

THE CLAVIAN

Magazine of the Grammar School, Bury

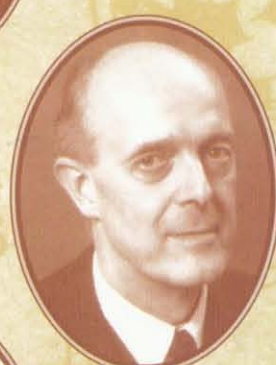
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Editorial

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Editorial

It is with a certain amount of diffidence, tempered, however, by a confident hope of loyal support from those to whom we appeal, that we issue the first number of our magazine. In the first place it is our obvious duty to explain the "raison d'être" of our literary venture: if we can show that the production of "The Clavian" satisfies a want, we are bold enough to believe that the magazine will speedily justify its existence.

Thus reads the opening paragraph of the opening edition of *The Clavian*, issued in March 1906. The present edition thus marks the magazine's centenary.

This year's front cover reproduces that of that first edition, bordered by photographs of all the headmasters who have served during those hundred years: Rev. W.H. Howlett, Mr. L.R. Strangeways, Mr L.C. Lord, Mr. R.L.Chambers, Mr. J.R.M.

Senior, Mr. C.L. Hall, Mr. J.T. Hansford, Mr. W.J.H. Robson, Mr. K. Richards and Mr. S.C. Harvey.

The Clavian was not the earliest magazine to represent the School - *The Bury Grammar School Magazine* and *The Buriensian* both preceded it - but it is by far the longest lived. Early editions were very different from those of today. They were much shorter - that of March 1906 contained 32 pages - and a new edition was published for each term. While some of the articles covered topics found in the present day editions - House reports, sports and School societies for example - others look back to a very different era - features entitled *Fossils*, *Metempsychosis*, *The Conversazione*, *The Kay House Concert* and *Stamp Collecting* leap out from the pages. That on *Metempsychosis* (or transmigration of souls) emerges as a witty but esoteric musing in the realms of the classics department and concludes with a lengthy series of quotations lifted from Virgil's *Aeneid*

which, the author claims, pertain to members of the 1906 common room - all in Latin and untranslated - *O tempora, o mores!*

Whilst the present edition may lack anything of quite such scholarly pretence, we hope ample compensation may be found elsewhere. In producing *The Clavian* of 2006 many people deserve thanks, in particular the following: Mrs. Duckworth for her cheerful keyboard wizardry and deciphering of obscure scripts; all staff involved in running and adjudicating the *Clavian* competitions; Mr. Toney and Mr. Koziura for hours spent penning sports articles; and Nigel Reeves and the staff at Jarvis Print for their splendid work in formatting and printing the magazine, and for their continued sponsorship of the *Clavian* competitions.

DSB



Successful entrants to the Cambridge History Essay Competition: Richard Stanton, Scott Mody and Christopher Stanton.

FROM THE HEADMASTER



It is of the very nature of a school community that it undergoes a significant change each year. People come and people go - not only boys, but staff too. This year the School has had an additional change - that of Headmaster. Last October I was delighted to be appointed as Keith Richards' successor and I would like to begin my first article for *The Clavian* with a heart-felt 'Thank you' for the warmth of the welcome which has been extended to me by staff, boys, parents, governors and old boys. It is a great privilege to have been entrusted with the Headship of BGS. It is a school with a highly qualified, very able and deeply committed teaching staff; talented and hard working support staff; boys who engage enthusiastically with all that the School offers them, both in and out of the classroom; a very committed and forward-looking governing body; and fine facilities which enable high standards of teaching and learning to flourish here.

At the end of the summer term we said farewell to John Bishop who had served the School for thirty-three years. He made a notable contribution to the teaching of Physics and served with distinction as Head of Careers for over twenty years. We also said farewell to Dr Jane Byrne, who taught French, German and Latin, and who left BGS to become Head of Modern Languages at Manchester Grammar School; and to Dr Jackie Yates who was the School's first female Head of Department when she was appointed Head of Chemistry in 1998. She has moved across the road to become Head of Chemistry in the

Girls' School.

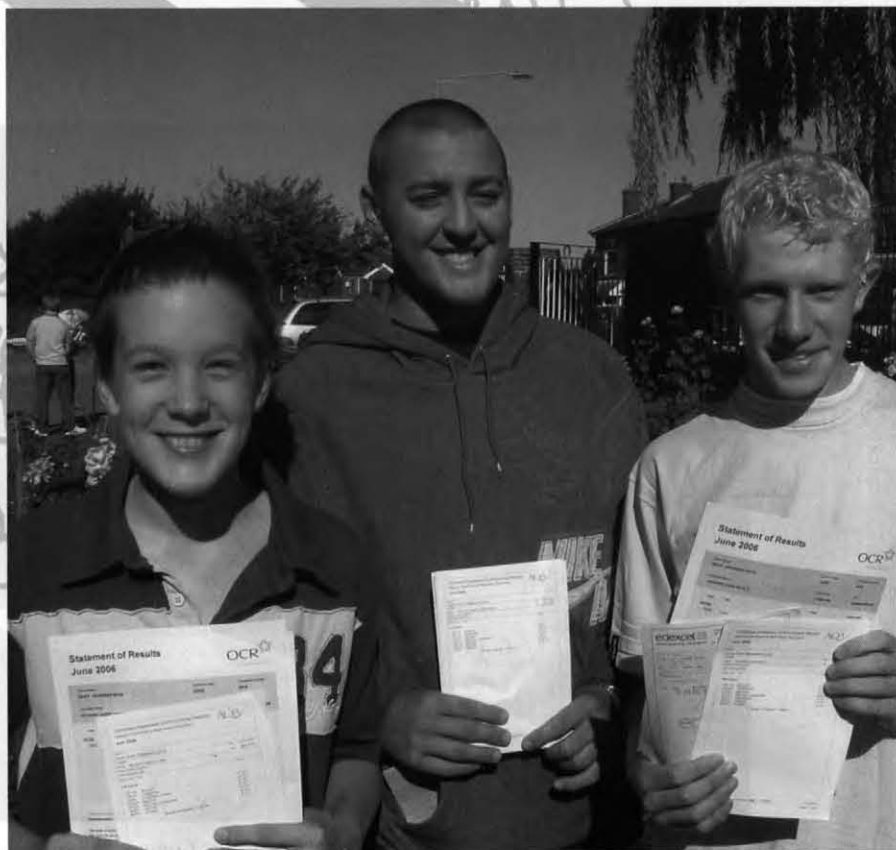
In September we welcomed Mr Richard Marshall as our new Head of Chemistry, and Mr Martin Boyd as a new member of the French Department. In October Mrs Stephanie Brierley was appointed as Registrar. This is a new post and Mrs Brierley will oversee the admission and transfer of all boys. We are delighted to have these new colleagues with us and hope that their careers at BGS will be happy and rewarding ones for them.

Internal appointments have included Mr David Lee as Head of Careers, Mr Greg Feely as Oxbridge Coordinator and Mrs Christel Cooke as Special Educational Needs Coordinator. I have also created a Senior Leadership Team: Mr David Armsbey, our Second Master; Mr David Wilson and Mr Tony Young, our two Senior Masters; and Mr David Crouch, the Head of our Junior School. I count myself very fortunate indeed to be able to work with such an able, experienced and committed group of senior colleagues.

I have said to the boys on several occasions that we are primarily an academic community. So I should, perhaps, say one or two things about academic results. This year's pass rate at A Level was 99%. 71.6% of all subject entries were awarded A or B grades. Two boys, Andrew Cooper and Mark Harmstone, achieved five A grades, and three boys, Dan-Fung Chan, Benjamin Hankinson and Daniel Wrubel, achieved four A grades.

At GCSE the pass rate at grades A* to C was 95%. The pass rate at the higher grades, A* and A, was 55.6%. Three boys, Richard Chew, Andrew Hoyle and Scott Mody, achieved ten A* grades, and Andrew was among the group of candidates nationwide who, out of a total of 362,438 entries, scored one of the top five marks nationally in English Literature.

There can never be any place for complacency about examination results. Nonetheless, this year's results reflect very well indeed on the commitment and hard work of the



Richard Chew, Scott Mody and Andrew Hoyle on GCSE result day.

boys and of those who taught them. Academic success is a vital part of what we are about.

While we are primarily an academic community, we are not exclusively an academic community. We are committed to the education of the whole person - mind, body and spirit - and it is for this reason that we offer a rich extra-curricular programme. In other parts of *The Clavian* you will be able to read about what has been going on in sport, music, drama, outdoor pursuits, the CCF and so on.

One of my early tasks as Headmaster was to work with senior colleagues on a new prospectus. This was launched at our Open Evening in October. (Please do contact the Registrar if you would like to have a copy.) In our work on the prospectus we found ourselves returning again and again to three key words: 'caring', 'challenging' and 'creating'.

These three words express what I believe BGS is all about. We are about *caring* - because we take very seriously indeed the responsibility to nurture and develop those with whose education we have been entrusted. We are about *challenging* - because we want the boys to achieve the best of which they are capable. And we are about *creating* - because we believe that we are partners, with the boys and their parents, in the noble task of helping to create young lives which value both wisdom and virtue.

BGS has an ancient foundation. But it is very much a school for the 21st century. We aim to provide a first-class academic and extra-curricular education in a safe, caring, stimulating, challenging and friendly community and to give the boys an outstanding launch for their adult lives. We want the boys to leave this school as well prepared as they can be for an adulthood during which

they will enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding career, have a desire and a determination to make a contribution to the betterment of the society of which they are part, and be able to make a creative and constructive use of their leisure time.

2006 is the 100th anniversary of the girls' arrival at BGS. An appeal has been launched which has three key elements: the building of a brand new Kindergarten (work began on this in September), the creation of a new Sixth Form Centre for boys and girls, and the building up of our bursary funds to enable bright boys who would flourish here but whose parents cannot afford the fees to come to the School. These are exciting times for BGS and I am enormously grateful to have been given the opportunity to make a contribution to them.

Steven Harvey



Andrew Cooper, Mark Harmstone, Ben Hankinson, Chris Stoneman and Daniel Wrubel celebrate A level success with members of the Girls' School.

DEPARTING STAFF

KEITH RICHARDS



Keith Richards as Headmaster at the end of the Spring term. He had arrived at BGS in succession to John Robson in September 1990.

Although Keith considers himself to be a West Country man he was, in fact, born in High Wycombe. Nevertheless he was brought up in the Bristol area and educated at another BGS - Bristol Grammar School. His achievements there were considerable - he played the violin but achieved Grade VIII on the 'cello. His musical talent was recognised by his membership of the Bristol Schools' Orchestra. A lifelong passion for sport has firm foundations in his school career where he played rugby, hockey and captained the cricket XI.

As a schoolboy academic he excelled, benefiting from being taught Classics by the aforementioned Mr. Robson. He won an Open Scholarship to read Classics at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. At Cambridge he distinguished himself by winning two prizes, one for his Greek and the other for his Latin. After Cambridge came study for his post graduate qualification in education at Oxford University.

Upon qualifying as a teacher eight years were spent teaching Classics, coaching football teams and six years as Master in Charge of Cricket at Manchester Grammar School. Then followed four years as Head of Classics at King's School, Chester. After four years in this post he moved to Repton, again as Head of Classics.

And so to Bury. The Richards' daughters, Natalie and Amy, entered the Girls' School from where both emerged successfully in due course.

The Richards era at BGS was one of great change. Although co-operation with the Girls' School had existed spasmodically, for example girls being taught Economics and Public Affairs on this side of the road in the late 1970s, it was in the 1990s that co-productions in music and drama became the norm, joint sixth form activities were developed on Friday afternoons and, more recently, girls have joined the CCF.

At BGS serious amounts of money are routinely raised for a wide range of charities including Comic Relief, Water Aid, the George House Trust and Wood St Mission. This serious fund raising began in Keith Richards' first term with our inaugural non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need.

The pastoral system which now holds such a prominent place in the life of the School was established in 1991 with, at first, the creation of heads of Lower and Middle School.

Any visitor to the School now returning for the first time since 1990 can only be amazed at the enormous changes made to the buildings. The entrance, reception and office area was reconfigured completely. The Junior School was expanded massively and relocated into the refurbished former magistrates' court buildings. Then came the "Quad Development" enabling departments to be suited while also providing much needed office and study space. Then followed the two superb major developments, namely the spectacular state-of-the-art

Learning Resource Centre and the stunning Art facility. Clearly these developments owe much to a wide range of people, but they were conceived and delivered during Keith Richards' watch.

However, first and foremost Keith is a teacher. I suspect he was never happier than when leading a class through a Latin prose or opening up the mysteries of Classical Greek to the students. No matter how pressing the business it was very rare for him to cancel a class. He has a phenomenal memory and I doubt whether any colleague ever had a better capacity for remembering boys' names.

The generosity of the boys and their parents meant that a substantial retirement gift was presented. Hitherto the recipient has purchased a bike, a bookcase and a limited edition GWR (Great Western Railways) clock - which will be a treasured souvenir for the self-confessed railway enthusiast.

In retirement Keith intends to travel, cycle and complete the major project of the home he and his wife Juliet purchased some four years ago in Tetbury in the Cotswolds. At the time of writing they have yet to be invited for tea by their neighbour HRH Prince of Wales!

He has a tremendous appetite for work but it is to be hoped that he is able to slow down and relax a little in order to enjoy, with Juliet, a long, happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement.

He leaves Bury with our very best wishes.

DEA

JOHN BISHOP



John Bishop joined the Physics Department at BGS after spending his school years at Bolton School and then graduating from Bristol University with a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Whilst at University his interest in Pure Science resulted in his being elected the President of the Astronomical Society

1970-71.

After a year working for Marconi he returned to university to study for a PGCE at Keele University - a university famous at that time for nude sun-bathing!

For 20 years John was an officer in the CCF, making a big contribution to many aspects of the corps and ending up as second-in-command under Major Rylance.

Dramatic productions at school owe John a debt of gratitude for his

work as stage manager for some 20 years. In this time there were many excellent productions, but in particular I remember *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* in 1988 complete with chariot and a technicolour dreamcoat.

For the last 20 years John has led the Careers Department. This role has grown over time to include dealing with university and Oxbridge entrance, a formidable responsibility.

Before the demands of the Careers

Department took over, John was a sixth form master at a time when the School had considerable Oxbridge success - was there a connection?

Despite all the extras mentioned above, John will be remembered, and must be thanked, for his sterling work in the Physics Department. He was

always the master of his subject matter up to Oxbridge Entrance papers and beyond, despite not actually having a Physics degree; his interest in the subject and background reading more than compensated for this.

So after 32 years' dedicated service
I wish John a long and happy

retirement, with yet more time for reading and enjoying his other interests of good food, wine and music. I hope that we shall see him out and about on some staff strolls.

SB

JANE BYRNE



Jane Byrne arrived at BGS in September 1998 after completing a Ph.D. in French Literature at Manchester University

where she had also read for her first degree. Jane at once threw herself wholeheartedly into school life and both in and out of the classroom she has contributed in many ways to BGS.

In the classroom she has taught French throughout the School, and also German to third years, Latin to second and third years and some Italian in the Sixth Form. Not content

with this, she has also been learning that strange language, Welsh, herself. She has been the form teacher for four IURs and 2URs, and the boys she has had in her forms have enjoyed and benefited from her firm but sympathetic approach.

