



## Adventure in the Holidays

**Kiera Saunders, Phoebe Scott and Katharine Mayer wonder whether they will get any sleep during their trip to Scotland**

Mr. Dimm persuades his reluctant Headmaster to let him take a school trip to Scotland in the middle of winter! The unlikely group including the brash Toby, well observed by Henry Bexson, heads off up north and gets less than they bargained for. There are many hilarious adventures to be had in and out of the bothy with a larger than life Taylor Bryant as Toby's father, mountain rescuers, dancing Barbie Dolls and television presenters making their contribution to the mayhem. Toby needs to believe in his dad and, in the end he does, but both father and son have to learn lessons along the way. There are impressive performances including Alastair Custance's Bertie, who snivels and creeps his way through the play, getting his come-uppance at the end. The play is a light-hearted comedy, and much is owed to the backstage staff and children.

This year has seen a bumper crop of scholarships and awards to senior schools for our pupils. Heading the list (as expected) is David Cartwright, who won the top scholarship at St Alban's. He also finished in the top three in the Berkhamsted School entrance tests, along with Peter Kearney and Henry Bexson. This triumvirate was invited back to sit the scholarship papers and repeated their success, each being offered an academic scholarship. Peter was also the recipient of a sports scholarship. Henry was perhaps always destined to go to Haileybury and will be arriving with an all-rounder scholarship; he is also sitting the academic scholarship there later this year. Berkhamsted have also recognised the merits of Lizzie Wood, who joins the rest of her siblings there, as an academic scholar and George White will be following a family tradition at Millfield, where his cricketing potential has been recognised with an award.

## Magnificent 7

Closer to home, Jack Stewart was awarded an academic scholarship to St Columba's and Nadine Acquaah won an art scholarship to Abbot's Hill. Our heartiest congratulations to our scholars in recognition of the hard work and commitment they all showed, and indeed to all our forthcoming Year 6 and Year 8 leavers, who have



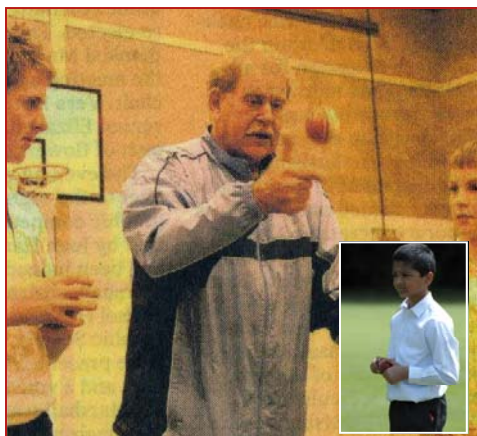
Left to right: Peter Kearney (Head Boy), Lizzie Wood (Head Girl), David Cartwright, Jack Stewart, Nadine Acquaah, George White and Henry Bexson.

worked equally hard and achieved so commendably in their senior school entrance exams. Great credit must also go to the staff who have taught these children, right across the school and throughout their time here. Their effort, enthusiasm and professional skill is the bedrock of the fabulous successes of our children's

achievements; most gaining entry into their first choice senior schools. I think it is no exaggeration to claim that in a number of cases our seniors would be going to different schools had they not transferred here, and benefitted from the excellence of the teaching and guidance at Westbrook Hay.



# Easter Term Events



## Spin at Westbrook Hay

The school was delighted to welcome Terry Jenner (Shane Warne's spin coach) back to the school for a third year. He has run two courses at the school this year which children from all over the South of England attend. Three children from Westbrook Hay were lucky enough to attend this year: Kripa Panchagnula (pictured), Christopher Bauldreay and Alistair King.

Local author Heather Butler came into Westbrook Hay to lead a Spirituality Day for Reception to Year 6, exploring 'What makes me special?'. The children thought about themselves, their uniqueness, their places in the communities they belong to and considered how they are loved because of who they are, not because of what they do. Classes attended group assemblies and took part in drama activities of a story from the bible. Heather made all activities fun and used a group parachute (staying on the floor in the main!), games and toys to help pupils' understanding.

## Spirituality Day



Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Brookes' classes

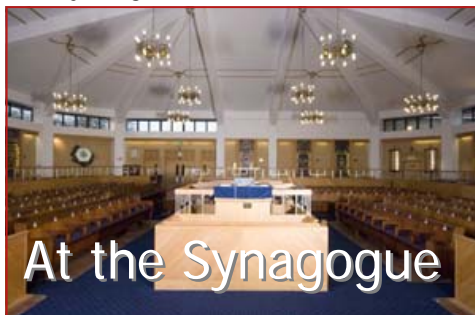
To enhance our learning of 'Healthy Eating' Year 3 enjoyed a visit to Pizza Express! No, this wasn't a 'Tasting Day' – the new Pizza Express Chefs had hard work to do! Looking smart with their hats and aprons the children each made their own pizza. They had to make sure they had an appropriate level of carbohydrate, proteins, fats and vitamins and minerals with some having more success than others as the ring of "more cheese please!" rang around the restaurant!

