

Bugsy Malone



True success is not a case of knock-out individuals, and the recent Upper School production of Bugsy Malone is testament to this. With a cast of 83, which is perplexing in itself, the real challenge was that there were actually 150 different roles! The recent team effort and outcome was simply awesome!

Backstage, the splurge guns were all lined up and the pedal cars parked in the wings. When the pedalling and splurging began in earnest, in our version of the gangster musical that reveals the childishness of adults and the maturity of children, I can safely

say the audience were completely mesmerized from that very first 'splurge', with early smiles and nods of appreciation as Fat Sam's Grand Slam revealed itself and the Performing Arts Centre gained a pulse of its own.

Continued over...

Bugsy Malone

As the plot unfolded, one couldn't help but titter at the terribly British reporter (Orlando). The comedy continued to build and build as the various nationalities came through the curtain, or not! The first solo was bravely sung by Toby playing the character 'Fizzy' and it was a delight to see him entertain the audience so well, really relaxing into the role as he sat down to poignantly deliver the start of the second half.

By contrast, the sheer delight on Benjamin's face at being able to publicly torture a double-bass, and receive applause for it, before disappearing off stage to get into the second of his three different costumes, was wonderful.

The comic value continued as we delighted in the inspired casting of the Oldham twins as 'The Magnificent Speedo', and all manner of other wonderfully funny acts that were "For our delight at the bijoux theatre". Wonderful stuff, including a certain male member of staff looking far too comfortable in a leotard and ballet skirt and another as a rather dark looking rabbit that thankfully sent his fluffier sibling for the Easter Egg hunt.

As the audience heard the lines "Come back tomorrow", I wondered to myself, given how good it was on the first night, just how many people would, and could fit in to this marvellous new building?

The comedy of the Hung Fu Shin Laundry was the next setting to bring a smile, before we headed off into the interval to reload the splurge guns and make up some more custard pies!

Those readers who remember Parker's 1976 film – and everyone who saw it – will agree it is impossible to say or hear the names of Bugsy characters without a fond smile. The same will be said for the wonderful children who played those roles in our production – a playful pastiche of American 1930s gangster movies brought to life – a world of speakeasies, sharp-suited hoodlums and the choral power of the Down and Outs. Add to this the fabulous score, which deals with adult themes such as love and loneliness



Bugsy Malone



and, with lyrics such as "I could have been anything I wanted to be...", it was always going to be a triumph, even if an exacting Mr Woodward had paced a track in the floor during rehearsals!

"*My Name is Tallulah!*" was performed spectacularly well by Edie to open Act II, playing it like she was the most important person in the room. The song adopted an unexpected poignancy that, along with the other songs accompanied by 'Razzmatazz' Wagstaff and 'Worth a Dollar' Worthington, caused the adults watching to dwell upon their own lives.

Less poignantly there were custard pie brawls, ambushes, and St Valentine's Day-style massacres using

guns that splurged, well, splurge, instead of bullets. Nobody died; they'd survived rehearsals thus proving they could survive anything!

The Boxers most definitely all had "it", and if "it" were empathy, the audience certainly had it for Blousey Brown, played so sensitively by the very talented Victoria Kelly. Solid performances from Bugsy (James) and Fat Sam (Sasha) were key to the success of the overall production on both nights, and with so many lines and scenes, they really must be commended for their efforts. Add to this performances from slightly more unlikely visitors to the stage, for example the likes of Dandy Dan (James) and Oscar De Velt (Nathaniel), it was great to see so many involved and giving their all.

The plot of Bugsy Malone undoubtedly has that traditional sense of tragedy and comedy that ends in collective celebration and communion (albeit smeared in splurge!) and these may be good descriptors for how it felt to take part. It was never going to be easy to rise to the challenge and expectation of the first large-scale production in our fabulous, new Performing Arts Centre, but goodness did we rise! Our young cast's skills were both tested and trusted, and all the numbers bounced out into the auditorium as we hoped they would. Once again, I truly hope you agree that your wonderful children have delivered with a confidence and slickness that belies their years and that, with your support, our incredible new facilities were matched by such a gem on stage. Well done one and all!

Julie Thomson

The Performing Arts Centre



A family affair – Westbrook Hay opens a £3m Performing Arts Centre.

Westbrook Hay officially opened its brand new Performing Arts Centre in January. The Centre is the latest addition to the school's extensive facilities and offers superb provision for drama, dance and music. The 300 seater auditorium also provides a marvellous home for school assemblies.

The Centre was opened by Mr Michael Woolf, a former parent and governor, who has over 40 years association with the school. Michael's family connection began when his son, Ben joined the school in 1973. Michael's wife, Inge, then became a teacher for 14 years and a counsellor at the school for a further 15 years.

Ben's children, Alfred and James have also been pupils at the School. (James is currently in Year 7.) Michael's daughter, Tirrie, also a former pupil, is currently a teacher at Westbrook Hay and her children, Jesse (7) and Taitai (6) are pupils at the school.

