

The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School



SKYLIGHT

AUTUMN 2010

Events

HABS Careers Convention

HABS had its best ever Careers Convention in November as 37 delegates drawn from a wide variety of professions, including no less than eighteen Old Boys and a number of parents, answered a range of searching questions from enthusiastic young students. A packed Bourne Hall, plus talks delivered to capacity audiences, added to the excitement of the occasion. The school was proud to welcome back such fine Old Haberdashers', all of whom have gone on to succeed in their chosen fields, and who so willingly gave up their time in order to inspire the next generation.



UKIP leader speaks to the Politics Society

The Politics Society welcomed UKIP leader Nigel Farage, MEP, in November. Mr Farage spoke to an over-flowing lunchtime audience about Britain and Europe. After his talk, Mr Farage tackled a number of probing questions in a frank manner.



Year 9 Takeover Day

November saw a group of Year 9 boys participating in the BIG Lottery Fund's Takeover Day 2010, an initiative set up by the Children's Commissioner to give young people the opportunity to get involved in organisational decision-making. The boys met Peter Wanless, Chief Executive of the BIG Lottery Fund, and were given an explanation of how lottery funding applications are received and how successful applications are determined. They then worked in committees, deciding how to allocate a mock budget of £500,000 across a variety of (real) applications. The day was a great success; BIG staff commented on how well-behaved, funny and intelligent our boys were.



Kidzcare Tanzania

Kidzcare Tanzania has been adopted as our Whole School Charity for an initial term of five years. The charity oversees an orphanage in Dar es Salam and provides nursery education in some remote areas of rural Tanzania. Assemblies have been held this term to bring the charity to the school's attention. Our first fundraiser has taken place and we are moving ahead with plans to visit and work with the project next July. We hope this is the beginning of a long and mutually enriching relationship.



Economics

It has been a very busy term for our economists who have been preparing for the Bank of England competition and have been treated to a series of visiting lecturers on topics ranging from UK Monetary Policy to productivity in a recession. We have been very fortunate to receive visits from Dr Tiwari, Mr Chotai and Dr Harnett (pictured), in addition to Economists from UCL, Nottingham and Warwick.



Adam Boulton at HABS

HABS was delighted to welcome Adam Boulton, the long-serving and distinguished Political Editor of Sky News, to speak at a joint event hosted by the HABS Foundation and the Politics Society in October. Mr Boulton spoke about the dramatic changes that have happened in politics and the media over the last year and fielded wide-ranging questions.



HABS TV

A jam-packed Aske Hall witnessed the launch of HABS TV earlier this term. It marked the beginning of a new era of weekly broadcasts, the aim of which is to inform and entertain the boys with the latest school news and a special weekly feature. The HABS TV committee, run by Mr McKane, consists of twenty boys who are responsible for producing, filming and editing each broadcast.



Drama and Music

Oh What A Lovely War!

It's been seven years since a musical graced the stage of the Bourne Hall so it was a great treat to see that *Oh What A Lovely War!* was the choice for this year's spectacular Senior Play. Miss Cousens conducted a band of nine boys who played with all the aplomb, accuracy and confidence of a West End orchestra. A cast of 35 boys from Year 10 to the U6th were joined by a large number of girls from next door. As expected, the production standards were of a truly professional standard. A hanger full of magnificent costumes were conjured up by Simone Jones, whilst a proscenium arch, a ruined cathedral and an enormous chandelier were complemented by some highly realistic trenches that whirled smoothly into place. Such technical complexity would not have been possible without the expertise of Hugh Silver and the vision of Mr Norton, confidently assisted this year by our Director-In-Residence, Ed Sayer. At times hilarious, always visually spectacular, the production was also extraordinarily moving - many scenes made so poignant by the young performers taking on roles as infantrymen, sergeants and officers who would not have been any older themselves in 1914.



Autumn Music

The Music Department has been very busy with the Autumn Concert held just before half term and the Junior Concert in November. The Autumn Concert was deemed outstanding by the audience and served as a useful aperitif for the concert in the Barbican in March next year. A packed Seldon Hall was wowed with a Junior Concert and shows that the future of HABS music-making is in safe hands.



