with the Stamford Chamber Orchestra.

The film society functioned successfully for many years (daringly, in the early years, High School girls were also allowed to join) and there is not much that David does not know about films and the technical matters associated with them. The film society was very successful and David's involvement was a key factor here.

It was as Head of Music Technology, however, that he was able to demonstrate expertise belonging to nobody else within the department. He oversaw the installation of the first sequencing, recording and mixing equipment and nurtured our first students through A-level Music Technology. Since then there has been a steady flow of students in this subject with one or two notable successes. One of his students went on to do the Tonmeister course at Surrey (the Rolls Royce of such courses), getting a First Class degree and now working at the Abbey Road studios in London.

David's knowledge of stereo equipment too is awesome. His ability to differentiate the quality of different speakers after just a few seconds is remarkable. This knowledge and expertise extends, of course, to musical technical equipment - he oversaw the fitting up of the keyboard room in the music school. Such expertise was connected to other interests such as supervising the Hall PA equipment, when he could be seen at high profile functions pinning radio mikes on distinguished visitors.

Similarly, David has accompanied the SES Choral Society over the years – again in its heyday when it comprised about 100 sixth formers performing all the great choral masterpieces. He also conducted the society for a performance of Rossini's Petite Messe solennelle. Another memorable visit to the rostrum was when he conducted the First Orchestra in a programme which included Brahms' 3<sup>rd</sup> Symphony.

David's interest in choral music extends out of school. He has often accompanied the Stamford Choral Society and has been Chairman of the Society for the last few years. In one memorable year (1993) he conducted that choir in a performance of Brahms' Requiem, played the title role in Henry 5<sup>th</sup> at Tolethorpe and also directed the SES musical – Bernstein's West Side Story!

Tolethorpe has also been a vehicle for David's acting ability. He has taken lead parts in virtually all the well-known Shakespeare plays over the years. I particularly remember him as Henry V and as Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream. He also directed plays and prepared sound tracks for others there. As if that was not enough, he also served as chairman of the society for a number of years.

David's acting ability has served the schools too. In 1985 he was Christ in a student production of Godspell, and in the 2001 production of Britten's opera Noye's Fludde in St. Martin's Church he was the Voice of God.

David's talents are multifarious. He is gifted in so many ways, and not just as a musician. I am delighted that he will still be seen at the odd function in school when we are in need his skills. He has been a pillar within the music department, and a good friend to so many colleagues. He takes with him our best wishes for his well-earned retirement.

P1W



### Mr. Andrew Wilkes



Andrew Wilkes joined the RS department at Stamford in 1996, having gained a 1<sup>st</sup> class degree, followed by an MPhil from Bangor University. He quickly established a reputation for excellent teaching, and soon became a firm favourite amongst the boys. Pupils would look forward to Andrew's lessons, which he delivered with passion, energy, humour and a profound knowledge of his subject, all of which grasped the boys' interests and inspired many to continue their religious studies right through the school, and in many cases, at university.

In 2004, Andrew became head of religious studies. His dynamic and progressive outlook did much to modernise the department, and his colleagues were always grateful for the professional and meticulous way in which he dealt with departmental matters, always with its best interests at heart. His leadership was always strong, but never authoritarian - a sign both of his professionalism as a member of staff and his compassion as a person.

Aside from the teaching of RS, Andrew has made a number of significant contributions to the wider life of Stamford School. For a number of years, he was housemaster of St. Peter's, a position which I know he enjoyed immensely and which was thoroughly appreciated by the members of his House for the caring responsibility he showed towards them. He was also Head of Year Eight, a role he fulfilled with great care, responsibility and thoughtfulness, and which earned him great respect among the students. Latterly, Andrew has (quite literally!) been flying the 'green flag' at Stamford School, having successfully established Stamford as an 'eco-school' with a number of innovations such as a waste-recycling scheme, an energy saving scheme and even the building of a garden. One of the things he will, perhaps, be best remembered for is the contribution he made to boarding in both Browne and Byard houses. Boarders would always look forward to when Andrew was on duty, and were appreciative of the kind manner with which he bestowed his pastoral care upon them.

The word 'great' is vastly over-used in this day and age, but it can be applied sincerely to Andrew. Ask any pupil or member of staff, and I have no doubt that all would declare Andrew to be both a 'great' teacher and a 'great' human being. He leaves us to take up a position as head of religious studies at Sutton Valence School in Kent. He will be sorely missed by all of us at Stamford, and we wish all the very best for his future. Sutton Valence is a very fortunate school to be acquiring such an inspirational figure.

**CDF** 



### Mr. Guy Bucknell



Guy Bucknell joined Stamford School in 1997 and soon established himself as valuable member of the Geography Department. During his time at Stamford School GAB was a well respected classroom practitioner and boys soon picked up on his passion for geography and in particular for the physical environment. He would frequently work beyond the confines of a scheme of work in a hope to ignite boys' interest in the world around them. Fieldwork was a particular passion and GAB took an active role in trips to Cornwall, Norfolk, Snowdonia, Yorkshire and Dorset. Running the Dorset coastal field trip was a particular interest and many students developed valuable case study knowledge as well visiting a stunning stretch of coastline. GAB became second in department and it became clear that he would want seek the challenges of running his own department.

GAB's involvements extended considerably beyond the classroom. During his time here he has been a boarding tutor in Browne House, he ran a Junior Day Houses on two separate occasions and was responsible for the hockey training and fixture calendar. Perhaps his greatest love was cricket and GAB would always involve himself in any activity so long as it didn't clash with his cricket! GAB not only successfully captained the staff and Burghley Park cricket teams but he was also a member of the MCC, touring with them to Australia in 2006. Boys loved his tales from the square and his passion for the game certainly enthused many of them.

GAB's contributions to life at Stamford School have been great and he will be missed by both boys and staff alike. His appointment as Head of Geography at Blundell's School, Devon is well deserved and we wish him and his family well for the challenges that await.

**HPH** 





### Mr. Iain Ross

Mr Iain Ross joined the Physics department at Stamford School in September 2005 but having formally experienced the dizzy heights of Head of Physics at his last school in Sussex he was unfortunately never destined to stay with us very long. His fleeting stay sadly came to an end when he left us at the start of the Summer term 2007 to take up his position of Head of Physics at Wisbech Grammar School. During his time at Stamford Mr Ross spent many a rainy Saturday afternoon encouraging his rugby team from the sidelines and also gave up his time to support the Engineering Education Scheme team in their project with Cummins Generator Technologies. He is missed by the physics department, not least because we now never know this week's hot deal at Lidl!



### Mr. Ian l'Anson

Mr I'Anson joined the Mathematics department in 2002. He was, at that time, a Newly Qualified Teacher having just completed his PGCE. Both Ian, and his wife Sandra, had taken the bold decision to give up their careers and to re-train for a fresh start in teaching.

Ian's teaching was characterised by his commitment, which never wavered, and his desire to do the best he could for his pupils. He was keen to devise and try out new strategies. He researched and developed new resources. He used target setting and data analysis to good effect and he led the way with the use of ICT in the maths classroom. In short he is an innovator who is never content to rest on his laurels. The results achieved by Ian's sets were always outstanding.

Ian contributed to many other areas of school life. He was a dedicated Y9 tutor. He co-ordinated the school's charity efforts, often leading from the front in fund raising – allowing himself to be soaked by sponges and filling countless shoe boxes with Christmas gifts. Ian is a talented rackets player. He coached both squash and badminton and played many times for the school team in the Peterborough and District League. He ran Maths extension activities like his NRich club and organised our entry for National Maths Competitions. He is a keen runner and joined the staff on their annual charity challenge runs.

After five years here, Ian decided the time was right to move on. He secured a new position at Arthur Mellow's Village College in Glinton where we wish him every success.

WCC







Mike Barton joined Stamford School in 1975 as Head of P.E., and went on to give 32 years of outstanding service. He organised the first ever rugby and hockey tours in the school's history, and the first family ski trips; and, in the early eighties, he oversaw the building and equipping of our new Sports Hall. He also coached our hockey 1<sup>st</sup> XI to its highest ever level, achieving national recognition for the school. He also excelled as a rugby and tennis coach, and as master in charge of school golf.

Mike inspired hundreds of boys with his love of sport and his unflinching commitment, and he played a crucial role in the development of our three O.S. hockey internationals: Mark Dauban, who was capped in the early 80s; Robert Clift, who won an Olympic gold medal in Seoul and captained England in Barcelona in 1992; and, most recently, Jon Peckett, who fittingly was appointed to follow in Mike's footsteps and coach school hockey from September 2007.

Mike ran dozens of memorable rugby and hockey tours to various venues in France and Holland, but perhaps his most ambitious project was taking three hockey teams to Moscow and Leningrad in the early days of glasnost and perestroika. In the nineties, he stepped down from taking the 1st XI, and focused on introducing hockey to those year groups whose main spring term sport was traditionally football. Inevitably, given Mike's expertise and enthusiasm, and the staunch support of his wife, Pam, this initiative also proved to be a huge and continuing success.

Mike became Head of Lower School in 2000 and held that post for 3 years, overseeing the transition from the old Junior School to the present Lower Middle School structure. He was also a tireless Head of Year Ten in his final four years here. However, I suspect the period on which he will look back most fondly will be the ten years that he was Housemaster of Cecil. Before Mike's tenure, Cecil had been run for years by the affable if somewhat bohemian Bob Bamberg, a man to whom winning and losing were always 'impostors' that he casually treated just the same. But this was not Mike's way, and he soon turned a laid-back country house into a 'lean, mean, green machine'! It was rumoured by the other envious housemasters that Mike's impressive run of unbroken success in house competitions was based on iron discipline, but that of course is just a caricature! So too is the legend that circulated amongst the boys that if they ever crossed MRB he would kick them through the rugby posts! However, it is undeniable that Mike always demanded high standards of behaviour and commitment from his pupils; as a consequence, he also elicited a great deal of affection and respect from them.

In the classroom Mike gained a reputation as a fine teacher of Maths. He was always keen to explore new methods of delivering his subject, and pioneered the use of 'Brain Gym' exercises and other kinaesthetic techniques within the department.

It is typical of MRB that he should choose not to glide smoothly into retirement, but has opted instead to undertake yet another challenge with which to round off his distinguished career. Holmewood House, a prestigious prep school in Kent, invited him to accept the role of Head of Maths, and were extremely fortunate to get their man.

Mike is a consummate old-fashioned schoolmaster. Many of his colleagues will never forget the thunderous reception he received from our pupils after presenting the house prizes at the end of the Spring term, his final hockey term at Stamford School. The word 'legend' is used far too freely these days, but, in my view, MRB is one man who fully deserves that accolade.



# Niklas Lohaus

In the morning of the 1st of September after my 'goodbye party'', my trip to Stamford started. I went to Stamford by car with my parents. On the 2nd of September we went to Stamford because it was boarders return. My Housemaster Mr Brewster welcomed me very friendly. He showed me and my parents the school with all the facilities. A few hours later my large bag was unpacked and I got introduced to the boys. I was so nervous. I have never been so nervous in my life before. I thought that it went pretty bad. I was not able to talk... Yes it was hard.

On the next day I took part in the induction day programme together with all the lower six boys from the boarding house. I entered the Dining Hall at the school and I was even more nervous. Almost 200 pupil (or so) which I didn't know stood in front of me and I just thought ''Wow". Many of them were looking at me and were like 'who is that lanky guy"? At lunchtime I bought my own school uniform and said goodbye to my parents for the next three and a half months. From this moment I was on my own for the first time of my life. It was my chance to have a good time, to integrate and to make friends.

My first impressions were not bad but I just thought it will be very hard to make friends and to integrate within three and a half months. The first two or three weeks were hard. First of all it was hard to get used to the language and to the english school system which is very different to the german one. It was also hard to make friends because I was shy and nervous and my english was not good. But the good thing was that I was in the boarding house. All the time there were many different boys who helped me and who were interested in me. All in all it went really well even if I didn't thought so at that moment. I think I got to know many people in a short time (maybe because of my size;-)). It was good feeling that I have almost everytime had a person to do things with.

On several sundays I joined activities like windsurfing, paintballing or watching a NBA match in London with the boarding house. It was good fun and I got into contact with the other pupils better from day to day. By the way the sun was shining all september long. My friends in Bonn were jealous! In Germany it is a big rumour that it rains in England a lot. The weather was brilliant which made me go to town after school nearly everyday. I chilled with the day boys or just went to Tesco's.

The 26th of September was a special day because it was the chinese mid autumn festival and even more important for me it was my 17th birthday. It was a really strange birthday because no one except Micheal Smyth and Bahle Mhlanga knew that it was my birthday. In the evening we had a house meeting before the mid autumn festival and I treated everyone with chocolate and I think they sung 'Happy Birthday" louder than any other group in my life has sung before. It was good. Moreover the mid-autumn festival was good fun and really interesting. I tried Moon Cake and enjoyed Johnny Chau's funny speech and I also saw the girls boarding houses for the first time. After the meal Mr Brewster said 'now we come to our next international student: Niklas Lohaus from Germany! It is his birthday today." I got even more applause than in the house meeting. At first I was embarrassed but now it is a really good memory. So in the end my birthay was really good fun and it is legendary for me.

My time in Stamford was not only fun it was an 'awful lot of work" as well. I nearly used all my preparation time. It was strange because in Germany I don't spend so much

# A visitor's view

time for my homework. I found the History essays extremly difficult and I also had long maths homework and difficult translations in Spanish. DT was good fun and I think I did quite well except in my drawings. Our task was

to design a household product and I decided to develop a bottle opener which is working really well and we actually use it at home a lot (because in Germany we drink beer mostly out of bottles and not of cans ;-)). I also joined many of the evening programms like sportshall, gym or swimming pool. It was a good oportunity to relax from all the work!

The time went so fast that I found myself in London (during half term). I made a language course for 3 hours a day with my mother and the rest of the day we spent with sightseeing. I enjoyed chatting in german because it was really tiring to chat the whole time in english (at that stage I didn't know that I would find it really easy to chat in english after half term). I really love London. It is such an amazing town with all kind of different people. I especially have loved Tate Modern. Really all kind of human beings were there: rich, poor, black, white, young, old, freaky...but they all had one thing in common they were all interested in the art which is presented there. It was a feeling of freedom. You don't have to pay and there was almost no police (I mean in London is an awful lot of police).

After London I went back to Stamford and I was looking forward. I actually could not wait to see my new friends and to start an awesome half term in the boarding house. I decided to keep my good assesments from the first half of the term but I also decided not to work as much as I have worked in the first half of the term. The second half started and time flew away. I spent a lot of time with the boys. I enjoyed chatting and started to joke in english. Even if one half of the term was over I still got to know many new people. The weeks were short and I felt really accepted and good. It was my will to do this and I really enjoyed it. During saturday and friday nights I went to town with my friends from the boarding house or with some day boys. I often met new people. Sadly all those nights were too short (only until 10 o'clock).

GCSE presentation evening was really good fun. I got my certificate of entry. I have also met Ben's (a good friend of mine) grandfather Mr. Chew who was one of the founders of the german exchange between Stamford Endowed Schools and my german school the Ernst-Kalkuhl-Gymnasium. It was nice to meet him. Furthermore I met Chris Catlin who told me something about his book which he published in Germany called 'Brudersuche'. It was nice to meet him and a few weeks later he has sent the book to me. I'm reading it now. It seems to be very intersting and good (it plays during the 2nd World War and is based on a true story). I really would love celebrations like the GCSE presentation evening where everyone would wear suits in Germany. I think it is typically british that you have a dress code for everything.

In the middle of the 2nd half of my stay I got a Rugby fan because of the world cup and because of all my mates who play Rugby. Rugby is a great sport but sadly not very popular in Germany. I try to make lots of



advertisments for Rugby. I took a few trainings in the 4th team and played for Ancaster in the underdogs Rugby tournament. I think I watched nearly every rugby match of Stamford School which was at home. I always was happy when my friends got into a higher team and was sad when they got dropped. I didn't do only one sport like I do in Bonn (Basketball) during my stay in Stamford but I did it sometimes and I played a lot of table tennis - everyday a few times - ,either in the common room or in the sixth form common room during lunch times. I also joined swimming and sportshall session from the boarding house. It was a pity that there wasn't a basketball season at that time and that Basketball isn't very popular in England.

I showed myself open to everyone and I think I found really really good friends which I'm missing a lot. All the guys from my year were like one unity. We did a lot of funny things together like playing rugby on our corridor or marble cricket in the sixth form common room. I think all these guys have had so good ideas it was never boring.

I helped at the bonfire night of the junior school with my mates of the boarding house. It was good fun and after that I went to town with them. It was a good night but sadly I didn't take pictures. I also went to the Carter Jonas presentation which was really boring for me because I was not really interested in any owls anywhere in England.

One of the highlights of my stay in Stamford was the Boarders Formal. I have never been to a formal dinner in my life before so I was a bit nervous. I was not sure if it would be good but as soon as I arrived at the girls school I was sure that it would be a great night. The food was really good and I enjoyed chatting with the others really much. No one expected a band playing after dinner but there was a good soul and oldies band. I was one of the last guys who started dancing but in the end it was really fun even if the most dancing partners of me were boys. I think it was good really good fun and it made my relationship to Stamford and the british culture stronger.

Snowball was the best night out in Stamford. I slept at Ben's house and we went to the pre party of Sophie Gibson. I have had borrowed a dinner jacket. Snowball was so good for me because it was my last weekend and I just wanted to have a nice party with all my new friends. All the girls looked really good. I took quite a lot of pictures of all my mates as a memory for me. The day after Snowball was fun as well because just everyone was hungover or just tired. It was really funny seeing all the tired faces. And I said to myself that it was good one.

The last week was more like a catwalk for me because lots of people and friends were sad that I was going soon. I was sad as well. I didn't do homework in the last week. I just tried to spent as much time with my friends as possible. I wasn't shy anymore. It was a good week. My last night in Stamford I spent with Aiden Coyle.

All in all the time in Stamford was the best time in my life. Moreover I think I have learned much about the English culture, the English language, England, making friends, to enjoy life and last but not least about myself. I want to thank everyone who made my time in Stamford such a great time. Thanks to Mr. Brewster, Mr. Hankinson, Mr. Scargill, the teachers and the whole team of staff and of course to all my friends as well.

I hope to come back to Stamford soon!!!

Niklas Lohaus



# Byard House

This year was a very exciting one for the boarders of Byard House. The boys had a new set of Houseparents in Mr and Mrs Pike and the House was full to bursting! In addition, they also had to put up with Lottie and Maddie who seemed delighted that they had acquired 35 new 'brothers'.

On the very first evening back, the boys were invited for a cold drink and a BBQ which created an opportunity for new boarders to meet their peers and to form close friendships that would be developed as the year progressed. The boys quickly became familiar with their new routines and they settled into boarding life very well indeed.

So, what do our boarders get up to? Why is life in a boarding environment so rewarding? The best people to ask are, of course, the boys themselves so at the end of the year Mr Pike gave them a task, which was to produce a paragraph or two entitled, "My year in Byard". Below are some of their responses:

"There are many highlights, of this year of boarding that have stood out to me, and that I have enjoyed thoroughly. Firstly I would like to start by talking about the encouragement that my fellow boarders have shown me. This helped in many ways as I felt apprehensive at the start. Because of them I have made new

friendships. Secondly the boarding staff have directed me in all sorts of ways, and have been there for me, when I have been stuck. Now I can look forward to next year, when it is my turn to look after new boys and guide them. There is a wide variety of trips that the boarders are fortunate enough to go on. This includes going to the cinema, theme parks to even going to watch cricket matches. This year of boarding has been highly beneficial for me, and I would highly recommend boarding for any boy."

"In Byard you don't have to do all this active fun, you can just chill out and watch TV or play on the computer or just have a little rest on your bed and relax in nice rooms".

Highlights of the year included visiting Grace Road, the home of Leicestershire CC to watch a 20x20 game against Yorkshire. The cricket was fantastic with sixes disappearing to all corners of the ground. The curry was tasty and filling and it was great to meet the players after the game. Stuart Broad and Jeremy Snape, both members of England's 20x20 team were incredibly nice and posed for photos with our boys.

Another memorable event during the year was Byard Halloween party. Who could forget Aidan dressing up as a woman? Spooky music, party games, ghost stories around the campfire and a plethora of prizes all added to the atmosphere.

Of course, boarding life is not all about having fun. The boys have structured prep sessions for up to 2 hours each evening. They are usually pretty good at getting on with their work, largely because they know they can't get away with not completing homework! This was typically turned into a positive side of boarding by one member of last year's Y10 who has been officially quoted as saying, "The best thing about boarding is...getting your prep done because you never get into trouble with your teachers". Another has said, "Everyone does their homework together so if you are stuck then you can ask a friend or a teacher to help".

Of course, the best time to board is during the summer term when the sun shines and the evenings are long. Byard boys were often to be seen enjoying the open-air swimming pool or perfecting their cover drives in the cricket nets. Several boys joined the House as flexi-boarders during the summer term and they soon got into the spirit of things.

2006-07 was an excellent year for the boarders of Byard. The boys certainly had a good time and have formed friendships that will last for a long time. Special thanks are due to the team of dedicated House staff; Mr Laventure, Mr Colley, Mr Bates and Mr Fox all contributed to the ethos of Byard in their own special ways. Mrs Clement and Mrs Lilley, our fantastic matrons, were instrumental in helping the boys to settle into boarding life and were always on hand to offer specific help or advice to their charges throughout the year. And finally, my own personal thanks to all of the boys in Byard who made my first year as a Housemaster so rewarding.

ANP





# Browne House has been busier than ever. A

So another year at Stamford School has come to a close, and Browne House has been busier than ever. A large influx of students into the Sixth form brought an interesting dynamic to the house. A whole host of activities have taken place this year from the lighter side of boarding with our numerous Sunday trips, to our more serious charity work. This year we raised money for the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance through the gruelling 24 hour Pub Games Olympics. In the space of 24 hours, the entire boarding house took shifts to ensure that the full complement of pub sports, including pool, darts and snooker were played for the whole period with many of our die hard sportsmen staying up all through the night. As the hours drew on, it was only Mr. Brewster's increasing witty comments, coupled with the fact that everybody kept beating him at pool, which kept us going. Unfortunately the Sixth form common room walls resembled Baghdad the following morning.

Though this wasn't the only money we raised, with many of the house intending to participate in the South Africa rugby tour it was a rare weekend in which a member of the house could not be seen working hard to earn their money, from Chaz Wilson's rather exuberant car washing to Stu and Carl's extremely successful Friday tuck shop the level of commitment from all became clear. I would like to be the first to wish them well and good luck for the upcoming tour.

This year, Browne House has continued the tradition of its Sunday trips with uncountable cinema trips, with karting and paintballing at Ancaster, an unforgettable day at the Snow Zone, Milton Keynes and the first of the soon to become annual Skegness trips. This trip must deserve special mention due to the

Browne v. Byard crazy golf tournament that took place. The best and craziest golfers from each house set out for a fight for the grand prize (an inflatable rubber ring) and were all subsequently humiliated by Mrs. Brewster with a unbelievable score of 17 on a 9 hole course. Mr Brewster disputed the score, but was relegated to a distant second place!

The house trip to see Stomp was fantastic. Fifteen cultured souls travelled to see a Sunday matinee performance, which was mesmerising. It had a profound impact on the rest of the house, as they tapped, banged, flicked and kicked anything available for the next two weeks!

As well as the multitude of trips that take place each year, Browne House is also host to a few special events, most notably the Sixth Form Boarders Meal and the Chinese New Year and Mid Autumn celebrations. This year on February the 18<sup>th</sup> we were ushered into the "Year of the golden pig" by a particularly emphatic Eugene Khan, who helped us all into the spirit of the occasion by eating more than I thought it would be humanly possible to do.

The Sixth Form Boarders Meal was celebrated at the end of the first term just before Christmas with grand style in the High School hall. All of the SES sixth form boarders attended the black tie event and praise must go to Jamie Roberts who I have never seen look so smart. I can say in all modesty that the evening itself was spectacular, with the kitchen staff pulling out all the stops and my speech even managed a few laughs. Special thanks should go to Toby, Charlotte, Abby, Stu and Olivia who helped me to organise the meal and good luck on trying to best it next year.

We had to say a few goodbyes at the end of the year. Mr Wilkes finally hung up his boarding boots, and headed for challenges new as Head of Department at Sutton Valence school. He will be sorely missed (although his early morning runs will not be!) as he has tutored man and boy in Southfields, Byard and Browne houses.

Mr Dexter is leaving (travelling a whole 100 yards away!) as he marries Miss Stainer from Stamford High School. We wish them a long and happy Endowed Schools married life together! Mr Dawson is also ending his tutoring within the house, he has been a brilliant tutor and we thank him for all his wonderful work in the house. All three will be very sorely missed and the new staff will have a hard act to follow!

We also said goodbye to Sheila Cole, our matron. Sheila has been working in the boarding houses for 17 years and we wish her a very happy "retirement". We will all miss her constant cheery smile, her long chats and watching football with her in her office (she is footy crazy!!! ). Don't be a stranger and please come back and visit the gang!

So now you know a little about what happened in the Boarding House last year. Chirag has been appointed Head of House for next year and I'm sure will be facing some interesting challenges. The long awaited refurbishment is set to take place over the summer holidays (it would be the year I leave!)

The boys were starting a fundraising campaign as the year was brought to a close. I am sure that the "Proud to support our troops" wristbands, and the website (<a href="www.supportingourtroops.co.uk">www.supportingourtroops.co.uk</a>) created and designed by Browne house pupils will be a big hit and raise lots of money for some really worthwhile charities. Many of the boys come from forces backgrounds and it is a cause very close to home.

By Tom Betts (Head of Browne house 2006-2007 )
LEAVERS 07
Jamie Roberts
Peter Johnson
Anthony Kong
Chris Holland-Jones (at last)
John Chan
Eugene Khan
Toby Simpson
Tom Betts



# Bronze





The map is the most fundamental piece of equipment in the expedition. It's primary use is to direct you along the route, but the cleverly designed cellophane casing is also ideal for: fly swatting and getting rid of an itch in an awkward place. Map reading is an acquired skill that has to be developed if you want to navigate the route successfully.

On our bronze expedition we used a 1: 25,000 scale, Ordnance Survey map which shows physical features such as rivers , woods, and hills as well as public rights of way which brought our team through roughly 16 miles of country-side in two days.

To navigate using the map properly, it should be held the right way up and pointed in the correct direction in which you are going. This will make it easier when you come to a turning and a decision has to be made on the new direction to go in. To make a left turning the pathway on the map will be pointing left, if it is held correctly.

It is important that when there is a new change in direction, a bearing is taken, to check that the group is going the right way.

### Taking a Bearing:

- -Align the compass to north on the map.
- -Point the north needle to the top of the map, and align it with the red arrow on the bottom of the compass.
- point the 'direction of travel' arrow to the bearing of the foot path on the map 4

000∘ is due north, 090∘ is due east, 180∘ is due west, 270∘ is due west

To help you map read, you are able to look out for key land marks on route, for example woods, rivers, and symbols in towns (churches, telephone boxes etc.)

### **Graph of Feelings after Day 1**

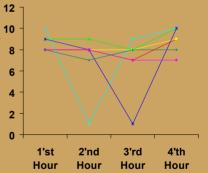
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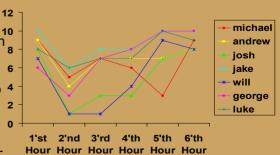
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### **Graph of Feelings after Day 2**



### Report on Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition

William Hodson

Other team members: Ben Rimmer Felix Carr Tristram Roper Coldbeck Pete Burnett Jack Macentie

Preparation 8 September 2007

We were initially given instruction regarding

- 1. what provisions to take,
- 2. map reading,
- 3. how to erect to the tent, rucksack packing
- 4. how to operate the cooking stove
- 5. general instructions regarding rules and expectations

### Preliminary Expedition (Non assessed) 15 /16 September 2007

We were taken in groups to Fineshade where we had to walk approximately 1 mile to the campsite where we erected the tents and then had an evening meal which we made ourselves. The following morning we had breakfast and then took down the tents and packed our gear and then commenced walking towards Rutland Water. We walked for approx 3 miles to Wakerley and then a further mile to Barrowden. We continued to South Luffenham where we stopped and cooked lunch. We then went through Pilton and Wing. We then walked through several miles of fields until we got to Lyndon. From there we walked on the footpath that runs alongside the cycle route until we reached Edith Weston and the cycle hire shop which was the end of the walk. We finished at approximately 5.30 pm and had been on the road for approximately 8 hours.

#### Assessed Expedition 30 September to 1 October 2007

We assembled at school on Sunday 30 September in readiness for departure at 11.00am. We then set off for Uffington through several fields. We then stopped to have a snack/lunch in a field in Uffington . We then walked though a crop field which we soon realised was not the intended route, however we continued through the field and managed to get back on the scheduled route without too much trouble. We then proceeded to walk through several manor grounds and continued to walk to Greatford and had another break. We then proceeded to the camp site where we set up our tents, and then had a period of relaxation. After this we cooked our food taking it in turns to cook our own meal. After spending some time round the camp fire we all turned in for bed. After a poor night's sleep we were awoken by Mr Dawson at about 7.00am. We made our breakfast, washed up our plates and cutlery and then dismantled and packed away the tents. Luckily the weather was fine and we again set off walking. We managed to find another group who had got lost and walked with them for a while until we split up and carried on in our own groups. We then passed through Ryhall and other villages and walked non stop through several miles of field until we arrived back in Stamford. We did not stop to make lunch as we thought it would slow our progress, and decided just to eat snacks as we went along.

We arrived back at school at approximately 3.30pm

#### Lessons Learnt

Positive What to do

We learnt how to erect and take down a tent properly.

We improved our cooking skills

We had a better understanding of map reading

We learnt how to travel light and not to burden ourselves with unnecessary items , as everything has to be carried on your back whether it is useful or not.

We learnt to work as a team and to better cooperate with one another

Negative What not to do or what could have been done better

When walking in a group the supplies and equipment (i.e. the tent) should be more evenly spread out, so that one person does not end up carrying bulky or heavy items at the expense of space in a rucksack

Mealtimes could have been made easier if we had pooled our food supplies rather than making individual meals - 25 -

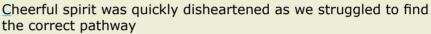
# Silver Cheviot Hills





 $\underline{\mathbf{T}}$ raining at Edinburgh although was great fun didn't really aid the expedition

 $\underline{H}$ enry Wallis falling ill and unfortunately being taken home  $\underline{E}$ dinburgh we headed, for our drop of point of Wooler



Having a slow start we got back on track after asking a few friendly Scotsman

Eventually we found St.Cuthberts way – where supposedly from the it should be easy

Venturing the Scottish countryside was more of a challenge than first anticipated

Into the first campsite aching knowing we had an even harder day ahead of us

Onto the Schill the views were amazing with the cheviot in sight we powered on

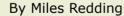
Together we marched onto the non-existent third campsite in Carlroust setting a record being the first group to reach it



<u>H</u>ills we felt was an understatement although we had just taken a 4km detour

Into the home straight we went with a smug look on our face Leaving with a smile was easily done with memories freshly on our mind

Law man yin had the comic moment of the trip after getting lost he decided it would be fitting to crawl up into a ball and give up on the top of Mozy Law







### **Gold Expedition**

After the weather that I have experienced on the practice Duke of Edinburgh expedition I was praying for it to be a lot nicer this time around. The weather forecasts looked promising and my spirits were further enhanced when I realised that the group of friends who were in my group I didn't really know. This was great for me as it was a chance to amend this and build new friendships even if it was only to last during the trip.

However, the week couldn't have got off to a worst start. The mighty English rugby team suffered a crushing defeat in the world cup final which didn't go down at all well. It made people feel down and upset however we pulled together and carried on with the acclimatisation walks. The first of which was on the Sunday morning. We planned our own route over the top of mountain 1. This was not only a challenge for us physically but mentally too. We had a wide range of walking abilities in our group and this created early tension between us. However, as the day wore on we drew closer giving more support to the ones that needed it most. Some of the views from the top of the mountain were incredible where I found time to amuse myself singing the famous Britney and posing as a muscle man!!

After this wonderful singing of mine we pressed on, with the others thinking what a madman they had been stuck with. Soon we found ourselves down off the mountain and back onto the country roads. However, this put us into a false sense of security as we thought we were almost there, but with a miss-calculation of kilometres left, it took an extra hour longer than expected. Even though it wasn't a race being back to the barn around an hour before any other group was a real confidence booster to the group.

Later that night we were transported to Burns farm. This is where we were starting our assessed

Later that night we were transported to Burns farm. This is where we were starting our assessed expedition from. However, a second piece of devastating news reached us, not only had England not won the rugby world cup but Lewis Hamilton also lost the F1 grand prix series by 1 point. Not the best start to what we expected to be a thoroughly enjoyable trip.

Everyone was up bright and early at half 5 on the first morning. We were keen and eager to get going and we were packed and ready to leave by 7 o'clock having filled our stomach's with as much food as possible. We walked at a lightening pace and with the weaker members of the group keeping pace everyone were enjoying themselves. This was probably the worst day of the trip even though spirits were high and we were excited about starting, there were very few enjoyable views although several splendid waterfalls more than made up for this fact.

Very tired we arrived at Hollows farm quickly set up camp and tucked into some food. This was the most entertaining night as it stayed warm and light till around half 9 which was great for the old favourite camp sites games, as well as some good relaxation.

