



AUDIENCES IN AWE AND WONDER(LAND)!



See page 9 and 10 for a full report

SCHOLARS GALORE

With entrance tests over, our minds turned to scholarships and this year we have continued the excellent trend in gaining a further eight scholarships to various Public schools. Pride of place goes to Adam Ripper and Niamh Stears, who secured academic scholarships to St Albans, closely followed by Vasanth Balla, who was offered the same by Haberdashers'. The Caine family further strengthen their presence at Aldenham, where Owen was awarded an academic scholarship and his sister, Alexandra has an all-rounder's award. She was also offered a scholarship to The Royal Masonic School. Suen Koya so impressed with his soccer skills that

he has signed up for the Aldenham pre-season tour prior to taking the entrance test! He will be joining them in September as a sports scholar. Ewan Phillips will be doing the same at Claire's Court and completing the list this year and demonstrating the wonderful variety in the talents of the scholars, Charlotte Bugar was awarded the Drama scholarship at Berkhamsted. We wish all our scholars the very best for the future, recognising how much hard work goes into gaining these awards and how much will be expected of them in their new schools. We also congratulate all those who took entrance tests this term and delight in the fact that all have secured places in their next schools. The staff and pupils all deserve a jolly good rest over Easter, after such a busy, but ultimately wonderfully successful term. Keith Young

SORTED!



On Thursday 8th March Westbrook Hay entered three teams from Year 8 into the annual Technology Tournament organised by the Rotary Society and held at Ashlyns school. The task this year was to create an automatic coin sorting machine, which all of our teams successfully completed and tested, showing good ingenuity and teamwork.

PENS AND PENCILS DOWN FOR STORYTELLING WEEK

Pupils enjoyed a week of having no writing in English lessons as staff agreed to a week of carefully planned lessons to explore the art of storytelling and speaking and listening through a range of different activities. Some children improvised stories after finding exciting words and objects in 'feely bags', some acted out scenes from studied literature texts with lessons moved to the assembly hall, and some used mime or other performance techniques to bring ballad poetry to life.



Wednesday 1st February's highlight of the day for children from Reception to Year 8 was the visit from John Harris, the only full-time professional storyteller in the country who works exclusively with children. Whilst this was John's second visit to the school as we were lucky enough to have him visit us in 2006, it was incredible to see all these years later that he can still captivate the imaginations of so many (staff included!) and have an audience hanging off every word. We had stories from far-flung places such as Japan, or were transported back in time to Ancient Greece and Ancient Egypt. The older children in Year 7 and 8 were treated to some spine-tinglingly tense tales set not so far away at all; I certainly won't be driving through Epping forest in the early hours of the morning, or looking to own a white sports car! This visit was fabulous and many children also went away with a signed copy of one or more of John's books, dedicated to them.

World Book Day Book Fair

Thank you so much to all the parents and children who supported our World Book Day Book Fair so enthusiastically. The fair provided an opportunity for children and parents to have a look at a range of books and authors, and hopefully inspired them to try a new book or two. The children really enjoyed browsing through the books at break times. We also held some special browsing sessions in class time to encourage the children to see the range of books available and to have a look at some

authors or genres they might not have tried. We took almost £2000 in sales, which translated to over £1000 in commission to be spent on new books for the school.



HATS OFF TO EVERYONE IN THE WORLD BOOK DAY PARADE!

Where else can you see Tintin, Harry Potter, the White Giraffe, Mr Strong, the Snowman and many more of our best loved book characters in one place, and all on hats? That's right! Westbrook Hay Hat Parade for World Book Day 2012 was another outstanding success. Thanks go to the children, parents and staff who all got into the spirit and worked so hard to produce some amazing creations. We had some excellent Alice in Wonderland hats, inspired by our Upper School production, including Paige Atkinson's incredible design. Rudolph's flapping antlers defied gravity (well done Owen Caine) and the entire collection of Wimpy Kid books were stacked very precariously on Jude Clark Regamey's head! Well done to everyone who took part, and thanks also to all the book elves who celebrated the day by reading to the children in Lower School. The younger children love hearing stories from the "big ones" and the Middle and Upper School children really enjoy sharing stories with such an attentive audience. They looked great dressed as elves too!





