

## ANOTHER YEAR OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

This year sees the continuation of our impressive academic record for scholarship. Pride of place must go to Shri Lekkala, whose brilliance with all things mathematical and his general academic potential earned him the top scholarship to Westminster. Also for his ability with Maths, Matthew Tse has been awarded a scholarship to Shiplake. Marcus Daghljan won an academic and music scholarship to Berkhamsted, where he will be joined in the Music Department by fellow scholar, Jasper Exley. As reward for his all

round excellence Stowe has given Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson the Roxburgh Scholarship and a Music Exhibition. While not moving on as a scholar, Hugh Kelly deserves a mention alongside the above having gained an impressive pass at CE to Eton, a feat that would likely have earned him a scholarship elsewhere. No less impressive, as their results put them in the top 5% of children of their age, our congratulations go to Justin Upson, Matthew Smith, Luke Woodmansee and James Young for passing the 11+

and also Yusuf Hasnain and William Wallis for passing the 12+. While it is wonderful to have such a strong crop of scholars this year, we should not forget all those Year 8 boys who performed so admirably at CE and also the girls and boys who have passed entrance tests in Year 6. The bar seems to rise every year with regard to that which is expected of children in terms of scholarship, but it is good to see that we are going with the pace and producing impressive results year after year.



### DRAKE WIN ON SPORTSDAY

Sports day was a huge success again this year especially as the weather was most definitely on our side. We started the day with a well organized Lower School races and Middle and Upper School athletic events. Competition was intense right to the end, with Drake just winning, overall, after the final relays. The Lower School children tried their hardest and were extremely pleased to show their parents how well they have been practising and how fast they can run.

By anyone's standards, Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson has had an extremely successful term on the athletics track. As a result of his relatively easy wins in the sprints, and anchoring the winning relay team at the meeting between Westbrook Hay, Locker's Park and Edge Grove schools, he was selected to run in the National Prep Schools Athletics Championships in Birmingham against the best in the country. Before that he joined the euphoric celebrations of Drake House as they won the schools Sports Day. As his house were swimming to victory in the house gala, he was lining up in the heats of the 100m and 200m at the Nationals. As tension mounted, Frazer sprinted into both finals against some of the best young athletes in the country. Although he ran very well, dipping correctly on the line, he was beaten into silver medal position in both the 100m and the 200m. A great achievement, well done Frazer.

### FRAZER WINS TWO SILVER MEDALS







Twenty one intrepid Year 8s departed for a week of adventure in Shropshire. After a fun packed day at Drayton Manor we arrived at our campsite. In the following days we would kayak, canoe, raft build, climb ridiculous obstacles, swing from giant swings, abseil, fence and try our hand at a bit of archery. Surprisingly the children still had energy for man hunt, basketball and a game of football! Highlights included the staff raft

collapsing (never trust those New Zealanders when it comes to design!) and an invasion by ducks of our campsite. The weather was remarkably kind and we escaped the worst of the rain. A good time was had by all!

## ADVENTURE FOR YEAR 8



## Year 5 OUTDOOR CHALLENGES

One of the highlights of the term for Year 5 was their visit to Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre for a day of fun based activities. The children did a variety of activities that tested their initiative and team work: swamp, spider's web and nightline. Many put the fun of nightline, where they had to negotiate an obstacle course blindfolded, as their favourite land based



event. All were involved in building rafts followed by a race around a nearby buoy in the lake. As expected several pupils had a surprise dip in the water as their raft came apart! However most pupils felt that the best part of the day had been.....the swing rope! This involved swinging out into lake on a rope and plunging into the cooling waters below before swimming back to shore.

## EXPLORING THE RAINFOREST

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, Year 3 spent a fascinating day exploring "The Living Rainforest" near Newbury. We saw plenty of plants, trees and animals that would be found in the rainforests. On the tour we saw how

plants adapt to the environment utilizing the limited sun light and the abundance of rain – it was extremely hot and steamy! The playground was also fantastic.