Out of the classroom she has run a French Club for younger boys, set up an Amnesty International branch and been involved backstage in many School productions, as well as singing in the Choir. In her time at BGS she has packed in an impressive number of trips to foreign parts: Plas Menai (Wales is foreign), holidays in May to France, Battlefield visits in Belgium and France at October half-terms, a Classics holiday to Italy, ski holidays and stays in Dijon as part of our exchange programme with a French lycée. It is partly thanks to her that

the Dijon exchange exists, and it is through her that for the last eight years we have had a succession of very good assistants from Dijon University.

She has been a valued and successful member of the French Department, enthusing the boys with her knowledge of and love for France and things French and trying to drag some of her colleagues into a more technologically aware, 'modern' (?) approach to teaching.

As she leaves us to take up her post as Head of Languages at Manchester Grammar School we should like to thank her for all she has done during her eight years at BGS. We wish her every success and happiness and look forward to hearing about life in Rusholme.

JK

DR. J. YATES



Dr. Yates grew up and went to school in Hull, before escaping to the prestigious University of Durham to study

Chemistry. Having coped with the rigours of university life rather well (alcohol, sport and a little study) she left with a first class BSc in Chemistry to undergo further study at Bristol University, for which she was eventually awarded a Ph.D.

Following this period of successful study Jackie entered the world of industry, working in Research and Development for ICI Colours and Fine Chemicals. After a year or so, however, she decided that this was not really for her and did a PGCE course at Cambridge University.

She moved to the North West in

order to take up her first teaching post at QEGS Blackburn. Jackie was soon first made a housemaster and then Deputy Head of Sixth Form. During her time at QEGS Jackie also spent a year on teacher exchange, teaching at Ravenswood School for Girls in Sydney, Australia.

Dr. Yates (Jackie to members of the Common Room) took up her position at BGS as Head of Chemistry in September 1998, following the retirement of Malcolm Hardy. Jackie's appointment was a first for BGS, as there had never been a female head of department here before, and she must have found the prospect of running such a well-established and successful department rather daunting. She had, however, nothing to fear, and the department has continued to flourish under her leadership.

She has inspired many boys in her chosen subject during her eight year stay at BGS, organizing lots of

university visits, Chem-quiz teams and Salters competition entries. She has also enjoyed helping with hockey during first form games and been involved with outdoor activities, most recently Plas Menai last September.

Jackie's interests include travel, swimming (including playing water polo at national level) and skiing. Inevitably her participation in such pastimes has been reduced by having two small children to look after. Her enthusiasm has, however, remained and she hopes to find more time for such activities in the future.

Jackie has worked hard for all of the boys at BGS and has been a valued member of the Staff Common Room. We wish her well for the future and hope that life really is better on 'the other side of the road'.

AAP

Obituaries

JEREMY B. SURR, CB, FRSA 1938-2005

News of the sudden death of Jeremy Surr on September 25, 2005 arrived too late for inclusion in last year's edition of *The Clavian*.

He came to the School in 1951, when he was 13, following early years disrupted by wartime evacuation from London, where he was born, and several family moves around the country.

At BGS he became a member of the C.C.F. and was a keen and able cross-country runner. The latter helped soften his National Service years as various units, anxious to achieve inter-company sporting prowess, took him away from his soldiering duties in Germany and onto the racing circuit.

His training in computer programming, systems analysis, incomes policy research and planning enabled him to advance rapidly

following his move to London in 1961. Having begun at the Ministry of Labour (the forerunner of the Department of Employment) he was soon able to move to a position on a team in the Cabinet Office. More senior posts soon followed.

After two years spent on an exchange posting with the Australian government he moved to Sheffield, following the decentralisation of the Department of Employment. He became a senior executive of the Manpower Services Commission, helping run programmes that would benefit over one million unemployed people a year. In 1988 he established a new division to develop an adult training programme. In 1989 he became Divisional Director in the Department of Employment and soon established the Training and Enterprise Councils. He also was

responsible for the Training and Enterprise Directorate of the Department of Education.

After three years he took early retirement but immediately set himself up as a consultant to the newly independent countries of Eastern Europe on policy developments and organisation of labour market institutions. Over the next 13 years he spent much time in those countries. Even so he still found time to enjoy other interests: the development of his showpiece garden, golf and classic car rallying.

After his 'official' retirement in 1992 he was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

(The Editor is grateful to Mr David Ingham, Jeremy Surr's brother-in-law, for information supplied.)

DR. JOHN DE COURCY IRELAND, 1911-2006

The achievements of Dr John de Courcy Ireland were many and varied, as was made clear in the numerous obituaries which appeared in both the British and Irish national presses and the personal tributes from, among others, Ireland's President Mary McAleese and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

It is impossible adequately to summarise his lifetime's work in so restricted a space. As a writer he was responsible for many books and articles on Ireland's maritime history and his love of the sea was manifest in many of his other activities. He was a founder of the Maritime Museum and the Maritime Institute of Ireland, both (originally) sited in Dun Laoghaire, whose lifeboat service he supported for 25 years, many of those as its secretary.

Throughout his life he was a prominent left wing political activist and contested the 1982 general election as a member of the Democratic Socialist Party. Earlier his organisational skills contributed considerably to Labour's strong showing in the 1943 election. However his known communist sympathies, which he later abandoned, led to his briefly being expelled from the party following a police investigation. Later his profoundly pacifist views found full

expression when he helped establish CND in Ireland.

His skills as a linguist were phenomenal. The nine languages which he spoke included Serbo-Croat and, of course, Irish.

His early life was far from ordinary. He was born in Lucknow, India, the son of an army major who died during the First World War. The family moved to China then Rome and he was sent to Marlborough College to continue his education. Aged 16 he ran away to sea and sailed aboard a Dutch vessel to South America, where he first encountered examples of extreme poverty which deeply coloured his political views. He was soon persuaded to return home in order to take up a History Scholarship at New College Oxford.

Shortly after the completion of his degree he joined the staff of Bury Grammar School as a teacher of History, English and Classics. He proved a charismatic and well-loved figure: tall, red-haired, casually clad (in contrast to his more serious begowned colleagues) and sporting a monocle attached to a long black ribbon, he proved even more striking on those occasions when the ends of his pyjamas could be seen protruding from below his trousers! He taught and spoke upon his subjects with infectious enthusiasm and

considerable depth of knowledge. Saturday evenings would see him in Bury market place, perched a-top a fruit crate from which he would deliver furious speeches on socialism and pacifism.

Somewhat belying his pacifist convictions was his legendary reputation as an unerring master of the art of projecting chalk at the heads of the more unruly pupils.

His time at the School was sadly brief - 1933-8 - but several of his pupils maintained a correspondence with him to his final years. After some time spent helping organise the China Relief and Campaign Committee in Manchester, he returned to teaching, now in Ireland, occupying posts in Dublin (St Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School), Drogheda, Bandon and Dun Laoghaire. His final teaching post was as senior master of Newpark Comprehensive.

During his lifetime he won many honours. These included being the first Irishman to be awarded the Caird Medal of the British National Maritime Museum and decorations from the governments of Argentina, France, Portugal, Spain and Yugoslavia.

(The Editor is grateful to Mr Ronald Singleton for information supplied.)

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Autumn saw a very busy programme for the LRC. As always, we made a point of celebrating National Poetry Day with something special: the performance poet Terry Caffrey, currently resident poet at the Bridgewater Hall, marked the occasion by providing poetry workshops for all pupils in the first year. He agreed to do a stint at lunchtime in the Dining Hall, which created a lively memorable lunchtime!

After our highly successful achievement in last year's Times Educational Supplement Lit-Quiz - we were the North West regional winners - another BGS team, from volunteers in the first and second years, was chosen to represent the school. This consisted of Aditya Pahade, Joseph Schofield, James Maxwell and Adam Storer. This year the Northwest regional event took place on Thursday 24th November, at the University of Bolton. The BGS Lit-Quiz team performed respectably and managed to secure third position in the competition.

Another traditional feature of the Autumn Term in recent years has been the monitoring of the ManBooker literary award. Once again a BGS ManBooker Shadowing Group, made up of staff and seventh formers, was formed. It consisted of Mr. Brady, Mr. Ellison, Mrs. Glancy, Mark Harmstone, Liam Harper and Tom Newton. Many thanks to all participants for reading and

reviewing the short-listed books. Despite the fact that Liam Harper wasn't impressed with the storyline, characters or quality of prose in John Banville's novel *The Sea*, it was nevertheless acclaimed the winner by the official judges.

The Autumn Term also witnessed a literary coup for Bury Grammar School. Andy McNab, the celebrated former SAS soldier, agreed to come to BGS, provided his visit was kept top secret and no press was given prior notice. Therefore, on a damp Tuesday morning, McNab and his security entourage descended on the School, basing themselves in the Assembly Hall. After some surreal, but nevertheless enjoyable, vignettes of his exploits, McNab generously allowed fourth form and senior boys who were present to participate in an informal question and answer session. Finally he not only signed copies of his book, but also consented to be photographed alongside droves of boys for posterity.

Librarians' activities in the Spring Term revolved around celebrating World Book Day. This involved fund-raising by supporting Book Aid International, the designated World Book Day charity. This year's appeal was to help to provide books for readers in the developing countries, particularly Africa. Every £1.50 raised would enable a book to be put into a reader's hands. BGS Librarians organised a Sponsored Speed Read. Members of the first

and second years participated and succeeded in raising £550. Special mention must go to Sakhil Chaudhry of 2LA and Sam Broadhurst of 2LB who raised £35 each in sponsor money, which was a tremendous effort on their part. The Librarians also made the decision to mark this year's World Book Day by producing a special display to celebrate the horror genre. Fifth year Librarians who made a significant contribution were Chris Stanton, Richard Stanton, Joshua Okhiria, Garrett Karaaziz and Daniel Wells. Pupils in the first year responded well to the Design a Bookmark Competition, which included some highly-imaginative entries. The winner was Azhar Khan of 1LD. Azhar was presented with



Azhar Khan presents Mr Richards with a copy of his prize-winning bookmark.

£10 of book tokens in Assembly and upstaged Mr. Richards by presenting him with a special version of his winning bookmark design, marking the occasion of Mr. Richards' retirement.

In the Summer Term the Lower School once again was keen to take part in the CLIP Carnegie Shadowing Scheme. This year's reading group included veteran members, who are now in the third form, namely Harry Shuell, David Winterbottom, Jonathan Tsim, Alex Jackson, Steven Eyre, Callum Mackenzie, James Tsim and Simon Morris. The group was pleased to welcome volunteers from the first year: Oliver Hughes, Charles Owen, James Andrew, Dominic Capper and Jack Whittle. If you would like to read their reviews of the shortlisted books, you will find them at <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/shadowingsite>



The Carnegie Shadowing Group.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging and expressing my thanks to all School Librarians for their hard work and support throughout the year. I would also like to wish Litia Namushi the best of luck as my successor as Principal Student Librarian next year.

*Alex Jonas
Principal Student Librarian*

ANDY McNAB

On an indifferent Tuesday, Andy McNab descended into Bury Grammar Boys' School; not to combat terrorism or protect the country, but for a book signing.

It was quite shocking when one first saw him, as the event had, understandably, not been widely publicised. Andy McNab was not alone. He had brought his fellow writer and colleague, Robert Rigby.

Without his silhouette, Andy McNab did not look how I had imagined he would look. He had H****, ^ ****^hafr, ^ ^ ^ eyes and was of ***** build, with a ***** **** on his ****. Oddly enough one always imagined he would have ***** *****.

Regardless of concealing his identity, both Andy McNab and Robert Rigby had braved all to sign their fans' books. One couldn't help wondering if he was going to have a flashback and give some unfortunate onlooker a lethal paper cut. Engaging in pleasant conversations with those who had made the effort to drop in, usually about their books but not Andy's work, both Robert Rigby and Andy McNab proved to be crowd-pleasers, especially with a few prominent members of the CCF that Andy McNab engaged in conversation with, no doubt telling them how to kill a man five times before he hit the ground.

Needless to say, for those observant enough to notice his presence in the main hall, his visit was a sensation and a huge success.

Stuart McVittie-Mathews

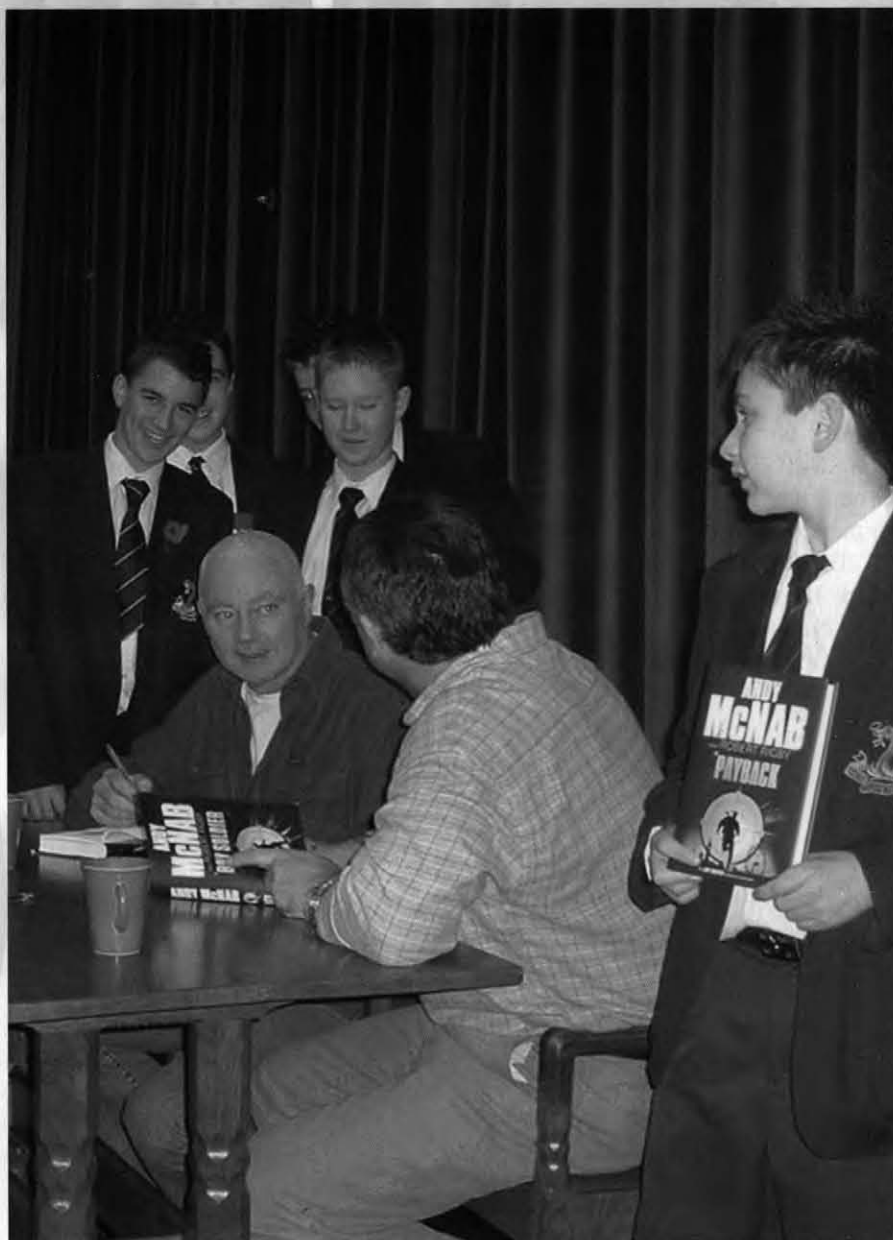
TERRY CAFFREY

Terry Caffrey is a performance poet and he talked about a lot. He said, "A book is asleep when it is not open." He also said, "School is important." His first poem was about cooking poetry; it was called *Poetry Cake* and he had a weird Liverpool kind of accent.