Michael, a Chartered Surveyor and Deputy Chairman of Governors at Westbrook Hay, has lent particular support to the building projects at Westbrook Hay. Michael project managed the new Middle School building in 2001, the new Lower School building in 2008 and now the magnificent Performing Arts Centre.

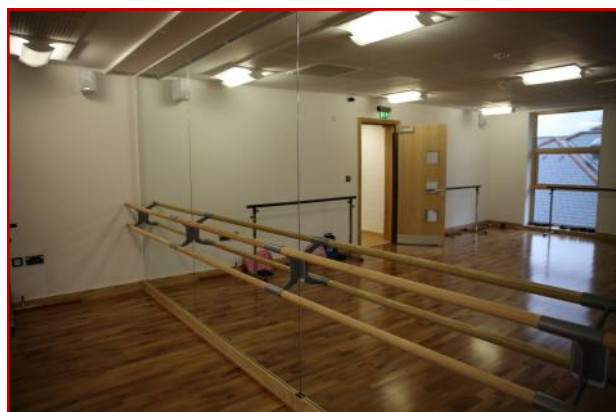
Among the guests for this occasion were Councillor Frances Button; Chair of Hertfordshire County Council, the Mayor of Dacorum; Councillor Adeleke,



The Performing Arts Centre

Mayor of Tring; Councillor Hearn, Mayor of Berkhamsted; Councillor Ritchie, Head Teachers from local senior schools and many former pupils and staff.

The visitors enjoyed a tour of the facility led by the senior children and a short performance including dance, music, singing and drama by pupils aged between 5 and 12 years. When asked about the importance of the Performing Arts Centre to the school, the Chair of Governors, Andrew Newland said, "We keep updating and improving our facilities to offer modern infrastructure to match the quality of our excellent teaching staff. That way we can provide a superb academic and pastoral education for our pupils both now and for future generations".



Maths Week

Plenty of fun was had during maths Week which was held in February. Each day a 'Problem of the Day' was posted on the intranet. This gave parents the opportunity to work with their children to solve some problems. There were different problems for Lower School, Middle School and Upper School. A Parents' Evening held on the Thursday evening focussed on how children learn Mathematics and how parents can help their children at home. It was also an opportunity to see what the Mathematics Department does and provided time to answer any questions that parents had.

Each school day had a theme. Monday was *Smarties* Day!

Each pupil was given a packet of *Smarties* and the lesson revolved around estimation, data handling, nets and probability... and also eating the odd sweet.

All over the school children did maths using *Smarties*! Each class had to estimate how many *Smarties* there would be in a packet, the year group and the whole school! Results varied from 200 to 2 million!

In Upper School they looked at the packaging, which was a hexagonal prism. They also investigated why *Smarties* had chosen this shape and what the net would look like.

Middle School looked at the frequency of colours and estimation while also drawing bar charts to represent this information.

The Reception classes completed a similar tally exercise to measure the frequency of each colour.

Best of all, the children had a packet of *Smarties* to eat when they left school that evening!



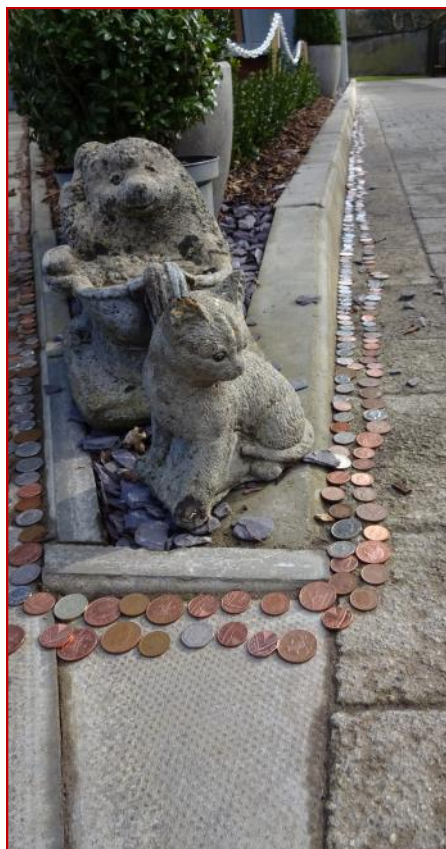
Maths Week

Tuesday was Computer and Mathletics Day.

All children from Years 1-8 had a 30 minute session in the computer suite, working on Mathletics (www.mathletics.co.uk).

