

A WORD FROM THE HEADMISTRESS

As the summer Term draws to a close, we have much to celebrate as we reflect over the past year. Life at Kirkstone House seems ever richer with an expanding curriculum; numerous extra-curricular activities and an increasing number of special events and experiences for pupils to get involved with. This newsletter gives but a small flavour of what we have been doing and I hope that you enjoy reading it. May I take this opportunity to thank you for all of your continuing support; have a wonderful summer,

Cosmie Jones.

KIRKSTONE VISITS EUROPE

YEAR 7 VISIT AUSTRIA



A group of 26 Year 7 -11 pupils along with four members of staff set off on Friday 25th May to Wagrain in Austria for a trip of fun and adventure. After a long coach journey we arrived at our hotel where pupils settled into their rooms before the first day's activities. The next day was windsurfing at Zell Am See and many laughs were had as pupils stood balancing on their boards. The afternoon started with a cable car ride before a guided mountain walk. It was a memorable experience of snowballing with the sun beating down on us. Other activities included mountain biking with some falling off their bikes; a great afternoon at the outdoor pool along with a trip to Salzburg. This allowed a little culture to be enjoyed at the Hellbrunn castle and gardens with the trick fountains wetting more than one of the party before visiting Salzburg for a little shopping! Everyone had a great time and have lots of good memories of the trip.

ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

Our Lower School celebrated the Royal Wedding in style by having a street party in the Lower School hall. A toast to the Happy Couple!



YEAR 6 VISIT NORMANDY

This term our Year 6 students enjoyed a fabulous field trip to Normandy. Their agenda included a visit to Bayeux to see the famous tapestry. They then boarded the Petit Train de Bayeux which took them to the British Military Cemetery and the Bayeux Cathedral. They visited Arromanches-les-Bains where they saw the artificial harbour that was built in preparation for the D-Day landings in June 1944. The whole experience brought the topic of World War 2 alive for the pupils as well as giving them the opportunity to extend their French vocabulary. A most enjoyable way to go back in history!



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE



On Monday 21st March there was not a year 10 to be seen in school as they had all gone on Work Experience. This had been eagerly awaited by all pupils. The year started with Work Experience Evening when parents were informed about work experience and how they could be involved in the process, for example making lots of taxi duties and helping a very tired son or daughter at the end of a working day!

Curriculum Vitae, personal statements, letters of application and interviews were all completed before the first day. Our pupils chose their placements wisely and although the work experience choice is not always a pupil's chosen career path some pupils opt to explore a possible future career idea. The placements are wide and varied including: photography; land based jobs; veterinary medicine; teaching and engineering.

YEAR 9 TRANSITION DAY

To mark the transition from Year 9 to Year 10, the pupils experienced a day of team building tasks. The morning session was conducted by members of the RAF and was designed to highlight and develop such qualities as: listening, non-verbal communication, team work, trust and leadership. The pupils then travelled to Tallington Lakes where they had a picnic lunch and spent the afternoon tobogganing.

In the evening staff, parents and pupils met together to learn about the variety of changes which they will encounter in year 10, such as work experience placements and changes to the GCSE's.

The day was rounded off with drinks and delicious canapés courtesy of Mrs Brewster and her Hospitality Team.



YEARS 10 & 11 GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDY DAY

You know? I've really got to stop telling people I'm a writer. "Yah! I'm a writer! Mostly prose, bit of poetry! Yah!" "So why don't you do something for the school newsletter then?" And if that wasn't bad enough, it's consistently failed to get me a girlfriend! On the 21st of January, a group of maths students from years 10 and 11 who seemed to be netting themselves a nice little bag of A's and A*'s were whisked away by the illustrious Mr Adamson to Cambridge for a course of mind expanding lectures. And best of all, refreshments were included!

The lectures covered a broad range of intriguing topics. To start with we heard a lecture entitled "*Justice, Truth, Beauty and Mathematics*" which covered, well, it's in the title, but mainly it was about justice. Next we heard the leading theories about the way time works, in a lecture: '*Does Time Really Bend?*' which also discussed time travel. Then, following brief refreshments, it was the oddly titled '*Lady GaGa and Picasso at Starbucks*'. This lecture covered the issue of culture in this our post-modern society and the things that shape it. The last lecture took a rather darker twist with '*Evil Thoughts: Evil Deeds*'. This discussed, as the title would suggest, the nature of evil, going into the philosophies of the Ancient Greeks and Nietzsche alike.

The lectures ended with a debate: '*This house believes that science has replaced God*' this was apparently the point, though it really seemed to be more about '*Is there a God or not?*' After finishing the actual adult part of the debate, they asked for contributions from the students they had assembled before them. However, when it came to my own turn to contribute, I found the microphone rather swiftly snatched away from me. Unfortunately, the valid point I was attempting to make seemed to be taken as an attempt to derail proceedings. My point was: 'In the end, does it really matter?'

The audience cheered for me.... a lot.

