

House Newsletter Michaelmas 2011

It has been a long and exhausting term for us all but so much has been achieved both in and out of the classroom by all 69 boys. Of course, with this many pupils there are going to be ups and downs but I'm pleased to report that the positives by far outweigh the negatives. Another interesting fact is that, on the rugby pitch, on one Saturday this term, 54 of our boys represented the School at rugby – and there would have been more if some boys hadn't been injured!

The term started strongly after many of the boys did themselves proud in the summer public exams. The departing Upper Sixth mostly achieved their targets and the current boys in that year group did a good job in general. Of these, two have had interviews for Oxbridge and others have already received good offers from Universities, therefore the challenge for them is obvious, starting with their re-sits in January. The fifth form also did well and lived up to expectations although they too can't rest on their laurels!

We also welcomed 19 new 3rd Formers, one 4th Form boy and, rather unusually, an Upper Sixth pupil into the House. These have, mostly, adapted to a new routine and regime and are all doing their 'bit' with purpose and commitment. Something I expect from **all** the boys! My thanks for integrating these boys into NT must go to our excellent Head of House, Ronnie Harding, and Sam Nelson who is our Praeposter. They, along with their peers, have done a great job, as have their respective tutors and my assistant, Paul Romaines.

The major House commitments this term have featured the House Song, Senior Debating, Water Polo, House Art and, in the last week of term, Rugby Sevens, Swimming and, finally, the House Supper.

The **House Song** was an amazing effort. I have to say that I thought the selection, Amarillo by Tony Christie, was tailor-made for NT and the boys performed admirably. Despite what the adjudicator said, I thought we were the best! Unfortunately we didn't prepare adequately enough to participate in the Part-Song Competition but, hopefully, we will return to this event in 2012. The **House Debating** season kicked off with our Senior team being defeated by Hallward's House and the Juniors should start their campaign in the New Year. The **House Water Polo** Teams had minimal success in the pool. Unfortunately, the Senior team lost to Moberly's while the Juniors lost a very exciting match following extra-time and penalties to East Town. **House Art** was organised by a combination of Pascal Orzabal, Ben Langham and Charlie Bullimore. There were significant contributions of work from many others and it was good to see Charlie winning a prize for his sculpture work. The **House Rugby Sevens** competition ended with mixed results. An amazing overall performance by our Senior squad saw us win the competition by defeating East Town and Watson's in our group matches, School House in the semis and then the favourites, Moberly's, in the Final. This was an outstanding achievement and everyone involved played their part, even our water-boy! The **Junior** event was, unfortunately, a bit of a disaster, the boys losing both their group matches in atrocious conditions. However, as ever, they all tried their best but were eventually out-muscled by the opposition. **House Swimming** now has a place in the last week of this term and, once again, our boys gave a good account of themselves. The Junior boys finished a very creditable 3rd and the Seniors in 6th place but this result may have been better if we hadn't been disqualified in a 'double

points' race! I have to say how delighted I was for the support of non-competing members of the House in the last three days and their contribution to our success, especially in the Senior Rugby. On the last Saturday night of term we broke with tradition and held our **House Supper** in the Upper Dining Hall. In all, 90 people attended the occasion and it was, indeed, a very Special Night. The food was excellent, the boys impeccably behaved – pity I couldn't say the same about Mr. Cullen! – and the speeches, by Ronnie and George Harris, excellent. It was a memorable evening for Sue and I and will live in our memories for a long time.

As is now a regular occurrence, and after our final House Meeting on the Friday, the Final Assembly was held and I'm delighted to say that NT boys featured in this. Academic prizes were won by a Year 9 boy, Ruairi Clayton, and Youngseop Jeon gained an Upper Sixth prize. However, much as I don't want to play down their success, the most satisfying aspect of the Assembly was in the fact that the most coveted prize for sport in the School, the Blue Tie, was awarded to both Will Watson and Charlie Bullimore for their outstanding contribution to rugby. This was, indeed, a fine way to end the term.

Before I finish, I would like to draw your attention to the following items of information.

For the first time, I believe, the only envelope you will receive at the end of term will contain the School Bill! All other information can be found on the Parent Portal, including this letter, and on the Portal you will find your son's reports, invitations to Third Form (Friday 3 March), Fifth Form (Friday 9 March) and Upper Sixth (Friday 16 March) Parents' Evenings and also letters from both the Headmaster and his Deputies. As well as this, on the School Website, there is a copy of the Lent Term Calendar. However as we know many of you like to still have your hard copy, each boy in NT will have been given a Calendar on the last day of term to bring home. Hopefully, by now, you will have received it!

Almost finished now but I'd still like to mention a couple of concerns. First, parking on the zig-zag lines outside the House, and even on the zebra-crossing itself, is still an issue. I know that parents from other Houses may be the culprits, but if you could do your bit to drop off and pick up away from this area, it would be much appreciated, especially with the dark nights – and sometimes foul weather – restricting visibility. Secondly, and I'll be generous and put the blame on the boys, could you please tell them to make the effort to make sure they get into School in good time so as to make Chapel at 8.30am. I've mentioned this to them in House Meetings but, of course, they deny all responsibility for their tardiness!

So that's another term come to an end and everyone deserves a good rest. A lot of energy has been spent and brain power exercised by us all and my grateful thanks go out to you all for your support and encouragement. Of course I am extremely appreciative for your gifts, as always, and this end of term is no different and both PB and Paul Romaines have asked me to convey their thanks as well.

From Sue and myself, please do have a great Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

David Rodgers

