



# THE DOWNS SCHOOL NEWS JUNE 2009

I cannot believe that I am writing my last letter to you of the academic year! We are in the middle of our summer term events. The examinations are finished, we have had our cross curricular days (for more information see inside), Sports Day, Year 11 and Year 13 leavers' assemblies and balls. By the time you receive this, we will be in the middle of induction days for Year 6 into Year 7 and Year 11 into Year 12.

There have been lots of successes for our students over the past weeks.

Firstly, we have just received confirmation that our second specialism in science and mathematics has been confirmed. From September we will be a specialist school in languages, science and maths.

Tom Wigg in Year 11 has won the West Berkshire Cosmic Challenge KS4 Award for Design Technology.

**CRICKET** The Cricket teams have had some mixed successes:

Year 7s lost the one match they've played.

Year 8s beat Kennet but lost to St Barts.

Year 9s beat St Barts, Kennet and Trinity and lost to Park House.

Year 10s beat Trinity but narrowly lost other games.

**ROUNDERS** The Year 10 girls were runners up in the U15 area Rounders.

Sadly, we lost to Downe House by 1/2 a rounder! In swimming, the Year 8 Swimming Team convincingly beat Pangbourne College.

**ATHLETICS** We have had notable success in the County Athletics Championships

E Sissons - 1st 80M Hurdles

J Ritter - 2nd High Jump

A Galsworthy - 3rd 300m

A Craik - 3rd 100m

## From the Head:



Others representing the overall County team champions, West Berks, were D Smith (200m), E Burns (1500m), T Fletcher (3000m), A Holmes (1500m), G Sopp (200m), J Brixton (400m), E Kemp (1500), A Roue (200m), R Parker (Javelin), D Roper (Shot), P Saunders (Long Jump), E Seymour (Discus), C Brady (Shot).

In the District Athletics there were some gratifying Year 7 successes. We have 2 boys who qualified to represent the West Berks team at County Athletics on 1 July. They are Luke Hornblow (who won the District Javelin) and Josh Willock (who was 2nd in the District 150m event). The boys' team were 3rd overall. In addition, Jason Bint (High Jump) and the boys' relay team were 3rd and Josh Lawrence (75m), Oli Clark (150m) and Jamie Rabbetts (600m), Olivia Hayman (75m) and Eleanor Hayman (High Jump) were all 4th and are reserves for the County Championships.

The final piece of athletics news is that the U17 boys finished as a creditable 3rd team, only 2 points behind Kennet (with a team consisting of nearly all Year 10 boys in an age group of Year 10 and Year 11s).



## CROSS CURRICULAR

There were a number of competitions in the Cross-Curricular Days on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. In the Year 9 Performing Arts day, the winning group was led by Mrs Bailey with 'Greased Lightning' danced by a vibrant group including Freddy Clayton as Danny and 'Look at Me I'm Sandra Dee' sung most impressively by Sairah Rees. About 45 students took part in this with great dynamism and enthusiasm – dancing, singing and acting.

Year 9 also took part in the Great Egg race. The winners are as follows:

Task 1- To propel a table tennis ball over a distance of 2.5m into a catchment container (waste paper bin 300 mm Ø) held at an angle of 45° with cushioning to absorb the shock. **Winners** -Alexandra Bell 9FS, Lottie Enfield 9SA, Imogen Richards 9HU, James Foster 9PE, Christopher Kew 9ME.

Task 2 - To construct a bridge between 2 tables, to safely transport an egg over a distance of 2 metres, without breaking it. **Winners** - (Lollipops) Joanna Baccus 9Sa, Aaron Croshaw 9Me, Harry Henwood Fs, Christian Oldroyd 9Ti, Kerri Sollis 9Sa.

Task 3 - To transport an egg over a distance of 2m in a vehicle that travels on water, safely and under its own propulsion, in the fastest time. **Winners** - (Free Range Eggs) Joshua Billings 9Ti, Lewis Fifield 9Sa, Ryan Kedge 9Ga, Keli-Jo Roberts 9Ti, Eleanor Townsend 9Me

Task 4 - To transport an egg vertically up 1 metre in the slowest possible time. **Winners** - (Egg Relevation Society) Megna Birdi 9Ca, Anthony Fish 9Sa, Eleanor Kemp 9Pe, Angus Robinson 9Sa, Mishael Turner 9Ga

Task 5 - To transport an egg exactly 3 metres in distance from a height of 1m to end at floor level, without breaking the egg, in the shortest possible time.