Charlotte Burgar, Caroline Kelly, Niamh Stears and George Stockbridge represented Westbrook Hay this year at the Haileybury Science Challenge. The teams faced challenges themed around the Olympics and were judged on the height of their spaghetti and marshmallow 'spectators stand', their ability to test for hidden 'drugs' in samples of liquids and to assay the quantity of glucose in high energy drinks. These tasks are the same as those given to Year 9 pupils at Haileybury. Our team can be proud of their place amongst the runners up. Well done.



HAILEYBURY CHALLENGE

We cannot see it! We cannot touch it! We cannot even hear it! It's the chemistry of absolutely nothing! What we are talking about is.....Air! Years 7 and 8 were treated to a dramatic display by Irfan Latif, the Deputy Headmaster of Bedford School to support their understanding of materials. He certainly woke everyone up and we

were sitting on the edge of our seats when he exploded a balloon filled with hydrogen. Not so much a 'squeaky pop', more a thunderous roar! Mrs Harris helped to make liquid Nitrogen ice cream and we watched 'screaming jelly babies' and held 'cold flames'. It was an excellent lecture – enjoyed by all.

AND THE CHEMISTRY OF ABSOLUTELY... NOTHING!



NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM AND GREENWICH THEATRE

A very wet Sunday was best spent inside the wonderful National Maritime Museum exploring the exhibitions and artifacts and completing some creative writing tasks. At 6pm we witnessed a real treat as we were transported to a desert island to watch *The Lord of the*

Flies put on so effectively at Greenwich Theatre. The boys' Common Entrance studied literature text was brought to life with dramatic movement and symbolism, alongside wonderful characterisation. All fitting revision before their CE writing exams the week after!

THE SCIENCE OF PANCAKES

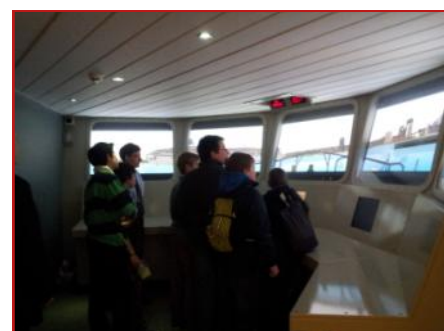
Pancake day was celebrated in the Science lab by investigating the irreversible chemical reaction of cooking eggs and flour at a particle level – the children also ate their own pancakes.



LOCAL ECOLOGY



Year 8 have been investigating the signs of early spring at Boxmoor Trust by studying the size and distribution of water creatures as well as completing an ecological survey of flora and fauna in the open meadows as part of an ongoing survey that the School contributed towards since 2005. On our return from Boxmoor we checked out the newly cleaned stone pond and discovered frog spawn. It is wonderful that thanks to Eamon's massive effort to clean out the pond we are able to contribute to the local wildlife.





DANCE WORKSHOP

This year our annual dance workshop with Stuart Bishop from the Pineapple Dance Studios was a great success and due to the overwhelming demand, we ran two workshops. All the children worked with great enthusiasm and interest, making so much effort to take part in the workshop. Naomi Bassett was selected by Stuart as the best dancer at the workshop because she really 'let her hair down'.

Once again, Year 4 embarked on their exciting day to Bhaktivedanta Manor, the Hare Krishna Temple donated by George Harrison. Fun was had by all in the form of bull-cart riding, face-painting, dressing up and touring the magnificent grounds. We learnt a huge amount about the various forms of Hindu worship, their beliefs and practices and how they live their daily lives at the manor. As usual, one of our favourite experiences was the tasty paneer curry, which everybody loved! 'My favourite part was the bull cart ride. The bulls were gigantic!' said Xavi Parmar.