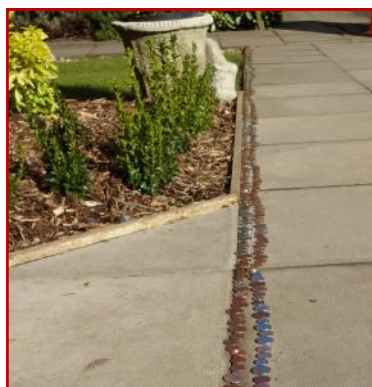
Over the 24 hours our pupils worked their way up the leader board. (Reception and Nursery had their own special computer events). Mr Makower's Year 5 maths set were top in THE WORLD at the end of Tuesday. Mrs Wood's Year 4 set worked their way to

11th in the UK. Individually, Satvik (89th), Joss (27th), Finn, Elliot (66th), Alexander, Neel and Freddie all made it into the top 100. At one stage Harry was 3rd in the whole of the UK and 30th in the world! Well done to those children!



Wednesday was Charity Day.

The children arrived at school with a handful of coins which they laid in a line around the PAC. The trail in the morning started at the door and by the end of the day the trail had completed two laps around the PAC stretching 234.7 metres and raising £521.76. It took 30 volunteers over an hour to collect and count all the coins! Thank you for the generous donations of coins.



Maths Week

Thursday was Magic Maths Day and Parents Evening.

A professional magician came in to run shows for the school throughout the day involving mathematics and magic. He made things disappear as well as money appear. He had plenty of tricks with maths and kept us all entertained! Before he started, Mr Makower kept the children on their toes with a few number sequences to solve. They really enjoyed the challenge of this.

A parents information session was held that evening.



Friday was Mathematics Relay Day and Lower School held a 'drop in' session.

The final day saw the sports hall bustle with a flurry of brain activity! The children were divided into teams and had to answer a series of maths questions. They were pitted against their classmates and the race was on to see who would finish their questions first and with the most accuracy. It was all very exciting!

In the afternoon, Lower School parents were invited to try some mathematical challenges with their children.



Lower School

Dinosaur WOW Day

On Wednesday 13th January Reception took part in a dinosaur and palaeontologist WOW day. The children came to school dressed as either their favourite dinosaur or as a palaeontologist; equipped with all the tools they needed for digging up bones. As the children entered the classroom they stumbled across a

mysterious egg in a nest. There was a lot of discussion about where the egg had come from and what animal it could belong to. It was decided that it was definitely a dinosaur egg as it was very large, green and bumpy.

Throughout the day the children observed changes in the egg and by

the end of the day a small crack had appeared. There was much excitement, but also a little bit of fear as we did not want the dinosaur to turn out to be a carnivore!

In the afternoon we talked about fossils and the various dinosaur skeletons that had been found. The children made their own ammonite fossil to take home using plaster of Paris.

It was a very exciting day and the children couldn't wait to see what happened to the dinosaur egg through the rest of the week!



Lower School

Minibeast WOW Day

On Wednesday 24th February Reception had their Minibeast WOW day. The children all came to school dressed in an outfit related to minibeasts. They started their day by having a 'Bug Ball' in RG's classroom and had a fabulous time dancing to bug related music. The children then

had a marvellous time in PE playing 'minibeast games'. They then went on a minibeast hunt in the grounds and explored the pond with our waterproof camera - sensibly, all the minibeasts were hiding!

After an action packed morning Reception visited the science lab and Mrs Harris held a minibeast workshop. The children met lots of minibeasts and some of the animals that eat minibeasts!

Looking at the different animals in the science lab helped the children to

practice their skills of observation and compare different invertebrate organisms.



Lower School

Science Lab Visit

The Nursery children have been learning about pets, in particular how to look after them. They have had fun looking after John the dog, Izzy the cat, Roger the rat and Horace the hare in the classroom, in our pet area. They were very lucky to be able to visit the science lab with Mrs Harris and some of the older boys to look at some more exotic pets. The children had a great afternoon learning about the similarities and differences between the pets and for many there were 'firsts'; getting close up and personal with the animals.



Lower School

Budding Scientists

Lower School have a science workshop each term where they are able to come and conduct investigations in the science lab and are given the opportunity to be mentored by older pupils. Some of the prefects working with Year 1 remember their own excitement at coming over to the science lab when they were in Year 1. According to the great academic Bloom, "mentoring increases a positive learning ethos for both the mentor and the younger child" who see the older prefect (child) as a role model.



Pancake Day

The nursery children had lots of fun making pancakes and eating them for their snack. We made extra pancakes and in the afternoon had pancake races in the playground. Some children were even able to toss their pancake and catch them in their the pans!



Fine Diners

Once again the children in Lower School have had a fine dining experi-

ence. Six children were rewarded for their good table manners by sitting at the fine dining table where they have fancy glasses for their drinks and a smart tablecloth. Well done to you all!



Middle School



Walk like an Egyptian

Our Ancient Egyptian history topic was brought to life when St Albans Museum came to our school to show Year 4 some artefacts from Ancient Egypt. The workshop began with group activities involving different aspects of Egyptian life. The children dressed up in Ancient Egyptian clothes, played with toys and musical instruments that would have been used in ancient times and learned how to write their names in hieroglyphics. They saw models of mummies and some even managed to mummify themselves! In the final part of the workshop, the children were allowed to handle some authentic Ancient Egyptian artefacts that had been excavated from the Valley of the Kings in the 1920s.