Terry Caffrey also did a poem called *The Hungry Caterpillar*. We had to stand up and pretend we were on a surfboard. Then we had to make a chomping sound and a shhhhhhhh. There were a lot of sound effects to the poem. He also did a poem called *Bums*. That was the best poem in my opinion. It was very funny and entertaining. His other poem was called *Word*. Every time he said "Word" I said "Word" after.

Mrs. Cooke was taking pictures of us doing the actions when we did the surfboard action; we had to sing the tune for *Hawaii 5 O*. At the end of Terry Caffrey's performance Mrs. Cooke took a picture of the whole class with Terry Caffrey.

Adal Choudhry, 11D



School Awards 2006



SCHOOLAWARDS 2006

The Oliver Entwistle Prize for the Captain of the School.....	R H F Turck
The Mary Forrester Prize.....	S L Curtis
The Cecil Heap Memorial Prize.....	G Kirkman
The Maxwell Barlow C.C.F. Prize.....	P G Douthwaite
The Hodgkiss Library Prize.....	A M Jonas
The Warburton Cup for Sport.....	S L Curtis
The Atherton Plate for Rifle Shooting.....	H J Swinnerton
The Marcus Cup for Drama.....	A J Fletcher
The W.R. Douglas Prize for Classics.....	C J Howarth
The Walton Prize for Classical Studies.....	T J Harrison
The Richard Byrom Prize for Mathematics.....	A M Jonas
The Farraday Prize for Mathematics.....	D-F Chan
The Henry Webb Memorial Prize for Physics.....	A B Robinson
The Farraday Prizes for Physics	
Seventh Form:.....	D-F Chan
Fifth Form:.....	R J Barker
Fourth Form:.....	S J Glover
The Cecil John Turrell Cronshaw Prizes for Chemistry	
Seventh Form:.....	D-F Chan
Fifth Form:.....	R J Barker
Fourth Form:.....	M S A Ghobrial
The H.T. Farrar Prize for Biology.....	D-F Chan
The Seymour Prize for English.....	M A Harmstone
The Ryan Prize for English.....	A J Hoyle
The Sir John Wrigley Prize for History.....	B M J Hankinson
The Shazan Qureshi Prize for GCSE History.....	C J Stanton
The Dr. Young Prizes for Geography	
Seventh Form:.....	A J Cooper
Fifth Form:.....	M J Evenson
The J.L. Norton Prize for French.....	C J Howarth
The Mitchell Prize for German.....	T J Filer
The Samuel and Elizabeth Lord Prize for Economics.....	A J Cooper
The R.P Calrow Prize for Politics.....	A M Jason
The Milliken Prize for Business Studies.....	T R Lomax
The Rector's Prize for Religious Knowledge.....	A B Robinson
The Peacock Memorial Prize for General Studies.....	M A Harmstone
The McDonald Prize for Computing.....	J M S Rajasansir
The Peter M Skinner Prize for Design Technology.....	C R Stoneman
The Taylor Poetry Prize.....	T P Barling
The Old Clavians' Reading Prize.....	S D Benson
The Farraday Music Prize.....	RHF Turck
The Rose-Slaney Music Prize.....	T S Wilks
The Farraday Prizes for Outdoor Pursuits	
3UA.....	S D Powell
3UQ.....	D A Winterbottom
3LF.....	T A Massey
3UC.....	C M Long
The Jack Aspden Prize for Outdoor Pursuits.....	J L Whittle
The H.H. Openshaw Verse Speaking Prizes	
Fifth Form:.....	R O Stanton
Fourth Form.....	Z A Hashmi
Third Form:.....	T P Barling
Second Form:.....	S Wilcock
First Form:.....	J R McGowan
The Carrigan Trophy for Creative Writing.....	S T K Mody
The Christopher Ali Fifth Form Prize.....	J W Ainscow
The Terry McBride Golf Trophy.....	D R Butler
The Percy Howarth Music Prizes	
Vocal (Junior).....	R D Hernandez
Vocal (Broken Voice).....	J P J Findon
Instrumental (Senior - String Instrument).....	N R Y T Swirad
.....	DA Ho worth
(Senior - Wind Instrument).....	R J Chew
(Junior - String Instrument).....	M C Hagan

(Junior - Wind Instrument).....	J J S Rigby
(Senior - Brass Instrument).....	J I Scholes
(Junior - Brass Instrument).....	P R Phillips
Piano (Senior).....	C C Parsons
Piano (Junior).....	D J Cahill
.....	N S Hobhouse
Percussion (Senior).....	P Broadbent
The Strickland Prizes for C.D.T.	
Senior:.....	J L Redford
Second Form:.....	A Pahade
First Form:.....	T W Townson
The Harold Riley Art Prize.....	W J T Glancy
The Headmaster's Prizes for Art	
Senior:.....	L R Gaffney
Junior:.....	M C Hagan
The Julie France Prize for GCSE Art.....	H J Woods
The R.B. Wilson Prize for Medical Training.....	A Al-Attar
The Openshaw Scholarships.....	A J Cooper, M A Harmstone
The Mellor Scholarship.....	D-F Chan
The Haworth Scholarships.....	B M J Hankinson, D Wrubel

SIXTH FORM SUBJECT PRIZES

English:.....	M B Trafford	Geology:.....	I Pringle
History:.....	J D Cohen	Computing:.....	SI Macdonald
Economics:.....	NMR Pasta	Mathematics:.....	Rikesh R Patel
Politics:.....	J D Cohen	Further Mathematics:.....	J P Spellacy
Business Studies:.....	M J Field	Physics:.....	J P Spellacy
French:.....	M B Trafford	Chemistry:.....	R S Y T Ahmad
Biology:.....	R S Y T Ahmad	German:.....	M B Trafford
Geography:.....	S I Macdonald	General Studies:.....	J P Spellacy
Latin:.....	M J Bowden	Religious Studies:.....	R D Milnes
Greek:.....	M J Field	Design Technology.....	J A Larmett

FIFTH FORM G.C.S.E. PRIZES

R J Barker	G N Karaaziz	
T E J Brooks		RAJ Little
C M Bryant	C J McCaughey	
R J Chew		STK Mody
M J Evenson	J R I Okhiria	
N J Gaffney	C J Stanton	
J M Greenwood	R O Stanton	
A J Hoyle	J E L Taylor	
A M Jones-Bradbum		D L Wells
S S Kafle		

FORM PRIZES

4LC.....	D J Onslow.....	D J Taylor
4LE.....	N R Y T Swirad.....	O N Banks
4LI.....	W C Leach.....	T E Messenger Amano
4SK.....	D A Howorth.....	M S A Ghobrial
4UV.....	A A Khan.....	AW Salem
3LF.....	R D Hernandez.....	J W G Martin
3UA.....	A J Jackson.....	S D Powell
3UC.....	E R R Turck.....	E C S Clough
3UQ.....	N S Hobhouse.....	J J E Watkinson
2LA.....	A Pahade.....	B A Kyffin
2LB.....	M J Lancashire.....	A J E Adler
2UI.....	S D P Fielden.....	E J Wyse
2UR.....	I Nisar.....	M J Gaunt
1LD.....	J R Andrew.....	J R McGowan
1LG.....	J C Smithies.....	A J Page
1UD.....	D J Barker.....	G R Bevan
1UH.....	L Byrom.....	A M Trafford

SCHOOL TROPHIES

The Old Boy's Cup for Spoken English.....	Howlett
The West Cup for Music.....	Hulme
The Wike Football Cup.....	Hulme
The A.L.Hyde Six-a-Side Football Trophy.....	Howlett
The Canon Blackburne Cricket Cup.....	Howlett
The C.E. Lord Cricket Trophy.....	Kay
The Hutchinson Swimming Cup.....	Kay
The Mark Oakden Swimming Cup.....	Derby
The Henry Whitehead Athletics Cup.....	Derby
The R.P. Calrow Junior Athletics Cup.....	Kay
The Taylor Relay Cup.....	Kay
The Douglas Cross-Country Cup.....	Kay
The Foote-Wood Senior Cross-Country Cup.....	Kay
The Cullens Junior Cross-Country Cup.....	Kay
The Parkinson Rugby Cup.....	Derby
The Mellor Cup for Rifle Shooting.....	Derby
The Bostock Basketball Trophy.....	Derby
The Millennium Golf Trophy.....	School
The House Golf Trophy.....	Kay
The House Tennis Trophy.....	Derby
The House Badminton Trophy.....	Kay
The House Hockey Trophy.....	Derby

G.C.E. ADVANCED LEVEL RESULTS 2006

indicates the highest possible grade in a subject.

7SB	A. Al-Attar (Biol.* , Chem.* , Rel. St.* , G.S.), M.S. Allen, (Biol., Chem., Maths, Phy.), K. Altaf (Biol., Chem., Maths.), D-F. Chan (Biol.* , Chem.* , Maths.* , Phy.*), L. Gribben (Biol., Chem., Geog.), F.M. Khan (Biol., Chem., Maths.), T.W. Newton (Biol.* , Chem.* , Phy.), L. J. Nuttall (Biol., Chem., Maths), M. Patel (Biol.* , Chem.* , Maths.*), G.E.J. Quin (Chem., Ger., Fr., G.S.), P.M. Sawney (Biol., Chem., Maths., Phy.).
7SF	A.N.L. Aziz (Biol., Chem.* , Maths.* , Econ.*), O.J. Barnes (Eng.Lit., Fr, Hist.), A.J. Cooper (Biol.* , Geog.* , Maths.* , Econ.* , G.S.*), E.Y. Duxbury (Biol., Econ., Phy.), L.R. Gaffney (Art* , Biol.* , Geog.*), B.T. Knowles (Biol., Geog.* , Econ.*), T.J. Murphy (Geog., Bus.St., Pol.), G.D. Richardson (Biol., Chem., Phy.), B.W. Simmons (Biol., Ger., Geog.* , G.S.*), S.M. Terris Taylor (Eng.Lit., Bus.St.), R.H.F. Turck (Biol., Chem., Ger., Fr.*).
7UE	S.L. Curtis (Geog.* , Maths, Econ.*), D.J. Garvey (Geog.* , Maths, Bus.St.*), W.J.T. Glancy (Art* , Geol., Maths, Phy.), T.J. Hanson (Maths.* , Econ.* , Phy.), M.A. Harmstone (Eng.Lit.* , Hist.* , Maths.* , Phy.* , G.S.*), A.M. Jonas (Hist., Maths* , Econ.* , Fur.Maths*), S.M. McCance (Eng.Lit., Geog., Rel.St.), A.B. Robinson (Maths* , Phy.* , Rel.St.*), D.M Wrubel (Chem.* , Maths* , Phy.* , G.S.*).
7UJ	J.J.D. Benton (Geol., Econ., Bus.St.), P.J. Fitzsimon-Porter (Geog., Hist., Econ.), S.P Gillan (Geog., Econ., Bus.St.*), B.T. Jones (Hist., Rel.St., Bus.St.*), G. Kirkman (Geog., Geol., Clas.Civ.), T.R. Lomax (Maths, Econ.* , Bus.St.*), A.I. Lundy (Biol., Rel.St., Bus.St), I.M.R. Malik (Hist., Bus.St., Pol.), S.R.C. McVittie-Mathews (Econ., Hist.* , Rel.St.* , G.S.), M.C. Rostron (Geog., Hist., Econ.).
7UL	J. Anwar (Eng.Lit., Comp., Bus.St.), J.C.M. Berry (Elec., Comp.), M.J. Buckley (Geog., Comp.* , Bus.St.*), A. Chaudry (Maths* , Phy.* , Comp.*), L.J. Harper (Ger., Fr., Comp.* , G.S.*), R.D. Jambaya (Maths, Comp., Bus.St.), R.J. Nuttall (Chem., Phy., Elec.), J.M.S.Rajasansir (Maths* , Phy.* , Comp.*), C.R. Stoneman (Maths* , Phy.* , Elec.*).
7UN	T.M. Black (Art* , Eng.Lt., Hist.), J.L.F. Brunt (Geog., Hist.* , Bus.St.*), PG. Douthwaite (Geol.* , Maths, Phy., G.S.), T.J. Filer (Ger., Eng.Lt., Fr.*), B.M.J. Hankinson (Fr.* , Hist.* , Pol.* , G.S.*), T.J. Harrison (Eng.Lt., Fr., Clas.Civ., G.S.), B.S. Hope (Fr., Hist.* , Pol.*), C.J. Howarth (Ger., Fr.* , Latin*), A.M. Jason (Hist.* , Rel.St.* , Pol.* , G.S.), J.A. Rostron (Fr., Geog., Hist.*), T.S. Wilks (Ger. Fr.* , Latin), H. Yousaf (Eng.Lt., Fr., Hist.* , Pol.*).

G.C.S.E. RESULTS 2006

The following pupils achieved at least seven A* to C grades:-

- 5LJ: J.W. Ainscow, Z. Baig, T.E.J. Brooks, D.R. Butler, R.J. Chew, A.T. Day, C.J. Dickson, L.A.J. Drogan, C.T. Farnworth, J.A. Hanna, S.S. Kafle, J.R. Latham, R.A.J. Little, E. Moazzezi, S.T.K. Mody, U. Sohail, C.J. Stanton, A.J. Taylor, M.M. Watson, R. Watson.
- 5SC A. Bacci-Evers, RD. Bartlett, C.M. Bryant, D.S. Burgess, E.J. Chadwick, C.R.G. Collins, R.I. Ferguson, D.R.P. Fielden, T.B. Grime, H.C. Hill, A.M. Jones-Bradburn, R.J. Leatherbarrow, M.A. Shah, N.A. Shotton, J.A. Standley, H.R. Tattersall, O. Wren.
- 5SUB N.A. Chandler, R.J. Clarke, M.J. Couchman, B.C. Daniels, R.M. Freeman, N.J. Gaffney, D.M.P. Gordon, M.T. Harrison, O.W. Harrison, A.J. Hoyle, D. Kenyon, D.J. Livesey, J.J.P. Mallon, C.J. McCaughey, D. Nield, D.M. Page, S.R. Shokrollahi, J.E.L. Taylor, M.D. Whelan, M.H. Wright.
- 5UK M. Arshad, D. Chadwick, A.D. Cohen, O.J. Dean, I.J. Duxbury, C.A. Gaydon, J.B. Jackson, B.P. Jennings, J.R. Lee, A.M. Lewis, T.D.O. Makin, J. McGarvey, M.A. Salim, R.O. Stanton, D.L. Wells, H.J. Woods, M.D. Woolfe.
- 5UU R.J. Barker, S.C. Billings, B. Chaudhary, Z. Din, M.J. Evenson, J.B.A. France, T.J. Garvey, S. Gore, J.M. Greenwood, B.W.T. Heffernan, M.N. Howarth, G.N. Karaaziz, PA. Kumeta, L. Lau, J.C.K. Marchant, J.R.I. Okhiria, J.L. Redford, M.E.N. Slowey, L.A. Woolley.

