



Bishop's Stortford College Newsletter

Issue 176

Wednesday 30th September 2009



The photograph above was taken at 7 a.m. yesterday from the Tee House flexi-boarding unit, overlooking the campus.

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Dear Friends,

The first of the House Charity Weeks is taking place this week, as Hayward works towards making money to help cancer sufferers. We wish them luck raising funds, and also our very warmest wishes to Jonathan and Dominic Wright as they depart on their epic journey round the Tropic of Cancer.

The first of the Ferguson Lectures takes place in early October - details are on page 9.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Oakley

Charities

Hayward House Charity Week

Friday 25th September

The Hayward House Charity Week started in promising style with a coffee and cake morning timed to coincide with the Macmillan nationwide project. Cakes were sold across the nine Senior School houses, were also made available at the weekly staff briefing session. To all the families who donated so generously, either in the form of some delicious edible goodies, or by supporting the event in person by visiting us in the FLT rotunda, herewith a huge vote of thanks! *(Pauline Mullender)*

TCC Challenge

Friday 25th September

Jonathan and Dominic Wright were mentioned briefly in last week's Newsletter, with reference to the above mentioned Coffee morning. They also attended Friday's Assembly, during which they described their upcoming project, and what inspired them to take it up.

Jon had everything going for him; he spent three years travelling prior to University, had a great time at University, landed a super job, found a wonderful girl to share his life with - then he detected a tumour in one of his testicles. This was surgically removed, but a year later, cancer cells were detected in the other testicle, which took radiotherapy to remove – the second bout was an emotional roller coaster and took a real toll on him. After it was confirmed that he was completely cured, he decided to focus on making something good out of such a bad experience. He and his brother decided to go for a bike ride round the Tropic of Cancer, calling it the TCC Challenge, in aid of cancer awareness and the importance of early detection.

His brother Dominic described how they set about planning the trip. He persuaded Macmillan to support and recognise the Challenge, as well as Orchid, Starlight and the Willow Foundation. Then they set up a website and started planning their route.

The Tropic of Cancer runs through the top of the Sahara; the Foreign Office advised the pair not to go to either Mauritania or Algeria, as they would need body guards and a support vehicle. So they are going to Italy, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE and on to Oman. Then they will fly to India, on to Bangladesh, China and Taiwan. From there they will fly to Mexico and aim to reach Cuba on 21st June 2010 - on the longest day. The total distance will be a mind-boggling 11,000 miles!

It seems that steel frame bikes are best suited to such a long journey. They will stay in a tent or in hostels. They will carry high-tech equipment including laptops, a camcorder and a Satellite Navigation system. They will need £15,000 just to cover the logistics of the journey, plus they hope to raise £100,000 for the four cancer charities mentioned above.

(If you would like to support these hugely enterprising young men, please go to their website, which is www.tccchallenge.co.uk.)

Charities

Hayward House Charity Week

This week

Tom Emmett and Jack Kenning told us in Monday's Assembly that they would be helping to raise money for the TCC Challenge, for the four cancer charities. Again, these are Macmillan Cancer Support, Orchid (which specialises in fighting male cancer), Starlight (which brightens the lives of seriously and terminally ill children) and Willow Foundation (which brings happiness to people with serious illness between the ages of 16 and 40).

Hayward will be holding a sponsored swim—aiming for swimming 11.000 metres to match the 11,000 miles to be cycled by Jon and Dom Wright. The participants will include both Matt Drury and Geoff Westell.

They will also be selling raffle tickets, and there will be many excellent prizes to be won.

Assemblies

10 Club Tie

One of our new L6 students has now qualified to receive a 10 Club Tie, and she received hers in today's Assembly. Our warmest congratulations go to Vincie Lai.

German Exchange

Tuesday 29th September

Two of our charming young German visitors from the Heinrich Heine Schule near Kiel spoke to us today in Assembly; they were thanking the College Community for a highly successful visit. They had amazing weather—the question is, will the weather in February in Germany match ours in September?! They enjoyed their time with us, and mentioned the day in lessons last Thursday as being a unique experience for them, very different from their own school. The students ended with a lovely take on the theme of 'Goodbye' from the Sound of Music.

(Our thanks also to Alex Reading who had greeted the visitors the previous Thursday in immaculate German.)

Musical Item

Tuesday 29th September

One of our L5 students was brave enough to play his violin today in Assembly; accompanied by Eleni Keventsidou, he played 'Adoration' by Felix Borowski. It is a great piece of music and John played it with confidence and lots of talent.

Recent Events

Senior Debate

Friday 25th September

I was absent from this debate so I can only write a brief summary of the proceedings:

Benson House, represented by Pippa Lane and Lucy Crossfield, proposed the controversial motion: *"This House believes that the Lockerbie bomber should have been released from Prison"*. The girls produced some very convincing arguments to back up their proposal, but it was primarily the delivery and presentation of Tom Emmett's arguments that won the debate for Hayward. Congratulations to both Tom and Gilbert Farmer for this.

Here are photos from this debate—again my thanks to Shafiq for all the debate photos this week. Tom and Gilbert are at the top, with Pippa and Lucy having a serious discussion in the bottom picture.



This Week

Senior Debate

Monday 28th September

Sutton proposed today's Motion, which was: "*This House believes that the Bonus Culture must now be legally ended.*" Oliver Bishop and Hancock represented Sutton, with Sinéad Lynch and Roisin Devine speaking on behalf of Young House. The Adjudicators were Mike Tomkys, Tom Atkinson and Kathy King.