Written by George Jones (New Head Boy 2011-2012)



DEEPING SHOW SUCCESS

The annual Deeping Agricultural Show and Country Fayre was held on the 4th and 5th of June. Our lower school entered many pieces of work in the Young People's Competition section which were on display over the week-end.

As the picture shows the outcome was a huge success.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME



By the end of Term 4 expeditions will have taken place. Year 10 will have completed their Bronze award and Yr 11 will have completed their Silver award.

We were blessed with fine weather for both of the Bronze expeditions in Rutland and at Grafham Water.

Yr11 went to Rutland and the Peak District although quite a lot of rain in Rutland tested the resolve of the group! Fortunately the weather then settled and the group of four walked on in sunshine.

BIG WRITE

Parents were invited into school to join in our 'Big Write' Year 5 Literacy lesson. The 'Big Write' is a fun and motivating way of encouraging children to develop their range of vocabulary through 'Talk' and fast, interactive Literacy games. Children are encouraged to vocalise their sentences before writing them on paper and to talk through their ideas before writing.

Children then have the opportunity to engage in creative writing while listening to Mozart. This is often linked to other areas of the curriculum, providing opportunities for children to use key literacy skills in other subjects.

Parents joined in our 'Big Write' lesson by supporting children's ideas. They were able to observe children assessing other forms of writing, therefore making them more aware of the criteria needed to raise children's levels of achievement.

All the parents commented on how beneficial these sessions were as it helped them to have a better understanding of the teaching methods used in Literacy. It is hoped that this may continue in the future.

PSHE DAY



A Senior School PSHE Day was held in June. This involved a number of speakers and workshops during the day.

Speakers included the local Police Community Support Officers talking about safety to Yr 7 & 8; a local Lincolnshire magistrate putting Yr 9 & 10 through a trial and a talk from the Red Cross, First Aid Training and a Health talk to the older pupils on drug and alcohol education was included in the day.



SUMMER AT KIRKSTONE

ATHLETICS SUCCESS



Independent Schools athletics were held in Cambridge in May. A record of 10 events were won by KHS students

Emily Stevens – Javelin & 800m
Kieran Wells – Javelin & Discus
Noah Rodman – Shot Putt
Georgina Martin – Shot Putt
Isabella Castle – High Jump
Henny McIntosh – High Jump
Taylor Crowson – 80m Hurdles
Henry Martin – Javelin

Yr 9 Boys Relay Team East Anglia Champions
Kieran Wells, Lewis Griggs, Taylor Crowson
& Wilson Crowson.

All of the above pupils qualified to compete at the National ISA Championships. We are pleased to report that more personal best performances were produced and the following won medals;

National Shot Putt Champion & Gold medal

Noah Rodman

Silver medal High Jump

Isabella Castle

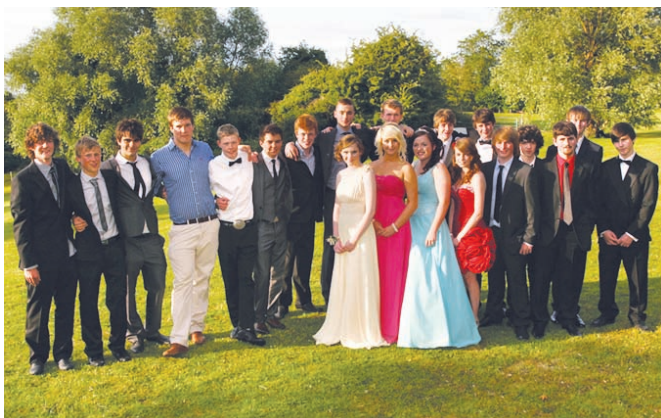
Bronze medal 80m Hurdles

Taylor Crowson

Fantastic achievements by all students.

PROM 2011

The Year 11 Prom was held on the 23rd June at The White Hart in Ufford.



SUMMER CONCERT

On a perfect summer's evening on the 27th June Mrs O'Rourke presented the summer concert to parents, teachers and friends. Every pupil gave of their best and consequently the show was an outstanding example of how talented and gifted our children are and how they are given the confidence to express themselves and develop a real presence whilst performing. Both solo and group performances were exceptional and included singing, instrumental and dance arrangements.



'Thriller' performed by Years 5 and 6



Our School Choir

A very special thank you to everyone involved who made this fantastic evening possible.

LOWER SCHOOL SPORTS AFTERNOON



On the 14th June Reception to Year 6 held their annual Sports Afternoon. The weather was at its best and the event was very well supported by parents and friends. The school bursar Mrs Murphy kindly helped with the proceedings and presented the winning trophies and medals.

FORTHCOMING DATES

Grafham Water (Year 7) – 5th-7th October 2011

Open Day – October 11th 2011

Alton Towers (Year 11) – October 4th 2011

Rome – 22nd-25th March 2012

Finally we would like to wish everyone a very relaxing summer holiday