NON-ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS

Association Football: Tom Black played for the Independent Schools Northern FA U19 XI and also for the ISFA U19 B XI. Christian Farnworth and Oliver Harrison played for the ISFA U16 XI and were joined by Robert Leatherbarrow and Scott Mody in the ISAF North U16 XI. The 1st XI were runners-up in both the Northern ISFA U18 8-a-side competition and the U19 Greater Manchester Cup. The U13 XI were runners-up in both the Greater Manchester and Bury Cups.

Athletics: Bury GS were overall winners of the Bury Schools Athletics Championships with the U15 and U16 teams winning their respective section within these championships. John Findon and Joshua Mason were individual winners. Ciaran McCaughey became Greater Manchester 800m champion in addition to winning both the 800m and 1500m Bury titles. He represented Manchester in the English Schools 800m Final. Furthermore he was selected to represent the North West in the UK School Games and he has become a member of the North West Olympic Potential Development Squad.

Badminton: Ross Little has represented England in international competitions in Sweden. He reached the semi-finals in the Men's Doubles and was runner-up in the Men's Singles.

Basketball: The U18 team were runners-up in both the North West League and Cup while the U16's won both the Lancashire and Bury Cups. The U12's were the Lancashire Rally winners.

Cricket: The U17 XI were runners-up in the Lancashire Cup. Chris Long and Tom Barling represented Bury at U15 level.

Cross-Country: Lewis Doughty, Christian Drogan, Ciaran McCaughey and Harry Shuell ran for Bury Schools. Ciaran McCaughey won the Bury Schools U16 race.

Golf: Oliver Harrison and Jay McGarvey played for Lancashire U18's. The School team won the South East Lancashire Schools Golf Competition. Oliver Harrison was the individual winner and Jay McGarvey the runner-up.

Kendo: Harry Shuell retained his British Open Title. Although too young to compete internationally he has been invited to train with the British Squad.

Sailing: Stephen Mason was selected to represent Lancashire in the National Schools Sailing Association Regatta, Laser class.

Music: Martin Hagan was the winner of the Instrumental Section of this year's Young Musician of the Year competition run by the Rotary Club of Tottington and Bury West together with Bury Lions. Martin (violin) and Alex Benn (bassoon) have both become full members of the Hallé Youth Orchestra. In addition Alex is a member of the Hallé Youth Choir. Mark Harrison now sings with the senior Halle Choir.

Ogden Trust: Following the success of the school team in the Ogden Trust's National Business Competition in 2005, Alex Robinson has been invited by the Trust to act as a moderator and adviser for the Regional Final of the 2006 competition to be held at the Manchester Business School.

OLD BOYS' DISTINCTIONS

D.J. Barker (1965-1973) was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to British Education and the local community in Ecuador.

P.J. Braithwaite (1995 - 2002) has gained First Class Honours in Philosophy, Fine Art and Music from Newcastle University. He has won a scholarship to study for a Master's degree in Vocal Performance at the Royal College of Music.

S. Chadwick (1992 - 2002) has gained First Class Honours in Information Technology and Media Communications from Lancaster University.

J.M. Chew (1994 - 2004) was awarded the Falcon Chambers Prize for Land Law and the Clive Parry Prize for International Law, both from the Faculty of Law, University of Cambridge.

P.J. Sanderson (1989-1994) captained the England Rugby tour to Australia.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Yet again it has been a busy year. We have done lots of interesting things, some new and some familiar, and the boys and sometimes the staff have had a mixture of wonderful experiences which have enriched their education.

We were delighted that Mrs. Faulkner joined the Junior School as Deputy Head last September and we hope she has enjoyed her first year. Mrs. Jones covered Mrs. Harrison's maternity leave during the Autumn Term.

We were delighted that the new computer suite was finished and our thanks must go to Peter Skinner and his team for their work which enables the boys to have a very modern and up-to-date facility.

I think that you are fully aware that we offer the boys a broad curriculum that not only encompasses all the academic subjects but also enables them to participate in a wide variety of activities and challenges. This gives them life experiences, skills, confidence and self-reliance, which we feel are very important. On the academic side the boys cover all the National Curriculum and our English, Mathematics and Science results have been very pleasing. The project work in Geography, History, Religious Studies and IT has been very good and so too has the Art and Design Technology work.

The Christmas concert was held on 13th December and a packed house enjoyed traditional, and some not so traditional, carols and readings. The Introitus play was highly entertaining. The Christmas parties were great fun and the party games were very competitive as usual.

When we came back after the Christmas holidays we found that the Art and Science rooms had been very badly damaged owing to a burst water pipe in the loft area of the Art Room. The rooms had to be completely stripped and the drying out took nearly six weeks! My thanks must go to Mr. Robson and Mrs. Pope for all their extra work in recording and sorting the damaged equipment. The rooms are going to be refurbished completely and we are hoping that they will be ready for September 2006.

Our collections for charity this year have been very successful. We had a non-uniform day for Children in Need. At the Founders' Day service our collection in aid of Bury Hospice was £168.03. Finally, our annual summer event was the 'potted sports' which were great fun. The boys dribbled footballs, jumped hurdles, ran and ran for half an hour and we raised a staggering £5,707.32 which beat last year's total by over a thousand pounds. David De Vial, Ben Lawton, Jack Baker and Nick Mabbutt presented cheques for £2,853.66 to The Joe Geeling Trust and Bury Hospice. As I said to the boys when we presented the cheques, if we can give something to other people during our lives then I think it makes us better people. I would like to thank all the parents who helped on the day and provided sponsorship for the boys.

Our Book Week was held in March and we took over £1200. This helps to promote reading and to buy some new books for the library.

We have continued the individual targets. Each boy is set a target for the spring and summer terms. These targets are attainable for boys but they also require a certain amount of effort and the boys have to prove they can attain the target more than once. We have held two Achievement Assemblies in which we have presented certificates to those boys who have reached their targets. The Summer Term Achievement Assembly was very pleasing with many boys gaining certificates.

Founders' Day was a fine day; our service was held by the Rev. Hugh Bearn who talked to the boys about trusting people. I wasn't sure if I should trust the Reverend Bearn when he wanted to hit me over the head with a brick; luckily I had a helmet on. Mr. Sheikh had to endure the pain of squeezing a piece of holly in his hand. If you want to know the outcome of the sermon I suggest you ask your son because I am sure he will remember. I am still suffering from flashbacks and Mr. Sheikh is consulting his lawyers.

The Outdoor Activity programme started in the Autumn Term with *Transitus II* visiting Ambleside to kayak, climb, tunnel and gorge walk.

In the Summer Term *Transitus I* went to Rivington orienteering and were blown/rolled down Rivington Pike. They also visited Gordale Scar and counted the steps down from Malham Cove. We were very fortunate that day to see a pair of peregrine falcons nesting in the Cove. *Exitus* finished off the year with their self-reliant journeys; it was a very windy experience. The wind was so strong that the minibuses were moving up and down on their suspension! Good teamwork prevailed the majority of the time, and we actually camped and cooked very well under some very difficult conditions. One of the amusing moments was watching the boys play football; they would kick the ball forward and see it fly back over their heads. The Edale residential visit was a great experience for the boys; it was beautifully sunny and many of them achieved personal goals during the week. It was good to see them all playing together in the grounds. Thanks must go to all the staff for their time and help.

To enrich the curriculum many educational visits have been organised over the year. The boys have been to the Print Works, the Fusiliers Museum, the War Museum, Chester, and the Parish Church. At the end of the Summer Term the whole School





went on their form trips to Manchester Museum of Science, Chester Zoo, the Liverpool Museum and Bradford Museum of Film and Photography. I would like to thank all the parents for their help and one parent said that she would pay to go on the trip - no names mentioned!

Our annual collection of Tesco computer vouchers amassed 15,500 vouchers that we are exchanging for some more hand-held video cameras and some software. Those of you who are quick at maths will realise that Junior School parents have spent £155,000 at Tesco.

We held ICT Week in our new computer suite and each class spent either a morning or afternoon developing their research skills and learning how to apply these skills to their work. This was followed by Maths Day, when each class rotated round eight different problem-solving tasks.

The Junior School music goes from strength to strength and we held a combined Junior and Senior School Open Evening in February in which the boys performed a short concert and parents were able to talk to their son's music teachers. Form concerts at the beginning of the Summer Term are always entertaining and they clearly show the progression the boys make in music over four years. We also had our Spring Concert, which was very informal and well-attended. The choir, wind group, percussion group and the orchestra have been practising throughout the year and are



doing extremely well. Derek Southcott adjudicated the House Music Competition and the standard of performance was excellent. The Percy Howarth Music Cup was decided on the House songs and the cup was shared between Derby and Hulme. Again, this year we have had many successes in both the Associated Board and Guildhall examinations. Many boys have passed with either merits or distinction and that reflects on how hard the boys practise and also the teaching of our peripatetic staff. I would like to thank particularly Mrs. Grundy, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Benger and all peripatetic staff for their hard work over the year.

Our programme of sport is very good and throughout the age groups the boys have the opportunity to represent the School, or their House, in a variety of different sports. We are the winners of the Bury Junior Schools Football League Cup, the Swimming League, the Road Relay and the Athletics. In the athletics Nathan Crowther, Tunmise Ojo and Lewis Whalley won their respective finals. Jordan Smith came third in the Long Jump. We also won the boys' relay. In the Football League Cup we came top of our section and then won through to the final. In the final we faced Tottington and won 5-0.

In the Association of Junior Independent Schools Competitions we made early exits from the football and cricket knockout cups. At the cross-country we came second in the



Under 11s and ninth in the under 10s. In the athletics Lewis Whalley came 3rd in the Long Jump and 2nd in the 150 metres.

Our House Sporting Competitions have been very keenly contested and as you know we try to include as many boys as possible in each House. The football was won by Howlett, the cross-country by Howlett and the cricket was shared by Derby and Hulme.

Sports Day was held on a beautiful afternoon and many parents enjoyed the events. The Headmaster presented the certificates to the winners. Howlett were the winners of the Arthur Price Trophy. During the event three School records were broken: Nathan Crowther in the Introitus 60 metres and Tunmise Ojo in the Transitus I 60 metres and 100 metres.

Swimming Sports were as noisy as ever and we watched the closest House competition I can remember for a very long time. The result hinged on the last race and any one of the four houses could have won. The atmosphere was electric; all the boys and parents were screaming and the eventual winners were Howlett. Both the swimmers and the boys watching played their part in making it a fantastic event. Mr. Armsbey presented the certificates to the winners.

I would like to thank all the staff, both in the Junior School and the Senior School, who give up their time so generously for sport and all the extra-curricular activities that are such

an integral part of Junior School life.

The Verse Speaking Competition was enjoyed by the whole School. We were entertained all afternoon. The winners did very well indeed and they recited their poems at Prizegiving. I would like to add that the boys chose their own poems.

The Clavian Literary and Art Competition was entitled "The World Cup". In the Art Competition the Exitus and Transitus II section was won by Sam Lyth and the Transitus I and Introitus section by Muhammed Seedat. The Upper School Literary Competition was won by Matthew Bowen, the Lower School prize by Imran Hashmi.

The internal competitions for pool, table-tennis and chess had many entries. The winners were Tom Jackson (pool), Callum Stott (table-tennis) and Caspar Hobhouse (chess).

The Work Cup is for the House which gains the most House points over the whole year and the winning House was Hulme. The boys amassed nearly 300,000 House Points over the year, so well done boys.

Prizegiving was held on Tuesday 14th July in the Senior School hall and Mrs. Patricia Lomas presented the prizes. It was a wonderful occasion to celebrate the achievements of not only the prize winners but also the whole

School. Mrs. Lomas spoke to the boys about her connections with the School and I think the boys will remember -her telling them how her son was locked in the music practice rooms; when this occurred the rooms were the old court cells for the prisoners.

We go to many places over the year and many visitors come into School and we nearly always get complimented on how polite and how well-behaved the boys are. They are great ambassadors for the School.

Exitus have departed; many of them have been with us for four years and even those boys who have been with us only a year say the same things: that they have been really happy and have enjoyed their time in the Junior School. It is good to know that nearly all the boys are continuing on into the Senior School. We wish all our leavers every success in the future.

I would like to thank the Governors and the Headmaster for their guidance, and the staff for all their enthusiasm and hard work. Finally, I would like to thank all our parents for your continued support for the School and, more importantly, for your sons

David Crouch



LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS

Introitus Gold

First in Class: *Brendan Harrison*
Second in Class: *Max Edgington*
Progress Prize: *Jack Littler*
Commitment Prize: *Michael Burtonwood*

Introitus Orange

First in Class: *Joseph Patel*
Second in Class: *Charlie Spencer*
Progress Prize: *Luke Collister*
Commitment Prize: *Joseph Entwistle*
Openshaw Verse Speaking: *Charlie Spencer & Joseph Entwistle*

Transitus I Navy

First in Class: *Nikhil Sood*
Second in Class: *Adam Sue*
Progress Prize: *Raahim Zafar*
Commitment Prize: *Fergus Greensmith*
Openshaw Verse Speaking: *Adam Sue*

Transitus I Royal

First in Class: *Muhammed Seedat*
Second in Class: *Imran Hashmi*
Progress Prize: *Ibrahim Yakubu*
Commitment Prize: *Thomas McKee*
Openshaw Verse Speaking: *Samuel Millington*

Transitus II Emerald

First in Class: *Hamzah Hussain*
Second in Class: *Adil Khan*
Progress Prize: *James Ward*
Commitment Prize: *Lewis Whalley and Lawrence Arnold*
Openshaw Verse Speaking: *Nicholas Dalton-Martin*

Transitus II Jade

First in Class: *Richard Picardo*
Second in Class: *George Morcos*
Progress Prize: *Ramandeep Mungar*
Commitment Prize: *Matthew Bowen*
Openshaw Verse Speaking: *Matthew Bowen*

Exitus Burgundy

First in Class: *Matthew Walker*
Second in Class: *Hosam Aglan*
Progress Prize: *Hassan Sidda*
Commitment Prize: *Taylor Pearson*
Openshaw Verse Speaking: *Michael Baines*

Exitus Scarlet

First in Class: *Nishan Ghoshal*
Second in Class: *Thomas Pickersgill*
Progress Prize: *Caspar Hobhouse*
Commitment Prize: *Benjamin Lyth*
Openshaw Verse Speaking: *Caspar Hobhouse*

Shefali Henry Cup for Outstanding Contribution to School Life: *Luke Shackleton*

Trafford Sports Cup: *Jordan Smith*

Headmaster's Prize for Art: *Samuel Lyth*

Strickland Prize for Craft: *Alexander Walker*

Dunford Junior Music Prize: *Taylor Pearson*

R.H. Lye Junior School Science: *Hosam Aglan*

Lomas Shield for Verse Speaking: *Caspar Hobhouse*

Certificate for Individual Winners in the Music Competition:

Brass: *Alexander Murphy*

Woodwind: *Harold Bearn*

Percussion: *Alexander Walker*

Voice: *Oliver Dean*

String: *Connor Gaydon*

Piano: *Connor Gaydon*

Clavian Literary Competition:

Matthew Bowen and Imran Hashmi

Clavian Art Competition:

Samuel Lyth and Muhammed Seedat

Certificate for Junior School Club Competition

Winners:

Chess: *Caspar Hobhouse*

Pool: *Thomas Jackson*

Table-tennis: *Callum Stott*

Bury Junior Schools Sports Association

Athletics: *Boys and Girls Joint Winners*

Athletics 4 x 100 relay: *Winners*

Football League Cup: *Winners*

Swimming League: *Winners*

Road Relay: *Boys and Girls Joint Winners*

House Competitions

Arthur Price House Athletics Shield: *Howlett*

Radcliffe A.S.A. House Swimming Cup: *Howlett*

Horsfield and Smith House Cricket Cup: *Derby and Kay*

The McDonald House Football Cup: *Howlett*

House Cross-Country Cup: *Howlett*

Percy Howarth House Music Cup: *Derby and Hulme*

House Work Cup: *Hulme*

Champion House: *Howlett*

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

In April 1900 the Governors of the then Bury Grammar School undertook the administration of Bury High School for Girls. Following a long and hard-fought campaign the girls were eventually allowed to leave their cramped, old-fashioned premises to join the boys on Bridge Road. On January 17th 1906 the girls marched into their new school: The Bury Grammar School.