Synagogue Visit

On the 3rd March, Year 3 visited the synagogue in St Albans. Rabbi Kaiferblueth gave a very informative talk about the synagogue and his role as a Rabbi. We were shown lots of special things, including the scrolls. A scroll takes a year to read and is usually sung as there is no punctuation. Rabbi Kaiferblueth unrolled one of the scrolls and using a yad, a special pointer, sang some of it to us. We had to be very



careful not to touch the scroll with our hands. It was a very interesting trip.



Upper School

Volcanoes and Earthquakes

The Year 6s had a fantastic educational trip to The Natural History Museum for their geography and science sessions. We set off on a luxurious coach as scheduled at 9:00am and the traffic was not as bad as envisaged at that time of the day. That meant we were able to arrive in time for our first science investigative session at 10:30am. The pupils were divided into two groups and whilst group A went straight into the science workshop, group B went to the Red Zone for their exploration and discovery session, where they had to research and complete a booklet on earthquakes and volcanoes.

It was great to see the pupils engage in their exploration and research work with so much enthusiasm, focus and concentration. Some of the work they covered included Mount Tambora and

Krakatoa in Indonesia, Eyjafjallajökull in Iceland and major earthquakes around the world.

The icing on the cake in the Explore and Discover section was a ride on the earthquake simulator.

It was a pleasure to lead this group of pupils who were exemplary in their behaviour throughout the trip and received special mention from the staff

at the Natural History Museum, who thought they were one of the best school groups they had met.

Special thanks to our parents, Mrs Cochran and Mrs Dervish-Uman who volunteered to accompany us on this trip, Mr Aboke who came in last minute to cover Mrs Harris and our two GAPs who did a fantastic job.



Upper School

A Taste of France

As we complete Hay Wired for the term, our Year 5 pupils are on their trip to France. They are enjoying a week of French immersion at Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy. So far the children have been to the zoo, spent time with the farm animals, baked bread, enjoyed an afternoon at the beach and played aéroballe at the château.



Design and Technology

The annual Design and Technology Tournament took place on Thursday 17th March at Ashlyns School. Westbrook Hay entered three teams. The task involved constructing a bridge to allow a model boat to pass underneath, whilst a 1 kg weight was pulled along the bridge. The bridge also had to include a structure that could be raised in order to allow a sailing boat to pass underneath. As ever, our boys completed the tasks admirably and had a great experience taking part.



Around the School

Boarding

All boarders chose go-karting this term for their trip. Chicken burgers, chips and peas was the choice of the Wednesday evening meal! All very much enjoyed their outing, so much so that the boys have chosen go-karting again in the Summer Term while the girls have elected for a visit to the X-C.



Book Fair

LAMDA

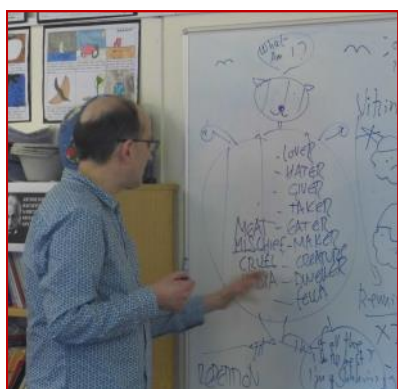
Around the School

Visiting Poet

On Monday 21st March we were lucky to enjoy a full day with James Carter; famous children's poet and author.

James worked through a series of assemblies and writing workshops with children from Nursery through to Year 8. The day culminated in a truly wonderful sharing assembly at the end of the day with children from Years 1 to 8 performing their poems aloud in the PAC. We had 'Animal Magic', collaboratively written by Years 1 and 2, which explored rhythm and syllabic

structure. 'Animal Kennings' was collaboratively written by pairs of Year 3 and 4 children. The Year 6 children wrote 'Impossible Gifts'. These were poignantly written individual poems where the children were asked to consider giving the most precious (but realistically unobtainable) gifts in the world to someone in their family. Lastly, in Years 7 and 8 we had some super 'Space' themed poetry that really showed off the high level of language our children at the top of the school are capable of. Many of the children were extremely keen to get James' autograph, so we have arranged for you to be able to purchase a dedicated copy of one of his books. Poetry is often overlooked for a bedtime reading session, which is a real shame. Children LOVE poetry, and hopefully even more so after the super day we all had!



Around the school

Hospice Visit

On Thursday 28th January, fourteen members of the Charities Committee went to visit the Hospice of St Francis. After arriving we were separated into two groups. The first group got to meet some extremely nice people who help to make the hospice a really special place. The second group made some hearts to go on the tree outside the children's area to remember our visit. We then swapped over before handing over a cheque for the money we have raised so far this year. We are still doing lots of things to raise more money for the hospice and hope to reach our target of £2000 by the end of the Summer Term.