Tuesday came and we were up a bit later this time however still got away just before half 8. We had what on paper was going to be the best walk of all the days, and I'm glad to say that it lived up to expectations. A ridge walk along high street was the order of the day which reached just over 800 meters high at one point. Again a blistering pace was set which meant that the rests were well justified and the views could be taken in for longer:

We arrived at our camp site a staggering 3 hours before the other group staying at the same one with our group taking 2 and a half hours to walk the last 6km because of the many breathtaking views that will never be forgotten. That night we stayed at camp where we kept ourselves amused by calling Andrew Bremer 'Brem Brem' in a high pitched voice (very mature). Eventually, I'm not sure how, we ended up with his nickname being decided as 'Andy Pandy' for the rest of the trip. That night was the coldest night I have ever camped in, with everyone cold in there tents. This was because there was no cloud cover what so ever. On the other hand, this presented us with a spectacular sun rise when we awoke the next morning.

The Wednesday morning was probably the worst morning of the trip. This was because everyone was cold, tired and we had a long days walking ahead. However, this day presented us with some mind blowing views starting with the morning sun rise over the nearby lake:

That day we had to walk Sticks pass which was a saddle between 2 mountain peaks. We had a very bad scare this day with one group member having serious pains in his stomach; however these subsided after a long rest, half way through the day, so we think it was down to exhaustion or a stitch. This incident

didn't subtract from the view that was witnessed in front of us at the top of the walk. We could see 15km ahead of us into the vague direction of the camp site. This was spectacular as we could see our destination from miles away.

Castlerigg was our final campsite of the expedition. By the end of day 3 we were all shattered and in need of a long night sleep, yet somehow we managed to run the last ¼ kilometre into which was great fun even if we paid for it when we got into the camp. With all clothes dripping with sweat the priority was to change as soon as possible closely followed by setting up camp and cooking a well deserved meal. As we intended to leave early the next morning we had to have an early night so it was un-eventful, although we did see a member of the general public break a toe where we offered our help.

The final morning, it had all gone too quickly, but this was an early start. We were up at around 3 o'clock looking for a get away time of about 5. We just about managed this as we ran around frantically getting kit packed and ready. We set off in the dark walking to one of the biggest mountains in the area, Blancathra, which stands at over 900 metres tall. Walking in the dark made it hard enough but frequently, once we reached the base of the mountain, we found ourselves almost climbing up a vertical cliff. This was because we had strayed from the path and had to correct ourselves on many occasions. Many false peaks grew hopes only to be shattered when more land would suddenly appear in a blink of an eye. Everyone was tired by this stage but we trudged on knowing it was the last day and being driven by the sense of achievement it would bring. Hoping, in the back of our minds to catch the morning sun rise from the top, only to be spoiled by the mist that surrounded us on that morning. After a titanic struggle pushing ourselves to breaking point on that morning we reached the summit. And what a feeling!! Looking down seeing all you had climbed in one solitary morning. This was the hard part over, and with a final push to the end, with a final break by the Tarn to celebrate a pre determined finish, saw us back to the Stamford School Barn, our ending point. The final place, to bring to a close, a magical Duke of Edinburgh Campaign.









At two o'clock in a not so sunny Stamford, 25 teenagers set off for a trip of a lifetime, starting with a remarkably quick journey to Heathrow, meaning that we were in good time for our flight. A long flight to Doha awaited us, on which copious amounts of free food and drink were at our disposal as well as all the latest 'straight to video' movies, with this said the supposedly long and arduous voyage to Doha was far more relaxing than at first imagined. On arrival at Doha we were quickly aboard another flight this time to Nairobi - this one being less so well equipped with all the modcons, thus resulting in a journey that made the world carpet bowls championship look like an event of much excitement. With this said, the journey was only five hours long so it wasn't a particularly long time to wait to arrive in our new home continent for a month.

The trip started ominously, with two of the bags being lost at the airport, however, due to the months of intensive training this was but a meagre obstacle for the hardened explorers to be. Indeed, we may have been well trained and told what to expect (ie.scams), but this didn't stop members of the group falling into the trap and having to pay up to \$20 dollars for having their bags moved all of 10 metres but on the bright side it did produce the first laughs of the expedition - even though it was at someone else's expense!

The next day was the ride to Arusha from Nairobi across the various plains of Tanzania and Kenya. The ride was lengthy but did allow for the first views of the African wildlife and the oddities of Africa - such as people hanging of vehicles on busy roads. Apart from the odd item falling off the bus roof it was a fairly smooth journey, and it wasn't long before we had arrived in our new home for 2 weeks, the Selela Forest Camp. During are time at the camp, three members of the group would stay at camp and prepare the meals for the day whilst the others would



go to the school to carry out the project. For the two weeks we sampled gastronomic delights such a ugali - an 'extreme' mash potato which is almost indigestible as well as a stew comprising of bananas, peppers , carrot and generally anything and everything - needless to say after an initial tasting it was never to be seen again.

The community project itself was at the local secondary school called Oltinga, which was only just over a year old and had less than 100 pupils, nevertheless it was eager to expand. Our job, including the other group, was to build the walls of a new administration building, paint the buildings and window sills, concrete the porches of the buildings and attempt to teach the children something, in my case Biology - which I had managed to forget completely in the space of one months after the examinations. Needless to say I was confronted with a sea of bemused faces as I told them that a main structural element of all human cells were chloroplasts and cellulose! The project itself was enjoyable and rewarding and made all the more fun by the arrivals of 'Big Daddy', a 300lb motorbike riding, cigar chomping Tanzanian who was apparently a contractor - although his position was never really known. He quickly became good friends of the group due to his passion for allowing us to ride his bike across the scrubland and his infectious raucous laugh.

During the two weeks at the community project the group visited the markets in Selela, made many friends with the young children and even tried a few football matches against the local team. Unfortunately, our team had little footballing skill and needless to say we lost on two occasions – much to the delight of the local crowds. As well as this the group went on the first of two safaris, this one being the Ngororo national crater safari. Ngororo is one of the wonders of the world and it was easy to see why, giraffes, Lions, Elephants, Hippos, Hyenas, Jackals and wildebeest were all on display in an unbelievable setting. The safari allowed for many photo opportunities, with some animals being only 2 or 3 metres away.

After we had finished our part of the project it was time to trade places with the other group, who were coming to finish the project whilst we would climb Kilimajro. On their arrival the horror stories commenced - with tales of freezing glaciers and outrageous sun burn. However, this was going to be the pinnacle of the trip for many of us, so it was going to take a lot to put us off climbing the mountain. What awaited us was a 5895m trek up the mountain and down again in the space of 6 days. The first day of the trek started with a steady climb to Mandara Hut at 2700m high. We were lead by our head guide Wilson, a veteran of the mountain who had climbed it some 800 times!



The walking pace was slow throughout the trek, but this was to prevent any altitude sickness, which could potentially be life threatening and could certainly end our attempts at reading the summit. After a relaxed climb to Mandara, we embarked on the second leg of the walk the following day to Horombo Hut at 3700m high. The day started very early and the five hour walk was longer than it sounds, and it certainly dawned on the group that this was not a task to be taken lightly. During the day we passed through 2 of the Mountains 5 climatic zones, which included jungle and alpine desert, and we were all happy to get to the wooden huts at the campsite and get some much needed rest. The following day was spent acclimatising to the altitude, to prevent any illness. This was done by a short walk to the Zebera Rocks at 4100m, which was the first time we would be able to see Gilmans Point - the summit of the mountain, which looked vary challenging - but a challenge we were all ready to take.

It was then up to the final two days of climbing the mountain. The next day was arguably the most challenging with another 1000m climb to Kibo Hut. Although the route looked somewhat short it took a long and arduous walk to reach our destination, with the final 30 minutes being a real slog to reach the cabins. At this point members of the group began to feel the affects of the Altitude - but it was nothing too serious. As if this hadn't been enough, in just 10 hours we would be attempting to summit the mountain. Needless to say at almost 5000m high it was very cold at night, and the walk was particularly hard due to the steep incline and biting cold. However, this didn't deter 9 members of the group who managed to summit the mountain - a great achievement.

There was really one big thing left to do now, and that was CELEBRATE! It was time to visit the other group back in Selela and see how the project had finished, and meet up with all the school children, teachers and are African guides. The day was supposed to start at 10am at the school, however this turned out to be African time and it was in fact an 11.30 am start before the torrent of speeches started. After speeches from the headmaster, head boy, our team, the other team, our leader, our teacher, their teacher, 'Big Daddy' etc etc everyone was beginning to twitch a bit. However, the situation was made all the worse by 'Konyagi' Simon who managed to deliver a speech that was so abominable that he could and should have been tried at the Hague for crimes against humanity! The ending could not have come sooner and it was time to return to camp for a feast of goat and more goat with Selala's socialites.



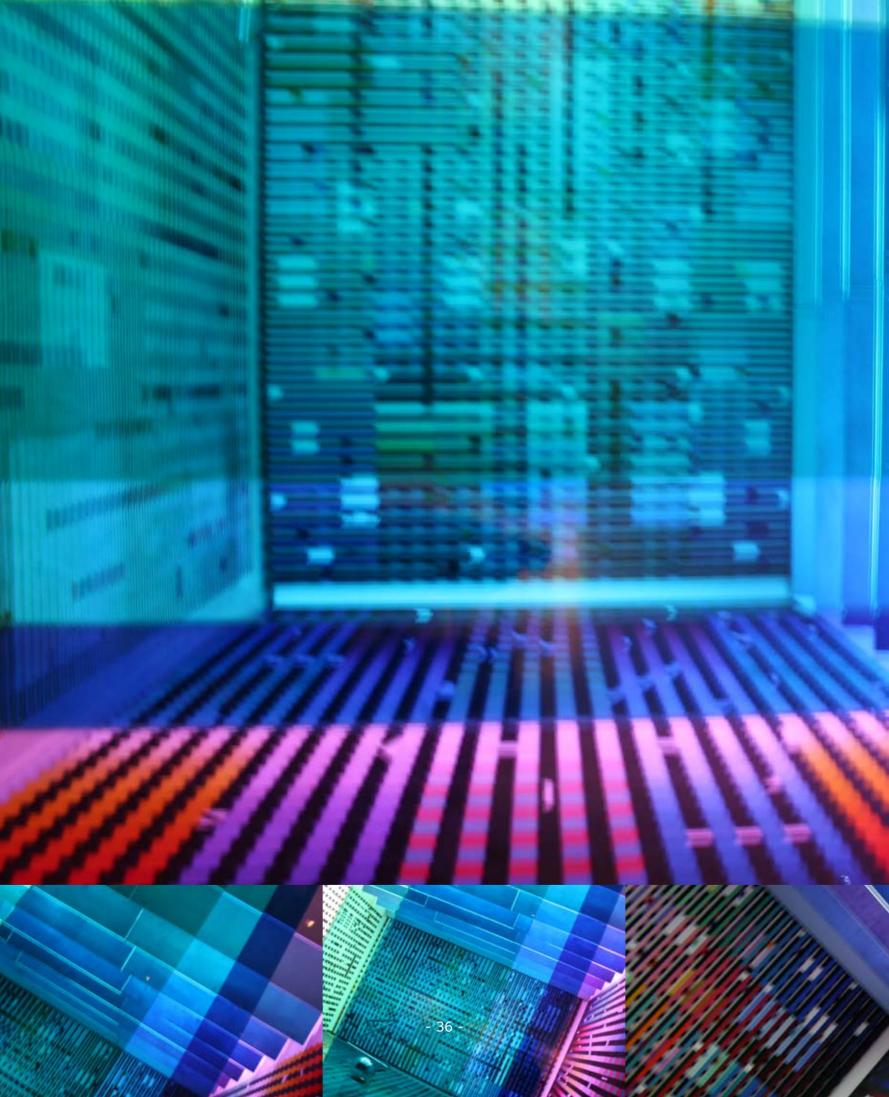


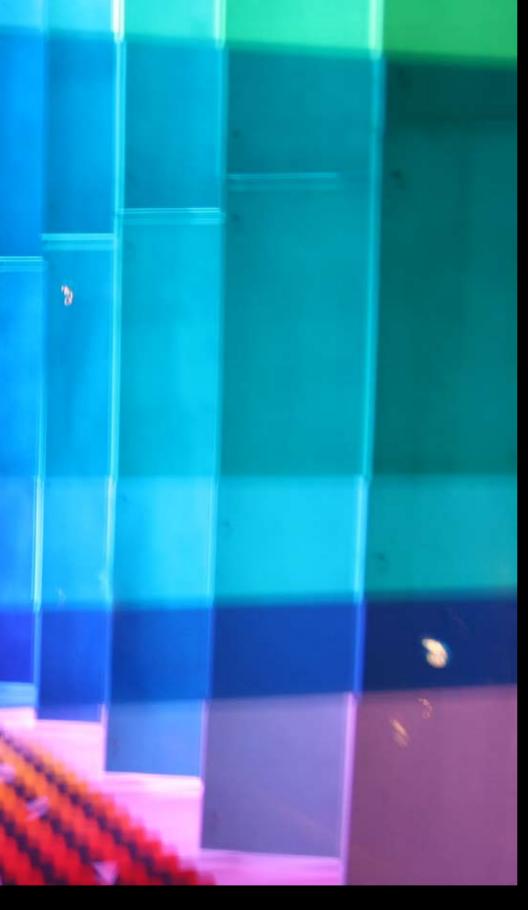












Art Trip - Paris

After an exhausting day of travelling, we got off the bus in the centre of Paris, to much excitement. We had the chance to admire the artists on the Place du Tertre, where they had set up their easels and were calling over passers by to have their portrait painted or drawn. We had our evening meal in an authentic French restaurant, Chez Eugène, overlooking the square, then looked round the impressive Sacré Cœur and appreciated the wonderful view of Paris by night, before taking the bus to our hotel.

On the second day, we took the bus into Paris. We started off the day with a visit to the Musée de l'Orangerie, home to a number of paintings from Monet's 'Waterlilies' series. It is hard to

imagine the vast scale of the canvas Monet was working on just by looking in books at school or pictures on the internet. Each oil painting was huge, and had its own long, tall curved wall to be displayed on. Here, we learnt more about the Impressionist art movement.

Later, we walked through the Tuilerie Gardens and sculpture park up to Le Louvre (where "The Da Vinci Code" was filmed). Despite having two hours to look round at our

leisure, the museum was so large that we only managed to walk down two or three corridors. I think you'd need about a week to look round properly (and even then you'd only be glancing at most things!) We saw the Mona Lisa, one of the most famous paintings in the museum, which had its own wall in the middle of a room, and a glass case around it.

After this, we drove to the Eiffel Tower, and took the lift up to the first level. Some people







went up to the highest level (Courtenay, on the way up, predictably dropping and breaking her camera). As it got darker the lights came on: the views across the city at night were spectacular.

On Tuesday we visited the Musee d'Orsay, where we saw lots of Art Nouveau paintings, furniture and sculptures. The building itself was very beautiful. Later in the morning, we went for a cruise on the River Seine, with a commentary on the famous buildings and statues we passed along the way. In the afternoon, we visited the Musée Rodin, and got the chance to study lots of sculptures.

The next day, we went to a place of great interest to me, as I did my personal investigation art topic on Picasso. The Picasso Museum is home to many of Picasso's paintings, from his early works of the blue period to the later, more abstract work which people usually



associate with Picasso. There was lots associate with Picasso, There was loca of information on the artist, and a shop with postcards and books. Later on, we With postcards and books. Later on, we visited the Cathédrale de Notre Dame, Visited the Camedrale de Notre Dame, an extremely beautiful and impressive an extremely beautiful and impressive building. After this there was a chance bulluling. After this there was a chance to look round at the small tourist shops before dinner at a French restaurant. The last day proved invaluable to me, The last day proved invaluable to me, the last day proved invaluable to me, we since I was studying Van Gogh at the since I was studying In the morning, we time of the trip. In the morning, the place time of the trip. Sur L'Oise, the place visited Auvers sur L'Oise, the last visited Auvers sur l'avers les costs lived during the last des la costs lived during the last day proved invaluable to me, at the visited Auvers sur L'Oise, the place
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himself down the carell back language. himself, down the small back lanes of nimsell, down the small back ranes of the town, and to the restaurant where the town, and to the restaurant where the town, and to the restaurant where he was nursed until his death soon he was nursed until his grave, and afterwards. We visited his grave, to live a steerwards a lot about his popularity (or lack learnt a lot a lot about his popularity (or lack learnt a lot a lot a lot a lot a lot a l rearnic a for about his popularity (or lack of it) in the village where he lived at It was extremely sad to go back It was extremely sad to go back home on the ferry: paris, art and home on the ferry: paris, art and christmas really are an exciting mix! Christmas really are an exciting only I'd recommend this trip to anyone I'd recommend this for it is not only studying art or French, for it is not only studying art or French, for it is not only only in the courses themselves the courses themselves the time. the courses themselves. - 39 -

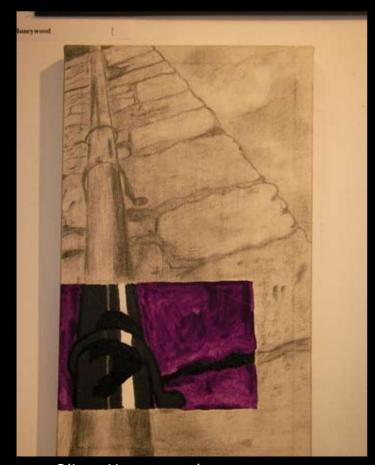
# GCSE Art







Sam Blackmore



Oliver Honeywood



Toby Cole





Dominic Pollard



Robert Ker



William Pickering



Max Physick



Philip Moore



Thomas LeBrocq

# AS level Fine Art



Jack Hardy



Robert Cole



Tristan Vert



Jack Hardy

# A2 level Fine Art







Neil Michels



Nick Rowland

Tom Pitts



Jacob Alsop

# Success (2) Young Engineer Competition



2007 will be remembered for a lot of achievement in many areas but mainly the excellent A Level work which resulted in such success at the Young Engineer Competition.

The Young Engineer competition is a National competition that is open to a whole range of students who enter their Design & Technology projects from key stage three through to key stage five. It also involves those pupils doing the engineering scheme in Physics and Crest awards as well as students who are entering after a year in industry. It is done by passing through regional finals to the National final in London where over £40,000 worth of prize money is up for grabs and then if you are very, very lucky to a world final sponsored by Intel the computer chip makers where there is \$200,000 in prize money.

The Design and Technology department has built up an excellent record in this competition reaching the National Final four times in the last ten years, and achieving a first or second prize in the regional finals in all but two years.

This year we had two excellent students Alex Eagles and Tom Pitts who entered their A2 design and manufacture projects. Alex made a safety device for a diver who needs to deploy an emergency beacon which worked on a reel system so that once the distress signal is seen it can be followed back to the diver which is not possible with present systems. Tom made a machine to finish the edges of metals and other hard materials and works on a powered reciprocating crank motion.

The regional final was in Sheffield at the university and Tom and Alex put up a fine display of their design work and their finished prototypes. They were 2 of about 120 entries from Humber and Yorkshire. After a hard day of being asked about their projects by a range of judges all gathered with fingers crossed to hear if they had been good enough to win any prizes. Fortunately the judges thought so and Alex won two prizes; The Best Craftsmanship and Finish in the A level category plus the Mechanical Engineers award for the Best Mechanical Device. Tom also won two prizes; one from the Metallurgical and Engineering Association and another from the Independent Forgings and Alloys Association. Stamford school had won more prizes than any other school and all that had to be decided was whether Alex or Tom would progress to the National final. Tom got through in front of Alex by a whisker.





# Design Technology



Andrew Sampson



Edwin Williams

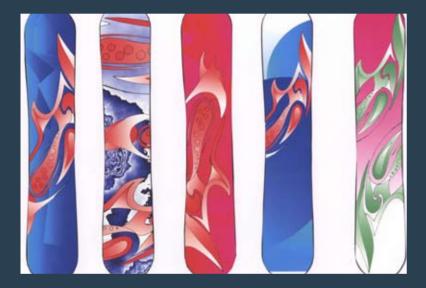


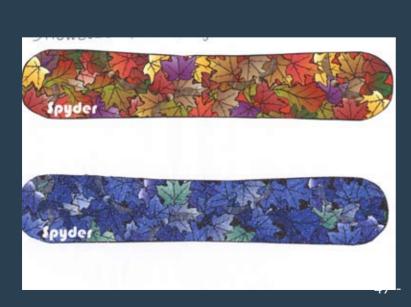
Gordon O'Neill



# Gallery











# Classic

'Ciao bella!' 'Sexy ladies!' 'Pretty woman, walking down the street...' Here we go. A week in Italy 7 days, 7,350g of pasta, 1 cow's worth of ice cream, enough bus journeys to get us to the moon and back. Oh and a few old buildings.

### Day 1

Bleurghhhhh...that just about sums up how we felt on departure at 2.30am. However, after much sleep on the coach and the plane we thought the day might turn out OK...

We rolled up at Hadrian's Villa just in time for lunch. Unfortunately the host couldn't be there to welcome us; apparently his wall needed some maintenance work. So we were left to wander his pad, eventually being acquainted with his...special friend, Antinous.

After a long journey by coach we reached the Bay of Naples. Wearied from our travels, we gained enough energy to perfect our room nabbing tactics. Job done...just enough time to rest before a spaghetti eating lesson and a trip into Sorrento...although secretly in the back of our minds there was only one thing...bed.

### Day 2

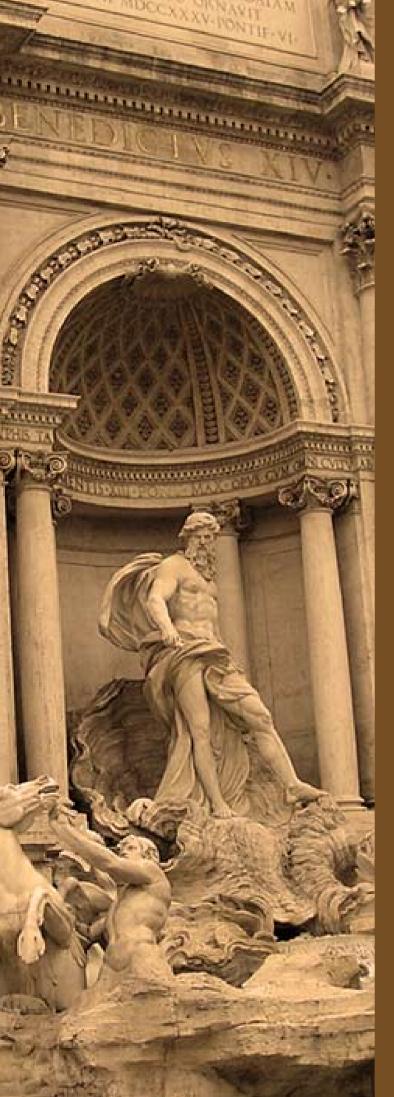
Another early rise for a very special day – APRIL FOOL'S DAY...and Alice's birthday. And what better way to celebrate a birthday, adorned in an 'I love Virgil' T-shirt, than to follow Giovanni around Naples museum. In the afternoon we met Mario, Italy's answer to Brad Pitt (in orange trousers). Mario was to be our guide for the next two sites. "And he no make things up. It all fact." Seriously though, it was quite a poignant day. Herculaneum, covered by a mudslide caused by the eruption of Vesuvius, was definitely one of the highlights of the trip. And thanks to Mario, we now know a lot about carbonised wood frames and compluviums. And we got a tan.

The excitement of being allowed wine when no one else was that night was far too much for some...or maybe the delirium had returned...either way, we made it into Sorrento down some crazy roads without getting run over. Just. And then there was cocktails and ice cream.

#### Dav 3

It was sultry. It was windy. It was a volcano. It erupted. We ran. We died. Mr Blissett's nightmare came true. Not really, but it was hard work. And there was a puff of smoke. By the time we got down, Vesuvius was in our shoes. We weren't tempted by the shiny blue souvenir volcanoes. Oh no, we had the real thing in our shoes.





And we all know what came next...the return of Mario! And the orange trousers. You can only really see all of Pompeii in three days, so in our one afternoon we saw the part which, luckily, contained the brothel. And a small theatre. We experienced what it was like to be a gladiator and saw what we'd have looked like if we'd lived in Pompeii all those years ago; a cast. Also this showed us, much to our disappointment, that Romans were in fact short and fat. Not tall, lean and muscular as the statues may imply. Again though, despite leaving feeling a bit disappointed about that, Pompeii is one of those places that you have to see to believe. A proper highlight.

### Day 4

Bleary eyed and tired, we packed our belongings and set off for Rome. Along the way, we went to Amalfi and saw some lemon shaped rocks. Oh no wait, they were actually very large lemons. And strawberries. And sandwiches. And ice cream. Mmm...and also a very pretty cathedral to look at.

So...back to the bus. More sleep. Rudely awakened by Mr Blissett to look at some monastery called Monte Cassino, we all piled off the coach once more and began a long hike up a long hill. Actually it turned out to be pretty cool and worth the climb/separation of bum from seat. However, there is something slightly weird about seeing a monk polishing a shrine with Mr Sheen.

Finally Rome. Well all this travelling made us hungry...and all the eating made us want to walk to St Peter's in the rain.

### Day 5

Just about dried off and ready for another day, we set off for Ancient Rome. Tuning in to Blissett FM at the Colosseum we gained some pearls of wisdom about one of the hugest and most impressive sights in Rome. We managed to find some stray Romans to have a photo taken with. Funnily enough they were just the same as most Italian men...

We trekked around to the Forum...hopeful that it would soon cease to rain. Still, it didn't stop us being excited about finally seeing the Circus Maximus...all those memories of Year 9 Latin came flooding back...

Once again, mucho walking was done and by our final stop we were ready for a sit down, and what better place to sit down than the Trevi Fountain. Four young girls sitting in a row threw coins over their shoulders following the superstition that one day they will return to Rome with the love of their lives...

Later that evening we continued our voyage to the Spanish Steps. After a chance to admire the steps and, for those who wished, a look at the place where poet John Keats died, we trooped back across Rome, once again totally ready for a good night's sleep.

#### Day 6

So here we are, the final day of the trip. We began this journal in the long queue to get into the Vatican City, an extensive wait which gave us time to reflect on the week's events...fascinating sights, a chance to finally place the stories of Y9 Latin, some

rather scary Romans, a nice spot of rain here and there...few ice creams... pasta...pasta...pasta...

Once inside the Vatican City, we really proved ourselves as the geeks of the trip. Mimicking the poses of Apollo Belvedere, swapping pearls of wisdom from Latin scholar to classicist and vice versa. But best of all was the finishing point of our epic journey through the museum – the Sistine Chapel. There's wallpaper, then there's the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Words cannot describe. Amazing.

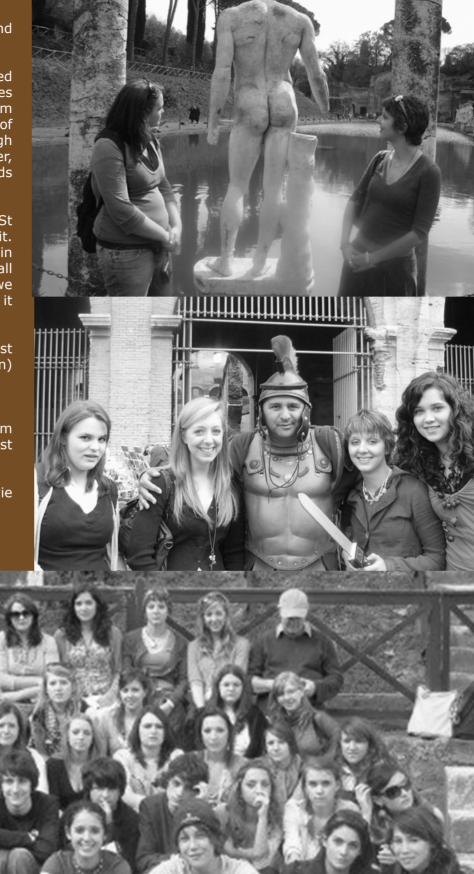
Second mammoth queue of the day led us to St Peter's Basilica. Again, definitely worth the wait. Upper Sixth proved their competence at navigation in accidentally finding the exit and being told by a small (but strangely scary) Italian security guard that we couldn't re-enter...woops. Ah well, nice to admire it from the outside too.

All that sightseeing worked up an appetite – just time for one last ice cream (despite the pouring rain) before heading back.

### Day 7

Time to say goodbye to our beautiful hotel. Team Lennie packed their bags and registered for the last time. Time to go home.

By Rosie Morris, Alice Holtom, Alice Jenkins and Evie Prysor-Jones



# Economics Target 2.0

At the start of term a group of sixth form economists meet to organise the financial planning of the UK Economy. It takes the form of a competition, run by the Bank England, in which students have to gather and assess a range of current economic data and then, using this evidence, argue their case as to where they see UK

interest rates going over the next six weeks. In essence the competition is easy: the Bank has to keep the UK's inflation rate at 2.0% and, if it looks like it is going above that limit you would recommend raising rates, but if it looks like it would undershoot then you would advocate reducing rates. I say simple, but there are a myriad of factors that come into play to put pressure on the price level in the UK and each has to be weighted and added into the mix. Some are more easy to quantify such as oil or gas prices, but others such as consumer confidence and 'worries' over house prices are less tangible, but are able to shift consumer behaviour in a big way.

Having gathered all the information, the group then settle down to form their opinion and then you select a team of speakers to present your ideas. Teams are judged on the quality of their research; how they attached significance to the data and most critically of all, the timing of the impact of the factors they have considered.

This year there were two teams that met in early November to present their ideas at a special business dinner. The teams give their synopsis of the state of the economy and then justified their conclusions by answering questions from a distinguished panel of judges. From that evening a final team list was drawn up and they then gave their presentation in the area round in front of a panel of Bank of England judges. The competition attracts entries from over 260 schools and in each round there are normally 8 local schools. This year our team of Jess Pauley, Alex Reeder, Ed Leech and Ben Derrett, with research back up from Will Montgomery, Mark Bond, Laura Crees, Stuart Ellis and Matt Russell acquitted themselves very well, in managing to get through to the regional final, but lost out to the eventual winners of the competition, Leeds Grammar.



TWO POINT ZERO



# Geography Trip Western America

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July we left Heathrow Airport and headed for Los Angeles, California and after a long and tiring flight we arrived at about 15.00. Most of us just wanted to go to bed as western USA is eight hours behind England and therefore at 19:00 when we were having dinner it felt like three o'clock in the morning! Fortunately our excitement and adrenalin saw us through and whilst extremely tired we couldn't wait for the next day.

The next day we set off bright and early as we had a busy but exciting schedule ahead of us. Firstly we had a sightseeing tour of Hollywood courtesy of our coach driver Larry, before walking down the 'Walk of Fame' and getting a glimpse of the famous 'Hollywood' sign; it was amazing! We then went back on the coach and toured 'downtown', the business district and the Mexican Quarter. In the afternoon we travelled to Kingman our evening stop en route to the Grand Canyon. Overall L.A. was a real mix, the glitz and glamour of Hollywood combined with smog and congestion. That said, it was still worth seeing and the atmosphere was immense.

The third day was definitely one of the best days of the trip, if not the best. This was because it was the day when we flew over the Grand Canyon in a helicopter. Everyone was so excited (and slightly nervous) and the mood of the group was electric. There are not enough words to describe the sensation of flying over such a stunning and remarkable view that is one of the most beautiful wonders of the world. It is incredible to think how a river carved its way through creating unbelievably defined rock formations over millions of years. After lunch we walked along the south rim to see the Grand Canyon close up. It was definitely a once in a life time experience.

The next morning we travelled to Lake Powell and Glen Canyon where we had an interesting tour of the hydroelectric powered dam. This dam was huge; it was so big that you could place two Big Ben buildings on top of each other. We then travelled onto Kanab to our hotel for the night. This area of Utah was used for filming many of the great western movies and you could just imagine John Wayne riding through on horse-back.







## Cevennes National Park

In the first week of the summer holidays a group of Year 10 students from Stamford School and Stamford High School departed for the south of France. During this week abroad we would learn about the cultures and physical geography of this region. We would also develop case studies and research about topics that would be of use for our GCSE studies. Cévennes National Park is situated in the Lozère region of France. This is a mountainous region in the south of France near to the Mediterranean Sea.

We arrived in the afternoon on Sunday after a long coach journey having left Stamford on the Saturday evening. We were allocated to our rooms and before we had time to unpack we were off on a walk around the surrounding countryside investigating the area that was to be our home for the next week. We then came back for dinner and unfortunately the heavens opened and we got soaked! Later that night there was a lightning storm which was spectacular. The display lit up the sky although it was a bit too close for comfort when the lightning hit the building. The trip was to be a mix of work and fun and we looked forward to seeing what we would be doing on the Monday.