"HANDS-ON" LEARNING IN YEAR 4



Our Ancient Egyptian history topic was brought to life when St Albans Museum came in to school to show us some artefacts from Ancient Egyptian times. The workshop began with group activities involving different aspects of Egyptian life. We dressed up as pharaohs, played with Egyptian toys and musical instruments and learned how to write our names in hieroglyphs! We also saw models of mummies and even had a go at bandaging ourselves up in linen. In the final, and most exciting part of the workshop, we were given the opportunity to look at some authentic Ancient Egyptian artefacts that had been excavated from the Valley of the Kings in the 1920's. There were shabti dolls, jewellery, and some amulets that had been found amongst the bandages of a real mummy!

Our recent visit to a Sikh gurdwara enabled the children in Year 4 to see first-hand how Sikhs worship and live. We had a tour of the gurdwara by our favourite Sikh, Gurdeep. He explained how people of all faiths are welcome in a gurdwara. He showed us around the langar kitchen and we were even allowed to sample the delicious food (is there a recurring subject coming up here?). The children learned about the Sikh philosophy of everyone being equal and also about the origin of Sikhism. They also saw how much Sikhs do for their community.



SPRING CONCERT

At the end of last half term the music department put on a Spring Concert. However, the Choir got it right when they sang, 'I Can See Clearly Now The Snow Has Come'. From among our instrumentalists, we had guitarists, pianists, trumpeters and one saxophonist, of which the last three all had an ABRSM Grade 4 soloist performing. We had some beginner guitarists as well with Ben Fuller wowing the girls with his now WBH-famous electric guitar rendition of yet another Beatles song. We had beginner singers like Toby Daghlion bravely getting up on stage, all the way up to Grade 4 songs. The night ended with an emotional high when we all listened spell-bound by our two choristers, Xander & Rory Hall singing 'Pie Jesu' in beautiful harmony.



ABRSM EXAMINATIONS

We are now holding ABRSM exams every term. Last Friday 16th March, we had another 17 children from WBH entered, who were examined by an external examiner. Last term's results included three Distinctions, one of which was Charlie Bugar attaining an amazing 136 points for her Grade 3 ABRSM Singing exam. These exam certificates are recognized worldwide and at Grade 5 level, also by Universities.

1st XV RUGBY

Right from the outset we realised that this was going to be a testing season for all involved. From an early stage it was decided that everyone in Years 7 and 8 who wanted to represent the 1st XV would get an opportunity to do so; in all, 19 pupils played at some stage during the few matches we had. The most rewarding aspect for all was to see how the team improved as a whole and by the time we played both Edge Grove and Heath Mount we were very competitive particularly in the first half, when we rucked well and controlled much of the play, especially in the forwards. It was only on

the second half that the size and strength of the opposition started to tell, despite some brave tackling by all. We can look forward to next year with hope as many of the team will be playing for the 1st XV next season and the experience gained will prove invaluable. Special mention must go to Leon Sui and Harry Williams for their wonderful and valued support as helpers to the coaching staff all season.

The following represented the 1st XV: Tom Richardson (Captain), Oreofe Akinseye, Luke Armstrong, Owen Caine, Joshua Cooper, Edward Khan, Seun Koya, Kolade Ladipo, Zac Mills, Charlie Parslow, Ewan Phillips, Richard Platt, Adam Ripper, Jake Salo, Reuben Stoner-Redfern, Alexander Taylor, Jamie Turner, Henry Williams, Ben Yeo.

Beechwood Park Under 11 Sevens Tournament

There were a couple of significant events which affected us before we even got started! The temperature had dropped dramatically just before we arrived and due to minibus failure one of our opponents was unable to play so we spent a lot of time waiting for our games and I fear the cold got to us just before the semi final where we found ourselves 3 tries down in the first few minutes – a mountain too high to climb. The boys were very disappointed to lose but can be proud of their performances on the day. In the pool stages we had played some excellent rugby, especially against Lochinver House, and had qualified for the semis with a bit to spare.