Written by the Year 5 girls



Dance Workshop

The annual Dance Workshop took place in February in the Performing Arts Centre. It was run by Stuart Bishop from Pineapple Dance Studios in London. There were two workshops this year. The 'boys only' morning workshop concentrated on various dance styles like break

dancing, popping, locking, robotics and street dance. The second workshop was mainly for girls and was a mixture of jazz and street dance.

The workshops were most enjoyable and the children had great fun learning different dance styles and techniques.



Music

We've been very busy in the Music Department this Spring Term. The 35 strong Senior Choir prepared lots of songs and sang at the 02 Arena in January at a Young Voices event where there were 7000 other children involved. The atmosphere was amazing! National music icons also performed with the lights going down and everyone shining their mini-torches in support.

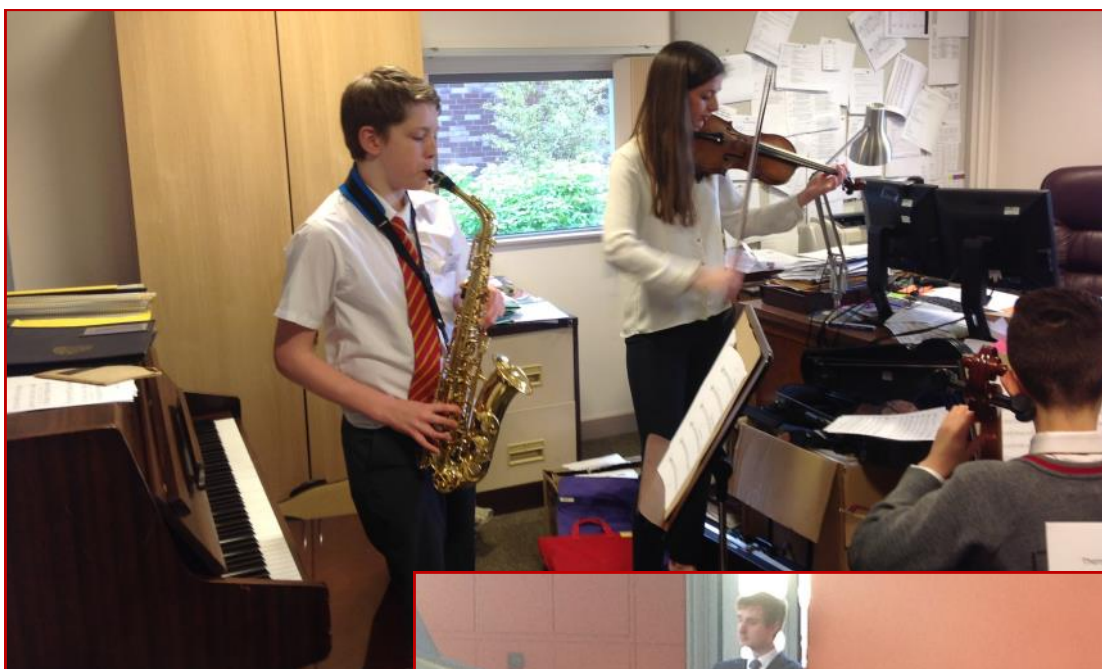
In February the senior members of the Westbrook Hay Orchestra joined

other prep schools, at Bedford School in a celebration of Chamber Music. Members of the Lipatti Piano Quartet coached the children in small groups during the day. The day finished with a mini-concert.

On the 27th February some of our Westbrook Hay pianists spent their Saturday travelling to and taking part in the Pangbourne Steinway Piano Festival. The adjudicator, Howard Evans; DMA MA and 17 years senior ABRSM examiner, gave excellent

advice and comments after the children had performed their piano pieces on the beautiful Steinway grand pianos. Our regular competitors, the Wise children, were competing for the last time. James took part in the Grades 3-4 class, while Eve gave a convincing performance in the Grades 5-6, Under 12s class.

We sadly had to give back the Christopher Martin Cup that Victoria won last year, singing in a class of 38 at the Watford Festival. So far during the weekends since half-term we've had Westbrook Hay wind, guitar and vocal



Music



competitors taking part. Joseph won a bronze medal playing his flute. Angel and Victoria won silver medals in both their classes, being awarded very high marks for their excellent delivery.

Towards the end of the term, twenty-nine students from Westbrook Hay competed in the choir competition, part of the Watford Festival, on

Sunday 20th March. Performing *'Joshua Fought the Battle'* by DesJardins. Westbrook Hay Chamber Choir came 2nd with a Distinction in the 'Junior Choirs - Age 11 & under' class, beating Aldenham Prep School in the process. In the category for 'Small Choirs - Age 12 & under' we competed against many schools. Performing *'Weapons'* by Ledner and an

arrangement of *'Fat Sam's Grand Slam'*, from Bugsy Malone - sung wearing hats – we narrowly beat Berkhamsted to win the coveted Watford Cup. Sam was honoured and delighted to be presented with the prized cup, while the rest of the choir were thrilled!

