

## House Newsletter Summer 2011

It is with monotonous regularity that we appear to be talking examinations and this of course has been the case for the past few weeks. Many will have noticed that the Public Exams seemed to start earlier this year and this is confirmed by a start date of 16<sup>th</sup> May this summer! All but the 3<sup>rd</sup> Form have been involved so a lot of nervous young men have been seen dashing around making sure they were in the right place at the right time! In cases like these we tend to forget what else has gone on but, in true Clifton fashion, there has been plenty.

In **music**, those present could not fail to be impressed by the Commemoration Concert and, as was the case last term in his Music Platform, our 'own' Loxley Coates was outstanding whilst performing the tune from The Deer Hunter on his guitar. Our **Chapel Week** – two days actually – was written and spoken by Pete Taylor aided and abetted by Charlie Markham and Adam Kula whilst Sam Lewis and Nick Gough finished off by saying the prayers. Unfortunately, for some, our sporting teams had an unsuccessful term going close without getting the opportunity to win anything. After beating School House our Senior **Cricketers** were defeated by Moberly's in what ended up being a very close match whilst the **Juniors** beat Watson's – they in fact didn't fancy playing us despite six of our team being away on a D of E Camp – and then our scheduled semi-final fell victim to the combination of bad weather and a congested end of term routine to the extent that the whole competition was abandoned – of course we thought we would have won it (!) and so are claiming a victory by default! House **Tennis** could have been close but after triumphing against both School House and Watson's, the pressure of the exam timetable meant that finding a suitable date for the Final against East Town was near impossible and this has still to be played! The House **Golf** competition went the same way as the tennis with many Houses finding it difficult to put out sides on the arranged date but it was good to see two of our Year 10 boys, Henry Watson and Sam Lewis putting in a fine effort in House **Sailing** where, after a novicey start, they ended up a creditable 5<sup>th</sup> place out of 11. **Fencing** saw us defeat Oakeley's and West Town before the might of South Town put paid to our chances of winning in what was a very close encounter. My thanks go to Loxley, Pete and James Heald for getting us so close to winning the sword! On the last Saturday of term our **Rowing** team – Sam Nelson, Charlie Bullimore, Nick Gough and Will Ludlow, coxed by Jack Holman – saw our relatively young crew finish a respectful 3<sup>rd</sup> which certainly gives us great confidence for doing better in 2012. Of course, no school year is complete without its annual sports day and this took place, for the first time in a few years, in glorious conditions. All the boys who

competed did so to the very best of their ability and we even managed to get some very bedraggled upper sixth formers to compete! The team manager, Ronnie Harding our Head of House in September - did a marvellous job making sure the boys were in the right place at the right time to compete.

On the penultimate day of term we all went out on our first ever house day trip to Berwick Farm. The boys took part in a variety of activities including clay pigeon shooting; quad biking, human table football, archery and the older ones were able to drive hovercrafts and moon buggies. Hopefully, everybody enjoyed the action-packed day and judging by their condition at the end of the afternoon they certainly looked as though they should sleep well!

From the School Calendar for Michaelmas 2011 you will see significant changes have been made to the arrangements for the Carol Service on December 4<sup>th</sup>. It has been decided that there will be two Services – based on age groups – so that parents and visitors will now have the option to attend either, or both. Please remember that you are welcome to this and any other Star Sunday Service in the Calendar – although it is fair to say that the Remembrance Service is very popular and busy.

By now many, if not all of you, will be aware that this time next year will see me retiring from my position of Housemaster, in fact from Clifton completely, after what will have been 27 years of working here! I have no doubt that my successor, Daniel Janke, will be an excellent replacement and he will be working as a tutor in the House from January 2012 before taking up his post in September 2012. He comes to North Town with my full support and best wishes.

Before signing off, may I once again send my grateful thanks for the wonderful assortment of gifts given to me at the end of term. Along with these, there were many kind letters and cards. I very much appreciate all I receive and I am certain Paul Romaines, matron and my other tutors echo my sentiments.

Whilst writing this, the sun is streaming through the window and let's all hope that it continues for the rest of the summer and that you all enjoy a good break. For those returning in September, please come back refreshed and ready for a new school year and for the leavers, I'll probably see most of you in August (!) and wish you all the very best in the future.

With best wishes

David Rodgers