Results of Pool Matches v Lochinver House won 26 -0

v York House won 19-12

Result of Semi Final v Aldwickbury lost 14-19

The Squad: Billie Busari, Tom Holes (Captain), Joshua Kerr, James Holden, Joshua Yeo, Jamie Irwin, Daniel Morrissey, Alex Wilkinson and Tom Lane.

YEAR 5 AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

In February Mr Hill and Mrs Harris took Year 6 on a geography trip to the Natural History Museum. The children visited the 'Dynamic Earth' and 'Dinosaur' Exhibitions. The Museum is a dynamic scientific research institu-

tion where children are encouraged to interact with exhibits. A fun time was had by all whilst learning in a very real way, experiencing the thrill of standing in a shop during a simulated earthquake.





Played 5 Won 4 Lost 1 Points For 141 Points Against 68

What a terrific season! There were 18 players who represented the Colts B this term, 7 of which played every game. As a result, there were many changes during the season which reflects the strength in depth we had within the entire age group. All the matches were relatively comfortable wins with the exception of a last minute try to win over at Heath Mount. There were 10 different try scorers and all bar one played in the backs so it was not a case of forward domination, but excellent distribution to the backs with Joe Rabey scoring 6 tries in total on the wing. Dominic Young deserves a mention not only for his fine play at outside half but also because he didn't miss a conversion all season.

COLTS RUGBY



The **Colts D** side showed excellent progress over the term. All of the boys have played contact rugby and worked hard and grown in confidence. The side finished the term with an excellent win in a tight match against Aldwickbury with William Garnett, Ben Fuller and Samad Ibrahim putting in great performances and scoring tries in a 32-25 win. A number of the players also played in C matches over the term. Great work this term boys!

The Colts A team have been a joy to work with this season, plenty of enthusiasm and commitment in every match and indeed every practice session. Statistics never fully tell the story but we have used 22 players of which 13 have scored points with eleven try scorers. Billie Busari from full back was the leading try scorer and indeed most of the tries were scored by the backs but the mobile pack was the cornerstone of the team's success with Billy Boot, George Stockbridge, Jamie Irwin, Alex Wilkinson, Daniel Morrissey and Tom Lane supplying plenty of ball to the excellent half backs Joshua Yeo and James Holden. In the centres captain Thomas Holes and Joshua Kerr were very dependable especially in defence and during the season we used the pacy combinations of Tom Wright, Harvey Graham and Scott Rolfe on the wings. It really has been a super season and the support on the touchline from the parents has been second to none.



Played 4 Won 4 Points For 112 Points Against 45

The following boys played for the Colts B team

4 matches: Joshua Tambwe (1 try), Joe Rabey (6 tries), Luca Cecera (1 try), Jacob Winter-Brown (1 try), Dominic Young (16 conversions), Dominic Hampstead.

3 matches: Freddie Wilson, Edward Bryant (captain), Alex Martindale,

2 matches: Ben Fuller (1 try), Daniel Morrissey (2 tries), William Upton, George Stockbridge, Ewan Michie (2 tries).

1 match: Hassan Khan, Scott Rolfe (1 try), Harvey Graham (1 try)

The Colts C have produced some fantastic performances this term and probably been the strongest C team we have had in some time. Freddie Redfern and Jerry St Hilaire have been the heartbeat of the side with their aggressive running and tackling while David Burnell, a newcomer to the game, has improved his understanding and scored some important tries. Jude Clark Regamey, at scrum-half and Ali Bond, skipper and winger, have also been strong players. Victory away at Heath Mount was an obvious highlight but with the boys only losing one match all term they have certainly proved to be very consistent with their performances. Super term!