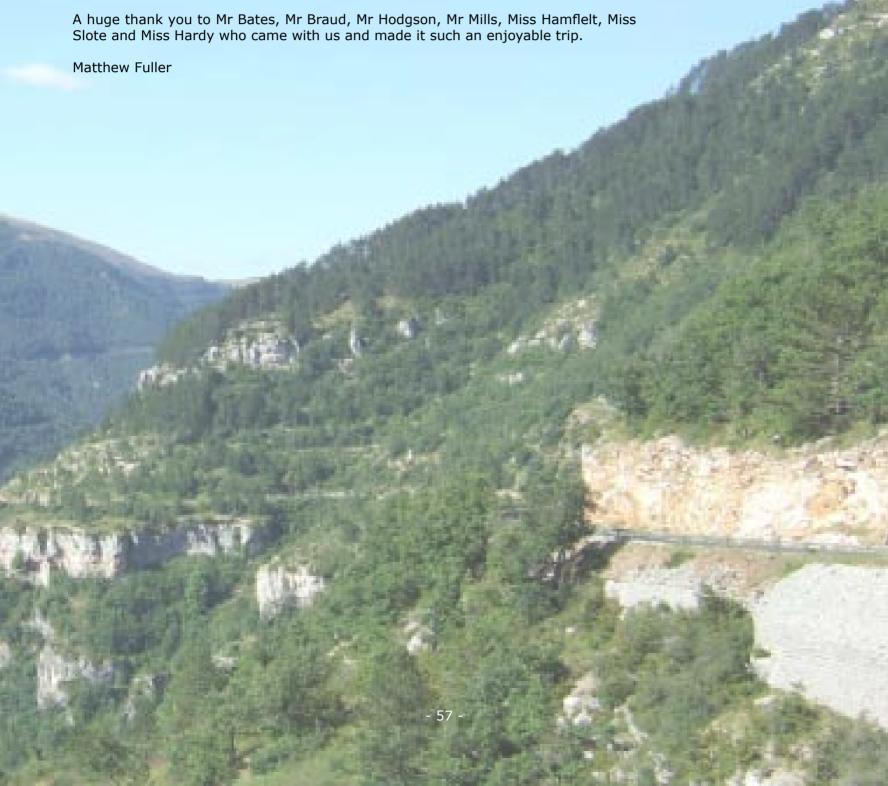
The next morning we set off to learn about rivers. The river that we studied was called the River Outeran. During the day we studied a selection of locations along the length of the river; we researched some parts of the river towards the top of the mountain and some towards the bottom. We were put into groups for the day and worked together to collect our data. We recorded the velocity at three points across the river, the width of the channel and we also had a look at many different pebbles, rocks and stones in order to see the amount of erosion occurring. We also measured the river bed using a chain, and then we measured the steepness of the river. At the end of the day we returned to the Eagles Nest and continued working in our groups. We spent time analysing our results and drawing graphs and then we gave a short presentation about the work that day.

The next day we learnt about settlements, the services available to the inhabitants and the pressures such areas are facing. We studied many places from major towns the size of Stamford to tiny hamlets where only 2 families live. The main places we looked at were Florac, Pont de Montvert and Finiels. During the day we worked in different groups from the previous day; we recorded the number of services available, e.g. telephones, restaurants, shops. Again, when we arrived back at our accommodation we went into classrooms and each group was allocated a settlement to prepare a presentation on. When we heard all of the presentations we were able to understand more about all the settlements, what their important features were and the pressures facing the services found there.



On Wednesday we left early and headed off to Mediterranean. Whilst an early start was not welcome it did mean that we would be able to have more time at the coast. We stopped off en route for breakfast this comprised of the usual French breakfast, fruit juices, croissants and baguettes. When we were nearing are arrival at the coast, we stopped off in the marsh land of the Camargue, in order to see some bird life including flamingos. Unfortunately, it was a cold day meaning that sea was too cold for the teachers to have a paddle. After spending a good few hours at the beach we set off to have a look around the town of Aigues Mort. For most people this was a chance to buy some souvenirs and indulge in some ice cream and drinks! On our way back to the centre we stopped for a picnic dinner at Pont Du Gard, a famous Roman aqueduct.

On the Thursday we went rafting down the Tarn Gorge, a great way to explore this impressive feature. We also visited a tourist honey pot settlement called St Etienne and looked at the impact tourism was having here. In the evening we went for a traditional French meal at a local restaurant followed by the disco. It was a great way to end our last day in the Cévennes. The final day saw us set off home. We stopped at Vulcania and experienced the 3D cinema show where snakes crawl around your legs as well as looking at other impressive tectonic themes exhibits. At midnight we were under the Eiffel Tower before the final journey – arriving back in Stamford on Saturday morning.







Packing up to venture north to an island closer to the Arctic than Scotland during the Easter holiday felt like a strange thing to do simply out of choice. However, from the moment our small adventuring group landed in Iceland, we were pleasantly amazed at what was to behold us for the next 5 days.

On arrival at the airport in Iceland we were greeted by our tour guides, who entertained and educated us very successfully during our trip, providing an excellent picture of life in Iceland. They proceeded to take us on a tour of Reykjavik, the capital (half the size of Peterborough) and we were lucky enough to experience that evening some fantastic views of the western part of the island as the sun set.

Our accommodation, which we returned to later that evening, was a two minute walk from the national football stadium and an open air swimming pool heated by geothermal energy. Over the course of the next few days we were lucky enough to experience some unforgettable sites of raw beauty, undisturbed by man. We visited numerous spectacular waterfalls. At the foot of one memorable waterfall spanned a beautiful rainbow.

But the wonders did not stop there as we walked on glaciers, ate our lunch on the banks of an iceberg lake, visited black sand beaches and watched in amazement as a geyser erupted.

On the second day we were lucky enough to cross the North Atlantic Ridge, a tectonically active zone moving 4mm apart every year, which separates North America from Europe. Unfortunately crossing the 4-mile ridge meant going off road in a bus with limited suspension!

Other sites included a visit to the Nesjavellir Power Station, where geothermal energy is used to supply the local electricity and hot water needs, cooking eggs in hot springs and discovering the cultural differences in the changing rooms of the open-air swimming pool in Reykjavik!



Having come expecting 15ft deep snow and no daylight, we were very lucky to receive the weather we had. The snow had melted and it remained remarkably warm and sunny. We were told that we could visit the island on another 10 occasions and not experience as good weather as we had done. Another memorable highlight of the trip involved a tyre bursting on the bus in the middle of a black sand desert otherwise known as a glacial outwash plain. Waiting for 2 hours for repair whilst knowing a volcano a few miles away could erupt at anytime, from which all the melt water from the explosion would be directed straight towards us was a little concerning! Our second hotel we stayed in for 2 nights on the south coast, won the award for the most picturesque location for a hotel. Our window looked out onto an ice cap whilst the other side overlooked a valley and the sea. It was yet another stunning location. The Blue Lagoon was fittingly our last stop before flying home. The chance to bathe in the turquoise coloured hot spring whilst the temperature outside remained in single figures, was remarkable. Iceland was a stunning country; in just a short space of time we experienced many of its hidden treasures. From a geographical perspective it covered just about every topic on our specification, setting us up nicely for our summer exams. Special thanks should go to Mr Hewlett and Mr Haynes for organising the trip and enabling us to experience such an incredible location. Matthew J Fox

## **History:** Battlefields

Day 1: At twelve, we arrived at school to begin our trip. The loud coach atmosphere was deafening but it wasn't enough to keep us awake. We arrived at Dover at around 6 am. Having clambered onto the ferry we all looked forward to breakfast. After arriving in Calais and endless hours of travelling we arrived at our first stop. A small New-Zealand monument called Messines Ridge. An unexpected competition of beating Mr. Dexter back to the coach was not what us boys had in mind. However, a small reward of money was offered for the winners so I took my chances and won a whopping two euros. Five minutes later and with every boy gasping for breath we were back on the coach, and heading towards our next destination.

With our booklets in our grasp we walked to the Tyne Cot British cemetery. Pictures and words could not put into detail how many graves stood row after row. The thing that struck us most is the absolute silence of the whole memorial. We then arrived at Sanctuary Wood. We all piled in, eager to get a look at the pictures displayed in boxes and on the walls. The trenches were mostly dry due to the warm weather. They had been re-built but still captured the effect of what it would have looked like. After walking through a large arch with black wallpaper and pictures we stopped at Langemark cemetery in the town of Poelkapelle. It was our first German cemetery of the trip and the four figures watching over the dead soldiers are the most memorable thing.



We headed back to the coach after a long day. Relieved to have a shower and pleased to be in a good dorm.

Day 2: An early wake up call got everyone in the dorm up and ready. The Theipval memorial centre is the largest British war memorial in the world. Its huge size showed the importance of the memorial. The amount of names inscribed on it was unbelievable. It was then just a short trip to Newfoundland Park. On the first day of the Battle of the Somme 91 % of the Newfoundland soldiers were killed or wounded (725 men) within forty minutes. We wandered up to the Canadian monument of a moose and looked down over the land which once was a battle field filled with nothing but rotting corpses and mud. We saw the German trenches and the difference was incredible. They were in a much better position because they were on top of a hill.



We ate lunch then toured around Delville wood. The memorial was amazing as well as fascinating. We hopped back onto the coach and travelled to the town to buy some of our own antiques and souvenirs. Many people bought shells and regimental badges. The museum was full of things to buy and had a huge range of different WW1 artefacts. Our final spectacle of the day was the huge Lochnagar crater. It was in fact the largest crate in WW1; the noise was so loud that artillery gunfire was muted. The crater was about 22m deep and 80m wide.



We arrived back at the hotel just in time for supper. After a game of bowling and a few goes on the arcade games.

Day 3: Everyone on coach 'A' was given a whole 15 minutes of extra sleep time which doesn't sound like much but in the morning it's heavenly. We hopped on the coach and travelled to Vimy ridge.

We arrived at Vimy ridge. The carving was done to perfection and the sight was unforgettable. Underneath the Vimy ridge unknown to the naked eye lay 20-25 tunnels at a minimum of 30 feet underground. We then stopped off at a Germancemetery where thousands of people had been killed.

# "Within **forty** minutes 91% of the Newfoundland soldiers were killed or wounded."

The graves just kept on going and going on and on. We soon approached the Memorial Notre Dame De Lorette. Having had a mumbling speech from our driver which no-one understood, we were allowed to get off the coach. The outside museum was very good but extremely frustrating as all the shell remains and bullets seemed to have disappeared. The previous group had come back full of WW1 objects. The artillery and different weapons were enormous.

We had a look at the Vente museum and saw the models re-enacting parts of WW1. After returning to the hotel, we were soon back on the coach to go to the chocolate shop and to see the Last Post Ceremony. Names were in scripted everywhere when we walked into the huge arch. The ceremony was like a small remembrance day. The long awaited trip to the chocolate shop was going to



have to live up to our expectations. We returned to the hotel for our last night. After packing and getting rid of all our change we were set for the last day.

Day 4: We visited the St. Julien monument at the sight of the first gas attack and had our last historic museum 'In Flanders Fields'. Everyone was handed a card with a name on it. Various machines around the museum gave information about the person you were given. We arrived in Calais at the huge Hypermarket. At around 9pm we arrived back in Stamford.

It was a brilliant trip and I thank all the teachers for organising it and giving up their free time.



### **Berlin Trip**

On the 7th July, the pick of Stamford Endowed Schools' historians met at 2 a.m. to embark on the first stage of our all inclusive package tour to Germany with the very able holiday rep Mr Brown.

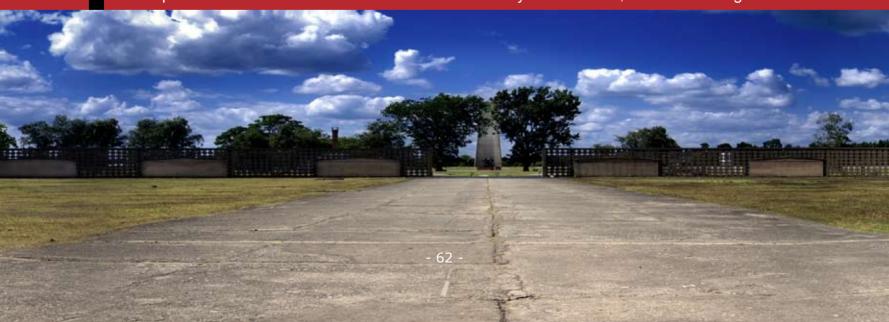
The first stage of our trip was, without doubt, the most luxurious and sophisticated. We found ourselves speeding down to Stansted in 2 school minibuses with our luggage stowed below, between and on top of our legs.

On arrival in Berlin we were all very tired and ready for bed, but our tour rep was very keen to get us moving to start sampling what Berlin was all about.

Day one started properly with a visit to the infamous Checkpoint Charlie. We visited the actual check point where many of us took photos of ourselves in front of the guards' hut. This site also housed a museum on the history of the checkpoint and the most interesting aspect of the museum was the exhibits about the methods people used to escape from East Berlin. There were suitcases that were specially made for small people to fit inside. On display were shovels and other tools people used to make tunnel to escape under the Berlin Wall. Two escape methods I found particularly interesting and daring were a hot air balloon and another of a car with a hidden compartment.

Following the visit to the museum the next stage of our visit was described by Mr Brown as a tour of Berlin that you could find nowhere else on offer; he had missed out that it was in fact a walking tour of Berlin. However, the tour led us around some of the most interesting and important places in the history of Berlin. We saw the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and the Soviet War memorial which, with seats, was most welcomed by the group as the site for a talk by Mr Brown. After the tour we moved to our youth hostel, a site which we were more than pleased to see.

After a quick educational introduction to German night life and a good night's sleep we started the second day of our visit As a group found it very upsetting yet a visit which we could not miss. After a short trip we arrived at Sachsenhausen concentration camp. We all thought we had a good idea of what to expect. However, as this visit progressed and we saw some of the ways the Nazis punished the Jews and some of the conditions they had to live in, our ideas changed.





As much as we all found the camp a hard visit, we agreed that it is a sight you have to see to be able to understand fully and comment on the conditions of such places.

Day Three and we were all ready now for what Berlin had to offer. The day started with a visit to the Olympic stadium. It is a very impressive building dominating in the local area, and as we learnt, acted as a great symbol for other nations who saw the Olympic Games.



The stadium's bell tower was a great vantage point to see the whole Olympic complex. Following the visit to the old Olympic stadium we moved a few hundred meters to the new Olympic stadium which has been upgraded over the years and is current used for German international football. Mr Brown, as a football fan, made sure we made a small detour! We then travelled back to the centre of Berlin to visit a well-known landmark, the German TV tower, which is 368m tall. The tower was built between 1965 and 1969 and remains a symbol of the city. It commands panoramic views over the city; this

"Two methods of escape I found particularly interesting and daring were a hot air balloon and another of a car with a hidden compartment."

certainly wasn't a day for people scared of heights! We moved on to the museum of the Stasi, the East German secret police. This was an immense building from which the activities of citizens were monitored.

The last night was spent having a final visit to the German night life and a visit to a themed venue. I have no idea how Mr. Brown and Mrs. Fox found it but it was good fun. On the final day we had time for a visit to the resistance museum followed by a shopping trip to the centre of Berlin. At the museum the extent of opposition to the Nazis became clear and it was interesting to be in the very area and rooms where opponents had planned to overthrow Hitler. In turn, two leading Nazis were executed here for their parts in plots.

Our time in Berlin came to an end very quickly, and after a jam-packed visit to such a diverse and interesting city we all felt we wanted to stay for longer. But all I can do is recommend that you try to experience what we did by putting your name down with Mr. Brown!

James Wilson



### LINCOLN TRIP

We set off for Lincoln at quarter past eight and arrived at half past nine. Once there we were split up into groups and given a history questionnaire and told where to go first. My group went to the museum first. Lincoln museum has lots of things from different time periods in history. First of all we went and sat in a Victorian classroom where we were introduced to ink wells, dunce hats, school life and the cane.

After that we looked at early forms of transport from the penny farthing to the hearse. Next we went into reconstructions of rooms at that time. These included the kitchen, parlour, washroom, bedroom as well as a Blacksmith's shop and stable. For each of these we had to write down something that caught our eye and why it did.

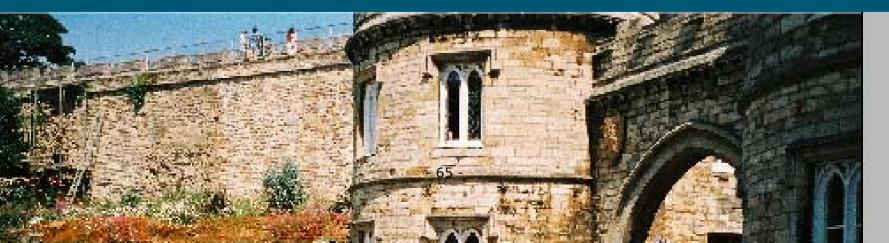
Secondly we visited the cathedral and found out about the people whose statues still stand and how many times the building had been destroyed. Each of these was told interestingly by Mr Wilkes. The cathedral has burned down and caught in an earthquake and amazingly the west wall has survived all this. Then we visited Lincoln Castle, a highly defended castle made by William the Conqueror in 1068. A walk around the walls gave us examples of how to attack and defend this castle. We counted the number of steps leading up the motte to the keep.

Next we went through the town down a very steep hill. Mr Stamp announced a race back up again to the Magna Carta pub. The winner of this race was, as predicted, Cameron Brookes. The gift shop was our final destination where we bought toy weapons ranging from wooden bows and arrows to foam axes.

We then boarded the coach back to school where a medieval fight broke out between forms using our new weapons. I would like to thank Mr Stamp for arranging such a fantastic school trip for the year 7's and also all the teachers who participated and looked after our groups. We had a great time!!







### Chapel Choir Trip to New York

New York! New York!

During the Autumn half term break, a large group of pupils and staff from the school Chapel Choir and Cantare singers went off to spend 5 days in America. The journey there was a little gruelling (though nothing to the journey home) but we arrived with a real sense of excitement at the YMCA close to Central park in Manhattan. For many of us it was our first time in New York.

Some of our time was spent sight seeing, with visits to Ground Zero and the Empire State Building and a ferry trip past the Statue of Liberty perhaps the best remembered. Then of course there was the shopping (mostly in the area around Times Square) and the eating (the diner at the YMCA became quickly something of a legend, but my favourite was the Stardust Diner on Broadway with its singing waiters and waitresses).

The whole group spent an evening at the theatre. We went to see 'The Producers' and in addition a breakaway group fitted in a visit to the cult musical 'Wicked' though personally, knowing nothing of the 'Wizard of Oz' I couldn't work out the significance of the red shoes.

Part of the reason for our visit was to sing in a recital at the Grace Church on Broadway. Since 9/11 a meditation has been held there every day at lunchtime to commemorate those who died. For one day we provided the music for that. It was a moving experience.

In addition we travelled by coach to the Hotchkis School in Connecticut where a former member of staff of Stamford School has taught for some years and had arranged for us to give a concert. The school was impressive and wealthy and attracts the children of some powerful US citizens. Their music facilities were enviable. They fed us well and provided us with an enthusiastic and appreciative audience for our concert

The journey home to UK was not quite what we expected as our flight to Heathrow was cancelled and we ended up on a 'plane to Glasgow and finally home by coach to Stamford. For all that, it was an outstanding experience and owes a great deal to the painstaking care and attention to detail of Paul White. Thanks to him from all of us who went on the trip.



## KINGSWOOD

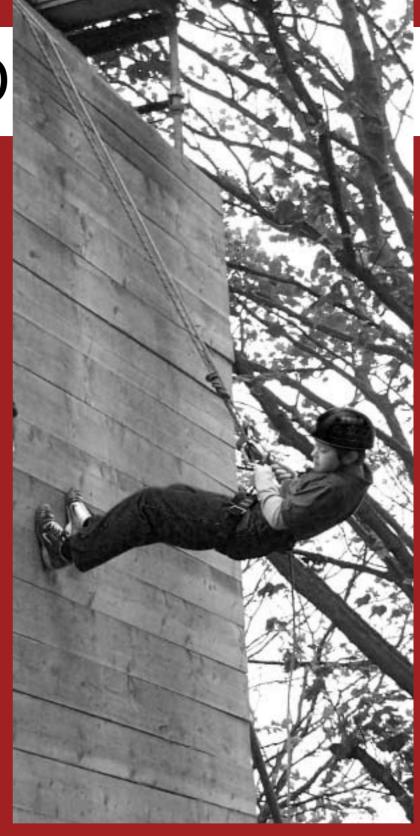
On the 18th October 2006 Year 7 set out with the four form tutors as well as Mr Chapman, Miss Ingle and Mr Braud for Kingswood in Norfolk. After a long journey there we were all packed into a room and told who we would be with in the dormitories.

Our first activity was nightline. Our group were lucky as we got to do this not only blindfolded but in the dark, unlike some other groups. After an exhilarating evening we all gratefully ate our tea, after which came the film of the night "Tomb Raider."

Over the next two days, we did many other activities, including fencing, abseiling, caving and the Kingswood Challenge. I got to know a lot of students from other Y7 forms. Our main course was 'I-Venture' where we all created a short video clip about our visit.

All in all this was a great trip especially in our free time, when we played blackjack for sweets!





## YEAR 7



Every year, a group of about thirty boys and girls goes to St. Pierre-les-Nemours to take part in the French exchange. This year we also did an exchange with a college in nearby Fontainebleau. Three boys who took part tell us about their experiences:

We arrived on Wednesday night, tired after a long journey but excited, as well as nervous, to be meeting our French hosts for the first time. Having survived our first evening, Thursday was our first full day in France, and there was no better way to spend it than exploring the capital city, Paris. The morning began with an early arrival at our French school, where we would take the coach to the bottom of the famous avenue, Montmartre. Our coach journey gave us a brief panoramic insight into French city life, from the highs and lows. But the best way to experience the city, and see the monuments would be on foot. After a lengthy walk we arrived at the Sacre-Coeur. Enduring the many steps to the top was worth while as the view was breath taking. We were able to see the whole city in front us. It gave us a rough idea of the situation of the different monuments, including the Eiffel Tower positioned on the Seine that runs through the city.

In the afternoon we travelled down the Seine on a boat tour which was accompanied by beautiful weather. We sailed past many of the city's most famous monuments including the Louvre which we would see from

a different angle the next Monday. The highlights of my day were travelling on the metro which could be compared to London's underground and sailing down the Seine admiring the marvellous views of the city from the river.

William Joyce

On the Friday the people on the exchange went with their partners to school. It was all in French-which, as none of us were fluent, it was a challenge. The group that went to the school in Nemours were able to talk to each other, but those in Fontainebleau were mostly on their own. Most of the French students were eager to use their English, asking us our names and ages almost constantly. After lunch, our rally in Nemours began during which we had a considerable amount of fun, and managed to find our way around the town almost without problem. Some people were brave enough to attempt some French to bewildered passers-by, which did, surprisingly, help the groups. Having arrived at a garden, which over half of the groups thought to be the end, having followed other groups lemming like, we sat and waited for the teachers to arrive. We realised after a while that we had come to the wrong place, as someone had to come and point us in the right direction. The teachers probably all thought we were stupid, but we found it amusing. We were wondering how exactly we would survive the weekend ahead, with only our limited French, and our host families. Callum Storey

After a weekend with families and a day in Euro Disney, Tuesday was another day in Paris. After struggling to get up at the same time as my French exchange for the sixth time it was not long before I met everyone at the now familiar French school. We waved off our exchanges as the coach headed off to Paris for second time.

We hopped onto a square with beautiful statues and a massive fountain. We had the privilege of seeing Paris again as we crossed over a bridge to get to the art gallery we were going to visit.

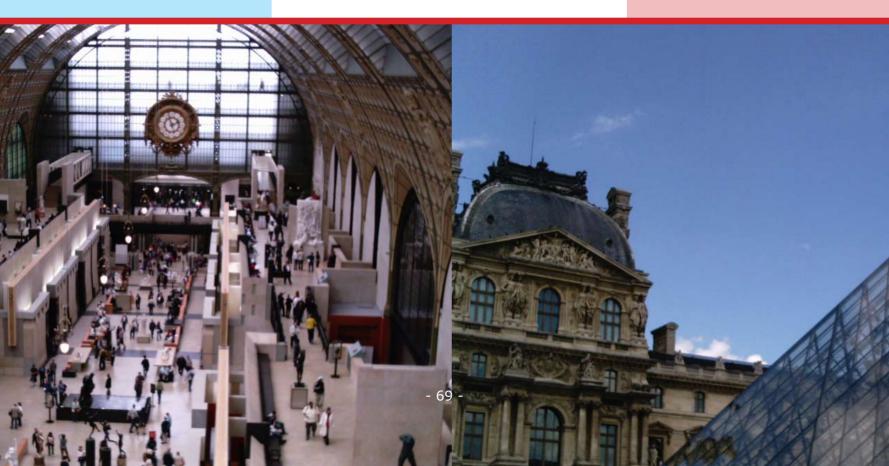
The gallery was formerly a train station. However, paintings filled the huge building instead. We were split into two groups with a guide for each. The guide was good the pictures were great.

After a spot of lunch (and an hour of shopping) we visited the Champs Elysees. It was huge and truly unforgettable. Then shortly later we saw the famous glass pyramid called La Louvre. After plenty of photos we headed down the stairs allowing you to go underneath La Louvre and were met by the coach. What a day.

On Wednesday we woke early and packed our bags. We said goodbye to our hosts and went to the French school. After loading the bus with our bags, we then said goodbye to our French partners. And with a few last minute photos and hasty promises of further meetings, we got on the bus and left for England. Many sweets, sleeps and idle chatter later we arrived in Stamford and went home.

We all had a fantastic time, enjoying every minute of it – I really advise going on the exchange, it's brilliant.

Jake Adams



## German Exchange



It's not everyday that you make a new friend, let alone a foreign friend. But as soon as you find out who you'll be sharing all your things with and whose house you'll be staying at for a week, the nerves really start to kick in. You're not sure whether to contact them first or wait for them to contact you, and if so, what do you say? Do you talk German to them or just write and hope they understand English well enough? But you sort of just wander into various conversations with them on the computer and it's quite fun getting to know them, what they do in Germany, and how unfair it is that they finish school at one o'clock.

After getting to know them, you look forward to meeting them, but are still really nervous. I must say, there haven't actually been many occasions where I have been so nervous, but once again, it's never as bad as you first imagine it to be. After waiting at the station for several minutes, the train finally arrived, and a large group of around 25 pale-faced German pupils slowly and cautiously stepped off the train. They stood there, looking around anxiously as they waited to be introduced to their partners. But once you've been paired up and you're in the car on the way home, it's more casual. You talk about life in general in Germany and England, and the great thing is, they're always amazing at English and so your conversations remain fluent and easy the whole time.

After the first day or so, you start to settle down. You're more confident with your exchange partner, after learning various methods of keeping your partner busy while you do your homework (or they do the homework if it's German- but I'm not supposed to tell you that). They are always happy to go on the Playstation or computer, or give them an English book to indulge themselves. It's entertaining to hear them talk with great enthusiasm about their various trips around England, and in my partner's case, the way the design of toilets are so different in Germany! They could talk for hours about every half-hour of their daytrips.

A daily pattern develops of collecting them from the station, taking them home for a very English meal (fish 'n' chips is always a winner) and then competing on various Playstation games - mainly football - and, rather like reality, they always seem to find a way of beating you! But, unfortunately, before long the week is over. It feels that as soon as you're welcoming them to England, you're waving them goodbye. But, in my opinion, the best of the exchange is still to come.

A few months later you go back to Germany, and after a flight and a train journey, you finally arrive in Bonn where you are collected from the school. The German families are always very welcoming and the meals they give are nothing short of delicious. You soon realise over a few breakfasts, that they really enjoy eating bread and cheese and drinking fizzy water. But once the bubbly tummies are over, you settle down and get used to the food they give you and it's actually a lot nicer than it first seems.

During the week, we visited Bonn and neighbouring towns, going to cathedrals and castles, going on boat trips and even exploring sports and chocolate museums, but my favourite part was having free time to explore the town yourself because you can go beyond where you have been shown, and maybe pick up a few German chocolates on the way.

And then there is the traditional football game of England v Germany. I think it's better that I don't go into how long it's been since the English won, but it's a good chance for everyone on the exchange to go out and show the Germans how bad we are at football, but have a fun time as well and participate in an, all-round, very amusing activity.

But the most amazing time of the week for me is the weekend when your partners take you out anywhere and everywhere. If you ever go on the exchange ask your partners to take you to "Phantasialand". For me it was the best part of the trip. Nearly all the exchangers met up in Bonn and went to "Phantasialand" together. Another "must-go" place is the Haribo shop. I must say, I have never seen a shop so jam-packed with sweets - it's the sort of place you dream about - so if you go, make sure you visit the Haribo shop! Bowling is also a big hit. If you get a group of you it can be great fun, you can have a meal and chill out with your mates.

Overall I have to say that the German exchange was one of the biggest and best experiences of my life, and I will no doubt return on the German exchange at every opportunity I have and I recommend it to anyone who is doing German.

David Jordan

My Work Experience

I decided to take part in the work experience programme after participating for 2 years in the normal German exchange and I thought this would be a very useful and challenging experience for me. The exchange school in Germany, Ernst-Kahlkuhl Gymnasium, arranged for me to work for the publisher Heel Verlag, as I would like to work in an office in the future. The placement was situated in a quiet, rural area of Bonn and the environment and atmosphere were very pleasant and friendly.

I was very nervous as I was being driven to the placement by Herr Bewerunge. However, when I arrived, I was greeted warmly by Frau Krüsselmann and was introduced to my other colleagues. After being shown around the placement I was then taken to my desk, where I could get used to my surroundings. My colleague gave me some magazines and a brief overview of what the publisher does. Interestingly, the publisher does not only have the publishing rights in Germany, but also in 7 other countries including England, France, Italy and China.

The work I had to do included a wide range of tasks; some which were quite boring, but the majority were very useful office experience. At first, I was given the easy task of putting letters into an envelope by hand, but I then discovered the next day that a machine could do it all for me! There was also a lot of data that I had to store in the computer as well as arranging articles for magazines on sport cars. I was surprised that I also had the opportunity to do practical work such as working on design templates.

During the week I learnt a lot about the working life in an office and that working in an office is not as dull as it seems. There were many opportunities to practise my German with my colleagues and I believe this has given me a very useful experience of working life, in addition to the Y10 work experience I did in Stamford.

Chi Pang

## Norway Exchange

The Norwegian Exchange was for me a clear highlight of my time in Year 13. The Norwegians had visited us in November and we had all become firm friends by the time we returned to visit them in February. We flew from Stansted, arriving in Oslo on the Sunday evening and met our hosts who took us to their houses to get settled in and meet their families. All the houses looked like ski chalets with steep sloping roofs and wood panelling and there was a covering of about three feet of snow on everything. The houses were quite small but considering they were made from wood, were very well insulated. I was staying with Kristoffer, otherwise known as Basse, who was half English which made things slightly easier for me.

On the first night it was the Norwegian equivalent of Pancake Day and we made some buns – it got messy but it was a good ice breaker having not seen each other for a few months. In the morning we had a tour of their school and then became the centre of most of the lessons for the day, talking to the students about The Stamford Endowed Schools at length. That night we went to test out a bobsleigh run. We looked really cool in our helmets although we realised by the end that they were certainly necessary, apart from Toby who dropped his on the train track! The amounts of bruises were incredible but it was well worth it just to experience the run. The highlight of that evening had to be seeing Nick's sleigh fly past me followed closely by Nick!

We went to the school again the following day and again were the centre of attention. We had a lesson on Norwegian History and started to prepare our presentation for the cultural evening. A few of the girls became interested in some of the Norwegian boys that day but then became very embarrassed when they spoke to them in the lessons.

The third day was brilliant – our trip to Kongsberg to go skiing and snowboarding for the day. In most resorts you have to get a lift to where the skiing starts but here you could park at the bottom of the slope and ski straight to your car at the end of the day. There was only one of us who had not skied before and that was Wally, but for his first go he was really very good, just pointing his skis downhill and going for it! Unfortunately he never mastered turning but did improve. Loz snowboarded with Rikke and Janna close



behind while everybody else skied but it was around -15 degrees that day and at speed you could really feel the temperature on your face.

Thursday arrived and the time had come for our well prepared presentation to the Norwegian families and the teachers. When the Norwegians had come to us they had reinacted Billy Goats Gruff and important parts of their history along with traditional songs. We decided to blend together some Stamford and English history, some cockney rhyming slang for them to learn and some music. The girls sang a unique version of 'the rhythm of life' followed by a superb version of the Beatles classic 'When I'm Sixty-Four' despite Nick's limited musical talent! We then finished with 'Jerusalem' which was somewhat spoilt by a tone deaf voice from a certain tall figure! That night we went to Martina's house for a star sing competition – I stole the show! This was followed by some traditional Norwegian food.

On our final day we went to Oslo. We visited the Olympic ski jump which from the top you could see all of Oslo but it did shake a bit in the wind. After that we went to the Nobel Museum, which we all found really good as it was full of interesting items. We also saw the guards at the King's Palace, as it was a very important week in the city being the King's birthday. We had the opportunity to go shopping and after meeting up with our Norwegian friends, we went ice skating outdoors in the centre of Oslo which was great fun. It was a bitterly cold day so some of us decided to cut short the skating to do a little more shopping! That night was our last night with the 'Norwegees' as we had come to call them, so we decided to all stay together in a rented log cabin at the top of a hill which could only be reached by 4x4 vehicles. It was an unforgettable night and we had a lot of fun together. Loz got sleepy and decided to turn in early but the rest of us managed to stay up all night and experienced some more amazing Norwegian traditions and music. The next day we had to say goodbye to our friends and return to England. It was very sad but we have arranged for some of them to come here again in the summer and vice versa. The Exchange was an unforgettable experience all round and I have made close friends that I will always keep in contact with.

Alex Reeder.









Think Poland: think flat, grey, post-Soviet austerity, industrial architecture? Wrong! Think Krakow: think vibrant, cosmopolitan, beautiful architecture, rich historical heritage, strong spiritual life, delicious cuisine ... and a very good return for your English pound!

There are many reasons why Krakow has already become a destination of choice for large numbers of British and other tourists. And there are reasons too why this seemingly unlikely and certainly unusual cultural exchange organised by the Endowed Schools should quickly grow in popularity amongst our students over the coming years.

Of course, cultural and language exchanges always offer the great advantage of staying with native families and thus not only saving considerably on cost, but also gaining priceless extra insight into the way of life, as well as friendships that can last a lifetime. In this regard, Poland is certainly no exception, and the small Stamford party which visited Krakow for the October half-term week was overwhelmed with hospitality from start to finish.

At a time when rain, if not snow, might normally be expected in Poland, the party was fortunate enough to enjoy (for the second year running) an unbroken spell of mild and pleasant weather for virtually the full duration of the trip. It is to be hoped that the Polish students will be similarly fortunate when they make the return trip to England in March.