Chris Wagstaff



Sport

Ice Skating

Congratulations to Eleanor and Victoria who have just earned their National Level 1 Ice Skating certificates.

Over the years the girls have worked up through SkateUK levels 1-10 (beginners group lessons), then private lessons for bronze, silver and gold stars. Each level has a different set of moves which they are tested on by their coach. Gradually some of the moves become repeated, but more complicated as they move up. By Gold Star you finally do a short programme to music.

Eleanor and Victoria do a shared lesson together now as they have quite different, but complementary styles. The recent tests were for their National Level 1. At National Levels you are tested on the three aspects of skating (figure in their case) separately by an independent judge.

1 - Field Moves (best described as basic skating and control of edges).

2 - Elements (jumps and spins).

3 - Free (1 min 30 secs short programme to music which includes prescribed moves from 1-2).

You can take the parts separately, but they chose to do all three in one morning and thankfully passed them all!

Cross Country

Towards the end of term we travelled



to Heath Mount, along with six other schools, for our annual Inter-Schools Cross Country event where we were blessed with spring sunshine. The U11 race kicked things off and Ibrahim was in the mix from the gun. As we entered the second half of the race, he was clear with a boy from Heath Mount, but was just pipped to the post at the finish. The U11 team finished second overall, thanks to a group of boys coming in around 10th place led

by Josh. James, Archie and Finn were also in that group. The U11 girls also put in great performances with Maya leading us home, finishing in the top 10 with Evie not far behind.

Lillie gave a great performance, smashing the field on her way to winning the U9 girls' race. Her contemporaries, led by Gracie, were not too far behind, securing first place in the team event. Special mention goes to Emma as the only Year 3 to represent



Sport

Cross Country ...continued

us! Hugo was always present in the lead group in the boys' race, but just ran out of steam. He finished a very good fourth. Theo was not far behind and ran a great race too.

We fielded a young U13 team but they put in a fine showing. Max was first home for us and in the top ten overall, with Charlie and Max also finishing high up in the standings. Well done to all our athletes on a fine performance. Stuart Stedman



Sport

U11 Netball

The U11 netball team finished their last ever netball term at Westbrook Hay on a high. They were captained this term by Imogen, who did an outstanding job of helping to continue the team's success from the start of the year. The girls won all of their games this term, with their most recent game being one of their toughest. There has been some exceptional shooting by Ali, Grace and Jasmine and great attacking work from Imogen, Victoria and Jessica., while the defence team Eve, Evie, Pippi, Eleanor and Edie were working hard as ever. A big 'well done' to the U11 team in their last year together; a fantastic year, they should be very proud.



U11 Regionals Team



U10A Netball Team



U10B Netball Team



Sport

U10 Netball

The U10 netball team have had a very impressive term. The A team had one draw and two high scoring wins and the B team one loss in a very close game and again two great wins with high scores. Notable performances this term go to Fenella as Goal Shooter who, in her last game, scored 7 goals, Imogen for her shooting and positioning, Elise for some top defending skills, Olivia for improvements in her shooting skills and movement around the court and Sienna and Maya, who worked amazingly as Centres, moving quickly up and down the court.

U9 Netball

The U9 netball team have had a superb term. Both teams winning most of their games and with some high scores in double figures. The teams

also competed at a netball festival, playing around four matches each in one afternoon and both teams continued their success with further wins and draws. Top performances came from Gracie, with her speed and awareness of space on court and Roxey, for her exceptional improvements in her shooting skills which led to her scoring many goals in all her matches this term.



U8 Netball

The U8 netball team continued to impress this term with developments in their knowledge and team play. They ended the season with some tough competition but always kept smiling. Some exceptional performances came from Verity, Angel and Emma for great movement on court, Ruth for outstanding defence work and Charlotte for her fantastic movement in the Centre position.

As the netball season comes to an end, I want to say a big 'well done' to all the girls who have worked very hard in both training and matches this school year.

Susan Monaghan

Sport

1st Team Rugby

The squad has gone through some hardship in this term's rugby. We had some bad luck at the start with injuries to numerous members of the squad; losing our captain Josh for the whole season was an especially big blow. Yet that left a gate of shining opportunity open for 2nd team players to step up and make their mark. In particular, James and Jackson have stood out, rising from the darkness into the light. Another struggle this season was with having to come up against teams comprising of predominately Year 8 boys, when our team is made up mostly of Year 7s. When facing teams like Kingshott, size and experience gets the better of us in the end.

Some strong and quick runners with the ball were Harry, Max and Freddie. They proved to be our top try scorers. Laurie (captain) and our number 9, Adam and number 10, Charlie, made some intelligent decision making during play.