# CAMPFIRE COOKING

The camp fire cooking and wide game activity is always a popular evening pastime and this year was no exception. Over the course of two evenings 18 Year 5 pupils and 18 Year 6 pupils took to the 'Dark Woods' to build their fires. The usual feast of sausages, jacket potatoes and baked beans would soon be sizzling and cooking away on the hot embers. As ever, all agreed that the food tasted even better than usual when cooked on an open fire! Once stomachs were full it was time for 'commando' – a game of stealth and daring that requires teams to crawl through the undergrowth and surprise the opposition. All agreed that the evenings were great fun and a huge success and my thanks go also to three Year 8s that helped with the Year 5 evening.



## BUG HOTEL WINS AWARD

Thanks to the hard work of lower school and maintenance team for the gift of the Bugs Hotel. The science activities group were able to do an audit of bug 'guests' in the hotel and their environmental needs, raw data collected by the activities group has been analysed by the Tuesday Evening Scholarship group. The Pupils did a wonderful job and have gained us points towards our objective of being awarded Bronze Eco – School status.



## FRENCH WEEK IN NORMANDY



A week in France gave our Year 5 children a very good opportunity to brush up their French since, at the Chateau de la Baudonniere, Normandy, all the staff spoke only French. During the week, though, the children also took part in many challenging and exciting activities from "fabrication du pain to parcours de santé". For most of them it was the first time they had stayed abroad without their parents and it was good to see them trying their French and enjoying doing activities together.



Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May was a welcome break from the classroom for Year 8A English. The boys, who were studying William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* for their studied literature text this year as part of their Common Entrance English exam, had to write an essay on the theme of conflict, based on this book. Regent's Park Open Air Theatre's adaptation proved that there could be no better exam revision by allowing the boys to get a little deeper into the themes of the book, watching the dramatic and moving events unfold in front of their very eyes. Golding's book is well known as a dark, profoundly shocking and emotionally challenging novel about hu-

man nature, and this was certainly portrayed well. The amazing set, complete with broken fuselage, and the way the whole play was cleverly infused with aspects of symbolism contributed to an excellent adaptation. Thankfully the sun shone, a lovely picnic was had in Regent's Park, and we were left in no doubt that to take such a pessimistic view of human nature would be a huge and unthinking disservice to ourselves as a species. Our children can and do share a collective responsibility for each other's well-being... and thankfully they are able to recognise a true, wise friend, whether he is called Piggy or not.



## LORD OF THE FLIES



## PHENOMENAL SPELLERS

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011 saw the second year of our **House Spelling Bee**, a close fought competition between teams representing their houses, Drake, Marlborough, Nelson and Wellington. The teams, made up of pupils from Years 5, 6, 7 and 8, were chosen for their combination of good spelling ability and their ability to cope under pressure. Supported by two runners up for each house, one covering Year 5/6 and the other Year 7/8, all of the team members gave their very best as

they took to the stage in front of the rest of the school. Ably assisted by judges Mrs Turrell and Mrs Brown, I was pleased to take the teams through round one, in which the words increased in difficulty and players were 'out' with any errors made. The round one scores were very close, with Marlborough taking the lead with 19 points. This round also generated our spelling champion for 2011, with **Zac Mills** of Drake House being the last man standing and demonstrating superior confi-

dence and outstanding spelling ability. The pressure was now really on as each team competed against the clock, with two minutes per team to give as many correctly spelt words as possible. It was a closely fought battle and was VERY tense! The final scores were:

**1<sup>st</sup> Nelson with 38 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Drake and Marlborough with 35 points and 4<sup>th</sup> Wellington with 32 points.**



## SCIENCE OUTDOORS

As part of Year 8 science work on classification, the boys spent a morning looking into the many and varied species that the Boxmoor Trust pond has to offer. water nymphs, bloodworms, frogs, tadpoles and newts were in abundance. Much fun was had by all, with this hands-on work really useful for their biology revision. Once more, we can only thank the Boxmoor Trust for allowing us to use this wonderful on-the-doorstep facility.

With nineteen children from Years 3-4 coming along every Thursday after lessons to Guitar Club, we were able to put on a great performance in Assembly along with Middle School Choir singing 'The Duck Song'. Since 'Ukulele Clubs' are all the rage these days, WBH made a go of starting their own. We even performed to the ICI Inspector, although I think he preferred Charlie Parslow's ukulele solo Ennio Morricone's classic. The number of children taking instrumental lessons at Westbrook Hay continues to rise with 13 of those children from Year 1.