This year we are celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the joining of our two schools. We have held a number of events commemorating our past as well as launching our Appeal to ensure our future.

The first event of the year took place on Saturday 14th January when we invited Head Girls back into school to witness the unveiling of two honours boards that have been placed in the Roger Kay Hall. The first board lists almost every Head Girl we have had in office since 1906 and the second board will be updated with the future 100 Head Girls.

On 17th January 2006, exactly 100 years since the girls took their place within our school, the Mayor of Bury, governors, patrons and invited guests attended a special assembly within the Roger Kay Hall. Past and present pupils spoke of *their* school, the generations of families, friends and benefactors.

On March 15th a document became available describing our proposed plans for the future of our schools. Every member of the BGS community was invited into school to attend a presentation entitled *The Way Forward*. Positive feedback was received both during and following the presentation of our plans and our appeal was launched at the end of May to help move our schools into the 21st century.

June saw the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Roger Kay Hall and on Sunday 25th a special service was held in the Bury Parish Church for the descendents of the three men that helped bring our schools together - Henry Whitehead, Henry Webb and James Kenyon MP. The service was followed by a tour of the Church House which was the

home of Bury Grammar School from 1784 until its move to Bridge Road in 1903.

A re-enactment of the original foundation stone ceremony was held on Monday 26th June. The Schools' Orchestra performed a march from Handel's *Scipio* during the procession of 37 East Lancashire Freemasons led by Appeal Patron, Mr. Paul Rink. Pupils narrated this historical ceremony, during which a foundation stone for the new Kindergarten was laid.

*Louise Alford
(Development Office)*



THE BGSB CENTENARY CONCERT

The 17th January 2006 saw the centenary of the opening of the girls' school. This occasion was marked with a special concert attended by various guests including former pupils, governors, patrons and the Mayor and Mayoress of Bury.

The Girls' School captain, Natasha Muszanskyj, and I, and also the Chairman of the Governors, provided a short introduction and welcomed the guests. Following this, pupils from both schools described the construction of the schools and also gave insight into what school life was like 100 years ago. These short readings were separated by a number of musical items, courtesy of the Concert Band, the Festival Choir and the Flute Trio.

After a brief interlude by the Saxophone Quartet, Sarah Chicken, an Upper 3rd pupil, described how she belonged to the 18th consecutive generation of the Calrow family to have attended the School.

John Hutton and Betty Kenyon, Chairpersons of the Old Boys' Association and the Old Girls' Association respectively, gave accounts of their days in the schools, expressing their anticipation of the new developments, namely the forthcoming addition of a much-needed sixth form centre.

The School Orchestra, involving boys as well as girls, played; then it



was left to Natasha and me to conclude matters, referring to the roles of the governors and patrons in the new developments and also their involvement in bursary schemes.

The Girls' School song was sung and the occasion was rounded off, fittingly, with the National Anthem.

Richard Turck



GREAT HARRY'S NAVY

by GEOFFREY MOORHOUSE *Weidenfeld and Nicholson 2005*



GEOFFREY MOORHOUSE

Great Harry's Navy

HOW HENRY VIII GAVE

ENGLAND SEAPOWER



The nautical exploits of the reign of Elizabeth I are legendary: the voyages of the likes of Frobisher and Raleigh, Drake's circumnavigation of the world and his "singeing of the King of Spain's beard", and, most famously, the defeat of the Spanish

Armada in 1588 lie at the heart of popular English history. These and other sea-going events of Elizabeth's years are briefly dealt with in the final chapter of Geoffrey Moorhouse's new book, but only to show how Britain's naval triumphs of

the late 16th century were dependent upon the far less well-known advances made in maritime matters during the reign of Elizabeth's father, Henry VIII, and it is these advances which are his principal concern.

Moorhouse's survey, a signed copy of which he has generously donated to the LRC, is admirably thorough. He shows in detail how Henry transformed the fleet of a mere five ships, which he inherited from his father, into a body of over fifty, capable of forming a strong line of defence and attack against both the French and their allies, the Scots, England's perpetual foes during these years.

All aspects of this development are covered: the lives of the main protagonists; the process leading to the eventual creation of the Council for Marine Causes, the first organised body to have control over England's navy; the condition of life as a mariner in early Tudor times; the minutiae of ship building and its economic and environmental consequences. Moorhouse also encompasses the wider historical context, showing how Henry's creation of a navy fits into the full picture of his reign.

Henry himself emerges as the central figure in all of this, just as he did in Moorhouse's last book, *The Pilgrimage of Grace*; the book's subtitle, *How Henry VIII gave England seapower*, is fully justified with the King's keen interest in ships being shown as a vital driving force behind the development of what would one day become the Royal Navy.

DSB

CHRIS BRYANT

took his GCSE in Maths a year early, achieving the expected A*, and has spent this year studying A-level Mathematics Modules, taking the exams in those this term.

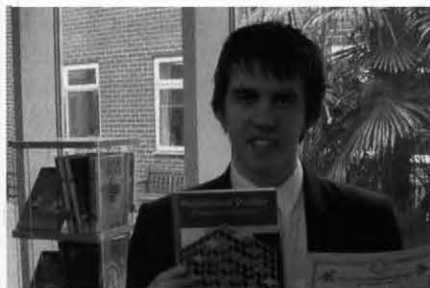
This year, the National Mathematics Challenge presented Chris with another opportunity to demonstrate his excellence. Along with the rest of the 5th years, he entered the Intermediate Challenge where he very convincingly achieved the School's best score and has subse-

quently been invited to participate in the National Mathematics Summer School at Queen's College, Birmingham during the Summer.

Then, to cap it all, Chris also entered the Senior Mathematics Challenge, which is normally the preserve of our A-level candidates, and again he pulled off the remarkable feat of achieving the School's best mark, by a comfortable margin.

Well done, Chris!

ACJY



We've been aware that Chris has a remarkable talent for Mathematics ever since he joined the School. He

LAPPING IT UP

Dr. Byrne relates some of her experiences on a trip to Northern Sweden.

I really wanted to see the Northern Lights. That's how I came to book myself on an Arctic adventure with a group of complete strangers - every one of them disappointed in me from the start because the Doctor Byrne they'd been relieved to note on the passenger list turned out only to know about the ills of French Literature!

We were met at Kiruna Airport in Northern Sweden by our guide. He was a resigned-looking man with long hair, a very long beard and a dead animal hat on his head, its feet dangling over his ears. The only word he said was "Eric". I wasn't Eric, so I assumed he was and followed him with the others to a civilised-looking coach which was to take us to our Mushers' Lodge base. So far so good but I put on a third pair of socks in the coach for fear of frost-bite. Any hair sticking out from under our hats turned white instantly with the cold; eyelashes and nostrils froze on the spot. No-one argued when we were issued with real fur hats to go with our arctic overalls - not even the vegetarians in the group.

We spent our first afternoon sitting on birch branches and reindeer skins around an enormous, crackling fire in a "Lavo", a tepee. A Sami lady gave us coffee, bread and reindeer meat, explaining that Samis believe people, even strangers, talk more freely if they have all eaten and drunk the same. We were shown the decorated drums the ancient Sami used to call up their gods, and a birch cradle that is traditionally used to protect babies. A heated stone is placed in the bottom of the cradle to ensure the babies are warm and a silver charm is hung inside to keep away the "Holdi", underworld spirits that seek to keep their mothers warm in the babies' cradles and therefore spend their time trying to swap the two over.

Day two brought a healthy helping of porridge followed by a



Health and Safety nightmare. Twelve of us and our luggage piled into an eight-seater minibus to set off down an ice track road to the "Wilderness Lodge". We piled out of the bus almost at once to push it out of a snow drift and to a place where at least one of the tyres could get some kind of grip on the road and then tried again.

The Wilderness Lodge was a very large pine hut in a forest, by frozen Lake Jukkasjärva. It was beautifully clean and very well-equipped, but it had no electricity or running water and an ominously named "long-drop" toilet in a hut behind it. Best not to ask.

The plan for the day was to build an igloo, or "quinchey", which we would then spend the night in. Because of the powdery, dry kind of snow, the igloo was built by making a huge mound of snow on a flattened area. We patted this solid and then stuck thirty-centimetre long sticks into the mound all over it. I stuck

one of the sticks in my eye, too, which was quite painful and very stupid but I was brave and just tried to pretend I hadn't done it. My terrorist-style balaclava helped to conceal my stupidity. We had to leave the snow mound to freeze hard and so we went off back to the Wilderness Lodge for some lunch.

After this we went out onto the lake to do some ice-fishing. I was quite relieved not to catch anything. My bait was cheese, which the guide assured me was a dead-cert and indeed I was the only member of the group to get a bite, but I can't help thinking that cheese wasn't quite it! After two hours sitting on reindeer skins on the ice I left ice-fishing with a numb behind and a new respect for Ray Mears.

The next mission was to hollow out our igloo. The idea is to burrow a doorway into the mound of snow at the base and gradually scrape away the snow from the inside, pushing it out through the doorway until the

ends of the little sticks are visible within. The last jobs are to bore a small airhole into the roof and light a candle to test that the igloo has fresh air inside. We spread reindeer skins on the floor and our work was done. We all sat inside, thrilled with our construction, our bodies giving off steam from our exertions. We couldn't see each other but we knew we'd built a winner.

Dinner was in the Lodge, by candlelight around the stove. We followed dinner with a sauna by candlelight in one of the other huts on the site. That was a very odd experience. We were glad it was dark. Being British, we'd taken swimsuits but not everyone there was quite so prudish. We changed in one room then walked across the snow into the sauna. On the way, our feet stuck to the ice. After a few minutes in the sauna, the tradition seemed to be to wash using a churn of water balanced on the stove and then to pop outside for a lie down in the snow before going back inside for as long as possible. I really did feel very healthy afterwards but I felt very eccentric doing it.

After dinner, as we watched through the window, a glowing seam of green, arching from one end of the horizon to the other, seemed to resolve out of the night sky. We had to go outside. The arc began to vary in intensity and the green colour - I wouldn't describe it as light - began to ripple across the sky. It seemed to "break", rolling along like waves on the seashore, running from left to right and back again. Gradually, spikes began to reach up and down and it seemed to rain fine shafts of light. The shafts were very delicate but densely packed. They were like incredibly long needles standing on end. We all stood transfixed. As we watched, bands of pink and yellow began to develop and dance on the edges of the largest columns of light. Moving all the time, it was hard to tell when the light stopped being one colour and became the next. Some of the columns of colour took on the shapes of tornados, twisting down towards the ground. I have never seen anything like it. I realized I had frozen tears all down my face. How

lucky was I to be alive and watching it in the first place and how lucky were we that we were in the right place, at the right time, in the right circumstances. We were standing with strangers who felt like old friends in the freezing wilderness watching something entirely mystical.

We developed that feeling of well-being by opening all the bottles we'd bought in duty-free on the way and downed a few Amarettis, whiskeys and Glayvas. Then for the night in the igloo.

Three of us started off. In the confined space it took us some considerable time to change and get into our sleeping bags, balanced on insulating reindeer skins and then it took even longer to get our breathing holes right. Too much face exposed and it froze: too little and your breath froze inside the bag. Just as I'd got sorted and was lying there thinking how brave and intrepid I was, one of our igloo-mates decided it wasn't for her and she left. We moved around so that she could get out of the door and then we were back to square one with the breathing problem. Just as the remaining brave person and I had nodded off, a wild animal came sniffing and yapping around the doorway to the igloo. We both screamed and the animal collapsed into uncontrollable laughter. It was the guide - being hilarious. We taught him some new English words and tried again. I have to say that I've spent more comfortable nights but I have at least now spent a night in an igloo. It was -5 inside and -32 outside.

The next morning Eric took us all to the top of a steep slope. He showed us a sledge and explained that the two very thin pieces of wood that stuck out at the back were for us to stand on and the thing that looked like half a gin-trap between them was the brake. Exercise one was to sledge down the slope at the speed of gravity. Those who managed it would get their own team of dogs; those who didn't could ride with the guide. One man ended up head-first in a snow-drift. One woman was sick. Another woman fell off and had to run down the slope, Benny Hill-

wise, after her sledge. In the end, all but one of us were deemed worth the risk of a team of dogs.

We had a break for a spot of lunch but no-one can remember what we ate, we were all so nervous. Then it was harnessing up time. The dogs were very excited at the prospect of an outing and were leaping up and barking in their kennels. We had to pull them out by their collars, holding them up so that their front legs couldn't touch the floor and pull us over. Then we had to stand astride them and pull on the harnesses before fastening them to the sledges. I started with three dogs: Hilma and Blizzard in front and Extreme behind. Once everyone was ready to go, Eric undid the anchors and told us to press down on the brakes as hard as possible until it was our turn to go. Then off. One moment still; the next full speed.

No question of acceleration. We were either stationary or haring along. And then we flew round a bend and then the sledge took off over a bump in the track and then it swerved over to the other side and then raced down a hill. Fortunately I found the brake before I hit the worried-looking Extreme. For the first half mile I wondered if I'd bitten off more than I could chew and then the fear turned into absolute rapture. My blood was contaminated too. I have never done anything so exciting. Every bend brought new views, new movements. And the speed was exhilarating. We went through forests, along frozen rivers and across frozen lakes. It has to have been the best day of my life.

My trip to Lapland was life-changing. The people I shared the adventure with were wonderful and I learned a lot from them. The activities we tried were exciting and all of them allowed me to learn something new.

JMB

Clubs and Societies



CDT Activities



SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE

Each November the BGS Schools' Challenge quiz team travels up the M6 to RGS Lancaster to take part in the North West heat of this national competition. It has to be said that in recent years the mood has been one more of hope than expectation, as the team has had to endure a series of heartbreakingly narrow, and occasionally bizarre, defeats at the hands of fellow quiz titans Lancaster. This year there was a new kid in town, RGS Clitheroe, returning to the Schools' Challenge fray after nearly a decade. Successive BGS quiz captains (see *Clavians passim*) have made veiled allusions to possible Lancastrian gamesmanship in ensuring their yearly triumph. Mr. Hone would like to make it clear that he lends no credence to the disgraceful suggestion of Richard Chew, the current Captain, that the draw this year was somehow adjusted to pit our A team and Clitheroe together in the first round while two Lancaster teams secured byes to the second round when one school failed to turn up at the last minute. This would be merely sour grapes, as despite a very strong line up of quizzical talent, the A team lost narrowly in the first round. They had the slight comfort of winning the runners-up Plate Competition for the second year running and thereby retaining the (unfortunately imaginary) trophy. The B

team won its first round tussle, but lost in the second. For the record the final was between Lancaster and Clitheroe. For once Lancaster's home field advantage availed them nothing and they lost the North West Final for the first time since 1999 (when we won).