The highlight for this season was without a doubt the Herts Schools Rugby U12s (10 a side) tournament where we got better and better as the tournament progressed. We came second in our pool, only losing to St. Columba's; who went on to win the tournament. We lost to Bishop Stortford High School in the quarter final. They then went on to the final. Lastly, we played St George's for 5th and 6th place play off, which was a very tense game to watch with a lot of decisions going against us, but the team dug deep



1st Team Rugby

and didn't give up. A game-changing moment that stood out for me was when a St Georges' player darted up the side line and skimmed three of our players, all he had to do was go for the corner, instead, he cut back inside where Adam was waiting. Adam made a try-saving tackle for the team which resulted in a turnover. This is just one example of the boys' work rate, energy, relentlessness and teamwork played throughout that day, with some superb champagne rugby being played in our quarter final and 5th and 6th place play off which defined us as a team.

Overall, we placed fifth out of 20. Being a smaller school than others there, and with less experience, it was an outstanding way to finish the season off! You should all be very proud of yourselves. I look forward to an exciting season next year.

Will Hague-Blundy



U12 Tournament

Rugby Sevens

The sun shone, the birds sang and it was warm! Unusual for the Beechwood Park Sevens!

We played very well in our pool games against York House, Beechwood and

Sport

Rugby Sevens ...continued

Lochinver House cruising through three of them, but losing to the two term rugby school Chesham, who were a class above.

The semi-final was close, but we were always ahead. Nevertheless, it was good to hear the final whistle go. We then had a rematch with Chesham, and, sadly, much the same result. However, to finish second in a tournament of ten schools is a magnificent achievement and I was very proud of all the boys. I can also

report that they were a credit to themselves and the school between matches!

The team was led by Joshua, and he really is a powerhouse, especially in the rucks and mauls. His second lieutenants were Ibrahim – fantastic finisher and brave in the tackle - and Elliot – great reader of the game and ball carrier. Orlando certainly had his moments both as a tackler and ball carrier. William was a good passer and runner and Rafi knew how to find width and pop up for important tries. Finnlee was good both with the ball and tackling and Miles made up for his lack of experience with some really dogged play, getting stuck right in. Cameron was one of the most skilful

players in the team and another who kept width well. Freddie and Alec were both powerhouses with the ball in hand and took some stopping!

It certainly has been a very enjoyable season and all of the boys have improved considerably. The result at the Beechwood Sevens was the icing on the cake. They have learned to play more as a team, defend as a line and create width. They have discovered that keeping the ball moving and offloading early makes a big difference, as does running forwards whenever you have the ball in hand! There are, of course, still many things to learn, but we have made huge progress. Well done, boys!

Richard Summerfield

U11 A Rugby

We started the season in the knowledge that none of our players had had the experience of playing in the Colts A last year, which always makes things harder. However, it was obvious right away that we had a nucleus of good players who were all keen to do their best, and our pre-season trial over at Kingshott confirmed what we thought.

This was also the season of the rule changes, brought in by the RFU to help younger players learn the game. So, 12 became 9, scrums were almost uncontested, lineouts disappeared and rucks and mauls became limited in number. Of course, it was harder for coaches and referees to adapt than pupils!

The new format also meant that some of our fixtures became triangular and

even quadrangular meetings and this added to the excitement! We threw ourselves into the fray and soon discovered that we had some strong runners, one finisher and good rucking and mauling skills. Our areas for improvement were tackling (low!) spreading out to use the whole pitch and keeping a movement going.

We started with a quadrangular over at Beechwood Park - not our best day as we beat Beechwood, but lost to Kingshott whom we had beaten before and also to Heath Mount; clearly the best team on the circuit. We then went over to Heath Mount and finished second out of four schools, again losing to the hosts. We had a three way contest at Lockers Park, winning narrowly against Manor Lodge and losing narrowly to Lockers through a last minute

try. We beat Aldwickbury and Edge Grove in home matches. By now we were building momentum and we headed off to Aldro in Surrey to test ourselves in their Sevens tournament. While we didn't win a game, we did compete well against much more established rugby playing schools than ourselves. The highlight of the term came, though, at the Beechwood Sevens.

Richard Summerfield



U11 A Rugby

Sport

U11 B Rugby

The U11B Rugby team has developed greatly as the term progressed. It took the team a while to adapt to the new rugby rules. However, after a few matches they were able to play some brilliant rugby. The team showed a huge amount of resilience during the rugby term. This was typified against Edge Grove School when the team were 6 tries down at half time; nonetheless, they fought back and managed to score 4 tries of their own in the second half.