Things look good for the future music at WBH. Thirty one Associated Board exams have been taken this year; we are still awaiting results from the June exam but in April, we had 13 children pass graded exams up to grade 3 we must remember that these exams are internationally recognised by Universities. We had 3 wonderful concerts this year starting with the solos for the house concert, the Easter concert and lastly the May charity concert. Where do you start to convey the amazing variety and wide ranging musical talent there is at WBH. Take for instance

the Spring concert in March: we had everything from the tear-pulling and very cute Tegan Howard from Year 2 singing 'Where is Love?' all the way up to Marcus Daghlain and Oliver Floyd's classical 'Funky Town' played on the bassoon and trombone, with the Year 8 'band' playing the pop song 'Viva La Vida' made up of William Winter-Brown on Bass, Jasper Exley on drums, Elliot Coulling and Lanre Ladipo singing and dancing the audience into a fever.

## HAVE YOU SEEN THE BFG?



Year 2 visited the Roald Dahl Gallery at Aylesbury Museum on Friday June 24th. Amongst a host of other activities the children found out about the author, travelled in the great glass elevator, received dreams from one of the BFG's bottles, explored the home of Fantastic Mr. Fox, magnified bugs in James' Giant Peach and entered Matilda's library.

## SUMMER MUSIC NEWS



## ROYALTY SPOTTED AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE



Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic day at Hampton Court Palace. They were given the chance to explore the Palace, including Henry VIII's apartments. They even saw Henry VIII himself walking through the Great Hall! The children learnt lots of new facts about Tudor life and Tudor food when they were shown around Henry's kitchens by some servants of the King! Of course, the children's favourite part of the day was trying to find their way out of the famous Maze!





# A HOUSE OF STRAW?

On Friday 6th May, Year 1 went on a trip to Box Moor Trust to act out the story of The Three Little Pigs. The children dressed up as the characters and performed to the teachers in the natural surroundings of the woods, using bricks, straw and sticks to see which was the best material for making a strong house. The children were also fortunate to see wool being spun from one of the newly shorn sheep from Box Moor Trust.



# RECYCLING PAPER

Year 2 visited Frogmore Mill to learn about how paper is recycled. The children had a tour of the mill and were able to see all the different machinery used in the paper making process. They were able to make their own new paper from recycled paper and were able to experiment with different materials which are added to paper to enhance it. They also had the opportunity to see paper being made out of old denim! This trip was very enjoyable and has given the children a better understanding of how important recycling is.



# THE OLDEN DAYS

To run alongside our topics 'Houses and Homes' and 'Farming' this year, Year 1 went on a trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum on Tuesday 10th May. Our first activity was to learn how bricks were made in Victorian times. We learnt that they were made by young children who didn't go to school, and we made some ourselves using the same techniques. This was a very muddy activity but enjoyed by all. We were told to look out for fingerprints in bricks around the museum as they were still there from Victorian times. Our second activity was 'Washing Day' where we learnt how clothes were washed in the 'olden days' using car-bolic soap and scrubber, cold water, a posser and dolly. We then put the clean clothes through a mangle and hung them out to dry. We were very proud of our children as they all behaved extremely well, and we all enjoyed the trip very much.

# SWALLOWS AT TRING MUSEUM



Swallows had a wonderful time during their visit to Tring museum this term. We were there to look at all the animals that live in the jungle. We were also given a talk by a member of staff at the museum who had lots of things for us to touch and explore.



# ROUNDERS

The girls' teams have once again shown that 'practice' does go a long way to perfecting performances. After a slow start to the season and a few changes to team positions they started to get a few wins under their belt. Working diligently throughout lessons the U11 and U10 girls were keen to learn how to take their game to the next level. Several umpires commented on the level of fielding from Alexandra Caine at backstop and Miranda Tubb, Annabel O'Sullivan and Sorcha Bates were even braving stinging hands and going for catches. Out in deep field position, Natasha Tenty was always quick off the mark to pick up and throw balls in towards the posts. Caroline Kelly's 'safe' hands at 1<sup>st</sup> post put out many batters who didn't manage to strike the ball. The U9 teams too have picked up valuable experience through playing in school matches and Georgia Hurley, Alice Ripper, Molly



Scotchbrook and Charlotte Payne have all received 'player of the match' awards. Well done to everyone involved.