The first weekend saw the party split to spend time with their individual hosts, but not before a welcome session at the impressive new bowling alley, where Mr G surprised everyone, including himself, by out-bowling the whole company and even ending with a double-strike! The party members then got to know their hosts a bit better and sampled various elements of the local cuisine, including beetroot soup, buckwheat and pretzels, with fancy cakes and pastries at almost every turn.

Most of the trip was devoted to sightseeing, but on three occasions the day began with a lesson in our exchange school, where students and staff were able to take part in a variety of Sixth Form lessons, all of which were taught – as is the requirement in International Baccalaureate schools – in English. The absence of PCs or whiteboards served to create a greater appreciation of the superior facilities which students take for granted in Stamford, but which were nowhere to be seen in Poland.

The main part of the week was occupied with sightseeing trips in and around Krakow. Krakow itself is rich in architecture and history, having remarkably been spared any significant destruction through two World Wars and the ensuing Soviet occupation. Extensive visits were made round the town centre, the ancient Jagiellonian University (where Copernicus studied and where his instruments can still be examined), the awe-inspiring St Mary's Church and the magnificent Wawel Castle, with its ornate facades and fabulous cathedral, where we climbed to the top of the ancient bell tower for views over the city. We also visited the Kasimierz (Jewish) district, including a synagogue and the Jewish cemetery, scenes of such violence and heartbreak in recent history but now a burgeoning artists' quarter, bristling with clubs and restaurants. We made an evening visit to one and had the new experience of hearing some avant-garde jazz by the Pink Freud (sic) band. On another day we travelled over to the west of the city and climbed the Kosciusko Mound to enjoy a fantastic panorama over the whole area, as well as a close-up sighting of one of the local black squirrels on the way down.

However our real physical exercise was reserved for another day, when we drove out into the Tatra Mountains close to the Czech border and hiked for hours up a mountain trail to the remote Morskie Oko mountain lake, returning by the unlikely and even less comfortable (but nonetheless welcome) means of a horse-drawn logging cart. This gave us time to visit the enchanting mountain resort of Zakopane and do some shopping in its wonderful street markets.

A walk of a different nature was our exploration of the Wieliczka salt mine, where we wandered up and down twisting corridors and shafts some 150 metres below the ground, to discover great vaulted halls with lighting and displays, a cafeteria, a concert chamber with perfect acoustics and a massive banqueting hall, complete with a tram terminus and moving escalators. Everywhere there were statues carved from the rock salt, and in some places whole chapels had been carved out of the rock.

Our final visit was the one which will perhaps dwell the longest in our minds, but for different reasons. Noone could call it a pleasure to visit the horrific and chilling extermination camp of Auschwitz. And yet no-one would not want to be able to say they had been there and witnessed for themselves those things which noone should ever have to witness, but which must be seen and remembered so that they are never allowed to happen again.

To our host school, the Liceum W Krakowie, and especially the Exchange coordinator, Mrs Pillans, to our wonderfully welcoming and hospitable host families and to our exchange partners, we say a huge thank you and we look forward to returning your hospitality in March. To all those who may have read this account and may feel they might like to experience this fascinating exchange first-hand, we say do apply for a place the next time round. We are sure you will not be disappointed.



# Russian Exchange







On the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006, several tired students from Stamford School boarded the plane bound for Moscow after having to wake up at a very unsocial time in the morning. When we arrived in Russia later that day, a coach was ready to pick us up and transfer us to the school in Khimki. As soon as we arrived at the school, we were introduced to our various families who then took us to their homes.

Even though the previous day was tiring, we still had to get up fairly early in the morning in order to keep to the packed timetable for the week. Our first trip of the exchange was to Kolomenskoe and the house of Peter the Great. We were shown around the site by a Russian guide dressed in the style at the time of Peter the Great. Afterwards, some of the group, English and Russian, took part in a traditional Russian marriage ceremony. It certainly was amusing seeing Jonathan Fisher being dressed up in the Russian costume! After the ceremony had finished, we had something to eat at the nearby restaurant and then it was off on a tour of Moscow at night. After that, it was fabulously time for us to go back to our families for the rest of the night.

The following day, we travelled to Sergiev Pasad, the religious centre the Russian Orthodox Church. Inside the walls there were many spectacular churches, decorated with gold and fascinating paintings. Indeed this was one of the many highlights of the trip. When the guide had finished taking us around the various churches, we had a lunch at the local restaurant and then returned to Khimki.

The weekend was used as family time, and each family found many different things for their hosts to do, including bowling, watching ice hockey or going to the theatre. On Sunday evening, there was a Shashlyk party organised by one of the families. All of the group collected there and had an incredibly fun time dancing to the music provided by some singers or playing games. The adults also seemed to have a very good time as well – the drink was certainly one reason for this!

However, the next day we had to start earlier than usual because we needed to arrive at the Kremlin in time for a tour around the Grand Kremlin Palace – indeed there were many tired students after the night before! The tour around the Grand Kremlin Palace was fascinating, as we were allowed to see rooms that usually the general public are restricted from viewing. After the tour, we went outside and saw the cannon of Peter the Great – still fully operational – and the Great Bell that was damaged in terrible fire.

On Tuesday we returned to the Kremlin, this time to visit the Diamond Fund and the Armoury Chamber. The costumes, the carriages and the jewellery were spectacular and highlighted the skill of the Russian craftsmen. On the penultimate day we travelled to Vladimir and Suzdal out in the countryside – it was a four hour trip by coach. Vladimir was the first town to actually have a Kremlin building and also had an unusual church – it had eights domes rather than the usual, six. After that, we ate a delicious meal at a local restaurant and then continued to Suzdal. One of the highlights of Suzdal was seeing the eighteen bells of the main church being operated by one person. Indeed it must have required a huge amount of skill! What's more, it had snowed the previous night so there were a number of snowball fights!

We spent the final morning in the Russian school in Khimki. The two fantastic guides gave us an intriguing tour around the school, and the pupils in the various classes were all keen to talk to us in English, which was very impressive. After the tour, we all gathered in the school to watch a fantastic performance by some of the students. This performance included singing, dancing and superb acting.

After the performance, all the exchange students gathered together to say their last goodbyes and then left for England. I would definitely recommend this trip to everyone as it gives a fantastic insight into the Russian life and culture. In addition, it certainly helps with learning the language!

By Mark Robins





## ARMY

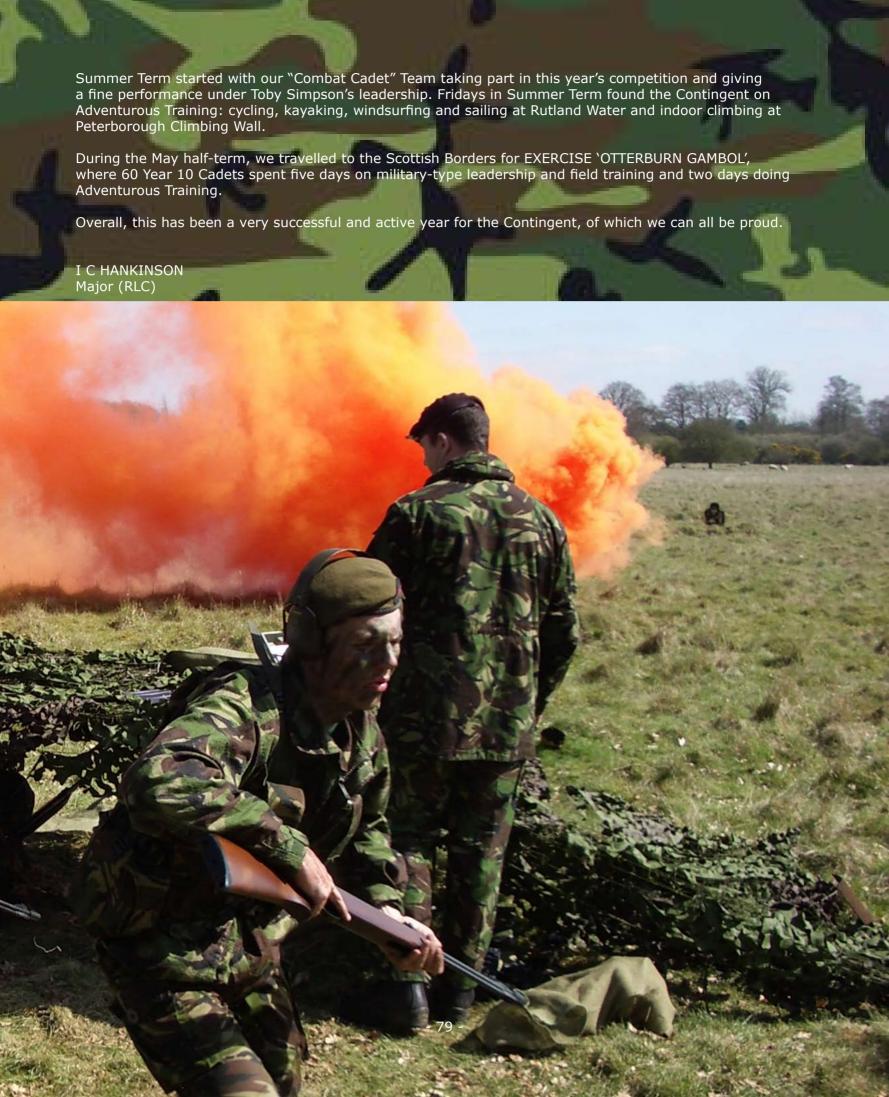
The CCF has enjoyed a very successful year, with a total of 420 Cadets training every Friday, many of whom also take part in the weekend exercises and activities that are now regularly on offer. Senior Cadet was CSM Toby Simpson with SSgt Tom Wallington as his 2IC. Captain RGA Dexter (late Royal Regiment of Fusiliers), joined the Contingent and Lieutenant Commander CV Killgren and Lieutenant S Killgren retired after over 20 years service to the Royal Navy Section.

The Autumn Term saw the CCF "in action" on its annual Field Day in Grantham, where all Cadets in Years 11 – 13 undertook Command and Leadership training, Shooting on the 25 metre Range and a series of Section and Platoon tasks all designed to give the cadets an opportunity to revise their skills and gain further experience that will help them prepare for their Army Proficiency Certificate (Advanced), RAF Proficiency Certificates 2 and 3 and RN

November brought EXERCISE 'FIRST STEP', a 24-hour Field Training Exercise (FTX) at STANTA (Thetford), Norfolk, which was well attended by 45 cadets from all three Sections and was so successful it will now become an annual event. The Exercise consisted of a Night Navigation/Patrol followed by the recce of a number of potential "enemy" locations, which all took place under a clear, frosty, moonlit sky. The following morning, which was equally cold and frosty, the Cadet Section Commanders gave their Orders and a series of Deliberate Attacks ensued, followed by a Platoon Attack on an "enemy" stronghold.

Lent Term brought two 48-hour FTX, the first of which was, again, at STANTA where some 60 Cadets practised their Patrolling and Section level tactics. The second FTX took place at CATTERICK Training Area, North Yorkshire, where 40 cadets, including a number of Year 10s, battled against the elements, (wind, hail and sleet), over two testing days in March. Based at Hudswell Grange, (an old farm complex in the middle of the Training Area), the Exercise was divided into two distinct Phases: the Teaching Phase during which the Cadets were taught and practised in all the skills which they would be required to use during the Exercise Phase. Perhaps the most memorable part of the Exercise was on the final morning when the platoons were at their respective Start Lines and the weather closed in, bringing snow and a howling wind to challenge the hardiest of souls. Undeterred, Toby Simpson gave the order to advance and the platoons moved forward, disappearing into the mist as they leaned into the wind to defeat the "enemy".





The start of a new school year has brought about many new changes to the Stamford Endowed School's RAF section. The new head of RAF Sergeant was James Wilson, with Second in Command Sergeant Courtenay – Elle Crichton – Turley. Who have taken over from Sergeants Tom Betts who was the head of the RAF the previous year. We just hope we will be able to achieve such a fantastic job in organising the RAF and manage to maintain the standards of the RAF from last year if not raise them that bit more as well.

The Cranwell team has once again been assembled, this year with Sergeant Lyon in charge. The team consists of 25 members at the moment; however, this will soon be cut down to a select number who actually attends the Cranwell competition. The Cranwell recruits at the moment consists of; Year 13's – Courtenay – Elle Crichton – Turley, Martin Dunk, Henry Edwards, Sophie Lyon, Slava Malyshesky, Gordon O'Neill and James Wilson. Year 12's – Andrew Bremer, Will Cooper, Simone Cutler, Mohita Damany, David Ferdinand, Libby Lewin and Tow Tew. Year 11's – Olivia Achurch, Ed Cameron, Tom Campbell, Ian Downer, Andy Kinder, Tom Hanks, Max Lyon, Grace Macdonald, Jade Morris, Garrick



Wong and Sam Vickers. The team are put through vigorous training every Friday after CCF with Drill practice, Field craft, Camp Crafts, RAF knowledge, Air recognition and Fitness sessions.

Training also consists of over night trips to RAF Wittering for overnight practices where we are able to gain more knowledge on the above specialised skills and areas from highly trained professionals. Even though this training sounds like a challenging task and extremely daunting, it is also immense fun

Other opportunities that the RAF receives are activities such as night kayaking which are going to be run Mr. Froggett and myself, along the Welland River. Here we take the cadets up the river to a bridge point and then nose dive the cadets in their kayaks off the bridge back into the river.

Another amazing challenge that the cadets are able to take on if they wish to is the gliding and flying scholarship, David Ferdinand of Year 12 gives us a quick insight into the experience of his weeks training for his flying scholarship, 'I went to BAE Samlesbury, in the Easter holidays, I was there with 8 other cadets from schools all over England, we stayed there for an intense 6 day training course, at the end of which I would receive my Blue Wings. We stayed at Inskip, which is a naval training facility, and then travelled to the air field every day. Here we did up to 3 hours a day in the air, with a further 1 to 2 hours each night back at base learning theory, it was all fantastic fun and highly interesting. We flew in vigilantes, these are powered gliders with a 17.4m wing span. By the end of the week I had learnt so many new skills and attained a qualification which will help me, undoubtedly, later on in life.

Recent parades that have also taken place are the Battle of Britain Parade and a Polish Veteran Service was held in the boys school chapel. This was a momentous occasion as the sole surviving member of the Brigade who lives in Stamford, 89 year old Bazil Borowik, was joined by the widows and sons of other veterans to place their standard into the safe keeping of the Schools as they no longer have enough members to parade the flag. These parades are not compulsory to the RAF cadets but there is always a fantastic turn out, and it means a lot to those who are still alive who have served for their country, to see the cadets from today appreciate how much that they have done for us and show appreciation by turning out for these services and parades.

So as you can see the RAF have been extremely busy this year and still intend to have a very fulfilled and exciting year ahead, BIG UP 2007/08 RAF SECTION!





# Navy

### Sailing

The Royal Navy section spent 6 Friday evenings sailing on Rutland Water. The cadets spent a while in and out of the water and in their Picos and kayaks.

### Skiing

The Navy section spent one evening skiing. However, unfortunately, we were unable to continue with this activity as the slope was heavily booked.

### Command Tasks

The Navy section then split up into different teaching groups, each group of recruits being lead by two Able Seamen. The groups then went away to be taught new information and skills. These lessons took place in the form of PowerPoint presentations and Command tasks in which the participants would have to use their initiative to complete certain challenges to finish the task. These all proved to be fun and good natured.

### Orienteering

This task proved to be easier said than done. The challenge that was put forward to the recruits was to navigate around Wakerley Wood, in the dark with a torch and a compass. The task started off well, however one of the leadership groups who were supposed to be tracking the groups of recruits ended up standing in the wrong place due to a miscalculation of direction. This was followed by mass confusion and interesting walkie-talkie conversations, as it was then reported that the groups of recruits must have become lost as they never passed through the check points. After several fun filled hours of wondering round the wood, trying to find the recruits and to find out where the leadership group on the check points actually were, everyone returned to the minibus and the point where they all started. Enjoyment was had by all!



This term has been a packed one for the Royal Navy. As a new recruit, I joined with other Y11s into a section that was friendly, welcoming and that did the best activities through the whole of CCF. In October, there was the opportunity for cadets to go to Portsmouth for a weekend to see the HMS Nottingham, which despite the wet weather and choppy seas, was a great weekend. Also in the first half term, we went sailing every week at Rutland Water, and learnt how to sail and windsurf.

However, finally succumbing to the freezing water temperatures and early darkness, we remained at Stamford School in the second half term to learn all about the Royal Navy today, and join activities with Stamford School CCF. As a break from the classroom in November we all went orienteering in Wakerley Woods in the dark, which was slightly scary and tested our map reading abilities, but well worth it. The following week we went to Peterborough Climbing Wall, which was a challenge for several of us who didn't have much faith in a few ropes, but still a lot of fun. The term ended in the style it started, with a great trip to "Xscape" in Milton Keynes to ski. Although past experience was required, to the relief of many you didn't have to be good at all, although some relished the opportunity to show off their skills!

The Navy section has definitely been the most active section this term, doing something new almost every week, and it is a great opportunity to get to know other years in school and to test your own limits. Autumn 06 was great term, and with the beginning of the better weather, the outdoor activities will continue.

Sixth Form actors at Stamford Endowed Schools have pulled off a remarkable dramatic achievement.

The students produced, directed, acted and organised their very own production of the hit West End show, "Blood Brothers," without any help at all from the teaching staff.

From start to finish, the production, which featured the script and just a few of the songs from the show, was the students' own work, including the set design and construction, the lighting, the musical accompaniment, the ticket sales and even a special website to promote the performances, which ran over three separate evenings in the Stamford High School Hall.

Staff, students and parents alike were delighted by the exceptional standard of the performances, which received enthusiastic standing ovations on each occasion. Many commented on the skill of Jonathan Fisher's flawless direction, the quality of the acting and the remarkable pace throughout the production.

The idea came from a group of students who have long experience of acting with the Key Theatre at Peterborough and who had performed some of the lead roles in a similar production there just two years ago. The also visited the show in London's West End earlier in the year, where they were able to meet and speak with members of the cast.

Former star of the London production Denise Nolan (one of the famous Nolan Sisters) wrote a special introduction in the programme, commending the Stamford students on their initiative. Moreover, Paul Crosby, who played leading role Mickey for eight years at the Phoenix Theatre, London, attended the Stamford show in person. He wrote afterwards to congratulate the students: "The amount of work and concentration that had gone in the production was clear for all to see, and it was so lovely to see young actors being brave enough to show emotion without the fear of audience ridicule.

You took your audience with you on a journey that they will never forget. I think your production will live on in the school's memory long after you have all left."

Cast List: Narrator- Conor Baum, Mrs Johnstone - Sarah Foreman, Mrs Lyons - Kisby Dickinson, Eddie - Tom Wallington, Mickey - Jonathan Fisher and Linda - Jane Richards.

### A. Gombault



WILLY RUSSEL'S





Jonathan Fisher Sarah Foreman Tom Wallington Jane Richards Conor Baum Kisby Dickinson

# South America This was to be another pioneering experience in the name of rugby as a party of over sixty people headed for

as the coaches rumbled down to Heathrow. Vina Del Mar

Chile and Argentina for the first time in the school's history. Hopes were high

With the sun rising over the now of the Andes, the squad landed enjoying fine blue skies and great panoramic views of the capital Santiago. The squad boarded their transports and wearily weaved their way through the mountains and over rivers to the seaside resort of Vina del mar. Tired eyes however were soothed by the sight of golden sunshine and rolling waves from their hotel balconies. An afternoon of retail therapy and beach activities was followed by the Lions style public training session as the sun disappeared over the horizon. The locals were obviously intrigued as for the second evening in a row hundreds enjoyed a sunset stroll observing line out practice on the sand. The first morning produced the first training session and a tour of the area. That night the squad dined together on 2 tonnes of pizza before hitting the sack early in anticipation of the first matches against Mackay College. The first two fixtures were competitive but frustrating a despite leading at times neither the A or B squad were able to play with any consistency giving away points. The last day in Vina the squad enjoyed a fine cultural day, enjoying a five star lunch and wine tasting at a local vineyard. Vina done but not forgotten!

The party then left the sunshine behind and headed into the smog and freezing temperatures at the foot of the Andes. It was fantastic to renew friendships with Craighouse School. The boys were hosted brilliantly and the whole experience inn school was a great reminder about what hosting on tour was all about! Retail therapy, a trip on the cable car on the San Cristobal mountain and a historical tour of the city centre preceded training. The second fixtures AGAIN produced two losses by less than a score. Performances improving but results still hard to come by. Following a relaxing swim we bid farewell to Chile, home of "Chile love" and made the spectacular but hairy flight over the Andes. Mendoza

We landed in minus four to the news that snow was on the way! Another great hosting experience followed thanks to the efforts of Los Tordos RFC one of the oldest clubs in the country. Mendoza an interesting place with the lowest rainfall in South America and a bizarre mix of architecture following a number of earthquakes. A little more food and wine tasting at one of the best vineyards in Argentina was followed with a great training session in stunning conditions under the Andes. The B team struggled to cope with the speed of the opposition but learned many lessons in defence that would prove useful come September. The As enjoyed a heart breaker coming from three scores down to be denied by a conversion that sailed wide from the last play of the game! All was soon forgotten thanks to fantastic hospitality, a sing song and over 150 kilos of prime Argentinean beef!

A long drive provided a chance to recharge the batteries and a trek into the mountains in beautiful sunshine provided a well needed break form the rugby. Reputations were laid on the line as the party discarded clothing to swim in the lakes and plunge pools of the Cataratas del Diablo (Devils Falls!) The fixtures against La Tablada RFC produced two great occasions with many of the boys playing in front of a big hostile crowd and under floodlights for the first time. The Bs went down valiantly in another close loss despite having strung some great passages of play together which showed clear evidence of development. The A side produced a miraculous opening quarter to give themselves a lead that proved unassailable despite a big come back from the home side.

Paraguay/Brazil

Tired, battered and bruised the party boarded another plane and headed deep into the rain forest on the borders of the three countries. Moral went up with the temperature coupled with the sight of the hotel pool and the view over the tropical landscape. The squad enjoyed mountain biking, jet boating, trucking, kayaking, flying and swimming all around the spectacular Iguazu falls which are truly breathtaking in every sense of the word.

The boys were happy to have many close encounters with poisonous snakes and spiders as well as swimming with crocs, piranhas and leeches under the constant barrage of noise from millions of parrots

- 86



and macaws. A truly memorable few days to be ended with a very interesting show that saw the boys showing their dancing skills in a variety of national dance styles!

Buenos Aires

Although a gastric bug was trying to dampen spirits hopes were high heading to the capital for the final leg of the trip. Buenos Aires, home of the Tango proved itself to be the city that never stops moving let alone sleep! Great shopping and a great social scene that buzzed all day and all night ran through the city as we found out especially in the old district of La Boca. Now experts in the Tango and all a little heavier form all the steak the boys wound down with a day on an Estancia (ranch) as Gouchos (South America cowboys!), riding horses and wagons, herding horses and of course devouring more beef!

The final fixtures were as tough as ever and all the boys put in two huge last efforts. The Bs finished with a great win in the mud over St Nicola College whereas the As came up a score short against a huge Olvios club side.



This was looking back, a fabulous experience for all involved and we will all take away many unique memories of an amazing continent. The boys learned many many lessons that they will be only too pleased to use come the start of the 2007 season. They will be two very difficult teams to beat. They were a credit to the school both on and off the field of play and great company. There must be a huge thanks to all the players and the efforts of so many parents made this trip possible. But most of all to the staff who brought it all together and sacrificed so much time to the trip.

### Ireland Rugby Tour

#### Saturday

Our departure from Stamford was one of much anticipation. Everyone was excited and was greatly looking forward to the trip ahead of us. We flew from Stansted mid morning and landed in Knock within an hour of leaving London. Collecting our baggage went without any problems and we boarded our coach to get on our way to Galway. DJ Neil Michels Tour CD was found to be an acquired taste, proving popular with a select few. Upon arrival at our first hotel, we were given the opportunity to relax after a hectic day. After a briefing from our head coach, we set off for an exploratory evening in Galway.

#### Sunday

Sunday brought with it our first match against Ballinasloe RFC. The weather conditions were not the best as the ground was damp and there was a fairly strong wind blowing across the pitch. Once the game began it was clear that we were not going to have an easy time. During the enthralling match, the ball quickly went from one end of the pitch to the other. Scotty, one of our 'imports' and our resident hydration expert had a storming first ten minutes and managed to create Stamford's first try, scored by Michael Lutterodt. However, missed tackles allowed them to push back. This pattern defined the whole game. When we scored, the opposition were able to follow suit. This led to a final score of 21 – 21.

#### Monday

On Monday we travelled down to Westport and enjoyed a thrilling game of paintball, where Latto was given the opportunity to wear his new shoes (bargain). We came back battered and bruised, ready for a relaxing evening, involving a meal out and reflection on the Sligo game which we faced in the morning.

### Tuesday

Another early start saw us travel down to Sligo. We were slightly apprehensive and did not know what to expect. We started off slowly and after conceding an early try, our confidence fell and we found ourselves defending for the first 15 minutes. Skipper Cameron Park suffered a minor head injury early on in the game which saw him leave the field. Tom Wallington raised spirits and our performance began to improve. The forwards began to work more cohesively, winning more line-out ball and we weren't ready to go down without a fight. The backs began to move the ball more fluidly and put together some spells of excellent running rugby. Good field kicking by Laurent Ross gave us advantageous field positioning allowing us to apply the pressure and Jake Alsop's consistency in our line-outs meant that the opposition proved unsuccessful. A disappointing 21-17 loss provided motivation for our last match against Limavady.

#### Wednesday

Wednesday saw a long journey down to Limavady. After a tiring first part of the journey, we were given the opportunity to unwind on the beach, playing American football and touch rugby. After an even longer second part to the journey, the team were eager to arrive. On arrival, we went for something to eat before being introduced to the families we were being billeted with.

### Thursday

A somewhat tired team awakened for an Irish history tour at the local Museum which managed to open a number of eyes within the tour party. The final match was met with more anticipation than that of any previous match. Having failed to win a match, the team recognised the need for this to be remedied. Under the new captaincy of birthday boy Marc Mcleod, we unfortunately saw many injuries and players not performing to their potential, consequently losing the match in the most unbelievable rain and wind!

### General

The team should be commended on their all round performance. They had not played together as a team and their efforts were tremendous. They all gave everything on the pitch and showed a high standard of behaviour off the sports field.

We thank the whole staff and especially Laventure and O'Lennie for a memorable tour which will certainly leave us many memories.

# RUGBY

This was another hugely entertaining season of Rugby at Stamford School. All the sides enjoyed successful seasons but the two outstanding teams this year must be the Under 14A XV and the Under 12A XV who produced tries a-plenty and some fantastic results as no doubt you will find out by reading on!

It was a season that saw Stamford boys boarding planes and covering the globe from Buenos Aires to Ballinasloe as the Upper VI made a trek around Ireland and the development squad toured Argentina and Chile in the Summer. We saw many boys going on to County and Divisional honours and Guy Michels winning his England 16s Cap, the schools first international in the last five years.

It was another season where the efforts of the staff and boys kept Stamford firmly placed on the rugby map and long may it continue!

There is a massive vote of thanks to the catering staff, the grounds staff, the boys and parents, but most of all to the army of coaches and referees who give up their time to impart their wisdom on the boys. With a World Cup on the horizon and more fixtures next year promises to be bigger and better!

### 1st XV

The season started with a few days away at the Durham University summer camp followed by a further day at the St. Albans Rugby tournament. This helped reveal some new hidden talents and mould the team together for what would prove to be a very tough season.

Our first game was at home to Felsted School. Stamford put pressure on Felsted right from the kick off and was rewarded with several goal attempts from penalties all expertly scored by Laurent Ross. Play continued with an excellent break-away try by Marc McLeod, with Felsted managing only one penalty kick before half-time. Continued effort yielded three more tries for Ross, Murray and a penalty try, when Sam Edwards was held back. Laurent Ross finished the job with a fine display of kicking. The next home game was an international fixture against Craighouse School, from Chile.

Our next few games were away, with the first being a very tough fixture against Bedford Modern. Our inexperienced side was out-muscled by a much more physical Bedford side. With only one penalty goal to our name Stamford went down 32-3 against a better side.

The side's pride having been dented by the previous week's loss they came out all guns blazing against Wellingborough. The team were very aggressive and performed magnificently, running in three tries from McLeod, Ross and Cunnew. Our defence was also excellent as was the set piece, which contributed hugely to the improved performance. Marc Mcleod's performance earned him Man of the Match two weeks running. Stamford finished 18-0.

Our next fixture was against the strong side of Haileybury. This was a bruising physical encounter with a team a step above anything the side had encountered before. Having said that, Stamford defended valiantly against a repeated battering and found some inner strength in the last fifteen minutes to launch their own attack. This period of sustained pressure gave Stamford a scrum on the Haileybury 5 metre line. The Stamford pack dug deep and scummaged their much larger adversaries, literally, off the field. At the ensuing lineout Stamford put their driving maul into action and flanker James O'Shea crossed for a try.

There are certain moments in your school rugby career, which stay with you for a long time and the match against the first of the "Big Three" was, for me, one of those moments; Uppingham, away. From the moment the team got off the bus you could sense that this was going to be something special. A storming move from the forwards in the opening 5 minutes put Tom Reid across for a try and then Stamford kept ahead to finish  $\frac{1}{2}$ 

### 15-12 in a memorable victory on Uppingham's home turf.

The team travelled to the birth place of the game at Rugby School to play on the William Webb Ellis pitch. The first half saw Rugby score most of their points as Stamford suffered from pressure and poor organisation. The second half, however, was more promising with Rugby managing only one score in the whole forty minutes. Stamford pulled together an excellent piece of play, which eventually saw winger, Mike Allan score in the corner for Stamford's only try of the game. A somewhat disappointing performance saw the final score Stamford 5 – Rugby School 20.

Stamford turned out for our first home game since the start of the season to face the Perse School. The match was spoilt slightly by poor discipline, which prevented what could have been a much more rewarding score line. However, it was a good enough start to the second half of term and Stamford finish 13-3 to beat The Perse.

Our next home fixture was against the second of the "Big Three", Oundle School. The team had high hopes of repeating the performance against Uppingham. It was sadly, not to be. Repeatedly defeated at the set piece Stamford struggled throughout the game and the score line reflected Oundle's dominance.

The side was without their Captain for the match against Nottingham High School, but wing Marc Mcleod was a more than able replacement. Stamford started strongly, but set piece was again a cause of woe for the Stamford side and the defence struggled to keep the opposition out. A try from star finisher Mike Allan and a penalty goal from Laurent Ross were Stamford's only mark on the scoreboard and the game finished disappointingly Stamford 8 – Nottingham High School 21.

Stamford struck out into the wilds of Norfolk to put an end to their losing streak but struggled against a Gresham's side, which they should have put away comfortably. An excellent break by fly-half Robert Murray saw the Gresham defensive line splintered. A long looping pass beat the defence and Marc Mcleod crossed to finish the move. This was unfortunately Stamford's only score of the game and poor defence let Gresham's pull ahead to a 10 point lead. Despite being camped in Gresham's half for almost the whole of the second half no score was forthcoming. Stamford finished, disappointingly with another loss.

We returned home for the final of the local derbies against Oakham School. Oakham who are possible the toughest side in our fixture list alongside Haileybury showed their strength from the start with a try from a lineout. Stamford struggled against a technically superior side, which also sported some enormous players. An inspired piece of play from star forward Mike Lutterodt in broken play was Stamford's only score. Seizing the ball after a broken maul he weaved his way through a confused Oakham defence to touch down.

The final game of the season and for several in the squad their final game ever in the maroon jersey was against Loughborough Grammar School. The game was tight for much of the first half with only a single penalty goal to Stamford's credit. However in true Stamford style they turned it on for the second half and great work up front created opportunities behind that were readily taken. A great win to finish the season with heads held high! This was a season plagued with injury and "one's that got away!" The boys' commitment cannot be questioned and they wore the Spede Bird with great pride. I would like to thank all the players for their efforts but most of all Mr Hodgson and Mr Laventure for their outstanding patience and coaching.

Adam Jones First XV Captain 2006-7

Tackling Cup Mark Bond
Players player Marc Macleod
Most improved Marc Macleod
Try of the season Mike Allan
Player of the season Adam Jones

### 2nd XV

The season record paints a rather dim view of a highly enjoyable season which saw a team make considerable progress. The statistics don't tell the whole story of a term that was so nearly very good. Of the eleven losses, three were by five points or fewer and in five of the defeats we were within 10 points of the opposition at the final whistle.

Our defence was aggressive, determined and well organised all season with some hard hitting often coming from McKinnon and Easson in midfield. Despite some heart breaking loses, the effort, focus and commitment of all the players who represented the  $2^{nd}$  XV was outstanding.

The performance against Felsted gave us an excellent start to the season. The first try of the season was a superb team effort with several phases of play starting on the half way line leaving the opposition defence in disarray. Superb handling by the backs ended with a McKinnon try in the corner. Similarly, the last try of the season was equally satisfying. Having been awarded a penalty on the 22, we immediately decided to run the ball spreading the play wide quickly to exploit an overlap to score in the corner. The lady referee then called the play back for a mysterious incident and disallowed the try telling us to retake the kick. We did exactly the same again and Cutteridge scored a try in the same place.

This was particularly satisfying for the coach as it justified the various cone and handling drills the boys had worked hard on all season. This try came at the very end of our last match of the term. It proved that the team had come along way since the start of the season and it was obvious that were now able to score at will. It was quite clear from this performance that if the season continued we would not lose another match.

Probably the most memorable moment of the term was the win against The Perse. Jak 'Glory Boy' Garner's drop goal in the dying seconds allowed us to win the match by one point. This was also the scene of the most stupid moment of the season. At the final whistle, Garner took off his golden boot, kissed it, and hurled in the air to celebrate a memorable win. That was the last he ever saw of the boot. Its whereabouts are unknown to this day. One rumour suggests that an opposition parent picked it up and ran off with it.