The Junior Competition was held at BGS in the Spring term. Once again it was a lively and keenly contested tournament. Our two teams acquitted themselves well, but were both knocked out in the early rounds. Our 'B' team went on to win the runners-up Plate Competition. The final was a classic between Manchester Grammar and an excellent team from Calday Grange on the Wirral. MGS have dominated the Junior Competition for the last few years but Calday matched them stride for stride. Manchester only finally overtook them at the end of a half-hour of intense intellectual battle. It was almost a carbon copy of the final seven years ago when BGS, captained by Richard Stirzaker, lost to MGS on the very last question.

Our teams will be ready to enter the lists next year. On a personal note, Mr. Hone would like to thank Mrs. Hunwick from the Girls' School for all her help with Schools' Challenge, Senior and Junior versions, over recent years. Single-handedly she revived interest in the com-

petition at the Girls' School and managed a series of enthusiastic and able teams, including one that reached the Junior Final in 2005. Her calm good-humour, even when confronted by a blizzard on the way to Lancaster in 2004, will be sorely missed.

MJH

Pottery Club



Pottery Club is run on Tuesdays after School and Thursday lunchtimes by Mrs. Golightly. You can either finish work from art lessons or make something new.

I originally went to Pottery Club to finish work from first year, but soon I returned to start some different projects. My latest projects have included two large pots and a small sculpture.

There are many different materials on offer to use including papier mache, clay, plaster, modroc and wire. Each material produces different results. Materials can also be combined.

Through Pottery Club I have learnt new techniques that I didn't know before, and most of my projects have been successful. At Pottery Club there is always a fun, relaxed atmosphere to work in.

Joe Schofield, 2UI



OGDEN TRUST BUSINESS STUDIES

In the last edition of *The Clavian* it was reported how Alex Robinson, Stephen Gillan and Tom Lomas had won through to the regional final of the Ogden Trust National Schools Business Competition. This was held at the Manchester Business School on September 28th, 2005. The competition was tough with teams from Greenhead College, Yarm School, Royal Grammar School (Newcastle), Leeds Grammar School and Hymer's College taking part. The event started inauspiciously with car parking problems, lack of power cables and confusion about how long team presentations were to last. In fact Mr. Curtis threw the meeting into turmoil when he pointed out the discrepancies in the information on the time allowed before the event (10 minutes) and on the day (seven minutes). The teams had to work on a business problem for three hours - what sort of gym a fitness enthusiast and budding entrepreneur, Ms. Hoyle, should open in

Haytown. Powerpoint presentations then had to be given to the judges and audience. The quality of their business thinking, the creativity of their solutions and the quality of their presentations so impressed the judges that the BGS team emerged victorious to progress to the National Final held at the Judge Business School in Cambridge on 13th December.

The thirteenth saw us on the road at 5.30am for the long drive through the traffic jams around Cambridge. The format of the event was the same as the eight teams had faced in the two previous rounds. The challenge this time involved a one hour delivery service in London operating 24 hours a day. What should be delivered and to whom? Peter Day, the BBC business presenter, chaired the competition and the judges included Sir Peter Ogden himself. As well as a cheque for £1,000 for the winning school, there was a possibility of a visit to Canary Wharf or Old Trafford.

Unluckily the BGS team was drawn to make its presentation first. Their proposition seemed to strike a chord with the mainly young audience: "Ever been at a party in full flow only for it to run dry and die? The solution? The Vintage: a drinks delivery service." Despite the quality of their idea and obvious business knowledge and logic, the superior presentational skills meant the all-girls team from Dame Alice Harper School emerged as winners. We finished a tiring day with an enjoyable evening in Cambridge with comfortable accommodation at St. Catharine's College and a hearty breakfast the following morning.

MJC

FESTIVAL CLUB

The BGS Festival Club is now two years old. Its aim is to introduce different religious festivals to the boys in a fun and interesting way.

This year we only managed to arrange a couple of meetings. Despite trying to schedule meetings to coincide with other festivals, owing to a variety of technicalities, we were unable to meet until the

Jewish festival of Chanukah. We lit the candles on the Menorah, sang songs and enjoyed four different flavours of doughnuts! The food is always a good idea.

Although we missed Shrove Tuesday, we held another club for Lent with discussions about the themes before, during and after Lent. The boys were able to take part in a

quiz, sample chocolate mini-eggs and some even gave something up for Lent.

Other meetings did not materialise but we will be trying to include more religions and more festivals next year - and, of course, more food!

WE



Art Club

Art in my opinion is one of the most time-consuming subjects. Going through GCSE Art, I have enough experience. A lot of subjects require a lot of attention, which is why teachers have clinics such as Maths or Science etc.

But in my opinion Art is the most enjoyable subject where help is turned into fun. In Art Club you are free to complete work, talk and have a laugh with mates or just play around with clay and do your own thing. Upstairs we do 2D work with Mr. Burns. If I have no work there I go downstairs and bother Mrs. Golightly instead. Mrs. Golightly teaches in 3D. 3D work downstairs is fun and helpful for a lot of pupils; simple materials and techniques can easily turn out as masterpieces. All teachers in the Art Department are excellent and all the good work that comes out of the pupils is down to Mr. Burns, Mr. Halpin and Mrs. Golightly.

Art Club is open to everyone on Tuesdays after School, Thursday lunchtimes and in the mornings before School. Even just to come and look at the work of others is fun.

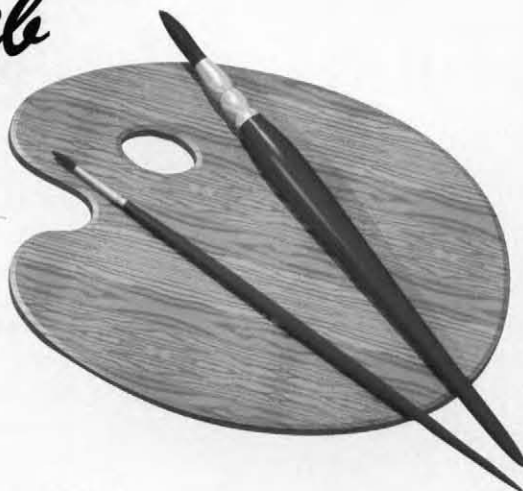
Art Club helps improve the quality of your work. It is an opportunity to get ahead of the game. Boys can come in and do anything, so long as it is constructive work. Every boy who comes to Art Club, no matter how long he stays, can profit.

Amit Patel

The 2D Art Clubs take place every Tuesday evening after school ends. Art Clubs are not just 'torture rooms' for delinquents, sent there by Mr. Burns; they are places where people who do or don't study art can find the time to relax and paint.

Mr. Burns' (somewhat brief) light-heartedness in the sessions is greatly appreciated by the students, although who can blame him for being strict some of the time? Schoolboys and paint don't usually mix well!

Mark Ghobrial



Art Club

2D



PASSPORT

Excursions

UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND



PASSPORT



Battlefields Tour

During the October half term we staged our twelfth annual battlefields tour.

Each tour has an individually researched itinerary based around visiting locations connected with Old Boys of the School, local soldiers and regiments, and the relatives of people on the tour. This year's theme was the 'forgotten battlefields' of 1915 and from our base near the Belgian town of Ieper we visited sites at Hooge, Loos and Aubers Ridge amongst others.

Hooge, only a couple of miles from the town centre of Ieper, was the scene of the first use of the terrifying Flammenwerfer or flamethrower by the Germans against British troops on 31st July 1915. Two Bury Grammar School boys were involved in the desperate struggle to prevent an enemy breakthrough. Rifleman Denis Lauria, the vicar's son from Ainsworth, was killed. Corporal Philip Holmes, from Whitefield, survived only to die later in 1915. A letter home gives a vivid account of the 'flame fight' and at Hooge we were able to see the British trench

positions and mine-craters detonated by both sides that are now water-filled lakes.

At Loos we visited the town's museum, which contains many fascinating relics of the fighting in the area and were taken up the imposing coal spoil heap, the Double Crassier, a relic of the area's mining past, for a panoramic view of the battlefield. We also paid tribute to Bury Victoria Cross winner George Peachment who is commemorated on the Loos Memorial To The Missing. George won the award posthumously, attempting to rescue a wounded officer. He was only 18 years old. His nephew, Geoffrey Peachment, went to BGS and was killed in the Second World War, also aged 18.

A few miles north of Loos, we remembered two BGS friends who both enlisted in the Seaforth Highlanders and were killed together in the Battle of Aubers Ridge on 9th May 1915. Harry Ratcliffe died of wounds and is buried in the British cemetery at Cabaret Rouge. His friend John Whittam has no known grave and is commemorated on the



Laying a wreath at the Indian Memorial.

beautiful memorial at Le Touret. We visited both as well as the imposing Indian Memorial on the heart of the battlefield. The part played by troops from the British Empire is often overlooked and most people do not realise that the Indian Corps, made up



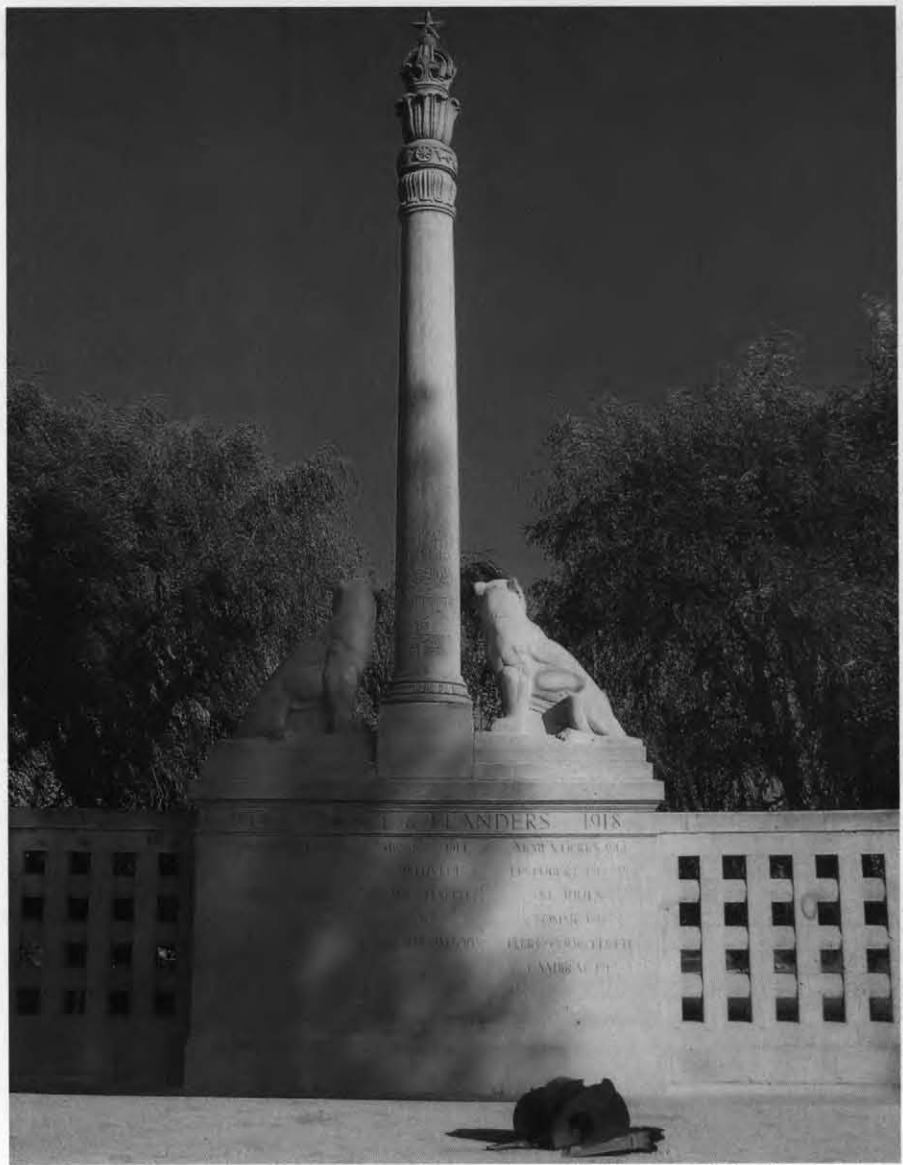
St. Mary's ADS British Cemetery, the grave of John Kipling, son of the author Rudyard.

of troops from modern day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal, fought valiantly on the Western Front in the first year of the War. We also retraced the heroic attack by 2nd Battalion the Gurkha Rifles at Aubers Ridge.

Our Belgian friend, historian and archaeologist Kristof Blicck, met us at the reconstructed German trench system at Bayernwald, where a certain Corporal Adolf Hitler spent part of the war. Kristof, dressed this year as a 1915 Gordon Highlander, gave the boys another demonstration of his encyclopaedic knowledge of the War and his extensive collection of authentic weaponry and equipment, including a primitive gas mask.

On the last night of the tour, members of the CCF, commanded by RSM Philip Douthwaite, once more took part in the world-famous Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in leper before a large crowd. Denis Lauria, killed in the flamethrower attack, is one of two BGS Old Boys commemorated on the memorial. It was the eighth occasion we have participated in this moving ceremony. Our traditional 'war time sing along' and awards presentation formed a rousing conclusion to the tour.

MJH



The Indian Memorial at Neuve Chappelle.



Historian and re-enactor Kristof Blicck demonstrates a primitive gas mask.



Le Touret British Memorial.



'Ayo Gurkhali' Mr. Hone describes the attack of the 2nd Gurkha rifles at Aubers Ridge.

ART TRIP TO ANDALUCIA

A week after returning from study leave, we were off on a 'working trip' to Spain, collecting primary source material for use in our A level unit four coursework in a variety of media - watercolour, oil pastels, pencil and pens. (We would have used acrylics, but they melted on the way!)



After a two-hour flight, we arrived at Malaga Airport at 6.30 local time, and, as Mr. Burns was in charge, we went straight for a meal in the small village of Canillas, experiencing first hand not only a selection of tapas (including black pudding!) but a genuine flamenco evening in a village square packed with people, all in their Sunday best. It was also a chance to meet the owners of our hotel, Gordon and Sue, who lived up to their surname, Kind.

The next morning we were back in Canillas to draw and paint a typically Andalusian 'white' village. The cool, empty alleyways, framed by luscious green plants, formed a nice contrast with our experience of the village the night before.

Later that day we returned to our hotel - the Finca el Cerillo - to have a proper look around and begin to put some small compositions together. Most of us decided to paint around the pool so we could top up our suntans as well. There were some spectacular

views of the mountains that surrounded the Finca, and also some smaller-scale views of the plants and the building itself. Staying in the Finca that night, we were treated to more delicious food prepared by a local chef, Reme.