## SWIMMING AT EDGE GROVE SCHOOL

Although not winning overall, Westbrook Hay won 8 individual events and 4 relays including a big win in the Under 11 Boys Medley where Jamie Irwin brought the team home way ahead of the opposition making up a little for his disappointment in the Boys Under 11 Front Crawl where a poor start cost him the race. He, Jude-Clark and Dominic should remember that they competed in an age-group with older boys. A chance of an Under 11 boys clean sweep next year? Well done to all the swimmers for making such a big effort and providing an exciting afternoon for the many parents who kindly came to support us.



A boys team from Westbrook Hay competed in a triangular athletics match against Lockers Park, and Edge Grove this term, narrowly missing out on second place overall. Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson's sprinting earned him a place in the National Schools Championships. See front page story

## ATHLETICS



# DANCE



The Dance department has been very busy with dance exams this term, so far all the results are excellent and I am very pleased with the girls hard work through the term. Well done all of you.



## THE JACKSON WARRIORS

The boys from Years 5,6,7 have also been very busy rehearsing a dance. This year I have a new group of boys from Year 3, "The Jackson Warriors", they were dancing to "Bad". All the children had the opportunity to show their dances to the school in Dance Assembly. I want to take this opportunity to say goodbye to a few boys from Year 6 who are leaving and they have been dancing with me for 3 years and worked very hard. Good luck to you boys. Keep on dancing. Year 6 dancers will have a real treat when they visit the Pineapple Dance Studios this week.

This was never going to be an easy season with half the team being Year 5s. However, we had a great win against Kingshott where Mohammed Kasim took 6 wickets, and a fine performance in our last game where Dominic Young recorded his first half century. The team was captained by William Copas-Budd who showed leadership and insight in his captain. He was ably supported by his vice captain Luke Woodmansee.



## COLTS A CRICKET

The team improved throughout the season and we have the makings of a strong team next year.



## UNDER 9 CRICKET

The Under 9s have enjoyed their cricket this season and whilst a little inconsistent in their play, have made huge strides in the understanding of the game and individual techniques. Josh Yeo has stolen the show in terms of individual performances. He is the key all-rounder in the side and has produced some excellent bowling figures throughout the term.



He has even represented the Colts A side and took a hat-trick for the Colts B! Supporting Josh in key roles for the side have been Freddie Stoner-Redfern (captain and opening bowler), Harvey Graham (off-spinner) and Jamie Rowley (Wicket Keeper and big hitting opener). When we got them all firing we were a force to be reckoned with but too often they chose different days in which to hit peak form! The other U9 sides have also thoroughly enjoyed their cricket with highlights William Jones' and Teddy Grigg's accurate bowling, OJ Strowger's power hitting, Oli Turner's assured stroke play and Alfred Woolf's hat-trick of wickets for the Bs. Alfred went on to play for the U9As as a year 3 too! Congratulations to all on a very good term!



## 1ST X1 CRICKET

I have been very proud of the boys this term as they have given 100% in every match - I couldn't ask much more than that. The strongest part of the team is our bowling and fielding, with Frazer leading from the front, consistently taking wickets in his overs. He was always backed up by Luke, George, Lanre, Leon and Zac. To be honest, we were the best fielding side out of all the schools we played against. We very rarely dropped catches or had any miss-fields. This is due to George's key fielding positions and all the boys warming up before the match as a team. Our batting was a bit up and down. We need to learn to bat in partnerships and wait for the bad ball but all the boys went in with a positive attitude and wanted to win every game, which is great to see. Well done boys.

Outstanding batting performance = Luke Armstrong 48\* V Lockers Park

Outstanding bowling performance = Zac Mills 4 wkts in 1 over V County Cup Match

Outstanding batting partnership = Ollie and Lanre 60 runs for the opening pair against Heath Mount.

Outstanding fielders = Lanre, Frazer and George.