All players improved from the beginning to the end of the season and several fought their way deservedly into the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Bruce Parker went from strength to strength with every game and was sorely missed when absent with concussion.

Jake Alsop and Mamma Goodwin came up from the 3<sup>rd</sup> XV to become permanent fixtures on the flank and at hooker respectively. Dan Cracknell moved from fullback to scrum half. His passing and open play kicking quickly became valuable assets for the team. The most improved member of the team was Oli Easson who moved from the wing into the centres and finished at fly half. His tackling became a real weapon for disrupting the opposition and his decision making developed significantly. Darren Wesley showed that he is possibly the most injury prone man ever to play the game. However, his desire and commitment were never in question. Tom McKinnon was always ferocious in defence and a powerful runner. He was sorely missed mid way through the season when he became injured.

Liam McEntee scored an amazing number of tries for a lock forward. It was suggested by a number of boys that this was due to greed! A strong runner with the ball, he broke the gain line consistently throughout every match. His work in the tight and at set piece was outstanding all season. He has a real desire to play 1st XV rugby which I hope he achieves next year.

James Duffin led the team by example all term and fully deserved his call up to the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. Always the first to training and always the last to leave, his commitment towards the team was outstanding. His work at the break down was superb and his running from scrums was a potent weapon. A powerful tackle breaker and a hard hitting defensive organiser, he fully deserved to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV player of the season.

I wish the leavers all the best for the future and hope they continue to be involved with the sport where ever they may go. Competition for  $1^{st}$  XV places next year will be fierce. I hope many of the  $2^{nd}$  XV from this year will force their way in to the premier team and I look forward to seeing them performing on the other pitch.

**DGC** 

### 4th XV

With such an amazing debut season for the mighty  $4^{th}$  XV last year, the standard was set high for 2006. Wins against Oakham and Uppingham had raised expectations to a high level. We were therefore very disappointed when our opening fixture against Haileybury was cancelled, especially since we had been the better team the previous year. The season therefore started late with an away fixture at Uppingham. Andrew "Dan" Carter's barmy army took to the field and battled fiercely to lead early in the second half 12-7 due to two tries by Tim Allen. Unfortunately, Uppingham were stronger and their superior fitness told, as they scored to take a 14-12 lead. Desperate efforts left our team very disappointed, but we couldn't repeat a double over our old rivals.

Oundle was our next fixture. The superior strength and pace of our opponents told on Upper Drift and despite excellent performances from Tom Wigmore, Tom Stevenson and Ross Porter, we slumped to a disappointing 24 – 5 loss. The following week was an away fixture to the hallowed turf of Rugby school. With motivation levels high at the home of the great game, we battled hard. It was unfortunately the story of the season, as we came up against a larger and rougher set of forwards. Constantly pressured, Chirag Faldu and Joel Shipp struggled to release the backs and we were held 17 – 0 in a battling performance.

In our home game against Bedford, the team was changed due to various injuries. In came the mighty Ben Wilkinson at scrum half, and our talismanic figure from last year, Adam Humphreys at fly half and our very own "Raging Bull" Slava Malyshevsky. Bedford are always very direct and well drilled and it was a tight contest. Our pack was rejuvenated and competitive and our wings (Hampson and Ashurst) dangerously fast. Unfortunately, we didn't convert our scoring opportunities and gave away penalties to release the pressure on our opposition The 24 -7 score line did not reflect the competitive nature of the fixture.

Our final match of the season was at home against Oakham. For this game, we had lost our wonderful hooker, Ross Porter, but a fine replacement in Ben Murphy played a similarly abrasive game. Simon Rutter had a storming day at number eight, as the pack played with a renewed ferocity. Once again, we failed to convert our chances, and as the final whistle blew we were camped on the Oakham line, just unable to deliver the killer blow. The narrow 14-5 loss was a huge disappointment for a superb bunch of young men. They were a pleasure to coach and superbly led by Andrew Carter through training and matches. The disappointing statistics of the season showed that we were not clinical enough to keep the score board ticking, but we fought every inch of the way. The 2006  $4^{th}$  XV squad have been a true pleasure to work with and I hope that the many leaving Year 13's go on to continue to enjoy the game at University.

### R A Brewster





### U16 A

The vast majority of the U16A team went to Durham for some serious preseason training with the 1st and 2nd XV. Some of the squad were really 'up for it' and the end of day game caused quite a shock to the 6th formers! The trial matches against Durham school went very well and we won the first 20 minute session 24 points to 5. The second was 5-5 and we won the third 19-12. Michels and Stoddart were dominant in the backs and the forwards made good use of the catch and drive in the line out and scrimmaging. Lots of the things we had been practising were put into action effectively.

Early in the season, we lost two influential players to the first fifteen squad- Jeremy Cunnew and Guy Michels. Luckily, we had enough depth in the U16s to partially fill the holes left by these two. Preparation and timings for the first four games were good and we won all four. We turned down two overlaps against Bedford Modern but had a fifteen minute purple patch of excellent rugby football which made up for this to some extent. We lost narrowly by 9 points, 8 and 7 in our next three games against tough opposition at Uppingham, Oundle and St Albans. Errors were forced on us and uncharacteristic mistakes cost us dearly against well drilled sides. Two wins at Rugby and Perse put us back on track for a successful season. We kicked poorly and took our foot off the gas against Perse allowing them to get back into the game after half time and I for one was very relieved to hear the final whistle at 15-10 to Stamford. The converse was true against Rugby where Vince Spurr kicked intelligently for territory, which was particularly useful, as we were for the first time clearly being outrucked. Too many players were hanging off and not getting involved.

The Bedford game was frustrating as we seemed to be doing the right things but not creating scoring opportunities. Vince Spurr had a moment of genius and chipped and chased from the 22m line to regain possession and score under the posts. This kept us in the game at half time. We threatened their line for long periods in the second half, only to see their outside centre pick up a loose ball and run the full length of the pitch to win them the game. The Oakham match was enjoyable to watch and the close margin of loss (7-11) reflects a nail-biting encounter. Both sides played some great rugby and our defence was at times excellent. Two big wins at Greshams and Loughborough sealed the successful season nicely with 9 wins and 5 losses as the final tally.

Memories of the season are plentiful and it was a joy to work with a special group of committed young men. Tom Plant captained the side superbly and his effectiveness in the break down area was fantastic. Several forwards improved rapidly, notably Dawson Bannister, Charles Wilson and Max Physick. I was also impressed by James Griffin's tremendous efforts at Durham. John Murphy was outstanding at times and his reading of the game puts him high on the list of very good rugby players. Matthew Outen and Matthew Jones were solid as a rock in scrummages and reasonably quick around the park. Toby Cole was a safe pair of hands and a strong runner and supporter all season. I haven't, however, forgotten the ridiculous drop goal attempt against Wellingborough!! In the backs I have to comment on Elliot Whittingham and Jonathan Stoddart who were an effective striking force at times. Some great jinking runs from Tom Dowdell at full back often set up attacking opportunities for the team.

### U16 B

The Rugby season started early with intense pre season training courtesy of Mr. Mitchell. The B team was looking strong for the season ahead with the forwards and backs both looking sharp. Confidence was high going into our first match with Felsted School, and as a result of good forward play we sailed to a comprehensive victory 52-0. The forwards dominated the game, with Tom Ladds and Max Physick putting in an excellent performance. This victory was followed by a closely fought defeat by Bedford Modern where we lost our concentration late in the game and which resulted in us conceding 3 tries to eventually loose 17-0.

Next came two successive wins against Wellingborough and Hailebury, 70-7 and 16-12 respectively. This was thanks to determined running in the backs from Jake Bradshaw and excellent support play from our back row, especially Nathan Pape. Defeats to Uppingham, Oundle and St. Albans knocked our confidence and we paid the price for unforced errors in these games. However we soon found our feet again and bounced back to produce a well rounded performance against Rugby School which resulted in a 25-7 victory. This game was particularly memorable as Thomas 'Woody' Winspear managed to run two thirds of the pitch, beating most of the opposition in the process, to score a try. There were also notable performances from James Griffin and Andrew Forsyth in the forwards.

Next on the agenda came Oakham and although we eventually lost 22-8, the team put in one of their most impressive defensive displays and showed great determination after conceding two tries in the first 5 minutes. The team dug extremely deep and demonstrated great teamwork between forwards and backs to score a magnificent try in the second half. A defeat to Bedford School 12-5 followed. This was our most disappointing result as we lost a game in which we were the better side and paid the price of not taking our opportunities. To round off the season the team put in an inspired performance against a strong Loughborough team to produce a resounding victory 27-5. It was a particularly memorable game due to a man of the match performance from James Allen who scored 2 tries and was sucessful with all of his conversions.

Overall the season was a success with the team winning 6 games and battling hard throughout every match. The team progressed significantly from last season and many of the players will be challenging for a place in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams next year. A big thanks must go to Mr. Jones who put in a lot of effort in order to make our season both successful and enjoyable.

Andrew Forsyth

U15 A

It was a very difficult and challenging season for Freddie Berridge's team as the results of 'won 4 lost 11' clearly indicate. An inspired change of position to flanker for Tom Helliwell accompanied by No.8 Sam Cole and help from Ross Cutteridge made a strong back row for the first game against Felsted. We had never played them before and it was a tough encounter, which we narrowly lost. Charlie Mays showed how much he has progressed from last year with some crucial tackles.

Our first win of the season came against Bedford Modern with a great performance from Jake Wilkinson scoring two tries. We had entered the Daily Mail Cup but sadly we came up against Spalding in the first round, who had two exceptional players (much bigger than us as usual!) A consolation try from Rhys Owen was all we came away with. The following Saturday we played Wellingborough. Freddie Berridge and Sam Cole had to be air-lifted from the pitch, but prior to this they had both put it in quality performances. Our next match was Haileybury. After a good try and a penalty by Matthew Fuller, Jacob Wilkinson scored an excellent try to seal one of the few victories of the season. On Open Day a match against Uppingham beckoned. It was a disappointing loss in front of our home crowd.

There followed a long coach journey to St.Albans. Sam Cole was drafted into the centre because Alex Jones

- 95 -

was injured but sadly it was a disappointing loss and a long coach journey home. We were playing Rugby School next. Mr Williams had been looking at Garrick Wong and decided to put him in as flanker. He proved to be a vital tackling machine, a feat of Chinese engineering. Word from the touchline was that Mr.Williams has finally found a back row, with a stunning performance from Tom Helliwell. We won that match 8-7 thanks to a wonderful conversion by Matthew Fuller.

The Perse was a chance for star winger Darren Redding to unleash his pace and a long awaited comeback from Charles Griffin was accompanied with some powerful tackles. We did exceptionally well to come away with a win. We then travelled to Bedford. Little did Mr.Williams know but it was to make no difference; Bedford was the best team we played all season outclassing us in every aspect. Notts High had thrashed us last year to complete their unbeaten season but this year it was different. Alex Jones put it in some enormous hits and darting breaks. We lacked concentration at times, which cost us in the end but this was no humiliation. Loughborough was our last game of the season at home. Ben Welch and Marcus Payne were an inspirational example of rucking. Once again, though, Loughborough made sure they dominated on the scoreboard.

Overall our season was disappointing, and hopefully next season we will have grown.

Rhys Owen

### U15 B

At the beginning of the season Mr. Barton set out to us his three aims for every match, Discipline, Decision making and Determination. We finished the season and Mr. Barton's Stamford School rugby coaching years, with an unfortunate loss but with the feeling that we had tried our best in all three areas. Although Played 14, won 5, lost 8, drawn 1, may not have sounded the best of seasons, the rugby we played in that time was superb. In total 24 players contributed to our season.

We started the season with a match on very hard ground. A last minute dive for the line by debutant Nick Reiss led to a well fought 5-0 win. The next match in the fixture list was against Bedford Modern, a good side, and it looked promising for us, going in at half time 8-5 up. However, the only bad second half performance of the year saw us lose. Next up was Wellingborough, a large team; we knew we were going to have to fight. Unfortunately Wellingborough took fighting literally, and I was pleased to see that we kept our discipline and clocked up a resounding win. The following match was against Haileybury and up until the penultimate minute of the game seemed to be ours. However they crept over our line to score what looked like the winning try. Stamford did not give up hope and we forced a scrum on their five metre line, from which expert number 8 and pack leader, Hugh Ford, wriggled and forced his way over the line giving Josh Green our reliable kicker the chance to level the scores and save the game, which he duly did. Our next game was against Uppingham and although Tim Anders' pin-point perfect kick allowed Chris Brice to race away for a first minute try, we were beaten in the end. St. Albans were our next opponents and a disappointing performance following poor preparation after the long bus journey saw us go down without scoring a point (our only game all season). Our final match before the half term break was against Rugby. A good performance from the forwards, led by the powerful Ben Brown, inventive Miles Redding and soon to be pack-leader Rueben Slater, saw us score many tries in the 41-0 win before it was stopped 13 minutes early for an injury.

The first game for us after half term was against the Perse and despite conceding an early try we went on to win convincingly. Our following fixture was against Oundle and although we produced a strong second half performance they ran out victors. Next up were Bedford School in a match that became Mr. Barton's favourite of the season. As well as four out of the other five teams playing that day we had been trampled all over, conceding 43 points in the first half, without scoring any ourselves However, after a rousing team talk Mr. Barton watched us win the second half 5-0. After a thrashing from Nottingham we proceeded to take on Gresham's, under temporary coach, Mr. Brewster, who saw us beat them well. The game was stopped early for an injury. Our next opposition were Oakham. Despite strong defence yet again and a last minute try we lost that one as well. The final game of our season was against Loughborough who provided a tight game, which they won slightly more comfortably than they deserved, scoring while we threw caution to the wind in the last play.

We finished the year all as better rugby players. The determination, willingness to stand in at any point in time and bouncebackability of the team has been excellent. Special mentions could go to the entire team, but my men of the season are; Henry Bird, Sean Watson and Garrick Wong, for their fearlessness in the tackle and constant efforts. The champagne moment was when Tom Williams, receiving the kick-off against Gresham's, kicked the ball into the floor, lobbing their nearest player, caught it and ran under the posts to score. I would like to thank Mr. Barton for coaching us this season and for his years of service to the school rugby teams.

Peter Wilson

I would like to thank Peter for his report of the season and for his excellent captaincy throughout the term. He led from the front and always encouraged and cajoled his players to do their best.

I also thank Mr.Colley for leading our training sessions on Wednesdays, our GAP students Scot Parker and Alex Russell for all their support and Adam Rimmer and Tom Lindley for their refereeing of our home matches.

I am grateful to all of the boys that I have coached, and all the colleagues that I have worked with; every tour and every season saw individuals develop as young men and teams promote the reputation of their school. I have only happy memories of my rugby coaching at Stamford School and wish all every success in their future careers.

M.R.Barton

U14 A

This would turn out to be a cracking season for the Under 14A side who can be proud of their achievements and the style of rugby they embraced. Early frosty pre season training paid dividends as, to kick the season off, a very large and physical Stowe returned home having been beaten by a spirited Stamford side. Will Joyce and Dan Griffin worked hard allowing Hounslow, Graeme and Manby to find space a-plenty. Quick passing and fine evasive running saw the backs running in scores from everywhere and at 42-5 a fine result.

The following week saw a cracking controlled display of rugby to defeat Oundle. The boot of Craig Felston converting Stamford's pressure into points producing a well deserved 13-5 win. By this time the weather was improving and it was clear the hard ground would suit the team's style. The forwards carried and controlled the breakdown producing good ball for the backs to attack with. Charlie Kaye, Tommy Mitchell and try machine Nathan Graeme benefited the most almost scoring at will in 48-0 and 62-5 wins over The Perse and Repton respectively.

Another win followed before entertaining RGS Newcastle. The boys now playing excellent support based rugby were hampered somewhat by the conditions but RGS had no answers for the width of the Stamford game led by Cutteridge and Brookes. The visitors crumbled 36-5.

The second test against Oundle proved a tight affair where the team that made the fewer mistakes was going to take the contest. Despite some huge individual performances from a number of players including Sam Andrew and Robert Salt an injury time drop goal put paid to any hopes of an unbeaten season. Desperately disappointed the home side followed up with a draw against Uppingham – a great game in which Stamford had the upper hand but not the legs to finish the job.

The team regrouped, trained like demons and attacked their last two fixtures like they were their last ever games of rugby. The fruits of their labour were clear to everyone as they played with great width, pace and endeavour. Once the shackles were off both The Perse and Loughborough were left in their wake 47-0 and 45-5 respectively.

The squad deserve credit for an outstanding season and playing some great entertaining rugby like only the French of the 80s and the Welsh of the 70s could! With application and focus they will go on to be a very

competitive side. End of season presentations were made to Sam Andrew, Tommy Mitchell, Ross Cutteridge and player of the season Charlie Kaye. All the boys were a pleasure to coach and represented the school with great dignity, even in the face of adversity. I look forward to monitoring their development!

D J Laventure



### **U14** B

With the loss of George Wrigley-Pheasant and Hayden Young to the A-Team after the first game, we thought that we would lack forward power. However, we still had the same commitment with Karl Mears making strong runs and several breaks that caused many problems to all oppositions and he was helped by Sam Bodily. A new addition to the team was Oliver Fountain, who made a significant difference to games, commanding the forwards at scrum half. Oliver received good comments from opposition coaches. Along with Oliver came Matt Stanton and Tom Weston. Matt Stanton started as a forward but played outstandingly as a fullback later in the season. He's a very hard fullback to beat and made powerful runs in attack.

The team won 4 games, and drew 1. There was a great win over the Perse, with unstoppable runs from Ben Cave. It was followed up by another win away at the Perse later in the season. The team showed excellent commitment throughout and it was best shown against Uppingham at home: coming back from 10-0 down to win the match 10-22, with two tries from Jack Enright who moved up from the C-team. The team managed a good victory over Deacons A-team with a score of 22-5. The team was reinforced with a few A-team players, but we started the second half without any. There was great play by the centres, Ben Cave and Harrison Knight. Karl Mears narrowly missed out on becoming top try scorer. He was just beaten by Joseph Harrap.

Joseph Harrap

### U13 A

### Bedford Modern School

This match didn't start very well as we conceded 5 tries in the first half. However just before the end of the first half Guy Sinker scored a magnificent try but it was a loss as Guy seriously injured himself and was out of the team for most of the season. In the second half we upped our game dramatically. We almost scored a try as Jack Chisholm tried a cross kick with the flying Tom Taylor running in, but he had just run out. Finally we scored another try with Derrick Smith chasing a kick and touching it down just in time. At the end Frazer Collett was named man of the match as he produced an outstanding performance.

### Wellingborough School

Our first home game of the season started well. It took a while for the opposition to score a try as we had produced some firm defence. As the game neared the end Wellingborough started to draw ahead but we had started to play better. Finally, Justin Bland broke the line and Alex Crowley was there in support to score an easy try.

### Oakham School

The grudge match. The away derby was going to be a hard one. We started well with a few penalties and Louis Grimoldby kicked us ahead with a fabulous kick from the 22. The second half didn't start well with Oakham starting strong by scoring a try early on and then finally breaking the deadlock by scoring a try. 14-17 to Oakham with a few minutes left. One minute to go and we got a penalty, Joe Cooke took a run and we got another penalty for handling in the ruck. All the pressure was on Louis to get the kick with no time left. He got the kick and the final score was 17 all. A nail biting match with lots of positives for the team.

#### **Oundle School**

This was one of our biggest wins of the season. It started well with a few tries from us. Oundle fought back but we showed enough to keep them back to win a good victory.

#### Ranby House

In this match we performed well as a team. We started well with a try being scored in the corner in the first few minutes. From then on the tries kept on pouring with a few score from Frazer Collett, Justin Bland and Tom Taylor. Overall we got a lot out of this match and we just kept on rising from this point onwards.

### Bishop's Stortford

This was the match in which every one of us was disappointed. It was a quiet match on the whole with some hard defence from Tippy Lane and 2 penalties from Louis Grimoldby. Our defence was on fire until with 2 minutes left the winger broke our line and scored under the posts. They got the conversion meaning we lost 7-6.

### 25th November 2006- King's Peterborough

This was our biggest win of the season. We started well on this windy day by scoring 4 tries in 20 minutes, two from Justin Bland and one from Guy Sinker and William Bacon. King's kept trying to come back at us but we were too strong for them. We finally sealed the victory with a couple more tries. It was a pretty convincing. We were looking for a win as the next few games were going to be hard.

### 27th November 2006- Bedford School

In this game we knew that it would be hard. We went in with a good start by conceding only 2 tries. Finally, near the end of the first half, Louis Grimoldby found a gap to score a fabulous try and he converted it. It was 12-7 at half time. Coming into the second half, Bedford started to draw away with a few more tries. It was a good performance from us and the man of the match was Tom Pritchard.

#### 9th December 2006- Loughborough

This was our best performance of the season, even though we lost. We were the Stamford brick wall to start with but a kick over the top was too much to handle and their winger came running in to score a try. The forwards were getting stuck in and the backs were playing well. Lewis Nettleton came on in the second half, as they started to draw away, and we started to play better. We were trying to score a try and it finally came from Justin Bland.

**Alex Crowley** 

### U13 B

It was a mixed season for the U13B team. Starting and ending with losses to Loughborough but with many victories in between, the team could feel justifiably proud of themselves by the end of season Christmas party! It was a season full of highs and lows but the collective team spirit was evident throughout. Even those players sidelined through injury played their part, including Jack Milner who supported valiantly from the sidelines after a broken arm brought his season to a very premature end.

The first match of the season was away to Loughborough and the defeat was disappointing but it made the team determined to banish this bad memory and they worked tirelessly at weekly training sessions. This meant that by the second away game, all the practice that had been done paid off with a 29 points to 12 victory over Bedford. Captain Izaac Grimoldby led the rest of the team as they continued to work with dedication and by the time they met Spalding, they beat the opposition by 24 points while conceding none.

The Saturday after this impressive win, the team met Wellingborough at home. Once again, they were able to show that practice and team work could pay off. Jack Chisholm helped the team to a 7 – 7 draw, a score line that did not reflect the impressive individual performances that had been showcased. Two weeks later, the team travelled to Witham Hall everyone full of nervous expectation, not helped by the fact that they were missing a coach! George Gutteridge Smith played his role in an unfamiliar position and won man of the match for doing so with good grace and only minimal complaining! The game was certainly eventful with Matthew Jeffery on the receiving end of a malicious hand off. The incident was to prove a turning point and team spirit really kicked in, the game ending with a 29 – 8 victory for Stamford.

This was quickly followed by two more victories against Oundle and St Albans, Jack Chisholm once again proving unstoppable with his kicking and the forwards, led by Johnny Williams, pushing forward to gain those all important points. The series of wins continued with an away trip to Ranby House where a tough game in the sunshine ended 36 – 21 to Stamford with Patrick Conboy and Charlie Dickinson working hard for the backs and Toby Finch Noyes and Tom Ball taking the pressure for the forwards. However, the winning luck could not last forever and after four successive victories, the team suffered disappointing losses to Bedford and Bishops Stortford but, never a team to give up, they played with passion and commitment at Notts High, managing to hold them to only a 10 point lead. Oliver Perkins played particularly well considering the fact that he received several knocks to the head and shoulder. Sadly, the team could get no points on the scoreboard themselves but with renewed determination, they prepared to meet Oakham, a team that they had already defeated earlier in the season. An impressive performance from the back line meant that the team won by 21 points to 12 and with renewed confidence, they could look forward to their final few matches.

Next came Gresham's away and a match that the team deserved to win; however, a controversial try in the final minute denied them victory and it was a despondent team and an emotional coach (who still maintains that she did not cry!) that made the long trip back to Stamford. The following Monday, an unchanged team, fired up by this loss met Deacon's and won by an impressive margin of 39 points to 10. The final game of the season saw the return of Loughborough and despite the final score, the team showed immense spirit and managed to put two tries past the Loughborough defence.

Overall, the team showed a great deal of commitment and enthusiasm; Elliot Smith never gave up in the forwards and Toby Finch Noyes put in some highly committed performances for the team. Fly half Alex Blackmore showed genuine pace and quick thinking in some difficult situations. The team would all like to thank gap student Scott Parker for all of his work with the team. It was a complete pleasure to work with you all and thank you so much for your passionate and dedicated performances. ALS

### U13 C

This hard working and enthusiastic side made good early progress on the practice pitch ahead of a demanding season's rugby.

At Bedford Modern they were given a good game by an equally matched team and the forward battle, though not technically inspiring, was one to savour with Tim Keogh and Luke Higgins leading the way. Unfortunately the opposition's three quarter line ran with far greater threat and their clinical finishing offered a rather misleading scoreline.

A visit to Oakham presented the side with an immediate opportunity for recovery, and led by Jordan Clarke, the side played in encouraging fashion, overcoming a weaker side with some excellent support play and aggressive wide running. Unfortunately the games against Bedford School, Deacons and Notts High all followed a similar pattern. After early forward dominance and a Jordan Clarke try, we rather melted away in the face of opposition with quicker forward players and more devastating options through the centres. Weak tackling in midfield was to cost this team and we succumbed to familiar patterns of defeat.

Perhaps the best performance, and clearly the most exciting game, was the final encounter against Loughborough. There was a titanic battle of the forwards, and one in which we had the edge. Good tries from Jordan Clarke and Ed Honeywood were just reward for huge periods of pressure, but the speed of their wingers proved crucial in the final reckoning.

This was an enjoyable season and one in which many players developed with promise, but defensive duties must be more sternly organised if the team is to be successful in years to come.

MJB

### U12

What a season for both the U12A and U12B teams!

The 'A' team won all of their games for the first time ever in Stamford School history. 11 matches played and 11 matches won! The tone for the season was set in the very first match against Bedford which is normally a difficult opener and has led to the downfall of many teams. This time, however, it was very different as the Stamford team cruised to a routine victory with the forwards doing a lot of damage. This performance was repeated in nearly every game with the side averaging nearly 23 points a game whilst conceding less than 7.

The highlight of the season has to be the St Alban's game. Coming straight off the bus, with little warm up, and into the game, the 12As soon found themselves 12-0 down with only a few minutes played. In such circumstances the top players show their worth, and boys stand up as men. Stamford rallied, tackling everything that moved with a determination that showed that they would concede no more. Slowly as the game wore on, and as St Albans tired, the fitness and spirit of Stamford showed through and points were pulled back until, with just a couple of minutes remaining, the winning try was scored in the corner and Stamford won 17-12.

It was a great season typified by some excellent teamwork, but a few players do stand out as leading from the front. Ben Pinnock, Harry Bullimore, and Jack Darke all improved immensely with Tom Williams winning the Most Improved Player award. There were many contenders for Player of the Season: Ethan Moss, Ted Cliffe, James Phillips, Ben Lovell, Joseph Reilly, Liam Barnard and Harry Bullimore. But it was the powerhouse performances from Tom Gulland with his dominance in the forwards that won him the prize. A special mention should also go to Archie Davies, Kieran Staunton, Ben Lovell and Ted Cliffe for their excellent leadership of the team.

The 'B' team also had a successful season, although this is not reflected in the statistics of winning 2 out of 6 games. They scored at nearly 6 points a game and conceded just over 10 a game. This shows that they had very tight matches with little given at either end of the pitch and that it was just one score that often separated the two teams, usually scored in the last minutes.

The team spirit shown throughout the season was fantastic and this is typified in the Bishop's Stortford game. Against a much bigger team, Stamford were on the back foot throughout the opening minutes and quickly succumbed to a 15-0 deficit. However, the resilience that is prevalent throughout the entire U12 squad came through and they refused to lie down. Big tackles were put in all over the pitch and slowly Stamford came back into the match, and slowly the points were gained back, until in the very last minute, with some excellent play from the backs in a daring break, and the powering drives of the forwards, a final score was achieved that gave Stamford a 17-15 victory. This is the game for which this team will be remembered, and not their final statistics.

Many players made big improvements this season: Angus Smith, Freddie Babbs, and Edward Wignall, with Tim Webb taking the prize for most improved player. Player of the Season contenders were Tim Webb, George Meredith, Harry Moss, Andy Bichan, Angus Pinner and Henry Ricketts, but it was the excellent back play throughout the season by Charlie Venables that won the prize. Special thanks has to go to Andy Bichan, Angus Pinner and Harry Moss for their inspirational leadership throughout the season.

Finally Mr Stamp and Mr Bates would like to thank all of their players for their efforts. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable season, made so especially by the high standards of the players in their conduct both on and off the pitch. It is rare to have such a fantastic group of players and it has been our privilege to coach you this season. Thank You!







**HOCKEY 1ST XI 2007** 

2007 was a disappointing season one in terms of results but a most enjoyable one in terms of entertainment. There was an average of 7 goals per game, which perhaps was partially the result of our lapses of concentration at the back, but certainly a consequence of the team's skill up front and creation from the midfield.

Played 15, won 4, drawn 2, lost 9 was not a good final record. However, there were five very close matches that made an enormous difference at the end of the season. The Lincolnshire Poachers always contain a lot of experience within their side and it was no surprise that they ended up sneaking a victory at the end. Four times we came back to equalise against Wisbech GS but to concede in the last five minutes was to become a regular past time and the 4-5 defeat was annoying. The same happened in the following encounter at home against Oakham where scores were level with just a few minutes left. Unfortunately slack marking at a crucial time enabled the Rutlanders to escape with a victory (3-2). Having taken a 2-0 lead midway through the second half against The Leys a comfortable success was expected but the final 2-2 result was a blow. Worse was to come at Oundle when the team put in their best performance of the season and frankly swamped the opposition. How they ended up losing 1-3 was a mystery! These five matches all could have been victories to go with those over Spalding GS (7-4), King's Grantham (5-2), Stowe (3-2) and Kimbolton (7-4). A highly creditable 1-1 draw with a talented Worksop side was also pleasing.

Led by William Epsom, scoring goals was not really a problem. William scored 13 in his final season and created many other chances. The other main scorers came from midfield – Ben Slack (8), Alex Hammant (5) and Michael Lutterodt (4). Even Cameron Park dragged a couple in from short corners!

The defence was somewhat inexperienced at the start of the season but developed quickly. Matthew Fox, by chance almost, ended up at sweeper and was outstanding. Having played in every other outfield position at some stage in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, it was the last position that he tried that suited him best. In front of him, Alex Reeder, Chris Kaye, Tom Bownes, Jak Garner and Darran Wesley shared the marking duties. In goal, Andrew Ward was superb and made some incredible saves at times.

The season ended with a curry and few speeches. The captain, Ben Slack gave out awards and a number of people were thanked for their contributions to Stamford School hockey. After 32 years, Mr. Barton moves down to Kent and his enormous contributions to the sport were duly recognised. Probably no one has done more to develop and encourage boys to play the game at Stamford, and there must be hundreds of boys over the years who have been inspired by his passion for the game.

Adrian Richardson retires after 17 years of umpiring. His efforts have been outstanding and I have been extremely grateful for all the time he spent with us on a Saturday afternoon. Although there was the odd occasion when Ben Slack in particular viewed his decisions slightly differently, there is no doubt that boys respected him extremely highly and appreciated his presence during matches.

After a mere 7 years of coaching the 1<sup>st</sup> XI at Stamford School, I hand over the running of the game to Jon Peckett. An Old Stamfordian, Jon has played the game to very highest standard and I am sure the boys will thrive under his guidance.

GAB

#### HOCKEY 2nd X1 2007

Season total: goals for 4, goals against 36!!!

This was a difficult season for a group of fairly keen hockey players who generally gave of their best whenever possible. Our first two home games were spirited and we had some goal scoring opportunities which we simply didn't take. We lost both matches and the main problem of the side was already apparent in that we were not good at scoring goals from the overlaps that were created.

Our skill level improved as the season progressed and we clearly became more competitive as half term approached. The lack of success had a detrimental effect on the team's

morale towards the end of the season, although we did battle hard at times.

Memories and moments include Andrew Fowler's return to fitness which strengthened the side immensely against The Leys. David Anders and John Hunt also played superbly in this game. Darren Wesley sparked some fine hockey at Oundle and also his hit in the face by a rogue hockey stick at Wisbech, needing three stitches to stem the bloodflow, is a memory I could quite happily forget! James O'Shea played with real aggression and scored the goal of the season from a penalty corner against Worksop. I think watching the first X1 before our game against Worksop really inspired us and made us realise the pace and skill level required to be successful at hockey.

Mr Bucknell's support and instructions from the side-line proved to be invaluable as we produced our best hockey of the year. The Uppingham match was weird as players of both teams were very quiet and half-hearted even though the weather was beautifully sunny and blue skied. I think tiredness was to blame for this mellow and sombre game. One final lasting memory is the match at Kimbolton abandoned at half time due to snow! It's difficult to play without visible lines and with your eyes closed due to a horizontal blizzard!!

I wish all the players the very best of luck for next season and in spite of the results hope they enjoyed their hockey.

G M

SQUAD – Isles (Capt.), Bacon, Drake, Anders, Fowler, O'Shea, Joy, Cartwright, Yeates, Hawkins, Hunt, McKinnon, Rowe, Wesley, Goose, Roche, O'Mara, Pelech, Straker, Stretton.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Hockey 2007

A squad of eighteen players reported for pre-season training, most of whome then found themselves talking tactics on the bus to Repton for our first match which was just three days after the start of term. A mix of experienced 3<sup>rd</sup> XI players and complete novices had been marshalled by our captain, Neil Michels, ably assisted by his vice captain, Andrew Carter. Not put off by being liberally soaked as the opposition sprayed their water based pitch just prior to the push back, we fought out a hard earned draw with Repton, Laurent Ross slotting home a rebound to equalise an earlier Repton goal from a short corner. Andrew Carter's pace, which was to worry defences all season, set up Daniel Cracknell for a winner in the final few minutes but his swept shot hit the post and was cleared. Spalding Grammar School visited with a mixture of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> XI players and we enjoyed a great open game of hockey being level at 2-2 before succumbing to three late goals.