NB. The School Calendar is subject to change.

Awards and Achievements

Russells Fundraising Success

Team Russells presented a cheque for £6322.58 to the Teenage Cancer Trust earlier this term. Over the last seven years, Russells' boys (and some House Tutors) have thrashed their way up and down the school pool, swimming as many lengths as they can. To date, this amounts to a total of 320 miles and £49,000. Russells continue to support the Teenage Cancer Trust in memory of Krishna Sabarwal, a member of the House who lost his battle to cancer in 2005.



A Prize Day

In November, recipients of the Hewson, Moody and Goater House Prizes, together with their Housemasters, gathered with Dr Spence, Mr Judd, and Dr Craig at a small lunch to thank Professor and Mrs Birch for the generous donation which established these prizes. Professor Birch (Joblings, 1962) credited the school for helping him to realise his ambitions; he wanted to do something to reward current pupils who, by their efforts, have made a significant contribution to school life.



Strouts Fundraising Success



After a hectic but enjoyable year of fundraising, Strouts invited Stuart Fraser from the Just Children Foundation to tell the House

how their money was going to be used in Zimbabwe. The event culminated in the presentation of a cheque for £1564.75. This year, Strouts are supporting Bliss, the special care baby charity that provides vital support and care to premature and sick babies across the UK.

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In October, five boys - Luke Ilott (L6H2), Wil Lever (L6M1), James Colenutt (L6M1), Aaron Stennett (L6J1) and Simon Lee (L6J1) - spent a week walking from HABS Monmouth, in Wales, to HABS Elstree; a distance of 240km (150 miles). The boys were raising money for Help for Heroes. They camped en route, carrying tents and supplies on their backs. Arriving back at Elstree, the boys were greeted by Dr Spence and Mr Parr, as well as a proud gathering of parents, siblings, and grandparents.



Chess

HABS made a welcome return to the Millfield International Chess tournament in October after a two year absence. All players contributed to an enjoyable weekend and a commendable second place. Board prizes went to Ravi Haria (7M), David Lawrence (U6H1) and Emery Asher (9H2). Ravi also won the "Player of the Tournament" trophy and went on to represent England at the U12 World Youth Championships in Greece. He performed well with a record of W4, D5, L2.



Cheadle Hulme MUN

Sixteen boys from Year 11 and the Sixth Form participated in the tenth Cheadle Hulme MUN in October. They were quick to throw themselves into the proceedings and, along with 600 other students from around the UK, enjoyed two days of high quality debate. The two delegations enjoyed Commended and Highly Commended Awards between them. In addition, Daniel Gold (11J1) was presented with the Outstanding Delegate Award. Highly Commended Awards went to Adam Kayani (11S1), Raphael Levy (L6C1) and Robert Harris (11H2), while Jake Cass (11H1), Daniel Lande (11H2) and Paavan Buddhdev (11S2) were presented with Best Young Delegate Awards.



England Debating Selection

In November, Akshay Kishan Karia (L6R1) learned that he will represent England at the 2011 World Schools Debating Competition held in Dundee. This is the fifth consecutive year that a HABS student has been selected for the team; only four students are selected each year.

European Youth Parliament National Finals

A joint Haberdashers' Boys and Girls European Youth Parliament team were triumphant in the EYP National Selection Conference held at Durham University in September and have been invited to represent the UK in the EYP International Session in Athens next April. The adjudicators praised the strong debating skills of the team, their excellent research and superb analysis of contemporary European and global issues. Our boys included Arnie Birss (U6C1), Marcus Chaplin (U6C2), Joe Gaus (U6C2), Christopher Howarth (U6M1) and Sam Skalla (U6H2).



Trips

Bologna Exchange

Eleven Year 11 boys, accompanied by Mr Thompson and Mr Haldane, spent an enjoyable and worthwhile week in Italy during half-term. Our boys were paired up with Italian boys and girls from our partner school in Bologna, the Liceo Copernico, and were given a warm welcome by their partners' families. Highlights included day trips to Venice and Florence, a morning in the Italian school, and a lively evening in pizzeria with partners, parents and teachers from both sides.