**Winners** - (The Wompers) Catherine Chorley 9Me, Sinead Gulless 9Hu, Leah Mason 9Fs, Toby Simmonds 9Ca, Stephanie Wilson 9Hu

Task 6 - To transport an egg vertically down 1 metre in the slowest possible time.

**Winners** - (Egg Fantastics) Matthew Burgess 9Me, Gemma Goss 9Pe, Nicholas Malcher 9Ga, Peter Saunders 9Hu, Jamie West 9Fs

## Cross Curricular Day Year 7, The Olympics

On our Olympics, cross curricular day, I was in the Netherlands. First of all we had to make flags and banners and select the events that we wanted to run. I ran the 1500m and came 7<sup>th</sup> which I was quite proud of. We also learnt to say, 'Go Holland Go,' in Danish, which is 'Hup Holland Hup.' We made loads of noise parading around the top field for the opening ceremony. In the afternoon we had all the events and it was really good fun to cheer on team mates and to hear the cheering when you ran. We won both the relays and managed to win overall by 26 points! We all got medals and they were really cool. Overall, I think that the day was really well organised and I would love to do it again. *Andrew Slater*

## Cross Curricular Day, Year 7, Hampton Court Palace

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June, Year 7 went on an extraordinary trip to Hampton Court Palace where King Henry VIII lived. We learnt so much about him and the Tudors. On the way there we were all very excited. The palace was huge and the gardens were so beautiful. A woman dressed as a Tudor took us into a room and talked to us about King Henry VIII. We learnt that he was very sporty and enjoyed jousting, tennis and hunting. He was injured in a jousting accident. This meant that he could not walk or play sport for the rest of his life. *Sian Fields*

## Cross Curricular Day, Year 7, Hampton Court Palace

Everyone was in awe of the grand buildings. It felt quite something to be out with the whole of Year 7. Richard and Joey tried on battle armour which was highly amusing because it was so heavy that they had trouble trying to stay upright. Richard really got into swinging the sword. So much that he almost hit the poor man teaching us. I wonder if that was on the risk assessment Miss Donaldson? I hope we get another great trip like this one but it will be hard to beat. *Sophie Cox*

See Moodle for the full versions of these



## Get shirty, Year 10

The whole of Year 10 were involved in 'Get Shirty' day, an exciting Enterprise event to cover our two cross curricular days. By the end of the two days the year group had produced a huge and extraordinary range of t-shirts and designs. We proved that even the most diverse teams can work together to produce a remarkable set of work. Every team produced a full portfolio to show the judges, consisting of everything from market schemes to packaging designs. After presenting to the judges, the two days ended with the winners being announced after seeing some fairly spectacular range of designs, including Jacob Huff's rather 'interesting' turtle costume. The day came to a close with the winning team 'Forbidden Fruits' being told that they would have their t-shirt and portfolio displayed in the window of Fat Face in Newbury (a fairly shocking and exciting prize).

I think the two days were a great success, with everyone focused on one goal the teams thrived in producing an outstanding array of designs. The day appealed to almost everyone with everyone being involved. Overall it was a very exciting, stimulating and enjoyable two days for all.

*Megan Elms and Olivia Kemp*

## Book Mark Competition Year 8 Winners

Rachel Sammogan DO  
Harry Bodley Scott RI  
Sophie Stewart GO  
Luke Newbold SE  
Matthew Lim BU  
Naithan Bartholomew SN  
Grace Robertson CA  
Melanie Desert Bi

## Egg Race challenge – Cross Curricular Day



## Staff Leavers

Sadly, we say goodbye this term to:

Bernie McNally (Head of English), Philip Wilson (Head of year 11), Naomi Clarke (English teacher), Ric Tilbe (ICT teacher), Rachel Hereward (teacher in charge of Music), Sarah Gough (Head of Geography).

They are going to jobs in other schools for a variety of reasons including promotion and moving with partner's change of job. Mrs McNally has made a significant contribution to the Downs School as Head of English and more recently as Acting Assistant Head on the senior team. Mr Wilson, likewise, as a head of year has had an important impact on the school. Both will be difficult if not impossible to replace. We thank all our leavers for their contribution to The Downs School over the years and wish them all the very best.

## ARMY CHALLENGE

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June our Year 10 students entered 2 teams into the 3 county army challenge. They were up against 28 other teams. We are thrilled to say that we won 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place. The achievements were due to skill, and team-working.