These first two matches set the tone for the season. We played open, attacking hockey, not putting away enough of the chances we created and leaking too many goals, especially towards the end of matches. Two great games against Uppingham saw us lose by the odd goal in five and then turn things around in the home return fixture with a 2-0 win. Only Oundle completely overwhelmed us; in all other matches we competed throughout and, even if we lost, we felt that we had given a good account of ourselves. Adam Humphreys and Hugh Devas, along with Laurent Ross always looked dangerous up front and Marc McLeod and Robert Murray always gave their all in the middle of the park and in defence; Liam 'Smudge' Smith often performed miracles in goal.

Throughout, the team played with passion and good humour and I was, once again, privileged to be in the good company of a group of boys who played the game for sheer enjoyment; I thank them all.

### K J Chapman

Those who played regularly were: Neil Michels (Capt.), Andrew Carter (Vice Capt.), Liam Smith, Oliver Flaxman, Marc McLeod, Hugh Devas, Robet Murray, Tom Williams, Tom Wallington, Daniel Cracknell, Laurent Ross, Joshua Goodwin, Tom Reid.

### **U16B Hockey**

This years U16B team's hockey performance was always going to be an interesting one. We were a new side with new faces and a new coach, Martin.

Martin's aim for our season could be summed up in one word – "width". Width is something that our team has always had some difficulty with. However, towards the end of our particularly short season we did eventually manage to achieve the – "width" needed to send Martin into his chorus of "Good Hockey, Good Hockey". And there were – periods – of our season which did evolve "Good Hockey". Our performance on grass, for instance, was very impressive with over 70% of our goals being scored on this particular turf. In fact our great performance on grass resulted in a winning season, on grass. I know that 1 game won out of 2 can only just be deemed a winning season, but it is still a winning season, on grass.

It was our thrashing of Worksop which was the highlight of our games, which in itself was topped by James Millington smashing the ball into the net using the rare, but effective, baseball technique. Notable performances of this season were Tom Winspear and Dawson Bannister's power in the "D", the solidity at times of our defence and of course the spectacular saves from our keeper Tom Crowley.

We would like to say thank you to Martin for his excellent coaching and perseverance and for the teams continuing effort even when the score line was against us.

### **Bradley Felston**

### The squad:

Felston (capt), Crowley, Wakefield, Lane, Pickering, Honeywood, Tew, Bannister, Winspear, Millington, Smyth, Beardshaw, Bremer, Ladds, Mhlanga.

### Under 15A hockey 2007

The lights arrived at last and were well used in the autumn term as the U15 and U16s turned out in good numbers for pre-season training in November and December. The numbers were so good that I was fortunate to have the support of Alex Russell, our GAP student from Australia, to help with the sessions.

It was a similar story for our two sessions at the end of the Christmas holiday and so the side was well equipped for the beginning of term. This was just as well as we needed to draft in a number of players who were new and the early fixtures were against strong opposition. Indeed Sam Cole and Reuben Slater had excellent seasons and did a lot of good work in midfield whilst Nick Reiss had an outstanding season at the heart of the defence having moved from his position as a striker.

Unfortunately the results tell a tale of an unsuccessful season. However, the players all worked tremendously hard and strove to improve at every session. They were very well led by Rhys Owen and Tim Anders who both contributed much to a very enthusiastic squad. This was vital as several of the opponents played some quality hockey and Stamford struggled to match their play. The Oakham match was played at a high tempo and despite being behind for much of the game we worked hard throughout and deserved the reward of three well taken goals. Alex Jones led the way in the goal scoring count (7) but it should prove an asset in future seasons that eight members of the squad scored goals. Josh Green and Tim Anders were the main support on this front with 5 each.

The Uppingham match was very close with our opponents scoring late in the first half, a goal that proved decisive. A tight game against Worksop was followed by a real lesson in power hockey from the Leys.

The highlight of the season was the response shown by the players, they worked really hard in the practise sessions and went out against Oundle in a very determined mood. The first half was all Stamford but the opposition were very positive in the second period and Dan Warren needed to play well and Will Farrell made some key saves. The midfield players joined in the scoring with Anders, Slater and Cole adding to Jones' 2 goals.

There followed another fine performance against Deacon's School but unfortunately the boys were unable to keep the winning streak going through to the end of term. Bishop's Stortford were another high quality side and they might have scored more if it had not been for a blizzard that blunted their play in the second half. The final match was more even than the score-line suggests but was one of those occasions when everything that they put on target went in whilst Stamford's efforts slipped past or were well saved.

Nevertheless it was a thoroughly enjoyable season with all members of the squad working hard and they made progress in individual as well as team skills. I am very grateful to Mr.Sawyer for his assistance at training sessions but particularly to Martin Eichorn who was a great help at our Wednesday practices. I wish all the boys many years of enjoyable and successful hockey in the future.

MRB

Squad: Farrell, Warren, Fox, Reiss, Fuller, Berridge, Cole, Owen (capt.), Anders, Slater, Jones, Green, Downer, Mays, Powell. Also played Palmer, Gladwin.

U14A HOCKEY - Autumn 2006

The U14 hockey players are confronted with a challenging fixture list and so a final playing record of won 5, drawn 2, lost 4 represents an outstanding achievement. Highlights included victories over the very best in the region. An opening 2-2 draw with The Perse was followed by a 5-0 thrashing later in the term. Uppingham were defeated 3-2, thanks largely to a Charlie Kay hat-trick, and having previously been beaten 2-4 by Oundle, the final encounter of the season saw a reverse in fortunes and a sound 2-0 victory over our Northamptonshire rivals. Positive results were also recorded against Stowe (3-1) and Loughborough GS (7-1).

There were no weak links in the team and the squad responded well to a change in formation after the half term break. Switching to two up front created more space for Charlie Kay and Adam Wilson to exploit. It also strengthened the midfield where Tommy Mitchell, William Joyce (captain), Joe Harrap, Tom Lane and Sam Andrew competed for places. The defence was solid throughout. Ross Cutteridge was superb at sweeper and he was ably supported by Ben Brooks, Oliver Fountaine, Robert Salt and Jake Adams. In goal, Guilio Montaque was outstanding.

- 107 -

The only disappointment came in the East of England group matches which forms part of the National Schools hockey competition. Our chances of finishing in the top two from a group of four took a blow when top scorer Charlie Kay had to withdraw due a rugby injury. Even so, Stamford swamped The Leys but could not prevent the opposition scoring in the last minute and escaping with a 1-1 draw. A missed flick cost us dearly as we went down 1-2 to a strong Gresham's side. However, a victory in the final game would have seen the team progress, but it simply was one of those days and the subsequent 0-1 defeat at the hands of Woodbridge was a shame. The boys deserved much more from the day.

The boys were a delight to coach and I have never seen such a squad of boys so determined to win and work so hard in training. They are a very talented side and genuinely have the potential to be extremely successful over the coming years.

**GAB** 



# Table Tennis



Senior Team: P15 W10 D1 L4 Junior 'A' Team: P8 W2 D0 L6 Junior 'B' Team: P8 W5 D1 L2 Junior 'C' Team: P8 W6 D0 L2

"First game, Stamford to serve." Butterflies always flutter as these words are spoken at the beginning of a season. Following last season's success, I wondered whether 2006-7 would be worthy of comparison. The answer is yes, but, unfortunately, the Ketco Cup no longer resides in the dining hall trophy cabinet. A quarter-final defeat by just a handful of points means that this fine piece of silver now glisters at Oakham School.

The senior team's performances in the league were consistent, and second place is a fair reflection of the season. Competition and camaraderie ensured a number of enjoyable evenings, and every member of the team enjoyed some notable successes. Four members of the squad earned averages of above 60% for the season, which is encouraging. Revision for examinations did prevent one or two players from representing the school as regularly as they would have liked, but they will be all the more determined next season, I am sure.

In January, William Bacon and Norman Law retained their South Kesteven trophies, and were ably supported by Jamie Ridgeon, Michael Dinwoodie and Ed Cameron.

A third team was created for the Junior League, and all the players acquitted themselves well. Club rugby matches and examinations –again – led to a juggling of players, but the 'B' and 'C' team members earned trophies for their efforts.

Trophies are always a pleasure to receive, and the following boys all received at least one for their efforts during the SRTTL season: Norman Law, Jonathan Chau, Ed Cameron, Thomas Dowdell, Jack Atkinson, Rostislav Shilov, William Bacon, Daniel Warren, Michael Dinwoodie, Jamie Ridgeon and Joe Randall.

The school has been invited to host the Lincolnshire Junior Closed Championships next season, and I am sure that many SES students will want to pit their abilities against some of the best in the county. It will be the centrepiece of another interesting season.

**RJBH** 



# Cricket

1st XI Cricket

The year began with a pre-season trip to Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood and Malvern College, the current home of our old pro Tim Roberts. A narrow loss against the former in a twenty over extravaganza was followed up with a solid draw against Malvern. We won the toss and decided to field first and made an excellent start taking four early wickets to leave the home side floundering. Slack bowled with superb control, backed up by a fiery opening spell by Dolby. An excellent partnership for the fifth wicket saw Malvern reach 189 all out. The run chase started well with Epsom (24) and Mhlanga (53\*) before the former was run out. Unfortunately this was the start of an all too common Stamford middle order collapse. We scraped home with a draw finishing on 154-7.

The Director of Sports' XI also provided another stern test just a few days later. We fielded first and bowled well, dismissing the opposition for 156 inside the allotted 40 overs. Former school captain Will Clough was top scorer for the visitors with a typically disciplined 56. Our reply was rather disappointing with no-one able to occupy the crease for any significant period of time. We were eventually all out for 147 in the final over only 9 runs short of what should have been a comfortable victory.

Oundle were our next visitors on a damp cool afternoon. The wicket played appallingly in a match which turned out to be a lottery for the batsmen. We restricted the batting side to 132-6 in their 40 overs. We then proceeded to completely capitulate in reply, all out for a meagre 81 in a game that is best forgotten.

The following week Notts High came to Stamford on a warm, dry but overcast day. Stamford batted first and the signs were ominous as we were reduced to 58-5 just after the lunch break. Murray (63\*) came to the crease and played the innings of the season to rescue the situation and get the team to a more respectable 155-10 off 56 overs. During his innings he hit a remarkable six; a shot that was more like a tennis serve than anything seen on a cricket field before! Dolby bowled a devastating opening spell in which he removed three of the top four for a mere 19 runs setting up a very tense run chase. Lindley was given the ball in the 16th over and tempted the batsmen with only his fourth delivery. In his next over he took two wickets with his first two balls to reduce the visitors to 66-6 after 18 overs. When Spurr removed the dangerous opener for 54 and took the new batsman first ball, the game was all but won with the score 94-8. Notts High were finally dismissed for 134 in a memorable bowling performance.

The team next made the short trip south to play Bedford Modern School. A solid bowling and fielding performance saw Bedford dismissed for a modest 165 off 46 overs. This total should have been reach with relative ease and we looked in a solid position at tea needing just 3 runs per over with 8 wickets in hand. However, some tight bowling after the break saw the pressure build on the batsmen and the Stamford middle order collapse reared its ugly head once again. We were eventually all out for 118 losing the last 8 wickets in 11 overs for only 55 runs.

The mid-week game against Wisbech was played in damp overcast conditions. Another fine display with the ball saw Wisbech all out for 83 in just 32 overs. The seamers dominated. In reply there were none of the usual hiccups, with Slack hitting 54 off 31 balls to see us home to a 9 wicket victory in just 14 overs.

A good victory over Bishops Stortford the following week showed that the team were able to win a match batting first. We scored 188-9 off 40 overs with Mhlanga (43) and Slack (30) top scoring. With the bowlers in good form this was more than enough runs and Stortford were dismissed for 133 in 37 overs.

After half term we had our annual adventure to distant Gresham's on a bizarrely cold and foggy June day. The bowlers did not bowl their best for a change and Gresham's amassed 208-3 in their 40 overs with only Dolby looking threatening. In reply we got off to an excellent start with Epsom (62) in devastating form smashing 50 off just 36 balls to take the score to 63-1 after just 10 overs. Next followed the all too familiar Stamford collapse and we were soon reduced to 105-5 off 24 overs. Anders (34) batted bravely but lacked the experience necessary to maintain the run rate required. We eventually finished on 155-7; a disappointing total after such a promising start.

Unfortunately, we were only able to complete one more fixture in the next four weeks of term; an extremely poor performance and loss against Uppingham. No fewer than ten  $1^{st}$  XI fixtures were lost to the weather in an unbelievably wet summer term. A victory against Uppingham in the 20/20 competition was a highlight but was followed by a comprehensive defeat by a very strong Repton side.

Good luck to all the leavers and thanks for their commitment to school cricket over the years. I wish them the best and hope they continue to play at universities or clubs for many years to come. With many of the side returning next year and a planned tour to St. Lucia and Grenada in Easter 2008, next season promises to be an exciting one.

DGC

2nd XI Cricket Report

Played 9 Won 3 Lost 6

After a pleasing turn out at nets throughout the winter, hopes were high for a successful season. However, a spate of mediocre performances, especially with the bat, led to a modest overall record. Only two fifties were achieved, both of them by the skipper Jak Garner, and overall only Burley, Evans and, on one occasion, Smeeth, got close to decent totals. However, the games we did win – against Wisbech, The Leys and Gresham's - were convincing victories, based on some excellent bowling, notably from O'Mara, Lane and James Allen. Williams always impressed as an opening paceman, before he was promoted to the Firsts, but his figures never quite reflected his efforts.

Encouragingly, most of last year's players have another season of school cricket ahead of them, and I hope that they will enjoy rather more success next summer. I also hope that key members of the squad will prove more reliable when making themselves available for selection.

DL

### **Under 15A Cricket**

A most enjoyable and successful year on the cricket pitch. With energy and spirit the team got off to a fantastic start to the season setting totals for the opposition to beat. Nottingham High couldn't quite reach the 176 set by some sensible batting up the order and some inventive batting lower down. Highly notable was Freddie Berridge's feat of hitting a six from a top edge over the wicket keeper.

This combination of sensible batting and spirited fielding led to the second win over Kimbolton. Moral was high into the third game against Bedford Modern, which was the played on the main square at Stamford. A good bowling side kept us pinned down with some excellent leg spin from the bottom end which led to the fast attrition of wickets. With Stamford's decidedly mediocre total of 134 all out, it would surely need a miracle to win. What followed was a real nail bitter for all those who watched. The Stamford seam attack really 'hit their straps' and combined with another large dollop of determined spirit in the field, had Bedford at 9 wickets down needing 4 from the last over. Sadly the fairy-tale victory was not to be, but it highlighted many fantastic virtues, including excellent bowling performances from Freddie Gladwin, Tom Williams, Sam Young and Freddie Berridge.

We entered the next game against Spalding Grammar with 2 wins from 3. This was the most challenging of games meteorologically. As the game progressed, the drizzle turned to rain and made for interesting playing conditions. As long as Spalding was happy to continue, Stamford were keen to bowl ourselves to a good position with a little help from a quantity of sawdust at the pavilion end. We then batted well in adverse conditions and chased the opposition total 93 with the loss of only 4 wickets.

Loughborough had set us a large total of 210 and despite 45 from Peter Wilson and 55 from Tom Williams we failed to hit the required boundaries and the run rate became too much for us. The shoe was on the other foot a week later, away at Bishop Stortford. Although we scratched around to make 137 from 30 overs (Tim Anders scored 25, Alister Jones 21 and Freddie Berridge 22), we piled on the pressure in the field. Both Jamie Oakley and Tom Williams took 3 wickets apiece and won by 57 runs.

Greshams played away is one game that I think the boys will be disappointed in losing. Again our batting wasn't as consistent as it has proved itself capable of. Sam Cole scored 40 and Josh Green and Jamie Oakley added to that, but we only made 138. Gresham's had a strong first wicket partnership and some unfortunate dropped catches let them off the hook. Unfortunate as when we finally broke through and exposed some average batting, the damage had been done. Despite a notable performances from Peter Wilson who ended up with 6 for 19 with a beautiful spell of off break bowling.

The season came to a quick finale, but not before a splendid victory over Oakham. After a fairly one sided competition against a fine Oundle side, a win was much deserved over the local rivals. Sam Young bowled well to take the scalps of 4 Oakham top order batsmen. We kept them to 126. We got to their total with 3 overs to spare. Thanks to a fine batting performance from Jamie Oakley with 70.

A big thank you to all those who played and to Tim Anders and Tom Williams who both captained the team well. Good luck with your future cricketing endeavours.

### **BDB**

U15B Cricket Report - Summer 2007

The season began on a breezy but pleasant afternoon with a home fixture against Nottingham High School. Nottingham batted first and, despite all of our bowlers taking at least one wicket, they steadily amassed a score of 184 for 9 using 29 of their allotted 30 overs. In reply, we began well with Charlie Mays hitting 44; Tom Hanks, David Carter and Alex Steel all supported him well but four wickets in four balls from one of Nottingham's bowlers knocked out our middle order and we fell well short of the total required.



A home match against Loughborough followed in which the opposition batted first and set a score of 146; in reply we again batted well initially, with Charlie Mays and Alex Steel both making scores into the thirties, but, with a possible victory in sight, we began to stutter and eventually fell 15 runs short of the required total.

After the weather put paid to a couple of fixtures, the long trip to Gresham's School in Holt was well worth it as we recorded an impressive victory. Iain Downer ripped through the Gresham's batting taking 6 wickets and he was well supported by Jon Nix who took 3 wickets; Gresham's were all out for 69 and we made the required total for 3 wickets, Ian Downer again starring with a rapid 31.

The visit to Oundle began well. Jon Nix, Tom Helliwell, Tom Hanks and Ian Downer shocked the opposition, who the previous week had scored over 300, by bowling them out for 102. Tom Hanks (42), and Charlie Mays (22) got us off to a good start in reply but then, once again, we seemed to buckle at the prospect of victory and were narrowly defeated.

The season ended with the weather, again, forcing matches to be cancelled but we can reflect upon some good games and, if our batting had lived up to our bowling, we might have achieved a very good record indeed. As it is, I will remember the fine spirit amongst the team and the sense of commitment and enjoyment that was evident throughout. In particular, my thanks go to the captain of the side, Charlie Mays, who did an excellent job both on and off the field.

Those who played and trained regularly were: Charlie Mays (Capt.), Tom Hanks, Matthew Fuller, Ian Downer, David Carter, Mark Palmer, Jon Nix, Tom Helliwell, Dominic Powell, Nick Reiss, Steven Bryant, Miles Redding, Alex Steel, Henry Wallis.

KJC

U14A Cricket

P9 W1 L8

At the outset it seemed that the side would experience a difficult season and statistically this was indeed to be the case. It is currently the vogue to "take the positives" out of adversity and I won't change back that trend. Although the side only won one game all season they were genuinely competitive in all but one of the games. Nearly every squad member remained positive and improved as cricketers. Many close games were lost as a result of a lack of strength in depth and because the side have grown accustomed to losing.

The captain Tom Lane is a talented cricketer and is keen to learn. His excellent fifty against Lougborough was the key contribution in our sole triumph although he was given great support by Will Joyce (44), Robert Salt (21) and a quick twenty from Oli Fountaine. Joe Harrap picked up 4 wickets and we eventually won by 40 runs. Throughout the season Joe was probably our most consistent bowler and his batting greatly improved culminating in a responsible and spirited fifty that helped us avoid a humiliation against Oundle. Unfortunately our bowling attack lacked variety although Ben Brooks' slow left arm is definitely a promising spin option. Jack Spriggs also had his moments the finest being his 5 quick wickets at Bishop's Stortford which almost pulled off a remarkable victory when we were only defending a total of one hundred. Tom Lane is the quickest and most dangerous of the pace bowlers but did struggle for consistency at times. However, as a bowling unit we struggled to maintain the pressure necessary to defend the moderate targets we often set. Too often we lost close games from promising positions.

Despite a long tail, we only failed to reach one hundred once throughout the whole season. If the frontline batsman failed there was always someone like Oli Fountaine or Robert Salt ready to "chip in" with useful cameo innings. It is a credit to the side that they scrapped so to defend the moderate targets we often set. Thanks must also be extended to the U13 cricketers who moved up to help us out when the going got tough.

Despite a lot of leather-chasing the fielding also held up well. Joe Harrap is probably the best fielder and his stunning catch at Bishop Stortford will live in the memory. Tom Lane also set an excellent example in this respect. The squad's fighting spirit resulted in us only being humbled once against Uppingham and even then we gave them a scare in their innings when we made serious inroads into their batting line-up. Typically, however, we let the chance slip when we had them "on the ropes" and ended up losing comfortably. It was a much better season than the statistics suggest! Honest!

Squad: Will Joyce, Tom Lane (capt.), James Harrap, Ben Brooks, Oli Fountaine, Robert Salt, Jack Spriggs, Ross Cutteridge, James Harrod, Edward King, Luke Smith.



U13A Cricket: Summer 2007

With winter nets having been well attended and the squad displaying plenty of enthusiasm and talent, hopes were high for the season in front of us. Competition for places at the top of the batting order was ferocious and there was a good mix of left-arm, right-arm and leg-spin bowling.

Our season began in rather damp conditions, on a wet wicket away to Notts High. This was to be a twenty/20 fixture against one of our major opponents. Having restricted their total in the first part of the game, we became a little casual and lost discipline as a bowling unit and the fielders looked a little rusty. Notts kept their composure to post a demanding score. Harry Beckett kept things ticking over but as the run rate increased, we lost our way in a mad flurry of wickets, having been reasonably well set. This was a first game of the season performance and we were frustrated not to have had the opportunity to work our way into the summer before meeting such a good side as this.

At Bedford Modern we quickly put early disappointment behind us with an excellent display. Batting first Alex Emerson and Tom Pritchard laid the platform for a fine total and the bowling was shared equally around the team. Jon Williams led his side excellently in the field and all responded to his positive encouragement in what was a thoroughly convincing win.

At Wisbech, on a wet surface, we batted with good sense against some tight bowling to score a fair total in a reduced overs game, although the number of run-outs was a concern. Alex Emerson again held things together very nicely. A convincing effort in the field and a rapid over rate saw us finish off the opposition before the rainstorm moved in, just!

A very valuable lesson was learned at Loughborough, under cloudy skies, as their captain and international representative (at under sixteen level!) was dropped in the second over of the match. He then went on to smash the ball to all parts and walked off with a rapid hundred. When normality was restored, a sustained period of good bowling and fielding ensued, but we simply had too much to chase. Jon Williams' excellent batting persuaded the opposition to "sportingly" call upon their international player again, and despite the champagne moment of Jon smashing him back over his head, we then succumbed, but at least refused to be bowled out, by a strong side.

Finally a game on home soil, on the main square against Oundle. Excellent opening bowling from Oliver Anand and Toby Finch-Noyes reduced the opposition to nearly a run per over, but dropped catches allowed them to finally reach a reasonable score. Our chase was not made simple by reckless batting, but Tom Pritchard played a cool innings and despite a late wobble we made our victory target.

Unfortunately these were all the matches played, losing

four potentially victorious fixtures to the elements. There was no lack of enthusiasm from this squad for whom the future is bright provided further intelligent cricket is played along the way. There is masses of potential here, most notably supplied by Louis Grimoldby who is shaping into a very good wicket-keeper batsman, but if there is something to be learned, then it must be to take responsibility for one's own mistakes and not to pander to the blame culture. Players who look hard at their own performance and development will surely improve the most.

MJB July 2007

### The cricket season - U12A 2007

Although the season has not been the most successful with only 2 wins, there were many close matches and fantastic moments for our team. There have also been some new records set and awards have been duly given. Let's start by describing the wins of the season:

Everybody played well here and some people proved themselves to be a better bowler or batsman than some of us reckoned beforehand. With Charles Page-Morris getting 4 wickets, the highest wicket taker in that match and in the season, a brilliant partnership between Alex Morgan (41) and Kieran Staunton (31) ensured that we were well on our way to victory. However, these players weren't the only ones who performed well in the team: Gatehouse, Hyton, Meredith and Staunton all bowled well. Another great moment was a stunning run- out achieved by Archie Davies, who fielded the ball excellently on the boundary and threw it hitting the stumps directly.

### Oundle

This was a game to be remembered for a long time by both sides. Page-Morris and Staunton opened the bowling, Page-Morris (5 wickets), Staunton 3 shared 8 between them; however Bullimore bowled a brilliant 2 wicket maiden to finish off the innings at 23 all out! Our opening three batsmen quickly made the runs needed and we ended the match victorious.

### Player Achievements

These are the highlights of each player's season. Archie Davies made a brilliant 28 against OBH and his second great moment was his double- wicket maiden. Liam Barnard opened the batting consistently and I can't recall him ever getting a duck. He also made 28 against Bedford. Kieran Staunton, although selected as a hard-hitting batsman making 31 runs against Wisbech, proved himself a better bowler with a triplewicket maiden. Alex Morgan distinguished himself taking the 1<sup>st</sup> wicket of the season. He also made an incredible 41 against Wisbech. Charles Page-Morris, the Captain, has demonstrated his stunning all-round ability. Charles took 5 wickets against Oundle and made the highest individual score of 72 against Bedford. Harry Bullimore's. Two best moments were in the match against Oundle, a double wicket maiden and his unbelievable slip- catch. George Meredith was placed fairly low down in the batting order at number 9. However he showed real ability and perhaps could bat higher at 5 or 6. George's greatest moments were his 3 wickets against Loughborough and his fast partnership with Gatehouse, making a quick fire 15. Andy Bichan has had a sensational season, with a record- breaking hat-trick against Bedford and his powerful forward drive for four. Will Hyton played only one match this season because of tennis commitments; however, he fielded well and took one wicket off 2 overs for less than 5 runs. Tom Williams played well and was the 3<sup>rd</sup> person to take a wicket at the start of the season. Joshua Clayton contributed with some good boundary fielding. Theo Gatehouse proved himself to be a frequent wicket taker. His best batting moment was a fantastic late- cut for four. Ben Lovell was an exceptional wicket- keeper/batsman and received many compliments for his skill. He achieved a number of catches (including a one handed diving one) and several stumpings. He also contributed many useful scores of 20 and above. After this season we are now experienced in playing together as a team and I am sure that we will have better results next season!

### U12B Cricket report.

Cricket, the traditional English sport of the summer, does in fact begin for Stamford School pupils in the dark, frozen days of January with winter training in the sports hall. Once again, we were blest with a healthy number of Year Seven boys, eager to net during the winter in preparation for the summer fixtures. Gradually, the days grew longer, and the improvement in the boys' games was discernible as the weeks progressed, and when the summer term finally commenced in April, the U12B squad felt ready to take on all comers.

Our first match was against Notts High in April. Traditionally, April fixtures involve reduced overs, soggy looking umpires and lots of frustration due to the generally inclement British weather. Not so on this occasion. The entire month seemed filled with day after day of pleasant sunshine, and this was the case on our day out in Nottingham. Sadly, the sun didn't shine on our batting performance, with players looking nervous in their first competitive match. Angus Pinner top scored with 16, with only a few bits and pieces contributed from elsewhere. The coach would devote two subsequent games lessons to learning about the importance of decisive, early calling! Unfortunately, with a low total of 54, our bowlers could create little pressure on the opposition. Indeed, the total was knocked off for the fall of just one wicket, where Ethan Moss left the Notts opener castled for a duck. A comprehensive defeat, although one positive was the sterling work behind the stumps from our wicket keeper, Tom Hounslow.

It is a sorry shame that more of our fixtures were not in April, as May and June were a bit of a washout. Fixtures against Grantham and Deacons were cancelled, and matches against Loughborough Grammar and Deacons (again) were rather chilly, wet and miserable affairs. In fact, Deacons proved to be our only success of the season. The lessons about quick, decisive calling appeared to have been learned, as skipper Angus Pinner and fellow opener Ed Wignall shared a solid opening partnership. Tom Hounslow contributed a respectable 8 runs down the order before being run out, in rather amusing fashion. We finished on a total of 90 runs, which gave our bowlers something to bowl at. All rounder Pinner caused all sorts of problems early on, and was ably backed up by Joe Reilly, Ethan Moss and the much improved Harry Dennis. We restricted the visitors to 54 runs, giving us a decisive 36 run victory.

Loughborough Grammar are always a strong team, and proved far too strong for us when we visited them. Batting first, Tom Williams and Henry Ricketts shared a top score of 7 as we posted a total of 90 runs (22 of which were extras. Extras played well in this match!) Although excellent swing bowling was exhibited by Josh Clayton, only 2 wickets (falling to Reilly and Moss) went down, and we suffered another comprehensive defeat.

All in all, a season affected by the weather, but with some good cricket played, and plenty to build on for next year. CDF





The basketball team had a large squad again and handling drills went well in the autumn term on Wednesday lunchtimes. The sessions were brief but useful.

### **RESULTS**

Uppingham 1 W 28-30 Stamford New College L 54-31 Oakham 1 - L 42-31

Uppingham2 W 28-30 Rugby L 35 -32 Stamford New College L 41-31 Oakham2 - L 26-20

We trained reasonably well and in good spirit and there were some excellent passages of play. Our main problem all season was giving away possession too easily, often when we weren't even under pressure. In our final game against Oakham we played some great basketball and were in the lead by 3 points at one stage. Unfortunately, we gave them the ball at least five times in the second half- a potential ten points - which could have won us the game.

Two highlights of the season have to be:

- 1) Running down the clock for 25 seconds in the second match against Uppingham when Matthew Au scored a 3 pointer to win the game in the dying seconds.
- 2) The 10 minute purple patch against a strong New College team after they had dominated the first 12 minutes. We inter-passed superbly and scored three quick and well-engineered baskets to draw level.

We scored more points than usual this season and the general understanding of the game has improved significantly.

My thanks go to Matthew Au, who captained the side and the efforts of the squad who clearly enjoy this game. Thanks must also go to Ian Bland, our professional coach, and Paul Ng who was chief scorer at the table for all matches.

### Basketball Squad:

A.Kong, M.Poon, C.Wilson, C.Redding, N.Law, D Redding, S.Kong, M.Au, J.Chau, T Stevenson, J Chan, C Rowe, T Wigmore, T Betts, J Murphy

GM

# Basketball







Competitive badminton at senior level was formally resurrected last year at Stamford School and the captain, Tejas Ingle, led his team by example throughout the season. Week after week, Tejas' enthusiasm, commitment and desire to improve his own match play motivated the rest of the squad.

The senior team comprised Tejas Ingle, Matthew Garratt, Pem Tenneson, Stuart Melton, Stuart Ellis and Antony Kong from Year 13, and also James Ho and Jonathan Bedford from Year 12.

In terms of results, the season was rather mixed, ranging from an overwhelming defeat against Oakham before Christmas, to a glorious victory over a rather lack-lustre Oundle side at the end of the Easter term. The seniors also played a variety of matches against local league clubs such as Welland Valley.

The season ahead, with James Ho as captain, looks very promising, as Stamford School has a lot of young talent coming through from Years 10 and 11. With continued training, practice and match-play experience, our badminton team is sure to go from strength to strength. LB

# Golf

My final report on school golf is a rather disappointing one. This is not to say that the school is short of keen or competent golfers; indeed there are a good number of talented players in the middle school and below.

Three of these put themselves forward for the British Heart Foundation competition. This involved Tom Crees, James Allen and Oliver Lindley having to raise money for the BHF. This they did, achieving a very respectable £50 each. Whilst they found the course at Wellingborough very challenging the whole event proved very worthwhile. The staff were very supportive in sponsoring MRB to complete the middle school Burghley Run to boost the boys' fund raising effort.

The main fixture of the year is the quadrangular against Oakham, Oundle and Uppingham. As usual this was hosted by Luffenham Heath G.C. and was well contested. Unfortunately the match coincided with the chapel service that was held in memory of Andrew Carter. This meant that most of the senior players were unavailable to play. However Sam Goodwin and Ryan Flint, both in Year Ten, stepped into the team at the last minute and did very well. The team were just beaten into third place by Uppingham, whilst Oakham were the runaway victors.

In an attempt to attract more interest in the school golf cup MRB suggested a new format. This was to invite all golfers to complete 3 cards on their home course during the Easter holiday. This was to be followed by a knockout event for the best 4 golfers during the summer term. Regrettably this proved even less successful than last year's mid-term Stapleford competition. Only Ryan Flint and Tom Crees entered their cards.

The final event of the term was the annual School v Staff v OS match. Howard Mulligan gathered a formidable team of Old Stamfordians who ran out comfortable winners. David Scott, James Bust, Richard Allen, Paul Ramm and Paul York all gained maximum points for the OS whilst Sam Goodwin was equally successful for the School and Mr.Laventure for the staff.

The following boys represented the school this year: Jak Garner (capt.), Andrew Ward, Jon Bedford, Oliver Joy, Tom Crees, Joe Robinson, Oliver Lindley, James Allen, Ryan Flint, Sam Goodwin, Joe Regis and David O'Shea.

**MRB** 



# Sailing

Following the inaugural year of competitive sailing at SES, the race team entered a period of consolidation, the highlight being a rematch against Uppingham, where we came within a whisker of recording our first overall victory. Since then training has continued at Rutland Water, fixtures including another rematch against Uppingham, and a trip to Peterborough for a local area regatta.

Throughout this time we have been seeking to raise funds to purchase our own fleet of racing dinghies, both to enable us to train more effectively for team racing events, and to organise our own competitions, both within SES and against local competition. Happily in the summer came the opportunity and means to purchase six second-hand 420 dinghies, and so a new phase in competitive sailing at SES is set to begin.