Alma Exchange

Year 9 boys and girls spent a week of their half-term on an exchange visit to the Alma School. The weekend was spent with the host families and during the week, the group had a taste of the many sights that Paris has to offer, including the top of the Eiffel Tower, Le Stade de France and the sumptuous Palais de Versailles. This is a trip to be recommended to all students of French!



Art in Istanbul

October half-term saw a group of budding Art students travelling with Miss Bird and Mr Keenleyside to Istanbul to immerse themselves in the city's art and culture. The boys enjoyed visits to major landmarks including the Topkapi Palace, the Blue Mosque and St Sophia. Much drawing, sketching and photography took place, which will undoubtedly boost the boys' GCSE Art portfolios.



Navy and Army CCF

October saw the Navy and Army CCF returning to Amptill. Rapier-sharp navigational skills were clearly to the fore for many of our ten walking groups. The expedition also saw our cadets developing their problem solving, communication and teamwork skills. Field Day also saw twenty Year 11 CCF Navy boys participating in a sailing course at Aldenham Sailing Club. The boys displayed excellent skills and competence and were taught how to race competitively.



Year 9 Team Building

Year 9 enjoyed a day of team building activities during Field Day at Phasels Wood Scout Activity Centre, Kings Langley. Boys engaged in a host of team challenges designed to develop their individual leadership and communication skills whilst working in their new House tutor groups.



Year 8 in Barcelona

32 Year 8 boys enjoyed a cultural trip to Barcelona during half-term. They visited a number of attractions including the Sagrada Familia, the Ramblas, Parque Guell, Casa Batllo, Camp Nou and even a chocolate factory to help keep the energy levels up!



Year 8 at Kew Gardens

Year 8 boys spent Field Day at Kew Gardens, taking in the multiplicity of trees and flowers, learning about the rainforest, touring the Palm House and completing the treetop walk!



Prep and Pre-Prep

Prep Art Prizes

42 Prep boys were thrilled to have their artworks chosen for an NSPCC fundraising craft fair and exhibition in November. The judges were "bowed over by the quality of the HABS entries" and our boys won most of the top prizes in the 2D category. First Prize overall went to Sunny Chen (6NB) for his extraordinary, fascinating drawing of Taiwanese street life. The prizes were presented by James Clappison MP.



HABS Prep is Top of the Tables again!

The Prep School was once again delighted to win the title of 'Top Performing Boys' School' in *The Sunday Times* Top 250 Independent Preparatory Schools League Tables for Key Stage 2 for the fifth successive year. Head teacher Miss Mercer said, "We are thrilled to have once again received this honour which reflects another tremendous year of hard work and commitment from the boys and staff, supported by the Haberdashers' parents and Governors".



Prep Rugby Tour

In October, eighteen Year 6 boys headed to Dublin as they embarked on the Prep's first Rugby Tour. They faced two strong Irish rugby clubs. Although HABS played very well in the first match, North Kildare had the upper hand and won 25-15. In the last match with Barnhall, however, HABS was victorious, with a score of 50-10.



Jeans for Genes MUFTI Day

The Kingfishers held a MUFTI Day in October, raising a total of £138 for Jeans for Genes, a charity working for children and families in the UK whose lives are affected by genetic disorders.

Pre-Prep win at Gardening Club

The Kingfisher boys participated in the St Stephen's Gardening Club Annual Show in September. With the help of Mrs McKeever, the Pre-Prep entered the potato prints and butterfly poems categories. Congratulations to Mackenzie, Oliver and Vayu who all won prizes for their potato prints and poems. The Pre-Prep came second in the potato growing category.



Sport

Cross Country

This term has been the most successful of recent years with Ultimate Loop school records being broken by Max Marmor (8H), James Herring (11M1) and Ed Curtis (10S2: two lap record). The term's big goal, the District Championships, provided a chance for new squad members to prove themselves. Both the Year 8 and Year 9 teams won their team races overall and Max Marmor became a dominant and deserving District Champion in the process. David Fernie (L6R2) also capped what has been a great term of sport for him by coming a very close second in the senior race. The term's successes bode very well for January's Goater Cup relay in Aldenham Country Park which will see a record 36 HABS boys taking on many of the country's best school distance runners.