## Pizza Chefs



Tom Wright and Caroline Kelly

The children started by kneading the dairy-free dough using flour and then pouring the toppings on with choices including pepperoni, ham, peppers, mushrooms, onion and olives among others. As the Pizza Express ovens cook at 360°C our efforts only took 4 minutes to cook! They look tasty, don't you agree?



## At the Synagogue

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January, Year 5 pupils enjoyed a trip to Borehamwood Synagogue. They were greeted by staff who showed them that the area around the synagogue was a community in itself, and included a Nursery school. We were taken into the synagogue, where the children learned that it was not just a place of worship, but also a meeting and learning room. Rabbi Brewer spoke to the children and explained the importance of some symbols, artefacts, services and traditions, including the kippah and tallit. The whole experience aided the pupils' learning and understanding in addition to it being a very enjoyable morning.



Matty Smith, Kolade Ladipo, Miranda Tubb, Edward Khan, Max Hammatt, Thomas Hurley and James Young

Year 4 recently visited The Boxmoor Trust to develop their poetry writing. The pond, woods and surrounding land were used to get their creativity flowing! A super morning was had by all and some excellent poems were produced.

In February the science and geography departments took Year 6 to the Science Museum to visit the 'Dynamic Earth' and dinosaur exhibitions. The Natural History Museum is a dynamic scientific research institution where children are encouraged to interact with exhibits.

## Natural History



Thomas Pecorini, photograph by William Winter-Brown 6G

In the morning, we carried the world like Atlas; at noon, we stood as earthquakes crashed all around us; in the afternoon, we walked with dinosaurs.



# Easter Term Sport

## Cross Country



Photograph by Dev Patel 6G

The winning team in the inter-school junior cross country race at Lockers Park in March: Yusuf Hasnain, Luke Armstrong, Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson, Reece Pitaman-Willcock, Lanre Ladipo, Rory Williams, Jasper Exley, and Adam Ripper. The senior team (below) was Fred Kelly, Cameron Elliot, Harry Hammond, Adam Brown, Alistair Walters, Kevin Kirwan, and Charles Martindale



Photograph by Dev Patel 6G

## Rugby

The 2nd XV played three matches this season winning one of them. The most pleasing aspect of the season was that with each game our performance improved. There were numerous squad members who had never played rugby before and there is a realistic chance that some of these will be competing for the 1st XV next year. Well done to all involved.

The under 9s have enjoyed a fine term. The squad has adapted to contact rugby really well with every Year 4 (and some high quality Year 3s) playing in contact matches. While the weather did disrupt some matches we enjoyed wins over Lockers and Edge Grove while producing fine performances at the start of the Edge Grove festival before the wind and rain stormed in. The boys have produced some great running rugby this term particularly in the centres with Will Alexander and Hamish Michie, while Matty Smith has been prominent among the forwards. A very good term! Well done!

The under 8s have proved to be just as formidable. After losing a match early in the term they proceeded to play some terrific tag rugby and won the Heath Mount tag festival without losing a game! The whole squad rotated during these matches proving the strength in depth we have, but there were some big contributions from Joshua Kerr, Thomas Holes and Alex Wilkinson.

With there being a mix of both hockey and netball this term there have been plenty of challenges for the girls on match days. The bad weather at the start caused a few cancellations, but the second half of this term has been very productive for all the teams. The U9s, although a small group, have wholeheartedly enjoyed their matches and have continued to develop skills in hockey and netball. The U8s have shown dedication and enthusiasm, having a great experience of hockey in the matches on grass at Chesham Prep and displaying a good level of netball to draw 2-2 with Berkhamsted. The U11 hockey team have called upon the experience of Lizzie Wood to lead, encourage and captain them through their matches, culminating in a superb game against Kingshott where the end result could have gone either way, but Kingshott managed a deflection off the goal post to sneak past Katharine Mayer and into the goal winning 2 goals to 1. Once the girls got the feel of the different astro surface, many more opportunities were created, with greater control and positioning on and off the ball. Phoebe Scott has received several Player of the Match awards for her strong ability out on the wing as has Lizzie Wood with her strength in mid-field. Katharine Mayer took on the unenviable role as goalie and did a superb job.