Ollie Hancock was splendid, speaking completely without notes, with a great deal of aplomb. He suggests that only those bonuses which are excessive and paid as a reward for short-term gains should be legislated against, as it encourages bankers to take insane risks. If they succeed, the rewards are huge, but there is no punishment if they fail, as they continue to receive huge salaries anyhow. The system is based on selfishness and greed, and it leaves millions of other people suffering.

Sinéad claimed that the Media hyped up the issue, making it out to be pure evil. Bonuses are rewards for hard work and in principle are a great idea, as they initiate, encourage and reward healthy competition - if used properly. She used the Parable of the Talents to illustrate her point.

Ollie Bishop is astounded that someone from Citigroup, which had to borrow billions in order to survive, could possibly have been paid \$100,000 as a bonus for failure!! Just as the recession seems to be easing slightly, many bankers continue to behave irresponsibly as they did before the recession. Ollie believes that bonuses should be linked to long-term success, and should be a percentage of the salary. There should also be a greater involvement of the shareholders in determining bonus payments.

Roisin believes that Britain would be destroyed as a global financial centre without bonuses; we don't want another mass exodus, like the Brain Drain of former decades. High remuneration encourage highly qualified financiers to stay in the country. The recent lack of Mathematics teachers caused the Government to offer Bonuses for people to qualify as Maths teachers - it worked very well. Even incentives such as the 10-Club Ties and Merits exemplify a kind of bonus culture at BSC, and they work very well.

The Adjudicators decided that both teams were about even on research and delivery, but the questions from the floor were handled slightly better by the girls from Young House, so they won this debate.



This Week

InterHouse Brains' Trust

Monday 28th September

The preliminary round tie of the Inter House Brains Trust competition took place at 5.15 today in Sutton House.

Sutton, represented by Michael Verona, Ollie Bishop, Peter Connell and Ben Price, established an early lead and held off a spirited Tee House, represented by Chantal During, Emily Davis, Kirsty Robson and Izzy Connor, to book a place in the first round proper v Benson after half term.

Result = Sutton House 60 Tee House 28

Café Scientifique

Thursday 1st October

You may recall the controversy caused by Paul Bramley in last week's Assembly, concerning Poetry v Science. As a coincidence, the topic of today's presentation from Café Scientifique also looks at links between the Arts and Science, and asks how we use our eyes to view Art and raises such questions as whether Artists view Art differently from the rest of us.

All are welcome to attend the presentation, which takes place tomorrow evening, starting at 7.15 pm.

Future Events

Senior Debates

Monday 5th October

Today's Debate will feature Tee House and Alliot House debating the motion: *"This House believes that there is such a thing as Absolute Truth"*.

InterHouse Brains' Trust

Monday 5th October

Next Monday's match, Hayward House v Young House will take place in Hayward House starting at 5.15pm.

Memorial Hall Decorations

College advance planning means that we are already looking forward to the celebration of Christmas, in particular to the various seasonal events scheduled to take place in the Memorial Hall. This year, the Junior School Friends have agreed to shoulder the responsibility for decorating the chapel. If there are Senior School mothers who would like to assist with this task, additional volunteers would be most welcome; anyone interested in helping should make contact with Pauline Mullender on 01279 838585.

Future Events

Ferguson Lectures

(During 2009-10, the Ferguson Lectures at Bishop's Stortford College will look at some of the key challenges of the coming decade. All are welcome, but it might be wise to make a booking in advance by phoning 01279 838575.)

TERRORISM

Wednesday 7th October, 4 pm

Matt Carr is a writer, journalist and broadcaster who has specialised on the causes and consequences of terrorism. As a freelance journalist he has written for a wide range of publications, including the Times, the Guardian, the Observer, the Daily Telegraph, New Statesman, Race and Class, Esquire, Marie Claire, Red Pepper, the European and History Today. For radio, Matt has produced documentaries and short features for the BBC World Service and Radio 4 on Spanish politics, culture and society.

In 1986, Matt was special correspondent for the Observer, covering the Mafia trial in Sicily. He has also reported on human rights and post-conflict issues in Central America, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and state terrorism in the Basque Country.

Matt is the author of three books: the memoir *My Father's House* (Penguin, 1997); *Unknown Soldiers: How Terrorism Transformed the Modern World* (Profile Books, 2006), also published in France and the United States under the title *The Infernal Machine: A History of Terrorism from the Assassination of Alexander II to al-Qaeda* (New Press, 2006) and, his latest book, *Blood and Faith: the Purging of Muslim Spain 1492-1614* (New Press, 2009), due to be published in the UK by Hurst & Co. next year.

Matt gives regular talks and lectures on terrorism-related issues, in addition to media interviews on US, Canadian and UK radio.



Fixtures Results

Girls' Hockey

Tuesday 22nd September

BSC v Woodbridge

2nd XI team drew 1 - 1

1st XI team lost 1 - 4

BSC v Hockerill

U15A team won 10 - 2

Boys' Rugby

Thursday 24th September

BSC v Eltham College

U16A team won 19 - 10

It was a well-fought game; the outstanding players were Max Thorpe and Conor Doherty.

3rd XV team won 25 - 0

There were excellent performances from JJ Whalley and Michael Onwuka.