Middlesex Cup for the 1st XV against Richmond Sixth Form College. The boys showed immense character to come from behind to win the semi-final, 19-17. The final against Latymer Upper was played at Old Millhillians. Despite a committed performance, we lost 12-0. The U13As were eventually defeated at the semi-final stage of the Middlesex Cup and the U15As also bowed out in a round four contest of the Daily Mail National Competition against Halliford. Our block fixtures against Latymer and Watford GS were more rewarding, with eminent victories for the U13s and U15s - two squads that are emerging as our strongest in the School.

Water Polo



The Water Polo club has been on the crest of a wave this term. At the time of writing, the club is undefeated and has notched up outstanding wins over City of London, QE Boys and Bedford Modern. The highlight was a 17-5 thrashing of Bedford Modern at U19 level. HABS' reputation on the national stage has been enhanced by the selection of Jarad Baker (11C1) and Tom Dean (L6M1) for the Great Britain squad. The Club would like to congratulate them both and wish them well against an Australian schools' representative team in the near future. The Club is now fully focused on the Schools' Water Polo league and the ESSA nationals.



Golf

HABS' Golfers have again been busy this term in the HMC foursomes and the ISGA knockout. A comfortable 3-0 win over St Columba's at Verulam Golf Club in the HMC was followed with an unexpected defeat at Mid-Herts to Harrow School. The three lowest handicappers, Harry Kovenklioglu (L6J2) (5), Aidan Kovenklioglu (9J2) (7) and William Aldred (10S2) (1), have progressed to the regional semi-final of the ISGA tournament with a 3-0 win over Bancroft's at Abridge Golf Club in Essex. With Aldred just 0.1 away from becoming the first HABS scratch golfer in recent memory, and three single figure handicap players in the team, we are hoping for a long run in this competition. Next term sees the annual February tour, with fourteen players returning to Vilamoura for some sunshine and challenging golf courses.

Rugby

The Rugby season began with the block fixture against QE Barnet where the school won more games than we lost for the first time in many years. Wins at U14 and U15 at this level are a rarity and the boys did themselves proud. While we did not win a game against St Columba's College, our position quickly improved when the U13 squad beat Belmont in four matches and the senior sides recorded wins against UCS. Early rounds of the Middlesex and Daily Mail Cups resulted in wins at U13, U15 and Senior level. The U15As gained a memorable win against St Albans in the dying seconds at Woollams. Later, the Tiffin weekend saw HABS winning seven of the ten matches played. A fine away win against Mill Hill secured a semi-final berth in the

Cricket



The 2010 Cricket season finished in fine style as the 1st XI enjoyed one of its best ever Devon Tours, winning all four matches. The undoubted star of the show was middle order batsman Basil Letts, who scored a total of 406 runs during the week. The U14s visited the Cotswolds where they won one game and drew the other in two close finishes. Meanwhile the U15s won the Hertfordshire Schools County Cup. The Solai Cricket Centre has been in much use this term as players from the 1st XI Squad and the Development Squad (U14/U15) have been practising hard in preparation for the tour to South Africa in February. Tom Edrich (U6S2) and Rhys Jenkins (11S1) will captain the two groups and we look forward to playing matches in both Durban and Cape Town. The current Year 7s have been attending trials and the best players will be invited to join a squad which will practise regularly after school on Fridays next term.

Biarritz Rugby Development Tour 2010

The U14 Rugby Squad enjoyed a fine week of weather and activity in south west France on the annual rugby tour to Biarritz-Soustons. Matches against local opposition were well-contested and the boys finished with a win against AS Soustons. The visit to Biarritz and the Stade Aguilera to watch the Heineken Cup match was a highlight as Biarritz Olympique beat Ulster in style. The High Ropes and surfing proved to be good team-bonding exercises and we enjoyed some excellent hospitality. Thanks must go to all the boys and staff who contributed to an enjoyable week in rugby.