## Hockey



Katie Downham and Samah Khan challenging for the ball against Heath Mount under 10s

The U10 teams have all recalled previous skills to have a much better understanding of their positions. At the start of the season when the team did not have a goalie, Paige Symns stepped up to the task and, with further development, I think we have a strong player in the making. In various teams we now have girls who, through their enjoyment of the game in school lessons, have decided to join outside hockey clubs which will further improve their game. Although not a winning season, all the girls derive great pleasure from performing in school matches and are enjoying all their sport, whatever the outcome.



## 1st XV Rugby

**Played: 6 - Won: 3 - Lost: 2 - Drawn: 1**  
**Points For: 99      Points Against: 73**

Lockers Park: won 19 – 5

Edge Grove: drawn 5 – 5

Heath Mount: lost 0 – 15

Lockers Park: won 36 – 5

Heath Mount: lost 5 – 10

Quainton Hall: won 34 – 33

The following have played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV: Taylor Bryant (Captain), Chris Bauldreay, Henry Bexson, Adam Brown, Matthew Burr, David Cartwright, Alastair Custance, Cameron Elliot, Will Feron, Rhys Gordon, Peter Kearney, Alistair King, Max Khazaneh, Jacob Lewarne, Charles Martindale, Ryan O'Sullivan, Dylan Tenty, Alistair Walters. Overall the 1<sup>st</sup> XV have enjoyed a successful season with much to be pleased about. Our forwards have been good in both the set piece and the loose but.....against Heath Mount, on both occasions, we allowed the opposition to be slightly quicker to the breakdown in the first half.....to our cost! The backs have grown in confidence with some strong and direct running. Defensively the team has been dogged and very tenacious. Most satisfying of all has been the improvement shown by the team as a whole culminating, perhaps, in our best performance of the season against Quainton Hall. The match, as the 34 – 33 score line suggests, was a titanic battle. Our forwards controlled the encounter for the best part and starved the opposition's very quick backs of any possession for long periods; it was undoubtedly a team performance! Well done to all!



# Our Westbrook Hay Community



The winning photograph in the 'snow scene competition' A wonderful Snow Bear built by Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson, Teddy and Eleanor Grigg during the heavy snow falls of February 2009

The charities' committee have been very busy over a considerable number of weeks, organising the Grand Second Hand Sale in aid of SENSE, the leading national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind. They thought of many ideas to raise additional funds and decided that a cake sale at first break would be the most fun and enjoyable. Members manned the stall and managed very well during the stampede! They returned after lunch-time to set up the stalls for the sale. Parents' donations were again generous and ranged from books to an exercise machine! The children worked very hard and sensibly to arrange all the goods out attractively. Marcus Daghlion donated an adorable four foot bunny for a 'Guess the name of the rabbit' stall, which was a very popular choice and George Lee won the bunny. The sale was, as always, very well supported and a fantastic total of £382 was raised. Many thanks to all involved, especially to all the parents for your continuous, generous support and enthusiasm.



This year Westbrook Hay School is raising money for SENSE, the leading national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind. This is the Westbrook Hay charity committee: Alexandra Bugar, Gareth Caine, Charlotte Cook, Katie Downham, Natasha Martin, Arman Jena and Isobel Bryant



Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:

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The National Year of Reading may be over but reading is alive and well at Westbrook Hay with more children borrowing books than ever before and some lively library sessions throughout the week. The most popular break times are those in which the older children give up part of their break time to read to the Swallows and Robins children. These sessions are now so popular that there are usually enough volunteers to allow one to one reading to take place! With a generous donation from the WHA, the lower school now has its own bright and cheerful reading corner. Reading Week saw a well supported bookfair and Readathon and the day on which children and staff were invited to dress up as a favourite book character saw a vast range of characters and costumes with everyone entering into the spirit of the day. The school is registered with the Nestle "Box tops for Books" and the Times Newspaper "Books for Schools" schemes and the tokens that have been collected for these will add more valuable books to the school's collections.

## Reading Week



Zac Olumese, Joe Innes, Emmie Parmar, William Garrett, Harvey Graham and Joshua Tambwe

## Westbrook Hay Book Club

The Westbrook Hay Book Club has been running for over year now. A group of mums meet regularly in the library after the monthly WHA coffee morning and one person selects a few books each month from which one or two are then selected to read and discuss the following month. It's all very informal and not too high brow and the range of books which has been covered is eclectic to say the least. It's not compulsory to come along every month and it's not even compulsory to finish the book each month! If you feel like coming along now and then new members are very welcome.

**Don't forget the Disco Ball**