Tuesday brought a trip to the Alhambra. Time for drawing would be at a premium owing to the sheer number of visitors and the day consisted mainly of our walking (lots) and taking photos. After visiting the impressive walled city, we walked around the Moorish castle (the Alcazaba) in the same grounds as the palace, which provided some impressive views of Granada that left us speechless. Temperatures rose to nearly 40 degrees C during the day, so we were happy when it started raining on the way to the beach in the evening. The weather cleared up for a seafood meal on the beach, but we were willing to give up our pudding for the chance to watch the last of the England match back at the Finca.

Wednesday provided a chance to visit a local beauty spot - Fabrica de la Luz. The striking mountains that rose up in the background made the trickling streams, delicate plants and small waterfalls even more beautiful. Gordon and Sue then presented us with a lovely picnic lunch - lots of pizza! After this, we returned to the Finca for more drawing around the hotel, followed by a dip in the deep azure pool.

Thursday was our last full day at the Finca. We stayed around the hotel, putting together some small sketches with a view to doing a large final composition in watercolour in the afternoon. In the evening, we put all our work together to show the other hotel guests, and all were impressed with the quality and sheer



quantity of our work. As a reward, we were treated to another delicious meal in the nearby town of Competa.

We were all up early on the Friday for our visit to the Contemporary Arts Museum and Picasso Museum in Malaga, accompanied by British artist Andrew Paterson. The bustling city was boiling hot, so it was nice to get inside to see some of the spectacular - or, on occasions, plain bizarre - modern art that was collected there, including a room filled with neon words and mattresses, and time and space photography by Sergio Prego. We moved on to the Picasso Museum after a tapas lunch, and were treated to an exhibition of Picasso's pen and ink drawings, as well as many paintings that charted his life's work.

A long walk through Malaga took us to the vans which in turn took us to the anticlimax that was Malaga Airport. We returned home safely to Manchester at about 10.30.

Everyone enjoyed the holiday and returned with a large portfolio of work to build on. Many thanks to Mr. Burns, Mrs. Golightly, Gordon and Sue for organising the whole trip, and of course to Basil the dog in the Finca.

"It were a belting trip"

*J. P. Kalupa, A. Jackson
and N. Crossley*



BRITTANY

Perhaps many of you think the French trip is designed for those who enjoy, or are good at French. Of course, a little knowledge of the language is useful, but not essential. Contrary to the belief that the trips revolve around boring museums and uninteresting sightseeing, the French holiday is one of the things I look forward to most in the School calendar.

We set off in the late hours in order to catch an early ferry. The first years were expectantly hyperactive, the fourth years merely concerned with who would get the best seats at the back of the coach. Mr. Kendall appeared, despite not being able to go, to ensure initial proceedings ran as smoothly as possible. We left Bury on time, the parents celebrating our leaving in the distance. The journey was smooth and uninterrupted, with a single stop at a service station for the obvious additions of more sugar. Some people seemed to think the stop was for the toilet! Weird?

The ferry ride itself was much longer than originally planned, owing to bad weather, but only a few seemed not to favour the sea. We reached land and made excellent progress to our hotel. Our rooms were in a separate block of apartments, with the dining-room and receptions in a larger building across from us. Each room held four people and was built on two levels, each with its own bathroom, sink, fridge and balcony.

The weather was warm and sun block was frequently applied under the influence of sunburn-wary teachers. Over the next few days we visited the ubiquitous château, but also many other places that proved the itinerary organized by Mr. Kendall was as varied as ever. We came across zoos, aquariums, beaches and, probably most significantly, a cider factory, which included a knowledgeable tour provided by Mr. Whittaker (who suspiciously seemed to know a lot about cider) and then a sample of cider and crêpes. We were set to go to an oyster farm but unfortunately

we ran out of time. At the zoo we watched an enjoyable falconry exhibition and an equally entertaining fox hound demonstration. The aquarium included a 'submarine' ride realistic enough to rival a David Attenborough documentary. A particular highlight was the trip to the breathtaking Mont St Michel. The hotel provide our three daily meals while we stayed there: the mornings featured the stereotypically French croissants, the lunches were pre-packed sandwiches and the evening meals were different each day. The evenings were spent in and around the hotel. Perhaps most entertaining was the mind-blowing game of bingo hosted by Mr. Cryer.

There were plenty of opportunities for free-time and shopping, including a trip to a hypermarket close to the hotel.

I would seriously recommend going on at least one of these trips during your first four years, as not only are they an enjoyable and entertaining experience, but also an opportunity to go on holiday with your friends. Recommendations in particular go to current third years who next year will be the oldest boys available to go. Sometimes power and corruption is pretty cool ...

Thanks must go to Mr. Kendall for his dedication and thorough planning, Mr. Whittaker and Dr. Byrne who oversaw the running of the trip, the linguistically-talented Mr. Cryer and Dr. Byrne who provided translations for those not fluent, and the other teachers who all helped to make it a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile holiday, Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Bengier. Thanks must also go to Mr. Cassidy's family who endured the presence of forty teenagers for a week and returned with sanity intact!

And thanks to everyone else who went!

Chris Lees



90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME

A party from Bury Grammar School was proud to take part in the official commemorations for the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in Northern France over the weekend of 1st July. Mr. Hone and Mr. Armsbey, who both lost great-uncles in the battle, led a group of 14 boys, all of them 'veterans' of previous School battlefields tours.

The media took a keen interest in our visit, in particular the story of 14 year-old Harry Shuell, who was going to visit the place where his great-great uncle, Private Thomas Seville of the King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment, was killed on 4th July 1916. Mr. Hone and Harry travelled ahead of the main group via Eurostar, courtesy of ITV News, who filmed a sequence with Harry at the massive Thiepval Memorial to the Missing where Harry located his relative's name amongst the 73,000 names recorded on its massive pillars. The report subsequently appeared on the main ITV evening news.

Friday 30th June saw the party visiting the massive Lochnagar Mine Crater and nearby La Boisselle, where Harry laid a wreath close to the spot where Thomas Seville was killed leading a grenade bombing

party. We were once more the centre of media interest and interviews with members of the party subsequently appeared on Channel 5 news and the Ministry of Defence website and in The Times, The Scotsman and various other newspapers and websites.

In the afternoon we retraced the attack of the Manchester 'Pals' battalions at Montauban on 1st July. This was one of the few successful attacks of that dreadful day, on which the British army lost more men killed or wounded than on any day in its history. Even the success at Montauban came at a heavy price. Around 15 Old Boys are known to have taken part in the Pals' attack and three were killed that day: Privates John Bott, Frederick Harding and Herbert Howarth. After a walk under the blazing summer sun, during which eyewitness accounts of the attack were read out, we laid a wreath at the Manchester Pals' memorial at Montauban. We also visited the grave of Herbert Howarth at Peronne Road Cemetery. Herbert, from 100, Walmersley Road, is the only one of four BGS boys killed on the 1st July to have a known grave. The others are commemorated on the Thiepval

Memorial. Herbert's brother Ernest, also an Old Boy serving with the Pals, survived the 1st July but was killed 29 days later and is buried at Delville Wood.

1st July saw the main commemoration at the Thiepval Memorial. The 11 CCF cadets with the party played an important role. Tom Filer, Shantanu Kafle and Harry Shuell read wartime poems in the early part of the ceremony, Chris Stoneman carried the School standard in the parade and the others carried wreaths and bouquets for foreign dignitaries, showed important guests to their seats and helped form the Honour Guard for the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. Tom Filer and Harry Shuell even ended up assisting Britain's oldest surviving Great War veteran, 110 year-old Mr. Henry Allingham. At the end of the formal proceedings we laid our own School wreath on the Stone of Remembrance at the Memorial. Altogether 20 Bury Grammar School Old Boys died in the Battle of the Somme and its aftermath. 11 have no known graves and are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

MJH



RELIGION IN MANCHESTER

Members of the first year were taken to a variety of religious sites. Here are some of their accounts.

Manchester Jewish Museum

The first place we went to was the Manchester Jewish Museum. Inside was an orthodox synagogue. They first showed us the colourful stained glass windows; each window showed a Bible story. Then they showed us a regular kippah and then one with "Make Poverty History" written on it. The kippah had to be put on by Jews because it is meant to remind them God is greater than them. Later on they showed us a Tefillin, a black box containing quotes from the scrolls of the Torah. Most Jews wear the Tefillin on their head and on their arm pointing to the heart. This showed that God is close to them and that they think of God at all times. Later

on they showed us a Tallith which was a prayer robe. The knots on the Tallith represented the mitzrot which means the rulers in the Torah.

The Ark was then opened; it was decorated very colourfully. Inside the Ark were several Torahs, each unique in its own way. We were then able to explore the synagogue and to buy a souvenir from the shop.

The next site we went to was the Gurdwara which was just a few blocks away. On the top of the building there was a flag of the Sikh symbol. We went inside and took our shoes off. Then three Sikhs covered our heads with bandanas. People would empty their pockets of any cigarettes, alcohol or drugs; these items are prohibited in a Gurdwara.

We were then led inside the Gurdwara. Half of the floor was carpet and half was marble. The

marble was set out in pillars. Food would be laid down and eaten here. The carpet was there for people to sit on. Everybody would be treated the same in the Gurdwara, so for example, if the majority of the people were sitting, everyone would sit.

Later on we went upstairs to see the Guru Granth Sahib. We would bow down to it in pairs; the Sikhs treat it as if it is a real life Guru. The Guru Granth Sahib is whisked briskly with a chauri and hymns are sung. When we left we bowed down in pairs to the Guru Granth Sahib. Afterwards offerings were made of food and drink. At night the Guru Granth Sahib is taken into a room and taken out early the next morning.

Fahad Ashfaq

Visit to a Mandir and a Mosque

When we eventually got to the mandir we walked past four buttresses which had the name of the temple written on them, a word each. Our guide was not there, but that was not a major problem; Miss Batey deputised.

Inside, we took our shoes off and went into the prayer room with statues of some of the gods and goddesses at the back. We sat close to the shrines and were told about the various gods and the beliefs about them. We were told about how Hindus prayed and what the reason for having bells was - to invite the gods into the statues, so prayers went to them, not their statues.

When our guide finally arrived, he took over from Miss Batey. He told us that Hindus believed that people had immortal souls and that scientists had proved that that was true.

When we left, we were given fruit to eat. We set off to go to the nearby mosque; the journey was far quicker and less boring. However, once there we had to wait a long time to be let in. Someone asked why there were no minarets there and was told that there had been, but they were taken down several years ago.

Again our guide was late, so Mr. Ahmed took over. He talked about Muslim beliefs for a few minutes,





until the guide arrived. He told us about what they did when someone in their community died and showed us the room where the bodies are kept until the service for their death.

Next he demonstrated the washing Muslims had to do before praying, then we were shown upstairs to the women's area. We were told why this was separate from the men's area. Then we went back downstairs and were given drinks before boarding the coach and returning to school.

David Barker

Manchester Cathedral and the Buddhist Temple

First we went to Manchester Cathedral. As soon as we got inside I was amazed because there were lots of stained glass windows and when the light shone through them the room lit up. One window was the St. George Window. It is called this because it has the St. George's flag on and in the bottom left corner is the dragon which St. George slew.

Another stained glass window in the regimental chapel commemorates the people who died in the world wars. The window is called the Fire Window because of its fiery orange and yellow colours. When it is sunny the window lights up and looks as if it is on fire.



Another feature here was the Phoenix Altar. This represents the fact that Jesus died and was resurrected. A phoenix is an apt symbol because of the legend that it would die and rise from its ashes.

Next we went to the Buddhist Temple. As soon as we got there a lady showed us around the first floor. She told us that they were getting ready to celebrate the Buddha's birthday.

Then we went upstairs to the main shrine in which there was a huge statue of the Buddha and a chandelier in the centre. But before we were allowed in we were told to take our shoes off. Around the statue were lamps and fruit. The Buddha was described by the lady: "A very happy man who was never sad."

After this we went to another shrine. This was about helping other people and had a statue of a Buddha with a water bottle in its hand. The reason for this is that if someone needed a drink you should give that person water.

Then we went back to the main shrine and had enough time to meditate. The lady told us what position to be in, but I found this very tricky.

Azhar Khan, ILLD



COLOGNE

As a nervous group of students stand patiently waiting for their German counterparts, various thoughts occur. Will they get on with their partners? How will they keep their partners entertained? As they wait for the Germans who are amazingly late (I didn't know that was possible!) an always cheerful Mr. Lee is doing the rounds, thanking the parents and students for what they are about to let themselves in for.

When the Germans eventually arrive they are whisked away to spend the rest of the night getting settled in. The discussion over the dinner table is usually strenuous and masked by at least one parent either trying to tell jokes to a straight-faced German or acting as though the visitor is actually hard of hearing. But when the first night and all the nerves are out of the way, the fun can actually begin.

My partner was a neutral-looking, tall, no-nonsense German called Michael. We got on well and the first meal went reasonably. The next task was the entertainment for the weekend, which was not as daunting as it sounds. It usually follows the same routine: a trip to the Trafford Centre followed by a night out at the now infamous Brown Cow pub at the Burrs and maybe a trip to Manchester slotted in at some point. This year it wasn't much different. On the Saturday we all met up at the Trafford Centre as planned, had a game of Laser Quest (which, if you want to know, I won) and then indulged in some shopping.

But the night out wasn't according to plan. The general motive behind going to the pub is that Germans like beer. Not these Germans, however! For what I think is the first time in the history of the exchange, we had a

group of teetotal guests - not all of them (the girls drank), but a significant majority. Now of course you can imagine that this would be possible on a French exchange, but not on a German exchange!

So, with the weekend over, we all returned on Monday morning to school and an assembly hall full of inquisitive faces and hushed whispers surrounding these new visitors. The week's activities included a trip to Alton Towers (which cleared out the German Department's budget), a less costly trip to Manchester and an even cheaper visit to the Town Hall and the Mayor of Bury. Of course, some work had to be done and the remaining one and a half days were spent in lessons.

But all of this was a build up to the hotly contested football match for the famous Baumsteiger Trophy. Since the exchange's creation 51 years ago this has been the high point of the visit, where all the old rivalries reappear as both sides strive to win the trophy and, more importantly, boost their egos. Thinking back to our 2-1 victory last year the English side was quietly confident - and justifiably so; we won 12-2.

The evenings included trips bowling anderm bowling again. So struggling to find anything to do with our restrained Germans, a party was hastily arranged at my house. It was interesting. The Germans seemed to have fun, learning some things about the English that they never would in a classroom.

But that's the main point of the exchange - you do learn things that can never be learnt in a classroom and you put the things that you have learnt in the classroom to practical use. Yes, of course you make mistakes, but you learn from them.

In short, the exchange carries with it a facility to improve knowledge of the language, culture and society. Not only does an improved understanding and appreciation of our German counterparts ensue, but also a greater respect for the post-war generation who are trying to put right the wrongs done all those years ago.

Thanks must naturally go to the hard-working Mr. Lee and his German counterparts. But also we must thank Mr. Richards who allowed such flexibility and freedom during the week for the students. The tears running down some of the girls' faces at the group's departure for me summed up the relationships that had been created during the visit. For anybody thinking of doing the exchange this year, I would strongly advise it.

Tom Filer

BUSINESS STUDIES VISIT TO JAGUAR

Previous Business Studies visits have not usually involved much travelling: typically a short stroll over the Irwell footbridge has given us a particularly cost effective and enlightening few hours at Milliken Industrials. For extra excitement we have had visits to factories in Wigan and Bolton. However the opportunity to visit a car factory seemed too good to miss: all boys are interested in cars, aren't they? Teachers are too, plus the three young ladies from over the road who are studying with us this year. The long journey to Castle Bromwich featured the novel experience of travelling on Britain's first privately-run toll motorway and a surprisingly pleasant refreshment stop at a motorway service area.