It has been a busy term for all the girls' teams with matches switching between hockey and netball. The Year 3 girls have had the opportunity to play quite a few extra games as they have helped swell the numbers in the Under 9s making it possible to play two teams in this age group. On most occasions



they have been playing against tougher opposition but they have learnt a lot from this experience which will stand them in good stead next year. Special mention goes to Sophie Smith, Tegan Howard and Rebecca Pratt whose knowledge of these games has given them the opportunity to play up in the Under 9A team this season. The Under 11 and Under 10 teams' results have been a mix of wins, draws and losses but they have all worked hard and shown commitment and enthusiasm throughout this term. In the Under 10 hockey teams Rebecca Wagstaff and Olivia Boyle took on the daunting task of putting themselves forward to play in goal and were fearless in defence of their team's goal. Alice Ripper and Georgia Hurley were instrumental in scoring goals for the A team as was

Crystal Jugoo in the B team. The Under 11 girls have sadly now played their last netball and hockey matches for the school but are hopefully looking forward to a similarly exciting season of rounders before they depart on the next leg of their journey moving on to their new schools. Thank you to all the girls for your dedication this season.



HOCKEY AND NETBALL



UNDER 9 RUGBY

The Under 9s have shown a huge improvement this term. Their commitment to the contact side of the game has been very good and saw us out-ruck Lockers in the match after half-term. OJ Strowger has led the way with some super tackles and driving runs while Alfred Woolf has shown great ability in turning over the ball and regaining possession. Adam Summers (top try-scorer) and Charlie Woodmansee have been playing up a year in the A team and shown great character and determination as well as skill, while Kieran Lendon has also played up a year in the B team. Even though we lost a few matches to the weather, we have played a number of closely fought games and I look forward to seeing more of the same next term!

The Under 8s have had a fantastic term of tag rugby. They have all grasped the game very well, gaining a good understanding of the rules and how to play the game. We have been involved in a number of matches and festivals against other schools and the boys performed magnificently in all of them. Toby Dewick finished the term as our top try scorer, closely followed by Lomax Tannett. All of the boys defended well, particularly Harrison Hobbs, David Kukoyi and Finn Graham. However, it is a team game and every boy played their part in a very successful term with the highlight being the victory at the Under 8 tag festival. They should all be very proud of their individual and team progression over the term, well done boys!

UNDER 8 RUGBY



PARENTS PROVIDE NEW PAVILION

No doubt the more adventurous among you will have noticed the ground works taking place in a corner of the Colts field. Well, we have some exciting news to share with you. The Westbrook Hay Association have agreed to fund a new pavilion that we all hope will be ready in time for the summer term. Built from treated wood, the new building will not only blend in beautifully with its surroundings, but will allow the children to get even more from the lovely grounds that we have here at school. It is anticipated that in time, the building will have



running water and electricity and be used for sporting events during the summer, including providing a base for the Westbrook Hay Olympics. Facing directly into the field it will be a perfect place from which to watch matches and should become a focal point where parents can gather to take match tea afterwards. As well as sports, we hope that many other departments will use the facility enabling our children to enjoy a lesson or two in the inspirational setting of the great outdoors. Art, music and English spring immediately to mind. Watch this space...!

Occasional boarding continues to be very popular for both girls and boys with trips to Quasar, X-C Caving and Rogue Racing Go-karting. Dates are booked up almost by return, particularly the boys' Go-karting as the children compete to beat Mr Young who maintains the fastest lap times - just! Master Platt is very close on his heels and determined to pip him at the post next term. X-C Caving was requested by the girls as a new activity this term and is proving a firm favourite. Bryony and Cameron, our Gap Students, join the children in their activity with Miss Whitehead in loco parentis (i.e. taxi driver ferrying to and from, wardrobe lady looking after the multitude of outer garments shed on arrival at the venue and catering manager ensuring enough food and drink is available to replenish energy reserves)! On a serious note it is a pleasure to take the children out and have them represent the school, albeit in an informal and fun capacity. I look forward to welcoming the current Year 4 girls and boys to the boarding fraternity when they move up to Year 5 in September.