Limited resources, however, have not dampened the spirits of our team members (just about the only part of them that has not been dampened at some stage or other), and though it is perhaps unfair to single out individuals, particular mention must be made of the "hard core" of Adam McBain, Alice Reid, Luke Higgins, Oliver Perkins, and captain Andrew Sampson, whose commitment and enthusiasm have ensured that competitive sailing at SES has enjoyed a successful second year.

RF

As usual we attended the South Kesteven District Gala on February 6<sup>th</sup> and were very successful, considering that the High School Pool, where we usually train, was out of action due to refurbishment. In Year 7 we won all of the races and came 1<sup>st</sup>. Daniel Ede, Tom Gulland, Tim Webb, Peter Cox, James Leake were the swimmers involved. In Y8 and Y9 we finished 2<sup>nd</sup> equal with Bourne Grammar. We came 3<sup>rd</sup> last year, so this was an improvement. Callum Storey, Isaac Grimoldby, Oliver Perkins, Tom Taylor, Charlie Kay were all involved. In Y10 and Y11 we came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. The swimmers were Jeremy Cunnew, Charles Wilson, John Murphy, Tom Plant, and Andrew Holland-Jones (who swam especially well in two individual races).

The first gala in the newly refurbished pool was against Worksop and we did well to win all age groups. The new facility is clearly much smarter and having seats for swimmers to sit poolside made running the event much easier. At Uppingham we won 3 age groups and lost one, the senior boys' event. It was a great event and lots of boys swam well. At The Leys, Stamford won 3 age groups and the gala by 216 to 203 points. The juniors took both the freestyle 4x50m and medley 4x25m school records by 5 seconds and 7.1 seconds respectively. Sinker, Grimoldby, Perkins, Storey, Kay and Mitchell were the boys involved. Tom Plant deserves a mention for swimming 50m butterfly twice to get team points, even though it is clearly not his favoured stroke. Elliott Whittingham and John Murphy also dug deep to secure points for the team. At the end of the gala Tom Mitchell actually turned green due to his efforts. Several seniors swam extra events to ensure that we competed: David Purcell, Stuart Roche Martin Dunk, Liam Smith and of course Robert Murray all deserve a mention for their efforts in competing on a difficult day for Stamford School, the day of the assembly held to mark the tragic death of Andrew Carter.

We finally managed to complete the senior swimming sports at the much later date than usual. Two records were broken: the B string 2L freestyle was taken by Ross Porter (0.2s) and the B string 4 length freestyle was taken by William Cooper (0.86s). It was a close competition and was eventually won by Exeter on 93.5 points, with Radcliffe a close second on 92 points. Victor Ludorum for the intermediates was Andrew Holland-Jones and for seniors was captain of swimming Robert Murray, whom I would like to thank for organising the senior team this season.

GM

Swimming

# **Cross Country**

### **Juniors**

For boys in Y7-10 the main focus of the cross-country season is the 3 matches of the Fenland League. It is becoming something of a Stamford tradition to win this competition with ease and this year was no exception. Our winning margin was greater than ever this time.

In all three matches, both our Y7 and Y8 teams won convincingly each time. In year 9 and 10 the top performers and regular top 10 finishers were Jake Wilkinson, Tristan Roper-Caldbeck, Josh Green and Tom Mitchell. Sam Andrew, Rhys Owen, Norman Law and Tom Lane made up a B team that left most other schools' A teams in their their wake.

In year 7 and 8 Jack Chisholm, Cameron Brookes, Patrick Conboy, Harry Bullimore and Louis Grimoldby led the charge for the finish line with an improving Oliver Herd close behind.

We won the league by huge margins in both age-groups. Our nearest rivals out of 20 local schools were over 150 points behind us.

Each year there is also a separate Fenland Relays competition against the same schools. Teams of 4 run one lap of the course each. Again both Stamford teams won this competition superbly. In year 7 and 8 Jack Chisholm got us off to a competitive start, Cameron Brookes stormed into the lead with Patrick Conboy and Louis Grimoldby stretching our advantage on the final legs. Our B team comprising Harry Bullimore, Ted Cliffe, Angus Smith and Joe Nolan finished an excellent 9th overall.

In the Year 9 and 10 competition Sam Cole, Peter Goodman and Norman Law put us into a commanding lead and on the final leg Josh Green held off the second placed runner superbly to finish ahead of the field. Sam Andrew and Tom Mitchell also played a crucial part in what was a superb winning performance. In this year's South Kesteven Championships our Y10-11 team won their age-group easily bolstered by key Y11s Tom Plant and Jonathan Stoddart, the Y8-9 team came second by a narrow margin as did the year 7 team. 11 boys earned selection for the South Kesteven team in the Lincolnshire championships. A superb achievement.

Congratulations to all who took part in a fantastic season. Well done.

### Colts and Seniors

Our Colts and Seniors competed in 4 fixtures in the Spring term as part of the East Midlands Schools' League which is made up of 8 local independent schools. The teams were ably led by captains Toby Simpson and Cameron Payne.

Our colts cross country team competed well against tough opposition. There were some excellent individual contributions from Cameron Payne, Grant Wallwork and Peter Goodman as well as Jonathan Stoddart, William Thompson and Matthew Jones. In the first fixture at Welbeck we finished 5th, at Oundle the team posted its best performance and came 2nd. In our home fixture at Burghley Park we finished 5th again and in the final relays match at Oundle we were 3rd. This meant that we finished 5th in the League overall.

In the seniors, Toby Simpson, Jack Day and Ross Porter carried the team through thick and thin and were joined by Adam Hunter, Daniel Murphy, Nick Brown and Mark Sedgeley on at least one occasion. Sadly we were rarely at full strength and distinguished ourselves more by our valiant taking part than by our victory!

My thanks go to all those who competed for the team and to those who helped out throughout the year, especially M. Braud whose assistance was, as always, invaluable. RJK

### **Athletics**

The highlight of the 2007 season must undoubtedly be our overall victory against some of our fiercest rivals at the fixture at Oundle. There were superb performances from the year 9 team, who won every single event and were runaway winners in their age group by a huge margin of 54 points, with the relay team of Nathan Graham, Charlie Kay, James Hounslow and Hayden Young setting a new Junior  $4 \times 100 \text{m}$  record of 50.68.

The season did not get off to quite such a good start when the team lost overall at Worksop, with a number of key athletes missing that day. Similarly the year 7s and year 8s were defeated in a rather wet fixture against Oakham School. Nonetheless, each occasion gave opportunities for individuals to shine. Amongst some of the best performances at Worksop were John Murphy with 37.67m in the javelin and Slava Malyshevsky, who threw 11.31m in the shot. At Oakham, Cameron Brookes in year 7 made his debut for the school with a win in the 1500m in 5:22.5. Tom Gulland won the shot with 7.83m, whilst Daniel Wiggin in year 8 continued to throw extremely well in the shot and discus, winning both his events.

There were many excellent performances in the South Kesteven Trials and a total of 30 Stamford school athletes were selected to represent the district in the Lincolnshire championships on the 9th June. Five athletes went on to gain selection for Lincolnshire as a result of their performances. These were Alex Reeder, James Goose, Slava Malyshevksy, Jonathan Stoddart and Craig Felston. All competed well at the Anglian Championships in Norwich and particular congratulations should go to Jonathan Stoddart who set a new Colts school high jump record of 1.80m.

In the last full fixture before half-term the teams competed with distinction to finish 3rd overall out of 6 teams against tough opposition in Birmingham. The Juniors again performed best and finished 2nd by a close margin. The seniors did particularly well to finish 3rd, considering the number of athletes who competed. Superb all-round performances were produced by captain Alex Reeder and Slava Malyshevsky, ably supported by James Goose, Michael Allan, Tom Reid and David Purcell. Our Colts team finished 4th with good wins from Jonathan Stoddart in the Long Jump and the relay team. John Murphy improved his javelin best to 41.04 – the longest throw by a Stamford School boy for some years.

Despite rain cutting short the proceedings at the East Area Prep School Championships in Bedford, Daniel Wiggin came away with an excellent podium place in the discus with a throw of 25.58m to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> against tough competition. Our final fixture at Birmingham was also rained off but the younger athletes completed the season superbly by winning 3 out of 4 age groups (y7, y9 and y10) at the District Championships. A total of 33 boys finished in the top 3 in their event with some excellent performances. Of particular note was Nathan Graham in y9, who won the victor ludorum for impressive wins in the 100m, 200m and relay. The y9 relay team (Charlie Kay, James Hounslow, Sam Andrew and Nathan Graham) set a new y9 school record of 50.3 and the y10 team of Sam Cole, Alex Jones, Peter Goodman and Charles Griffin set a new District record of 47.3 in the 4 x 100m.

Congratulations and thanks to all involved. RJK







# House Report

### Ancaster

Why is it? Why is it that we want so badly what we cannot have? After all we had won the overall competition for the previous two years and again prospects looked good. And yet the Music Competition loomed large. We had not won the Unison in living memory and in all honesty, we have little specialised musical talent. However, in Mr Lennie we had a gnarled veteran of music competitions and in "One" from the hit musical "Sweet Charity" we had a potential winner. It was a "high tariff dive". Could we pull it off? A magnificent performance left only Radcliffe, Porteus and some glorified country and western standing in our way. I really believed we had edged it. Inwardly I was rehearsing my dignified victory celebrations. The day had gone perfectly. Brazenose had contributed with a witty performance of "The Teddy Bears' Picnic". This delightful tongue-in-cheek rendition only added gravitas to our own splendid effort. We had sung last. Bravely the guest judge strode up on stage before Ancaster and announced that the Teddy Bears had carried the day. Thankfully the boys had been well drilled in the sanctity of officials. The Sixth Form held their ranks stoically instead of descending on the rascal and administering the thrashing he so richly deserved. Ancaster will never win the House Unison Competition!

Thankfully, in view of our forthcoming travails in the Music Competition, we had got off to a flyer in the autumn competitions. The Y10s had quickly established themselves as a talented and resolute bunch. Genuinely gifted sportsmen such as Ali' Jones, Tim Anders and Sam Cole were ably backed up by the ever willing Farrells, Mark Palmer, David Jordan, Dom Powell and many more. They set the tone with a splendid tug-of-war competition and continued to contribute tirelessly all year.

Our most talented year is probably the Y11s of 2006/7. What a difficult decision it will be to pick a Head of House from this bunch! John Murphy and Toby Cole proved themselves to be utterly reliable in organising teams and carrying the fight on the pitch. There was barely an event in which the skilful Tom Crees or Oli Lindley did not compete. Their collective high point was probably in the hard-fought rugby 7s tournament in which Cameron Payne scored some splendid tries. Together with the Y10s they performed gallantly to secure victory in the Colts Burghley run.

After my experimentation with democracy last year, my selection of Alex Reeder as Head of House thankfully restored order. This outwardly quiet "doer" surprised many as the front man of our victorious Rock Group. The Sixth Form were truly magnificent even when on paper they seemed unlikely to prevail. Their sheer persistence wore the opposition down as was typified by the victory in the after school Y13 basketball tournament when we won by virtue of having the only squad present, Alex Isles, Alex Jordan, Chris Kaye, Liam Smith and Will Epsom all deserve a mention as they capped 4 years of service to the House with 3 terms of total commitment. Led by our inspirational skipper Johnny Fisher we also triumphed in the Y13 5-a-side competition which on paper, they had no right to win. Robert Thomas, Johnny Fisher and Tom Wallington provided the cultural heartbeat of the House as was exemplified by their victory in debating, poetry and prose. Well played gentlemen.

For the Lower Sixth competitions we had to rely upon a relatively small hardcore. Scott Jones, Owen Cooke and Oliver Joy always put their hand up, often at late notice. It is upon such stalwarts that the success of the House relies. Mark Bond, Henry Ker, Dominic Bangay and Darren Wesley (alas he has since left us!), worked tirelessly to keep our heads above water and even pulled off some notable victories such as in the Hockey tournament.

What of the opposition? Mr Mills, Mr Porteus and Mr Sawyer are fine fellows. They lead their Houses with a mixture of charm, style and grit respectively. It is tinged with regret that we had to grind them into the dust. In roughly 90 different competitions over the year, we had only come last 11 times. Therein lies our strength. We are always there and willing to compete. By Easter the game was up and in the summer a splendid Colts Athletics triumph confirmed our third successive overall victory. Even as we celebrated what could be the beginning of an Ancaster dynasty there is still a dark shadow hanging over the year. Oh those Teddy Bears! This year Alex Reeder hands over the reins to Mark Bond who now has to endure the pressure of keeping our run going. Despite Radcliffe's and Exeter's continued excellence, I think Brazenose might well present the most serious opposition. One can't underestimate a House led by Jak Garner. But can they afford another bung to the guest music judge?

### Brazenose

We may have finished fourth overall after this year's 86 Inter-House competitions, but even in the last week of the year there was little between the Houses in terms of points and all was to play for up to the final contest. As Brazenose men, we are far from being sick at our failure to lift the first place trophy, especially as the fourth place award is a cup of unsurpassed magnificence, which is the envy of the three lesser houses.

Our various year groups had mixed fortunes, but all competed keenly and in the right spirit whatever the activity. Y10s were first or second in six out of their sixteen competitions, Y11s in four out of fourteen,Y12s in four out of twelve and Y13s in three out of twelve. In the combined year groups our Colts were the most successful, being placed first or second in eight out of twelve competitions. Although Brazenose is home to a number of talented sportsmen, we do seem to suffer from a lack of depth at the senior level but, fortunately, willing volunteers can usually be found to complete our teams even if, on occasions, at the last moment.

Possibly the most pleasing whole-house achievement was to win the Unison Song competition with a spirited, well-enunciated (this was the clincher) and musical rendition of "The Teddy Bears' Picnic". As the other houses learned to their cost, quality will always win out over quantity! While on the subject of house music, I would like to make a special mention of all who participated in the Rock Group, Part Song and Ensemble: how these boys manage to find time to practise given the current overcrowded school week is a true indication of their commitment. Very well done!

It is increasingly difficult to find members of the House who are dyed in the wool non-contributors, as most boys are now willing to volunteer for at least one or two activities a term. Indeed, it is tempting to institute a special award for those who are guilty of house credit avoidance, such is its rarity. Time for the old saw, "you get out of school/life/a job what you put in".

Where House credits are concerned the following deserve special mention as the leaders in each year group: Y13 Cameron Park (68), Ben Slack (43) and Matthew Garratt (40). Y12 Jak Garner (49), Matthew Yeates (45), James Ho (43) and James Burley (41). Y11 Andrew Forsyth (44), Dominic Pollard and Chris van Niekirk (42). Y10 Sam Durrant (35), Henry Bird (29), Tom Williams (26) and Aidan Coyle (25). Ben Slack's total is all the more impressive as he only joined the House in the sixth form! A number of others are close behind. With so many activities on offer, there have been a number of memorable team and individual achievements. Some that stand out especially are Henry Bird's, Robert Burley's, Nick Reiss's and David O'Shea's sterling efforts in the Open Triathlon; Ben Slack and Andrew Holland-Jones each gaining three first places in the Senior Swimming; a splendid first place by the Senior Paarlauf team; victory in the Colts 3000m; Ben Slack's win in the Senior Burghley A race (followed immediately by his showing me what he had eaten for lunch!); Dominic Pollard's fine win in the Colts Burghley A, in which he, Josh Green, Grant Wallwork, Robert Burley and Jonjo Murphy took a remarkable five out of the first eight places and Dominic's also gaining two first places and a second on Sports Day as well as winning the Colts' pentathlon against very strong opposition. Praise must also go to Lewis Thorne who fractured his collarbone in the noble cause of Underdogs' Rugby.

Members of the House have again been highly successful in winning School prizes – Middle School awards were made to Conor Baum (English Language, Classical civilization, Music, Drama and also the Dixon prize for Singing); Alex Smith (History and Religious Studies); Daniel West (Russian and Art); Andrew Fox (Latin); Andrew Cowan (French); Matthew Au (German); Dominic Pollard (Art, and a prestigious Sixth Form Scholarship); Daniel Bell (the Timothy Williams Memorial Prize for Endeavour); Chris van Niekirk (the Shelford Prize) and Andrew Forsyth (the Packer Prize). Senior Awards went to Ben Slack (School Sports prize); Andrew Edmonds (the Jeeves Prize for Mathematics); Daniel Millichip (Spanish, Music Leadership and a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award); Tom Pitts (the Caswell Prize for Design); Matthew Wyatt (Debating); Matthew Garratt, Stuart Melton and Lewis Thorne (Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards); and James Duffin, Daniel Murphy and Cameron Park (Dolby Prizes).

In conclusion, I would like to thank: Cam Park for his tireless efforts as Head of House (always willing to step in to complete a team, he set the right kind of example to all); Ben Slack for his impressive sporting achievements for the House; Jak Garner and Edwin Williams for their active organising of Y12; Andrew Forsyth and Dominic Pollard for their success in persuading/cajoling Y11 to turn out full teams, and to all those colleagues who cheerfully volunteered to referee/umpire/officiate/supervise the multifarious activities that make up the inter-house programme.

I look forward to engaging Ancaster, Exeter and Radcliffe in good-natured battle once again in 2007-8, secure in the certain knowledge that TPJ's eagle eyes will ensure that my house points totals are never anything less than 100% accurate, NJP will again ask me for second, third, fourth and fifth copies of each week's activities list and that KJM and I will be able to continue our work on a "competitive housemaster" sketch worthy of "The Fast Show".

- 127 -

# Exeter

The competition began with two stunning victories in the tug of war competition. Both the Colts and Seniors proved once again that when it comes to sheer brute force, Exeter really do take some beating. However, our achievements weren't confined to such Neanderthal activities as tugging really hard on a piece of rope. No. We also romped home in both in the general knowledge quiz – once again, at both Colts and Senior level. Physically strong and cerebral: did you ever doubt it?

Our prowess on the sports field continued to be demonstrated with the eagerly awaited underdogs rugby competition: a mammoth effort by some of our lesser-known bruisers. Unfortunately the runaway success of our Year 13s wasn't to be replicated by either or Year 11 or Year 12 underdogs, but they too fought valiantly and were ultimately beaten by a seemingly resurgent Brazenose. We came close to victory in the Senior basketball tournament, eventually sharing the top prize with Radcliffe. The Year 10 table tennis was also shared, this time with Ancaster.

In recent years, Exeter have enjoyed less success in the unison song competition, and this year continued that unfortunate trend. Our energetic performance of Queen's 'Don't Stop Me Now' was evidently no match for Brazenose's 'Teddy Bears' Picnic'. Clearly it pays these days to go for novelty value instead of musical rigour. No sour grapes there then! Compensation did come, however, in the ensemble competition. Our folk medley, featuring some of our finest string players, proved a hit with the adjudicator and first place was assured. No prizes this year for singing, but at least we proved that we still had it in us.

The second half of the autumn term was a little patchy, although the house did find its feet once more in the Year 12 table tennis with an easy victory over clearly inferior teams and the Year 10 five-a-side in which we had to settle for a three way tie with Ancaster and Brazenose. However, our real quality was yet to show itself, and show itself it did in the rugby 7s. The Year 11s were forced to settle for third place, but the Year 10s, the Senior As and the Senior Bs all managed to upset the opposition, thus maintaining our magnificent record in this hugely popular competition. This was a hard-fought competition (certainly no teddy bears' picnic) but our true quality shone through in these three stunning victories.

Despite our obvious talent on the rugby field, the first half of the spring term was marked by victories for our Year 10 chess and shooting teams, as well as a shared first place (with Brazenose) for our Senior poker team. As ever, when the chips are down, Exeter comes up trumps! The Year 10 and 11 shooting teams also enjoyed easy victories, as did the Y13s.

Hot on the heels of these more sedentary competitions came the annual Burghley Run. This hugely anticipated event saw victory for our Senior A runners and a brave second place for the Bs. The Colts faired less successfully over all, but the fact that we managed to field pretty much a full house testified to the commitment and enthusiasm of Exeter boys.

Owing to the refurbishment of the High School pool, the swimming competition took place a little later this year, at the start of the summer term. Unfortunately, the Intermediates could only manage third place; however, the Seniors powered their way to first place in a most convincing fashion. Their stunning performance gave the house a real lift, filling the house with optimism and a sense that we could seriously chase Ancaster, who were, it has to be said, looking pretty invincible.

Our dominance of the pre-Sports Day track events seemed to suggest that a late recovery might after all be possible with successive wins in the Paarlauf and the 3000m at in both Colts and Seniors. Mr Jones was beginning to look a little more often in his rear-view mirror, particularly as Ancaster could only muster a rather unconvincing second place in these events. The stage was now set for a memorable showdown on Sports Day. Unfortunately, and despite our cracking start to the athletics season, victory was not to be ours. We did, however, manage to take second place in both Colts and Seniors, but it wasn't enough to catch up with the red house: they just had too many points.

Radcliffe narrowly pipped us to second place overall, but it was a result which did not reflect the stunning individual performances and team spirit which characterised this year's competition.

# Radcliffe

The year started with confirmation of the appointments of Head of House as Tom Mackinnon and Deputy Heads of House, Tejas Ingle (Culture) and Oliver Flaxman (Sports). Last year we finished the competition in second place behind Ancaster, having consolidated and reinforced our standing as "NOT just the house that only does well in the house music competition" – although we did do particularly well in that! Whether we could repeat the wide range of successes we enjoyed last year remained to be seen.

I have to be honest and say we did not get off to a great start. The performances of Radcliffe in the autumn term's sporting competitions although keen, were not generally ones which yielded victory - a second place in the Y10 tug of war was the best we could muster in the first few weeks. However, things did get better with wins in the Y12 quiz and a joint first in the Y12 basketball. Perhaps we were just "the house that only does well in the house music competition" after all!! Speaking of which.........!

The House Rock the night before the competition is always an "entertaining" evening, but this time it really was - you could actually make out the melody in some of the performances and most of the songs were really well performed. Bramley, Ingle, Mogg and Drake represented Radcliffe, and acquitted themselves brilliantly - the highlight for me being their arrangement of "Wonderful World". I have to say on the night, I thought Exeter were very impressive - their "Sweet Home, Alabama" was great ..... so why Ancaster won I have no idea. Still, we were placed a very creditable second. The next day, of course, was the music competition and we were on after Brazenose. They performed "The Teddy Bears' Picnic" as their unison song, and I thought we could definitely do better - our practice in the gym beforehand was magnificent, and I was quietly confident. When it came to it, however, our rendition of "Oklahoma", conducted very well by Tejas Ingle, was good... but not as good as it could have been, but it was still better (in my opinion) than you know what! Our part song, a demanding arrangement of "Pretty Woman", however, was almost faultless and would be very difficult to beat. Our trio of performances was completed with our ensemble piece - a mellow version of "Heard it through the grapevine" played by Lewis, Ingle, Graham and Hammant. Exeter followed, which included a particularly good ensemble, and Ancaster's unison song "One" was a clear winner for the unison......or so I thought. There was much cheering from Brazenose when they were announced as winners of the unison song – the teddy bears had done it! We were rightly placed second, but (again in my opinion) it should have been behind Ancaster. No such disappointment ensued with the part song for which we were awarded first place. A second place behind Exeter for the ensemble secured lots of well needed points.....Oh no!....we ARE the house that only does well in the house music competition!

We had mixed fortunes for rest of the autumn term which only yielded victories in Y11 and Y13 table tennis. By the end of the term we were in a disappointing third place behind Ancaster and Exeter - but we did not let that damp our spirits as we enjoyed the traditional Radcliffe Christmas Dinner at The Balti Hut and listened to our winning part song – albeit, sung not quite as well as it was on the day.

The spring term started well with wins in Y10 chess, Y11 hockey, Y12 squash and Y13 badminton. This was followed by further victories in Y10 badminton, Y13 squash, and we even won the seniors Burghley Run B competition. All this time we were closing on Exeter and by the end of the spring term had overtaken them and secured a clear second place in the overall competition.

The summer term, uncharacteristically for Radcliffe, got off to a great start with some excellent performances in the house swimming, with the colts winning their competition, which included a school record-breaking swim by Will Cooper.

The sound performances continued through the term including wins for the Y10 volleyball and colts pentathlon team. A second place in the colts athletics competition consolidated our second place, which is where we finished the year. Congratulations, again, to Mr Jones and Ancaster for winning the overall competition. Thanks must go to my Head of House and Deputy Heads for their help and support, and of course to all members of the house who represented Radcliffe this year. Thanks also to Mr Sawyer, Mr Mills and Mr Jones for their camaraderie and professionalism – my fellow housemasters continue to be a contributing factor in making the job so enjoyable!

NJP

# Cecil

Early days are nervous. The tug-o'-war is spread over two lunchtimes, and the new boys watch as the Y8 and Y9 events announce the onset of yearly competition. Willoughby were victorious in all three year groups last year, and as Cecil lined up opposite I hoped that the youngsters would not witness quick defeat. As my hand dropped, it was pleasing to see the Y8 boys literally pulling together and revenging last year's defeat. The Y9 boys, however, could not replicate the success, and surprisingly failed to win any of their pulls. The Y7 boys, suitably informed and prepared, stepped onto their tugging marks the following week and enjoyed a win against St. Paul's.

Next it was time to exercise the mind. For me, the General Knowledge competition is as nerve-wracking as any during the year, and as last year's winners, even more pressure was on the team. Following trials, Michael Patterson and Amardeep Bhaker retained their places, and Edward Wignall beat his Y7 colleagues to complete the team.

The first match was won comfortably by 420-250. In the next St. Peter's had the better of the final questions, but this contest mirrored the first, and the score was 430-190 to Cecil. The expected trophy decider against Willoughby was quite extraordinary. At around the half-time point, Willoughby held a lead of 190-20, but just ten minutes later the score stood at 220-220. A point-of-order was made after the scores were checked at 270-260 in favour of Willoughby: Cecil had not been offered the final question following an incorrect answer. Mr. Wilkes suggested a re-match, but, following such a closely fought contest, it did not seem the appropriate thing to do and the score stood.

The Y9 boys had begun their indoor football competition with a draw and a win against St. Paul's, while the Y7 and 8 rugby players had been on the field for practices before their first matches. The first round of matches was a disappointment. St. Peter's enjoyed a hat-trick of victories. The Cecil 1st XV failed to score, but Gus Youles did earn a consolation score for the Heavies. Taylor Irving provided more detailed notes of the Lights match, and he wrote of a spirited second half performance during which Edward Wignall and Tim Webb scored six tries between them. Unfortunately, St. Peter's scored eight.

Against Willoughby, the Heavies secured the first victory. A close match was won 30-25, and was notable for Michael Horrell's five tries. The  $1^{st}$  XV managed to score a try, but lost 5-17, while the Lights were again reliant on Wignall and Webb for their tries in a 15-30 defeat.

The Heavies were still in with a chance of winning their competition. Some illness stretched resources for this final round and the Lights suffered particularly, losing 5-60. Michael Horrell again used his speed to run in four tries as the Heavies beat St. Paul's 30-20. Jamie Porter and Kieran Arthur also scored in this game, and the St. Peter's versus Willoughby result was awaited eagerly. It was a 25-25 draw, and so, following the poor first round, Cecil had a trophy to collect from the rugby.

The 'sevens' afternoon is always frantic, with six matches often being played concurrently. As the results arrived for collation, I was pleased to see three wins and two draws for the Cecil teams.

The Y9 hockey took the form of two semi-finals and a final this year. Cecil defeated St. Paul's 2-0 in their semi-final, and, once again, were to face Willoughby for the trophy. GAB reported that Willoughby missed a flick as Cecil won 1-0.

The merits competition was totted up and checked carefully. As it involves every boy in every House, double points are awarded. Cecil boys earned 1720 merits during the term at an average of 25.8 merits per boy. Alex Crowley was top earner with 85 as we secured this trophy. The final assembly revealed that Cecil were not far behind Willoughby in the House competition.

### Spring Term

The music practices began. NST offered to oversee the Cecil efforts, and, with sing-throughs each House meeting, the volume was increasing. 'Downtown' was this year's Set Song.

The final rehearsal was promising, and I hoped that this would inspire a spirited performance. Firstly, the ensemble boys were to perform. Their 'Shoehorn Blues' impressed the adjudicator. Edward Wignall conducted effectively, and he was congratulated at the end of the competition for his two earlier successes in individual classes. Following the ensembles, the boys stood to begin the singing. As the familiar introductory notes of 'Downtown' rang out, I waited for the wave of noise from voices. On this occasion it was only a pleasant ripple, and I wondered how it would compare to the other louder renditions. 'Congratulations' was a little more confident, but still not as boisterous as some practices. Perhaps I was not overly surprised to hear the adjudicator juggle a little bit of praise with a lot of advice.

Immediately on the boys' return from half term the football took place. Willoughby overwhelmed our 1st and  $2^{nd}$  XI teams 7-0 and 4-0 respectively. The Y9 'A' team earned some revenge, however, by beating Willoughby 'B' team 2-0.

The second round of matches were shared with St. Peter's. This busy week continued with the table tennis teams beginning their defence of the trophies with victories by 26-16 in the 'A' team and 30-6 in the 'B' team. To complete the week, the Y9'B' team footballers lost 1-2 to St. Peter's 'A' and the chess team 2-3 to St. Paul's.

The following week was equally busy for the boys. There was further success in table tennis and chess, with 28-18 and 28-15 wins for the table tennis teams against St. Peter's, and a 3-2 victory on the chess boards against the same opponents.

Burghley Park was as attractive as ever for the spectators of the Burghley Run, and the first hill as threatening as ever for the runners. Once again, the favourites won the year-group races, but Cecil boys bunched well to earn second place in each of the overall year-group competitions.

As the term drew to a close, the table tennis teams faced Willoughby in their final matches and won by 30-4 in the 'A' team and 30-13 in the 'B' team. There was slight disappointment in the 2-3 defeat against Willoughby in the chess – if the match could have been delayed by a couple of minutes to allow for those slightly late, the result could have been different. Despite this disappointment Alex Moss and Edward Wignall remained unbeaten throughout. Further disappointment was felt in defeats for the football teams. Perhaps the most galling was the Y9 result – a loss suffered by the 'A' team against St. Peter's 'B' team.

Y9 rugby boasts some fine players, and the House competition would be closely fought. Ultimately, yet another decider against Willoughby was lost in overtime.

Cecil boasted a number of young players for the Y7-8 hockey. Having lost to the favourites St. Paul's in a semi-final, the team outplayed Willoughby to finish third.

Despite it being a much shorter term, the boys still earned 1443 merits at an average of 22.2 merits per boy: enough (just) to retain the trophy. Oliver Keeling was top earner this term with 71.

Having collated all of the term's results, the gap between ourselves and Willoughby had increased just a little bit.

### Summer Term

To begin with, the ACT competition was the focus. With a range of categories, the hope is that everyone can contribute something. Most Cecil boys did, and Jamie Serjeant's near life-size dalek provided evidence of what can be achieved.

Always popular, the competition would not succeed without the help of the art department in displaying pictures and photographs, and the other judges. The cooking/baking was enjoyed, and, at the end of the day, many of the cakes were sold for charity and  $\pounds 60$  was raised. Ultimately, the Cecil boys excelled in this competition and won all three year-group competitions. Taylor Irving, Michael Horrell, Oliver Keeling, Michael Patterson and Calum Storey earned the most points towards the House total.

Cricket practices took place, teams were picked and, remarkably, the House matches were uninterrupted by the elements. BDB took over the umpiring duties this year but oversaw a 45 run defeat at the hands of Willoughby. Gus Youles and Ben Lovell batted with promise, but it was not enough. The 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII earned an excellent 19 run win the same afternoon.

There was a similar pattern to the results against St. Peter's: another promising opening partnership was not enough to prevent defeat in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI contest, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII again earned victory. Unfortunately, the final round of matches was a disappointment with two defeats, which left the 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII sharing their competition with Willoughby.

The Y9 competition was badly affected by the unseasonable weather, and the competition involved bowl-offs in order to complete matches. The competition had three joint winners – one of which was Cecil.

Happily, the weather was fine for the sports, which followed prizegiving. A number of Cecil boys were presented with prizes by Alexander Armstrong during the morning.

There were fewer empty lanes this year, although one or two boys were busy winning field events and missed the gun for one on the track. Cecil enjoyed a fair share of success and finished second overall. Individual winners during the afternoon included Ben Lovell, Jamie Porter, William Bacon and Michael Horrell, Charlie Kay, Joe Harrap, Craig Felston, Jacob Leighton and Edward Fitzgerald.

Filling in the gaps for the swimming team is not always easy. Sadly, this meant that one or two races towards the beginning of the swimming gala did not boast a Cecil entrant. Despite this, there were outstanding efforts and performances. As the results were read out, there was a feeling of inevitability when KJM announced that there was just one point separating first and second. We came second.

In a term of fewer merits, Cecil earned 610 at an average of 9.4 per boy. This was comfortably the highest average, and it was therefore very pleasing to announce the hat-trick of wins during the final assembly of the year. Michael Horrell was top earner this term with 55.

My tenure as Housemaster of Cecil comes to a close after four years. It has been a pleasure to oversee the development of many young greens, and I wish Mr Bates – and the remaining boys, of course – all success as they begin a new attempt to ease the overall trophy from Willoughby. Yes, Willoughby did win it again, but the margin of victory was cut by twenty points. This time, the winds of change really do seem louder.

# St Paul's

### **Autumn Term**

The rugby House matches dominated the Autumn term and the boys turned out regularly on Wednesday lunch times under the guidance of Mr. Milner in preparation for some tough competition. Although the A team lost the first round against Willoughby they were, however, able to fulfil their potential in the remaining two games, winning both convincingly and achieving a creditable second place overall. Special mention goes to Dan Wiggin, the captain, and to Justin Bland for standing in as captain against St. Peter's and for scoring so many tries! The B and C teams mirrored the A team's results, both recording victories against Cecil and St. Peter's. Special mention goes to Michael Dinwoodie the B team captain, who was ably assisted by Alex Emerson and also to Adam Wilson, the C team captain, who scored 5 tries against Cecil!