Johnny James



U11 B Rugby

U10 A Rugby

The squad has enjoyed a good term's rugby. We have been blessed with some strong and quick runners with the ball in Josh, Tommy and Harry and they proved to be our top try scorers. Kingshott were the best side we faced and we could use them as a benchmark of our progress, as we faced them three times over the course of the term. Improvements were definitely made both individually and collectively. Archie, who is new to the game, took to it like a duck to water and as a team we produced more offloads and hit more rucks as our confidence grew. Wins flowed against Heath Mount, Beechwood, Lockers Park and Edge Grove schools and the basis of a good side is there to work with next year. Well done boys!

Stuart Stedman



U10 A Rugby

Sport

U9 Rugby

The under 9s improved dramatically from the beginning of the term. They started as novices to the contact game and spent a lot of time working on their tackling; Lucas took to the game like a duck to water and was our captain and top tackler. There were some strong runners with the ball - Hugo led the way here and was one of the top try scorers along with Tobi and Joseph. Neel and Joseph improved well over the term and enjoyed the contact side of the game. The highlight of the term was our performance in the



triangular tournament against where we went undefeated.
Beechwood Park and York House Stuart Stedman

Touch Rugby

The under 10/11 touch rugby team had a mixed season where they won some and lost others.

The season began with a narrow loss against Beechwood Park in a match that was evenly balanced and could have gone either way.

They then played at Kingshott away where they lost narrowly again. However, the boys came back strong in the quadrangular where they played Beechwood Park, Kingshott and Edge Grove. Here they won one and drew another.

They then concluded their season with a win against Edge Grove.

It was a pleasure to see some of the boys develop in their game during



the season and they got better as the season progressed. Well done boys!
Sav Ndau



Sport

Basketball

Once again we have taken our basketball very seriously and our once-weekly practice has been very well attended. We had three Year 8s remaining from last year's team, supported by a very strong nucleus of keen Year 7s. Due to the high level of skill that the boys already possessed, we were able to develop tactics and team play more than in the past. We have also been able to field both an A and a B team in matches.

We have played two matches against Edge Grove and also against Orley Farm and St Martins. While results have been mixed, I have been impressed with the manner of play and I have been delighted with the lead that the three Year 8 boys have given. The Year 7s have picked the game up quickly and I am sure we are in for a good season next year.

The following played in the A and B teams:

Josh, Max, Harry, Lewis, Toby, Charlie, Freddie, Henry, Ben, Harry, Marley, Laurie and Max.

The highlight of the season was when on Saturday, 23rd January, the



Basketball Squad went to Bradfield College to take part in the 2016 IAPS National Basketball Championships.

There were 6 teams in our pool and we started with a 13-10 win against The Mall School. We lost the next game 13-0 to a powerful Millfield team. Our 3rd match was against Papplewick and we couldn't find the basket, going down 2-5. Our 4th match was against Thorngrove and here we couldn't stop scoring, winning 16-10. We ran up a good lead and let them in a little at the end. Our final match of the pool was against our old rivals, St Martins, and we won 10-4 in a comfortable game. This took us into the main semi-final where we played St George's Madrid, conquerors of our other great rivals, Edge Grove. They came out of the blocks very fast and ran up a 10-0, lead although we did have a number of chances. We moved players around and started to find the basket, closing the gap to 10-8 before the score moved to 12-8 and finally 12-10. This was as good a result as last year, where we also went down in the semi-final by just 2 points.

Needless to say, I was enormously proud of all the players – they certainly gave 100% - and of the seven, four will play again next year. I was also very pleased with the way they conducted themselves at the tournament – a credit to the school!

The team was: Harry, Josh, Max, Lewis, Charlie, Toby and Freddie.

Richard Summerfield

WHA

Quiz Night

Quiz Night 2016 was our first quiz night in the Performing Arts Centre and our first without Dave Hill. Alex Brown did not let us down with 10 rounds of questions and Mr Young did a sterling job as Quiz Master. Technical expertise from Mr Lloyd meant the evening went without a hitch.

A big thank you to Geri Dewick for organizing the event, Chef for the chilli, the ladies who helped set up on Saturday afternoon and the GAPs for working hard all night on the bar and scoring.

And of course a big thank you to all 80 parents who attended and also attempted to drink the bar dry.

Well done to the winning team, 'White Rabbits', made up of Louise & Doug Cochran, Jennie Byrne, Kristina & Ian Balshaw and Paul & Trish Kelly.

It was a close run thing as Geri's team had led all the way but with full marks in the last two rounds the 'White

Rabbits' came in triumphant. I, on the other hand, managed to retain the wooden spoon, not because our team came last (we came third), but for our team name!

The Association made £565 profit from the event and more from the bar which we will report on at the end of the year.

Sarah Markwort, WHA Chairman



WHA



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 19th March saw another great Easter Egg Hunt at Westbrook Hay. 168 children took part in the Hunt and the weather was kindish to us. A big thank you to all those who helped with the event by making and donating cakes. Some wonderful raffle prizes were also donated, including the enormous chocolate egg. We raised close to £1000!



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