Messrs Platt vs Young
racing at Rogue Racers

BOARDERS PLAY FAST AND LOOSE

A whopping 19.5°C made it the most pleasant and enjoyable (and dare I say hot!) Easter egg hunt with over 220 children exploring the school grounds searching for Easter egg clues. It was just wonderful to have so many children, family and friends from all year groups at the school and also some children who have not yet joined the school. Many thanks to all the parents who so kindly made some delicious cakes and biscuits and also to the parents who helped on the day.

HUNTING FOR EGGS



QUIZ NIGHT RAISES MONEY FOR WHA

Back by popular request; the Assembly Hall was packed to the rafters with eager quiz contestants ready to test their knowledge at our ever-popular Quiz and Supper Night. Proceedings and questions were ably conducted by our own Mr Dave Hill, who proved once again an adept and cunning quizmaster. He was assisted by his wife Jan, who was equally unflappable with the scoreboard. We were taken back to our own school days with ten rounds all reflecting classroom subjects; the opportunity to deliberate on which round to play a joker

for double points proving crucial. Sixteen teams of eight or thereabouts took part and it was a closely fought contest right up to the last. Several teams were in with a shout with two rounds to go, but in the end, two teams 'Caine & Unable' and 'Clueless' (ahem, Mr. Woodward's team) went head to head in the last round. The eventual winners were of course Caine & Unable (who had been appropriately positioned on the stage all night). Quiz fayre was provided by our own Chef Graeme; a tasty lasagne with salad, complemented by

fine refreshments from the bar - just enough to keep our brains sharp! So, three cheers for the WBH Quiz Champions Caine & Unable, and many, many thanks to Dave, Jan, Chef and all of the Association helpers, notably Dinah Ripper, Debs Grigg, Fiona Kerr and Jenny Bond for making it such a smoothly run event and a memorable night. The Association would also like to thank all those who took part and from the funds raised we will be able to provide medals for this year's Westbrook Hay Olympics.



ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Those who were lucky enough to watch what can only be described as the highlight of the term will understand just how difficult it is to write an article that does justice to the Upper School's production of 'Alice in Wonderland'. Transported to Wonderland with Alice (big or small) to intrepidly lead the way and continually nurture the audience's sense of adventure, it was easy to become completely absorbed in such an enchanting world: a land of dreams and "strange happenings". Both Alice leads, Charlotte Burger and Hannah Gunn, performed skillfully, with excellent diction and thoughtful characterisation, and as for the singing, what a treat! As things became "curiouser and curiouser" the audience was continually amused and

intrigued by all the baffling characters encountered. To mention a few: Dodo, Lorikeet and Eaglet hamming it up superbly to get the audience hooked from the outset; the aloof and magical Caterpillar adding puzzle and riddle; the acrobatics of Father William most skilfully displayed; the frantic white fluff of the very endearing White Rabbit – always in a hurry; a beautiful array of talking flowers, and (to the delight of the audience) quite the floral arrangement in voice too; the mania – and accompanying rattle of tea-cups – from the brilliant Mad Hatter and friends around the table for tea; the portly Walrus and amusing Carpenter; the Cards, suitably grand; the bumbling old King; and not forgetting the shrill voice of the Queen, the fiery

ruler with a soft-spot for the chopping block that we had no choice to adore if we were to hope for a jam tart during the interval! As ever with Westbrook Hay Upper School plays, whether I am directing the production myself, or as with this year watching Mr. Woodward pace the assembly hall with proceedings rather more 'West(brook) End', I am amazed at what the children can achieve in under a term and in such a busy one too. As Mr. Woodward will protest, it is a team effort and the credit is due to the whole team of children, parents and staff. However I am hopeful the rapturous applause that shook the assembly hall on both nights particularly realised the dreams of the cast and director, two astonishing evenings of enchantment and delight. Julie Thomson





ALICE IN WONDERLAND



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