The year nines play hockey in the autumn and St. Paul's, after some competitive matches, took 3rd place on penalty strokes. Thanks go to all the team: Giulio Montaque, Ben Brookes, Oliver Fountaine, Josh Dominguez, Josh White, Chris House, Chris Shatford, Anurag Kumar, Brandon Heard, and Ben Cave.

The General Knowledge competition is a long-standing fixture for the Autumn term and once again the teams faced each other in the LMS library under the watchful guidance of the quizmaster, Mr. Wilkes. Sadly this was not to be our year to triumph but thanks go to Chris House, Michael Dinwoodie and Ben Ellis for representing the House in what always proves to be a thoroughly enjoyable event.

### Spring Term

The first half of the Spring term was dominated by rehearsals for the music competition. This year's set song, 'Downtown', presented quite a challenge but as in previous years St. Paul's were equal to the task. Having won the set song, however, our performance of the Stamford School song was a little below par on the day. Many thanks to the members of the ensemble who produced a memorable performance of 'Jammin' with Charlie' after several extra lunchtime practices: Ben Rimmer, Michael Dinwoodie, Matthew Jeffrey, Simon Taylor, Charles Page-Morris, Thomas Oakes, Chris Chew and Jo Craig. Thanks also go to James Bramley from year 11 for his help in rehearsing the songs and for standing in at the last minute to play the drums with the ensemble.

The year 7 and 8 football kicked off activities for the second half of term with the teams facing St. Peter's in the first round and Willoughby in the second. The Burghley Run followed and special mention goes to Ted Cliffe, Archie Davies, Tom Taylor, Zac Pywell, Hayden Young and Andrew Patterson - the best two placed runners for the House in their respective year groups. The final round of football against Cecil ended with a win for St. Paul's in both teams – special thanks to Frazer Collett for captaining the A team and to Adam Wilson, the B team captain.

The House chess competition takes place in the Spring term and thanks go to the team, Chris House, Anurag Kumar, Brandon Heard, Michael Dinwoodie and Zac Pywell for representing the House, although unfortunately the winner's trophy eluded them this year.

The final activity for the Spring term was the year 7 and 8 hockey which, I am pleased to report, St. Paul's won convincingly. Special thanks to their captain, Adam Wilson.

### **Summer Term**

The 'ACT' competition has recently become the main focus for the beginning of the Summer term and once again I was delighted by the number and variety of entries made by St. Paul's boys. There was too much on display to mention in any detail here but I would like to congratulate Chris House, Andrew Patterson, Oliver Perkins, Zac Pywell and Ben Ellis for their outstanding contributions to this competition.

There was a genuine enthusiasm amongst the St. Paul's boys to get involved with the cricket teams and I was delighted by the positive and supportive way in which the boys prepared for the House matches. Alex Emerson led the first XI and showed outstanding leadership both in the actual matches and in the practices

on Wednesday lunchtimes. A creditable second place over all mirrored the results in several of the other competitions in the preceding terms, the red house frustrating our efforts once again!

The Y9s played a tennis tournament and cricket matches against the other houses, both very closely contested competitions, to round off the year. Thanks to Adjwad Jabbar and Ben Brooks for their organisation of the cricket team and congratulations to Chris House, Ben Brooks, Ben Cave, Ben Rimmer, Will Dooley, Andrew Patterson and Josh White for their dominant performance in the tennis, losing out to Willoughby by the narrowest of margins.

The athletics and swimming round off the calendar of events for the junior houses and my thanks go to all involved (which is most of the House!). I would like to mention Tom Taylor, Dan Wiggin and Oliver Fountaine for outstanding performances in their respective athletics events, Tom Taylor, Zac Pywell and Sam Clulow for some outstanding swims and Alexander Morgan of year 7, who won the diving competition for his age group.

The final House meeting of the year was devoted to the presentation of the bronze, silver and gold award badges. In addition to awards made earlier in the year, nine boys had recorded the 30 credits required for a gold award, ten received their silver and thirteen bronze badges were presented, testimony to the excellent level of commitment to House activities from St. Paul's boys.

DLe

# St Peter's

It is a pleasure to be involved in St Peter's House once more. I am sure that all of the boys in the house, both past and present, would want me to thank Mr Bucknell for his efforts and dedication to the house cause.\_

### Autumn Term

The year got off to a good start with the Year 7s putting in an admirable performance in order to win the tug of war for their year. The other two year groups performed exceptionally well, but not well enough to win the overall trophy. This was, however, a promising start to the year.

The year 7 and 8 Rugby competition was always going to be a hard fought affair. The other teams were rightly worried about the damage that our boys could inflict. Tom Gulland, Jack Chisholm, Tom Williams and Guy Sinker proved that their fears were well founded with some dominating performances. Despite winning the opening game, an unfortunate slip and a hard fought draw meant that a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish was all that could be achieved. The most notable aspect of the team's performance was the ability of the year 7s that made it into the A team. This is very promising for next year! The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Xs were equally impressive, and matched the A team with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. The rugby 7s was to follow a similar pattern - great promise for next year if not great results this year.

Success in the general knowledge competition continues to elude us this year. Thanks go to Nick McPherson (captain), Matthew Pennill and Jordan Sims for representing the house in this competition even if we only managed 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Meanwhile, our Y9 hockey team fought valiantly on the Astroturf. Despite their 4<sup>th</sup> place finish these boys showed true heart throughout the competition.

At the end of a disappointing term, we were hoping for success in the merit competition. Unfortunately a lacklustre effort saw another trophy slip from our grasp and another 4<sup>th</sup> place finish. At the end of the Autumn term St Peter's were lying in a disappointing 4<sup>th</sup> place overall.

### Spring Term

The Spring term is crammed full of house activity. The year 7 and 8 footballers rushed off to an amazing start with easy victory after easy victory. Jonathan Williams and Fred Forest were gunning for the trophy. However, the final match against Willoughby proved to be a little too much for the team and they lost a tense match and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. This good form continued into the Table Tennis competition with the A team finishing an excellent 2<sup>nd</sup> and our B team 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Burghley Run is an event when everyone can really make a difference and it is the house with the most get up and go that will win. The Year 7s can hold their heads up and be proud of their efforts with the Tom Gulland, Harry Bullimore and Tom Williams all impressing as they finished in 1st place. Unfortunately the other year groups fell by the wayside and finished last.

Thankfully the music competition was there to save the day. It took hard work from all involved, and a superb 2<sup>nd</sup> place was the result in both the set song and the house song.

The spring term also saw the Y9 rugby competition. Unfortunately, players dropped out of the team left, right and centre using a variety of excuses but the true heart of some players shone through and for this they must be commended despite their 4<sup>th</sup> place finish.

Our Y7/8 hockey team found themselves up against formidable opponents in their competition, but they got off to an excellent start. Their determination to succeed was admirable and they were unlucky not to bring home the trophy, finishing  $2^{nd}$  overall. Special mention should go to Aidan Jones (playing for only the second time in goal), Henry Ricketts, Oliver Anand and Guy Sinker.

The chess competition was eagerly awaited as again we felt that St Peter's had a strong chance of victory. However despite some fine individual performances we could not manage to finish higher than 4<sup>th</sup> place.

The year 9s took to the football pitch determined to claim glory for themselves and glory it was. A fine victory in the B team tournament and a strong 2<sup>nd</sup> place meant that the Year 9s could hold their heads up high.

Spirits were a lot higher than they had been at the end of the autumn term as had achieved our first victory. The merit trophy was still eluding us, but an improved performance saw us move up into 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

### Summer Term

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The ACT competition has long been a favourite of St Peter's. It is a competition based on a variety of skills, but also on effort and many times in the various categories it was the house with the most entries that took away the most points despite the fact that they may not have secured first place in their category. This was to prove our downfall once more. Overall we finished 4<sup>th</sup>, a fair way behind the other houses. This was very disappointing as the House has so much promise, but fails to deliver.

The Saturday athletics sports competition is rightly regarded as one of the premier house events of the year. A common theme to our success or failure has arisen over the year. This is effort. When we have it we win, and when we don't, we don't. Some of the younger boys in the house tried their very hardest and you can ask nothing more than that, and hopefully this bodes well for the fortunes of St Peter's in future years, especially the Year 7 boys who finished in  $1^{st}$  place. However, the reluctance and overall lack of effort from the year 8 and 9 boys meant that a last place finish was the best we could manage in both year groups.

The cricket competition was an explosive event. Hopes were again high for an impressive performance from St Peters. Unfortunately our strength did not run deep and we were only able to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Year 7 and 8 1<sup>st</sup> XI, joint 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Year 7 and 8 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII and last in the Year 9 competition.

Tension had been mounting yet again in the merit competition and, finally, we were able to see if we could up our game and carry on the recent resurgence in this area. However, Cecil was able to push on at the end and win fairly comfortably, and St Peters fell back into the old routine and a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish.

So, finally, to the swimming sports, another event where our hopes were high as the swimming pool roof. In this competition a few St Peters members performed exceptionally well and these deserve special thanks: Guy Sinker, Matthew Pennill, Oliver Herd and Nick Mcpherson. Although we only finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall, these boys can be proud of their contributions.

DLS

## Willoughby

September arrives, and the magnitude of my task ahead hits me. I have been given the privilege of running a Junior House. And not just any Junior House, but that of the mighty Red Army - Willoughby. Previously in the capable hands of the competitive and experienced Mr Pike, the House had flourished and was known to be formidable and daunting competition. In preparing for my first house meeting, I realise I have a lot to live up to, and worry if I will be able to rise to the challenge. After meeting the boys, I realise my worries are unfounded; they are positive, helpful and enthusiastic, allaying my fears and assuring me they will show me the ropes. And that they do!

We begin the year well, winning the overall trophy for the Tug o' War, aided greatly by an outstanding performance from the Y9 team. Captained and anchored magnificently by George Wrigley-Pheasant, we win all the pulls, showing superb teamwork. Our success rolls forward in the General Knowledge Competition, where Robin Virgo, Jack Milner and Richard Eldred display an impressive acquaintance with trivia! Half term arrives, and my real challenge begins: rugby. I am not, as some may be aware, an authority in this field! However, with the invaluable help of Mr Jones, Toby Cole, John Murphy and Matthew Outen, we put together three strong teams. The A team, captained by Joe Nolan, is an indomitable force, strengthened by performances from Jabari Weekes, Louis Grimoldby and Tom Pritchard. The B and C teams, with Edward Large and Max Goff captaining (respectively), prove our talent runs through the house, and we are proud and deserving winners of the trophies. The Year 9 pupils, playing in a highly competitive football tournament, unfortunately lose, but their display of exceptional team spirit and grace in defeat, show them to be valiant competitors. Our fabulous autumn term is rounded off with our annual trip to the bowling alley, where boys show their competitive streak yet again in their aim to create the most amusing "bowling names" and beat the staff! Few succeed!

The spring term begins; the shortest term, yet the busiest. As I look at the list of competitions (table tennis, chess, cross country), I realise that persuading the boys to sing enthusiastically, while smiling, is going to be no mean feat! After giving some serious thought to the type of song necessary, we decide upon the Manfred Man classic, Doo Wah Diddy, and hope that its catchy beat may help. Not only do the boys do us proud, with their cheerful demeanour and accurate memories for lyrics, they also look so smart that they pocket the prize for presentation, as well as the prize for their chosen song! They continue with their efforts, playing well in the chess and table tennis competitions, and running through the wind and pain to success in Y8 and Y9 in the Burghley Run, with notable performances from Tristan Roper-Caldbeck and Louis Grimoldby.

Summer arrives, with cricket matches, athletics and swimming to look forward to. We also have the ACT competition, where boys display an array of talents, including photography, model making and baking. A number of wonderful efforts are evident, most notably Angus Smith and Aiden Steele, with numerous outstanding entries. As a Housemistress, I am unfortunately prevented from being on the cake-tasting team this year and can only look on, drooling, at some of the astounding creations, including Josh Harries' "Brain cake"!

The cricket competition approaches, and, yet again, my inexperience looms. Fortunately, Jordan Clarke and Louis Grimoldby step up, guide me through the rules, and help me put together the teams. We display, yet again, an amazing amount of talent, and win both the A and B competitions. With swimming, I feel a little more confident; Mr Pike helps me run trials, and we are able to select a strong team. The day arrives, and although we are a man down, thankfully Sam Middlebrook steps up, swims well, and we storm the competition...(by 1 point!)....A perfect example of the teamwork of which Willoughby is so proud. A key sporting event remains: Sports Day. The rain holds off, and we have a wonderful day, with some fantastic performances, including: Harry Dennis in the hurdles, Sunny Kong in the 400m, Louis Grimoldby in the 400m and 800m, Tristan Roper-Caldbeck in the 1500m, Nathan Graham in the 100m and 200m, Sam Andrew in the discus, and the Y9 relay team, consisting of Tom Mitchell, James Hounslow, Nathan Graham and Sam Andrew. We are thrilled with our performances, and feel justified in winning the overall trophy.

In the final assembly of the year, we are pipped to the post in the Merit competition, and wait with trepidation to hear the final result of the House Competition.....Is there really any doubt? We are the "keen, mean, fighting machine", and hold on to the overall trophy for yet another year. I am so proud of all the boys in Willoughby, who work so hard and tirelessly to make our house such a positive, supportive and encouraging environment. They not only look after each other, but also after me, and I appreciate their kindness and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to another successful year. The challenge? To build upon our strong history of success, while remaining ambitious and positive.





Stamford School student Calum Ogg has been awarded the title "Best Young Photographer in Scotland".

Calum, a boarder whose home is near Glasgow, won the Scottish regional round of a national on-line competition run by the photo imaging company, Getty Images. He now competes against the winners of the other regions for the overall national title and the prize of a day working with one of Getty's own professional photographers.

Calum's winning entry was a set of three landscape photos taken during the summer in the Scottish Highlands and near Loch Lomond. They can be viewed on his website www.calumogg.co.uk, along with other impressive examples of his work.

Landscape photography is Calum's great passion. "Landscapes appeal to me," he says, " because they portray natural beauty from areas that others may not see in their lifetime."

Following his Sixth Form studies in Geography, Photography and Business Studies, Calum plans to take a degree course in Photography at a Scottish university, followed by a career in professional photography.





# Outstanding Achievement William Huyton Tennis

From very early on it was obvious that William enjoyed playing games with a ball and was naturally coordinated with kicking, throwing, catching etc. As soon as he was old enough he joined in and had a go at football, golf, tennis and any other sporting activity on offer. Although he enjoyed playing football for local teams he would get rather annoyed when certain players wanted all the glory and would never pass to their team mates. I think this is partly why he enjoyed the tennis so much because it was all down to the individual. We started off at Stamford Tennis Club twice a week then one of the coaches John Rudd suggested if we wanted to take the tennis a bit more seriously he could arrange for us to go to Hills Road in Cambridge (where at that time the County tennis was run from) and have a trial to see if William was good enough to be invited to attend squads there.

Consequently since William was 8 we have been going down to Cambridge firstly twice a week then three times and from September 2007 he will be attending 4 times a week for a mixture of Individual coaching, squads with other players of similar or better ability, and fitness sessions. The Lawn Tennis Association now make tennis available to youngsters through their many Performance Centres around the country of which 19 are High Performance Centres where the children with the most potential get fed into from other local centres. Hills Road at Cambridge gained High Performance status just over a year ago which is great news for William as better coaching and facilities are made available.

Through the LTA you are given a rating when you reach the age of 10 years old and the aim is to raise your rating by winning matches in tournaments.



There are 2 rating runs every year. As a junior your rating will either stay the same or go up. It can only go down when you become an adult player. As well as a rating you get ranking points also and the aim here is to get as many as you can. The LTA counts your best 6 lots of points over a rolling 12 month period. The tournaments are all graded and the higher the grade of tournament the more points there are available to win.

From the age of 9 William was entering tournaments. There is only a referee over seeing the whole tournament so the children have to score the matches themselves so they have to stay very focused. The first rating the child is given is 10.2 and William has steadily climbed the rating ladder so that he is now a 7.2 and we are hoping he may go up to a 7.1 at the end of September. He is currently lying 7th nationally in his age group of 12 and under boys which is a fantastic achievement and mainly due to his hard work since breaking up for the summer holiday at the beginning of July.

At the beginning of the summer William was lying 19th nationally in his age group but then went up to Edinburgh to play in the Scottish Junior Open Championships where he won the tournament and gained 750 ranking points as it was a Grade 2 tournament.



We were all thrilled as it was William's biggest win so far and he brought home a big trophy with previous winners' names including Andy Murray when he was 12. The following week we were at a Grade 3 tournament in Huddersfield which William also won bringing home a huge shield and 250 points. Solihull International tournament followed but William was knocked out in the third or fourth round in the singles but he did win the doubles tournament with a Scottish boy called Euan who he had become friends with on the circuit.

William then managed a week's holiday in Cornwall body boarding before going to the Bournemouth Open. He had a good week and got into the final but unfortunately was runner up. Still a great achievement though. Back home then for two weeks of practice and lessons before the Nationals started. The Nationals are the only Grade 1 tournament of the Summer. You cannot enter it, you have to either be one of the top 16 to get straight into it or qualify at numerous qualifying events around the country on the weekend before. Fortunately because William had done so well this summer earlier on we got a Wild Card into the main draw and did not have to qualify so off we went to Bournemouth for another week. There was all the different age groups playing over the week. William won his first match which was great. Nobody likes to go out in the first round but then he came up against Evan Hoyt who is ranked 4th in the country and a good strong player. William lost but he did put up a good fight and played well, especially in the second set.

Back home again for last tournament of the Summer – the County Closed. Every county has their own Grade 3 tournament the same week where you can only enter if you reside in the county. William was defending his 12 and Under title from 2006 and he managed to do so. All in all William has had a very successful season with his tennis and we hope this will continue with the Winter Indoor Series that starts at the end of September when he will move into the 14 and Under age group.





# Music

Review of the Final Concert of the Stamford International Music Festival

This concert was billed as the "Best of the Festival" and it fulfilled and surpassed the promise of its title. Having heard nearly all the festival concerts, I knew that there would be supremely polished performances given with utmost commitment by students and teachers alike. The programme began with an exquisite, poised performance of a movement from Mozart's "Kegelstatt" trio by festival leader Andrew Smith (violin), Sven Arne-Tepl (viola) and Wayman Chin (piano). This set the tone for a long and varied programme in which all the students had an opportunity to shine. There was a significant number of wind players at this year's festival including SES pupils Charli Ashton (flute) and Alex Hammant (bassoon) and former SES pupil, Emily McGregor (violin). They each made their own impressive contributions to the evening's music making in music by Brahms, Gaubert and Rimsky-Korsakov. A musical highlight of the evening, for me, was a blissful performance of Vaughan-Williams' "Phantasy" Quintet, imbued with an essential, pastoral Englishness. The grand finale was a richly romantic performance of two movements from Brahms' String Sextet in B flat major, given by members of the teaching faculty.

It was an incredible privilege to hear music making of such professionalism and musical insight on our doorsteps, and the substantial audience obviously shared my enthusiastic enjoyment. We can only wish Dr Andrew Smith continuing success in future years and look forward eagerly to next year's festival.

David Lovell Brown

Malcolm Sargeant Concert 2007

Since the death of Sir Malcolm Sargent forty years ago, the town has celebrated his memory with a special concert. Now held every three years, it combines the Stamford Endowed Schools Choral Society and the Stamford Choral Society. By chance, the conductor of both choirs is the SES Director of Music thus making this joint collaboration more convenient. Sir Malcolm, apart from having been an Old Boy of Stamford School also conducted the Stamford Choral Society at one time

The concert is now usually held in Peterborough Cathedral, but this year it was held in the Broadway Theatre, Peterborough. The two choirs, a large professional orchestra and a team of international solo singers combined to give a performance of Verdi's *Requiem*.

This concert was the first to employ the newly re-structured SES Choral Society, comprising students, staff and parents. About 55 members of the choir combined with another 150 singers from the Stamford Choral Society in the performance.

The soloists were Claire Seaton (soprano), Victoria Simmonds (mezzo soprano), Daniel Norman (tenor) and Paul Keohone (bass baritone). The Chameleon Arts Orchestra was led by Simon Baggs.

It could well be that this event needs rethinking in the light of the packed school day and the difficulty of gathering together over a hundred 6<sup>th</sup> formers (as it used to be) to form the Choral Society. I am sure those members of the school who participated this year will have found the experience thrilling and memorable, but such a grand occasion demands more input from the Endowed Schools and I do hope that a way of working with more SES students is facilitated in the coming years.

### P. J. White

### First Orchestra

The First Orchestra meets each Wednesday after school to prepare for two annual public performances, the first of which is the Autumn Concert in November. This year the repertoire for the Autumn Concert was drawn from the movies, with energetic renditions of the eponymous theme from the James Bond movie 'Live and Let Die' and 'Axel F' from Beverley Hills Cop, featuring an impressive bass guitar solo by Matthew Jones.

The main event, however, is the First Orchestra Concert which this year took place in May at Stamford School. As part of the celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stamford's designation as a conservation town, the programme opened with a world premiere performance of 'Dawn over Stamford Meadows' by our very own Mr. Taylor. This was an excellent opportunity for the players to experience first hand the preparation and performance of a contemporary work and the orchestra's realisation of Mr. Taylor's vision for the piece was well received by the audience.

There followed three performances by year 13 boys who, having auditioned earlier in the year, had the opportunity to perform solos with the orchestra. Daniel Millichip gave an accomplished performance of the first movement of Weber's clarinet concerto no.1, demonstrating his impressive command of the instrument, for which he had already achieved the AGSMD diploma. Toby Coaker performed the second movement from Beriot's violin concerto no 9, an 'adagio' movement which was sensitive, lyrical and demonstrated Toby's considerable technical and musical control of the violin. The third year 13 performer was Robert Thomas, singing 'Madamina! Il catalogo e questo' from Don Giovanni by Mozart. There is no doubt that Robert is an exceptional baritone and his vocal skills are equally matched by his stage presence and ability to command an audience's attention. All three were highly accomplished performances and testimony to the considerable commitment to music that Daniel, Toby and Robert have shown during their time at Stamford School. It would be remiss of me not to mention the work of the orchestra in rehearsing for the concerto performances and their sensitive accompaniment.

The second half of the programme was a performance of three movements from Dvorak's symphony no 9, subtitled 'From the New World'. 'Ambitious' was one adjective that came to mind when the programme was announced but, never one to shirk a challenge, Mr. Taylor ensured that this was a truly outstanding and memorable rendition that ranked alongside the best of the First Orchestra's performances in recent times. For many school orchestras, to perform one movement from such a work would be an achievement, but to perform three was highly impressive. None of this would have been possible without Mr. Taylor's energy and sheer hard work in rehearsals and it is appropriate that I take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of all the members of the First Orchestra.

D Leetch





### Chapel Choir

The year 2006-7 represented the second year of the newly-formed SES choir, now comprising students from all three of the Stamford Endowed Schools, as well as considerable staff membership too.

Maintaining the Anglican tradition of music for worship is not always easy, given the complexities of some of the music, and the need for regular long practices. The choir is to be commended for maintaining its good record for punctuality and attendance at weekly rehearsals. There are not too many students who volunteer to join an activity which involves meeting at 10 a.m. on a Sunday for a long rehearsal followed by a full service!

We were blessed this year with a particularly able set of voices at all levels. I would like to think there is a connection between some of the Y13 boys who sang tenor and bass in the choir and the fact that they all won places at Oxford and Cambridge. Particularly pleasing too was the improvement in the quality of the soprano tone - not easy across such a wide spectrum of ages and abilities.

The choir sang at Sunday services throughout the year, including the Commemoration Service and the Confirmation Service. Other functions included the Advent Carol Service and the SES Carol Services. The choir even sang at the Autumn Concert (a jazzy Rutter anthem entitled *The Heav'nly Aeroplane*). There were two memorable trips: one to Wadham College, Oxford, to join the college choir for the Remembrance Day service, and the other trip to New York (see Mr Dawson's account).

Singing in an historic Oxford College is bound to be evocative, especially when the whole proceedings are still conducted purely by candle-light. The sound of Ireland's anthem *Greater love hath no man"* was wonderfully impressive as was Stanford's setting in C of the *Magnificat*.

My memories of the New York trip are many and varied, but they include a lovely lunch-time recital by the choir in the Grace Church on Broadway, an enthusiastic audience at the Hotchkiss School, Connecticut where we gave a varied concert, an early morning appearance by the choir on coast to coast American breakfast TV and a most delightful meal with our 6<sup>th</sup> formers in a restaurant on Broadway ("Stardust") in which the waiters took it in turns to pick up a mike and sing songs from the shows!

Our repertoire has continued to slowly expand and we have now built up a respectable arsenal of anthems we can sing. As usual, Rutter features prominently, but we have covered a range of styles from Tallis to modern times.

I am most grateful to all those members of the choir who supported the choir so loyally. I will mention the SS heads of choir Robert Thomas and Toby Lewis who worked so hard in their role. I am most indebted, too, to Mr David Lovell Brown (organ) whose support and expertise were of the utmost value.

P.J.White

### Hot Baroque

This well established ensemble has regularly performed in our Summer Concerts, and has always been well received by audience and performers alike. Although in the early days of this fine ensemble, a regular weekly rehearsal schedule was much more easily achieved, I have to marvel at the quality of the ensemble members, who are able, despite much tighter timetable restrictions, to produce such an excellent standard on a more limited rehearsal schedule.

This year's contribution certainly did not disappoint. The final movement of the Bach Brandenburg Concerto number 5, scored for chamber strings with harpsichord continuo, saw two of our most able young students take on the solo roles of flute and violin with great enthusiasm and musicianship. I must congratulate both Charlotte Ashton on the flute and Rebecca Roberts on the violin for their respective solos in this demanding piece. It was only two years earlier that Hot Baroque performed the equally challenging first movement with Charlotte Ashton again on solo flute and Rebecca's brother Jamie Roberts on violin.

The students clearly relished the challenge of this work, and their enthusiasm and musicianship instantly won over their audience.

The second performance Hot Baroque gave, saw their numbers treble in size, as the Stamford Junior School 'Fiddle Band' group joined them for a foot tapping and high quality rendition of A Ceilidh Collection arranged by Mr G Brown, one of our piano and oboe teachers, who very kindly wrote arrangements of these works to make this all possible.

As you might expect, the sight of numerous young string players joining the ranks of hot baroque was an instant success with the audience, and the quality of ensemble work was, as you would expect – excellent.

We must thank all the following for their personal contribution:

### Hot Baroque:

Violin: Toby Coaker, Toby Lewis, Robert Thomas, Emma Griffiths, Rosie Mitchell, Laura Turnbull, Sam Blackmore, Ben Gostick Viola: Owen Cooke, Mr D Leetch. Cello:

Sam Waudby, Mrs. K Bentley Double Bass: Mrs J Roberts. Flutes: Ophelia Crawford, Mr J Aughton. Oboes: James Graham, Alexandra Thornton-Reid, Pascale Mintern, Angus Smith, Jack Martin. Cor anglais: Mr G Brown. Bassoon: Alex Hammant. Drums: Mr. S Chandley.

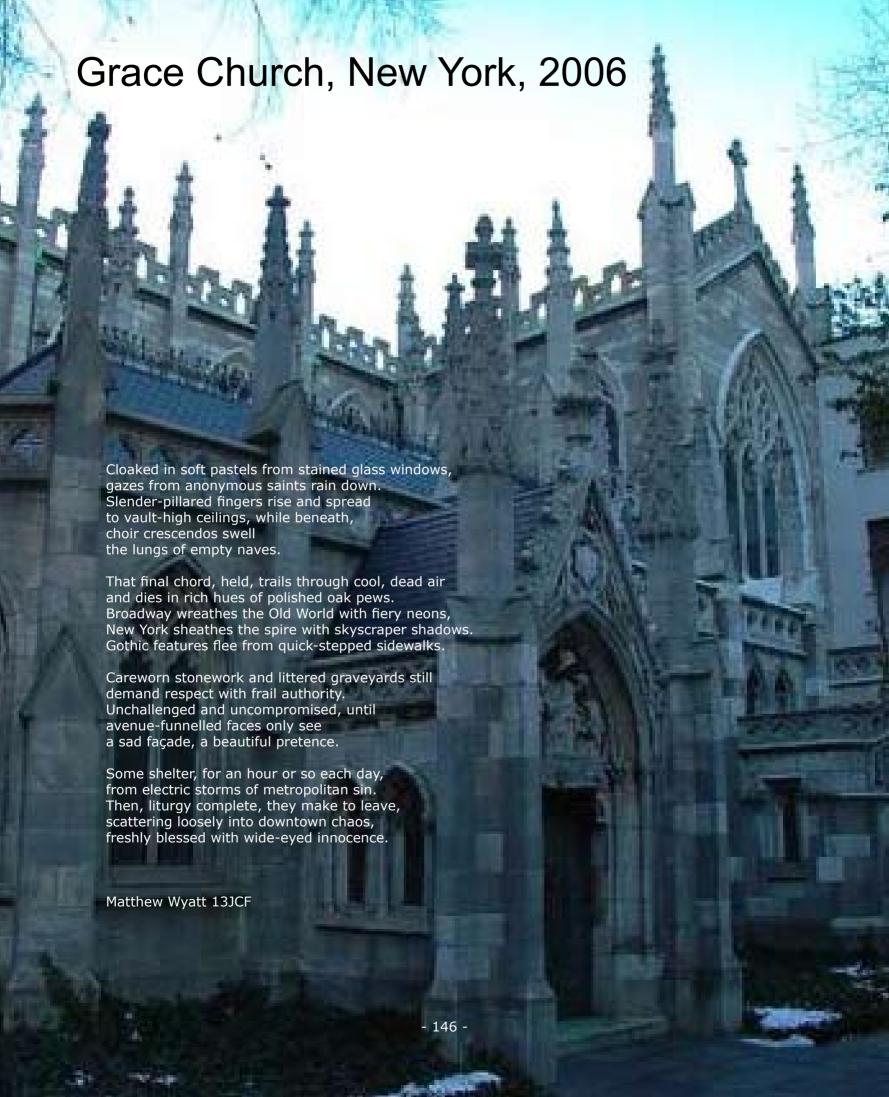
### Stamford Junior School Fiddle Band:

Molly Atkinson, William Bourne, Edward Boyd, Rebecca Brown, Henry Charlton, Joseph Chedd, Frederick Cracknell, Sarah Matthews, Carys Nally, Harriet Reilly, Joshua Snape, Zoë Wilson, Becky Taylor, Pollyanna Baker, Chloe Boughen, Isabel Chedd, Isobel Hawkins, Katrina Heard, Alicia Kightley, Katie Lumb, Sophie Peng, Findlay Stowers-Veitch, Maddy Young.

Of course none of this would be possible without the excellent guidance given by Mr D Leetch, who is pivotal to the continuing success of this high quality ensemble. I'm sure that all the musicians involved would like to echo my thanks for his leadership, musicianship and guidance which has made this all possible.

N.S. Taylor







# To Whom It May Concern

..........

I know that you do not like what I say, But one day you will see. Just not today.

The day will come at last when better minds than yours
You free to fly.
When those who know are raised above,
A better way to show.
At last you'll let them teach you
How better life to lead.
But now, alas, too proud you are
To let your children breathe.

The day will come at last when Love you understand.
That Love, the greatest treasure that we hold,
Is more precious still than diamonds, pearls or gold.
That people shall do anything for those they love,
That's what you will see.
And all shall help each other grow:
Not kind words just, but hard ones, too.
With Love, all speech is free.

The day will come at last when wisdom's voice you hear.
The day that you, and your venomous kind
Shall cast off your blinkers and blindfolds
And see the world afresh.
And all will want to rise
To nobler, better beings,
Not think that they've arrived
Before their journey's yet begun.

The day will come at last when people understand.

When men shall not be pilloried

If they by their principles stand.

The day when ridicule and hatred

Are not to geniuses the gifts afforded

By their ghastly fellow man,

When you at last concede

That there's still more to know,

When your jealousy does to humility turn,

And you accept that there's still more to learn.

That it shall be so, the world does not understand.

But I have seen the future, Sir,

A broader, better land.

Robert Thomas 13RG

# Ton<del>y</del>

Chapter One

22nd January 1995

There could be no doubt that he was dead. For one moment in time there seemed a feeling of stillness. The gathering crowd stood motionless, subdued by the potent image before them.

It took the weighty flash of a forensics camera to bring a sense of action to the scene. The wife pulled herself away from the arms in which she was comforted and made her way to the body of the man she once loved. Slowly pulling back the blanket that had been laid on his head by one of the paramedics, she gave a teary nod. But the nod was far from a signature of acceptance. For now, though, a nod was satisfactory.

The crowd depicted not vivid characters, but more a silhouette of figures in the fog; the red sky a seemingly perfect backdrop for the action. No-one spoke. They opted for silence rather than the mutterings of self-assurance that are often heard on such occasions.

He had not chosen his area carefully, or perhaps he had. The sordid stench of sewage rose like the fog had done above the estate that morning, and the stickiness of the ground gave the scene a further grotesque element. His stretcher sank a few inches into the thick mud. It was the sinking feel that defined Tony's emotions that day, and in fact for the weeks leading up to it. He had death in mind, and now it had been done. He had sorted everything. The demons would take care of him now, he had thought.

The time was somewhere between seven and nine, but the crowd did not care. None of them would sleep for the next week. Indeed, what they had witnessed that evening had truly shocked them.

The stretcher was lifted, the wife was pulled back, just like the blanket had been from over the body, and the corpse was slowly lifted into the ambulance. The sharp sirens of the vehicle seemed unnecessary. There could be no doubt that he was dead.

Jonathan Fisher 13JCF





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