## BOYS PLAY IN DISTRICT TEAM

The district football squad is comprised of the best players in the area of Tring, Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead with the squad first being selected in Year 6. Over 100 players trial in what is a lengthy process but the reward of gaining selection means that you are representing the area in a tough league against the likes of St. Albans, Gloucester and Portsmouth among others.





# FUND-RAISING GATHERS PACE

Congratulations to the Charities Committee for an excellent final term of fundraising for "The PACE Centre". The Krispy Kreme doughnut sale after exams proved very popular and raised £193. This was followed on Friday 24th June by "PACE Yourselves!", a beautiful 2 ½ mile sponsored walk around the Box Moor Trust, with all pupils from Year 3 to Year 8 taking part. This raised over £480, taking us past our £2000 target with a total collected this year of £2293.91. Special thanks go to Hugh Kelly, Tom Stewart and Marcus Daghljan who have led the Committee with such enthusiasm and commitment.



LAMDA stands for The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and is one of the oldest drama schools in the United Kingdom, founded in 1861. It was quickly established as a centre of excellence in performance training. LAMDA classes aim to foster an appreciation of literature, poetry and drama, and acknowledge levels of achievement. Preparation for examination can unlock imagination, develop communication skills

## LAMDA

and promote team work. The LAMDA Level 3 Graded Examinations in Communication and Performance are recognised within the UCAS tariff for UK university entrance. LAMDA classes have been running at WBH since 2003. I started with eight children (all girls). This number has now increased to sixty seven children, with half of them boys! This year's entrants, from Year 1 to Year 7 have achieved our best ever set of results. As ever, every child passed their exams, but this time over half gained a Distinction - the highest accolade. The children have worked exceptionally hard to achieve these results

and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow. It is difficult for a shy child to enter into a classroom of children who seem to naturally communicate, but to witness the sheer pleasure on their faces when they have learnt a poem, and their confidence to stand up and recite their piece in front of the class or the school, is so rewarding. LAMDA's value for all children is extensive, helping them to focus, learn and engage, and above all to communicate with others, and will benefit them throughout their school life and beyond. So, congratulations to all our LAMDA candidates; your hard work has definitely paid off!

## PARENTS AND PUPILS SWING INTO ACTION

The parent pupil competitions took place in a variety of weather conditions. Having the best of it were the Year 6-8 category where we had the excitement of a tie between Hamish and Fergus Michie and Matthew and Henry Tse. Daniel Wadmore walked away with the nearest the pin trophy. In the Year 3-5 competition Freddie and Ian Stoner-Redfern saw off Harvey and John Graham by one shot. Nigel Finn won the nearest the pin with a fine last shot which ended 6 ft from the flag. As usual Mr Young stole the show with his fine barbeque and cookware! Our thanks to Eamon Slattery for again providing us with a golf course which is the envy of many school around us!







## SUMMER FUN DAY

We were extremely lucky to have such a glorious day for our Sports day and Fun Day this year which brought most of the staff, children and parents and family and friends to our beautiful Westbrook Hay grounds. Some new activities such as the surf simulator and the archery were a real hit on the day as were the firm favourites coconut shy, crockery smash and face painting. Thank you for all your help in providing cakes and, of course, your time helping on the stalls. We think we have raised over £2000 from the day.



## LOWER SCHOOL SPORTS DAY



## Westbrook Hay Prep School



If you go down to the woods today,  
you're in for a big surprise...

## Teddy Bears' Picnic

Saturday September 17th 2.00pm – 4.00pm

- Bear Hunt
- Children's Entertainer
- Picnic Tea

- For children under 5
- Telephone or visit our website for your ticket to reserve your place



Tel. 01442 256143 [www.westbrookhay.co.uk/teddybear](http://www.westbrookhay.co.uk/teddybear)



## A BEAST OF A COMPETITION

Over the summer please don't forget to take a photograph of your family car displaying the Westbrook Hay car sticker in an interesting, unusual or funny location. The winning prize is a family ticket to the cinema. If you do not have a self adhesive Westbrook Hay car sticker, please email the school office and we will send one out to you. Please email your photographs to [admin@westbrookhay.co.uk](mailto:admin@westbrookhay.co.uk) (or send in hard copies to the office for my attention). The closing date for the competition is Friday 9th September.

Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:

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