Our reception at the Jaguar factory was a smooth and efficient operation and we had plenty of time to admire and be photographed next to their latest products, all in British racing green: Mr. Burns was particularly impressed to see several new XK sports cars just off the production line and being driven around the works. We then watched a Jaguar produced promotional video which told us little but whetted our appetites for the following visit. To overcome the problem of speaking to a large group in a sometimes noisy factory the 40 strong group was split into three with each group member

being given a headphones connection with their tour guide.

All business studies students have seen videos showing robots at work but it was interesting to see the students' faces as they saw them "in the flesh" for the first time. Unlike some of our boys they are even able to clean themselves. The early production stages featured much welding and students were a little disconcerted to be walking through areas where sparks were flying. In comparison with many factories and with car plants in the past the works did not seem particularly noisy: even the workforce seemed rather quiet and subdued. Some students noted the relatively young age of the workforce: apparently older workers had taken up offers of early retirement or voluntary redundancy. Health and Safety rules and increasing automation mean that dangerous jobs and ones requiring great physical strength have largely disappeared so that there were women on the production line - not just in the offices or making the tea as in the past. Competition to work here - wage rates are above the average - means the workforce is well-motivated but, as all business students know, pay isn't everything. There was plenty of evidence of the latest Japanese-style management techniques in operation, e.g. job

rotation, team working and consultation. The complexity of organising just-in-time stock arrangements really hit home. As cars produced here are going all over the world, each model can have widely varied components and optional extras. The supplier of, for example, tyres has to supply a trailer load of them in exactly the right order to match the particular car body coming down the line. High tech quality control involving lasers was much in evidence as well as more traditional methods of human observation and, at one point, the use of a large rubber hammer.

Our guides were retired Jaguar workers who come in on a part-time basis to lead these visits. They were very informative and obviously proud of the business they work for and the fine products it makes. Both students and teachers were pleased to see their business studies theories being applied and the visit provided a wealth of experience and examples which we have been able to use in subsequent lessons. Particular thanks are due to Mr. McWilliam and Mr. Burns for their support on this visit.

MJC



SKI TRIP TO LA PLAGNE

45 excited boys, ranging from 2nd to 6th form, sat down on the coach one cold morning in February. All seemed to be well-prepared for the journey except Nathan Hartney, who arrived in what looked like a pair of bowling shoes. The necessary calls to Megabowl were made and we assured them Nathan would have them back a week on Saturday. The two coach drivers assigned with the task of getting us to La Plagne were a pair of Glaswegians whom no one could understand for love nor money. The fact that they looked incredibly like Max and Paddy cued numerous renditions from the 6th formers of the 'Road to Nowhere' theme tune. Then we set off for Dover with Mr. Bradley assuring us that we would make the early ferry. This assurance proved to be typically superficial, as we were not even close.

On arrival at Calais we began the very, very long drive south to La Plagne. Reaching the imaginatively titled Hotel Rhododendrons was very welcome and the rest of the day was spent hiring ski equipment and sorting out rooms.

The next morning we were ready to ski and were split into groups, based on ability. The instructor of the top group, which I was part of, immediately informed us that he would not be teaching us by talking; a more laid back 'Do as I do' attitude was taken. However this consisted of a variety of off-piste skiing, thanks to the fresh powder that had fallen just before our arrival. A tally of falls was kept; by the end of the week a clear loser had been identified in Rob Freeman. His falls not only came with remarkable frequency but also with incredible style and high difficulty points. Such was Rob's gusto that he attempted a trick on the same ramp in the snow park that he had fallen at three days in a row. The result was inevitable but put the group in high spirits and provided much entertainment for our instructor, Bruno.

At night there were numerous activities for the group to take part in, with various "big cash prizes" suppos-

edly offered. However with victories in the bum boarding, at a cost of not being able to sit down for the rest of the day, and the quiz I saw no sign of this big cash prize. Other activities included snow sculpting, a bobsleigh, with the 5th formers winning, and ice skating, which quickly degenerated into ice hockey without rules.

On our last day we were presented with awards from our instructors based on our ability and an opportunity to buy presents for parents. The packing was done and we set off on the long trip home. My legs had only

just recovered from the journey there! This was uneventful as everybody was exhausted from the week's skiing. Just under 24 hours later we were back in Bury, glad to be home and ready for some rest.

I would like to thank Mr. Bradley for organising the trip and the other teachers - Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. Bishop, Mr. Sherlock and Mr. Curtis - for helping out.

Michael Lillis



GEOLOGY TRIP TO DERBYSHIRE

The sixth form geology trip to Derbyshire did not start well this year. If you've read the previous edition's article you'll know a bet is normally placed on which member of the group would arrive last. Our money was on Ben Reading, but Mr. Bishop knew better. Sure enough Mr. Bradley earned his winnings for him.

On the drive over Mr. Bradley had a very difficult decision to make - who would get the "Geology Hammer"? He eventually narrowed it down to a choice of three: Joel Waring, James Larmett or me. It didn't take him long to decide James was the least of three evils.

When we arrived in Castleton our first stop was Mam Nick. The road cutting through this hill allowed us to view the two main Derbyshire rocks, shale and sandstone, that had been interbedded into layers. Then Windy Knoll, where bitumen seeps up through the rock until it reaches the surface.

That night we stayed at a youth hostel in Castleton and the evening's entertainment was mostly made up of our working late into the night.

Our second day started with a trip to the Odin Mine Fault, a dip-slip fault that dips to the south at a 42° angle. Above the fault we went searching for fossils and other interesting geological items. Mr. Bishop promised Mars bars for the best specimens in each category. Just about everyone managed to collect prize-worthy specimens - strangely enough the Mars bars have yet to appear.

At this time I demonstrated my excellent sense of balance by tripping

on a specimen. I spent the next minute or so doing what is now known as 'The Pringle Dance' as the rocks kept moving under my feet. As expected I got no help from the others who just laughed hysterically as I flailed around until I regained my balance.

We continued on to study the Mam Tor landslide by following a warped and twisted road that had, very unwisely, been built on the landslide, even though it was still slowly moving. We also found the infamous Edale Shale Run and (naturally) we climbed to the top. Then we had two choices: walk back down the way we'd come or run down the loose and crumbling shale slope. Which did we pick? With Mr. Bishop, clearly a professional, leading the way, one by one we ran, stumbled and careered down it. In my role of "the sure-footed mountain goat" (Mr. Bradley) I once again fell as I tried to decide whether to run or walk, though I still didn't hit the floor. Later we went to study the geology around the Derwentwater reservoirs where the Dam Busters conducted their trial runs.

That evening, after more late night work, this time in the Edale hostel, was quite quiet. We found to our annoyance that the Giant Jenga had disappeared. To substitute for this, Ben and Michael found another way to amuse themselves. They decided to wake Eddy Brown up in the middle of the night and try to make him dance. The bruises they had the next morning probably indicated he hadn't been fully in the mood.

Our final day consisted of a trip to the Blue John Caverns where the tour guide explained to us the hazards of mining the semi-precious mineral in the largely unmapped caverns. We also visited an old mine to look for samples of the mineral galena. Oddly enough we didn't find any really good specimens. The trip back to Bury was almost completely uneventful except for a single stop at Pilsworth Quarry where Mr. Bishop left us sitting in the minibus for 30 minutes.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the trip, both for the geology and the fun that we had. We can look forward to the Lake District residential course next year. Thanks to Mr. Bishop and Mr. Bradley for organising the trip and for their company.

Iain Pringle

CHESTER

Our Chester trip had a slightly different complexion this year as the Girls' School joined us for the first time. This made it more complex to arrange and it was spread over two days, but it was more interesting and enjoyable for everyone.

So, on the 1st and 2nd of March, three coach loads of boys and girls and enough teachers to accompany them from both schools left for Chester early in the morning. It was cold! The first trip wasn't hampered by precipitation, but the thermometer wasn't registering much heat! The usual lecture was followed by an arctic-style walk round the walls with the Roman Soldier for the first group, while the other groups stayed inside for lunch and gallery work.

All seemed to go very well, a few numb-looking fingers and faces notwithstanding. The atmosphere in the galleries was cheerful and productive and it was wonderful for us all to make new friends.

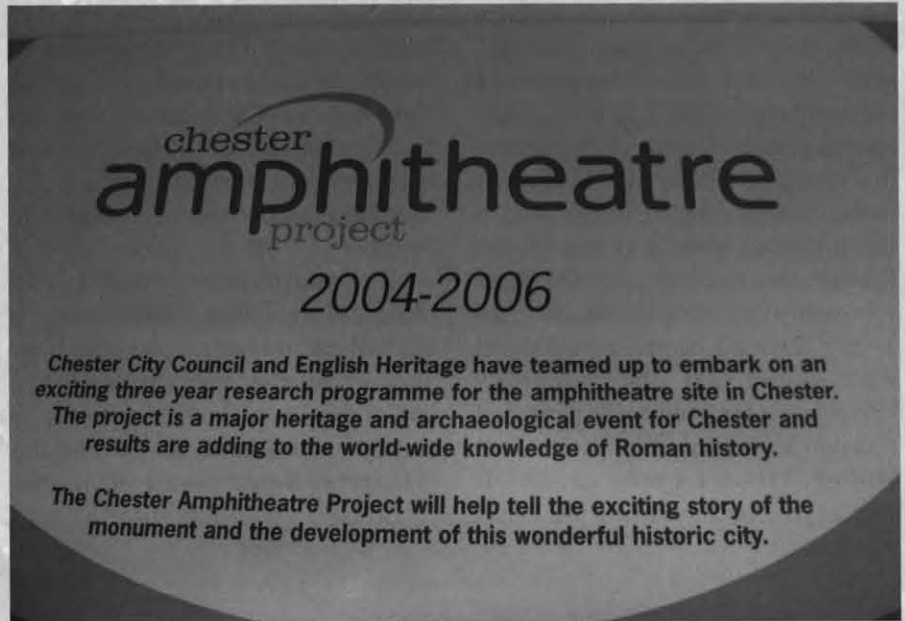
The second trip was slightly more exciting as the Roman Soldier reported that his chariot was snow-bound and he couldn't get to Deva in time to lead us around the walls. However, the Heads of Classics from both schools decided to continue with the expedition in true military style. There were some changes to the schedule, but it certainly didn't spoil

the day. Much, it has to be said, was made up for by the fact that there was plenty of snow in the amphitheatre. Mr. Feely had to reprimand Mrs. Hone for throwing a snow ball at Mr. Stacey; order was then restored among the troops!

It was an adventurous undertaking in many ways, but it seemed to be very successful. The boys and girls were well-behaved, learned a lot and enjoyed the day, not least because the staff from both schools worked hard to make that happen. I must, as always, extend my thanks to the Classics Department of BGS, Mr.

Stacey, Miss Batey, Dr. Byrne and Mr. Hone for their support, and Miss Eden and all the staff from BGGs who so bravely accompanied 200 children on the expedition to Roman Chester: vobis maximas gratias ago!

JH



CCF

Annual Review



CCF ANNUAL CAMP REPORT 2006

Crowborough Camp in East Sussex was the destination for this year's camp, and it all started well, with no major hiccups. We arrived on time and the advance party had done its job brilliantly, as everything was ready for the main contingent. On the way down to Crowborough the only problems were the cramped coach conditions and the traffic. This however was overcome by some music and the cheerful antics of Phil Fitzsimon-Porter.

So, with the camp ready, the Bury CCF were let loose into their billets, with the NCOs, like me, left to make sure that there were no problems. The first evening was left for the cadets to unpack and get used to their surroundings and to each other.

The next morning was an early one, with billet cleaning from 5.30 and breakfast at 6.15. The breakfast, as always, was greeted with mixed feelings, as you get the fussy eaters, who complained about everything, and the others who shovelled in the lot.

After breakfast we were readied for our range day. Unluckily this was on the Sunday and, owing to some local laws, no full bore shooting was allowed, so we had to make do with the smaller .22 rifles. Our contingent was split up into two groups, so that every one could shoot; whilst one group was shooting the rest had a go on the assault course, which was great fun.

The next day brought another early start and another jam-packed day. It was spent practising our field skills. We were shooting targets with the army's newest rifle, the SA80 A2. We also practised our ambush skills and our ability to patrol along a road, which we would need for our night exercise a few nights later.

The following day was spent down at Bewl Water, a local reservoir, where we were rock climbing, orienteering and sailing or canoeing. I went sailing. We started with a race then we played pirates; rival craft could be commandeered and even capsized.

However, by far the most enjoyable activity we did all camp was the laser rifle exercise. We were

split into sections to go head to head in a fight to the death battle across the camp. My section, Thiepval, was put against CSM Broadbent's rabble, Dettingen. In the first assault, my section had to capture a position held by Dettingen. It was a long and bloody battle, with Thiepval finally being victorious. After this Dettingen had to attack the same position, which was now held by my warriors. Our valiant efforts were enough to force Dettingen to run for the hills in fear. Our skill in destroying the barbaric Dettingen section was to be tested twice more in open mêlée. This time however, we were well and truly massacred! The large open field favoured the barbarians, and Thiepval could not cope.

Competition day was now upon us and all our hard work in the drill would pay off. The drill team of Parry, the Patelas, Sara and Emma, Lomax, Collins, Roberts, Broadbent, Larmett and Douthwaite, controlled by Fitzsimon-Porter, won in great style without losing a point! We also

gained good results in the obstacle course, survival stand and map reading, gaining a silver medal in each event. Although we didn't win the competition outright we gained the most medals, a total of one gold and three silvers.

Salonika Section, headed by Parry, were the clear winners of the inter-section competition, beating all rivals by at least 50 points. Well done to them.

Overall the trip was very enjoyable. All the cadets who attended would like to extend their thanks to all the members of staff who made it possible.

RSM James Larmett



GALLIPOLI SUNDAY 2006

On Sunday 23rd April 2006 a small party from the CCF assembled outside Castle Armoury in Bury to take part in the annual Gallipoli Sunday parade. This parade has been a regular occurrence in Bury since 1916 when the first such event took place. The parade principally commemorates the actions of the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, based in Bury, who had stormed ashore at 'Lancashire Landing' on 25th April 1914 during the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign. The day is also a time to remember the heroic actions of the many other British and Commonwealth forces who participated in the campaign, in particular, the sailors of HMS Euryalus who helped row the Fusiliers ashore.

This year Tom Filer and I had a special part to play in the order of events. In the spring of 2005 we had visited the Gallipoli peninsular, courtesy of the Gallipoli Association. In return we had been asked to perform a presentation for guests on the subject of our visit. Following on from this we had been asked to give a short presentation in the Parish Church on Gallipoli Sunday and amongst the congregation there were some distinguished civic guests.

Our brief talk centred on our feelings about the visit. The Gallipoli peninsular is an area of immense natural beauty and Tom in particular was touched by the silence and tranquillity. The Turks were also magnanimous following their victory, showing respect for the dead and granting land for cemeteries.

The speech was received well and following the church service, which lasted about an hour, the CCF contingent, led by Captain Newton, formed up with the rest of the parade. The parade consisted of a number of groups, including a local TA detachment and a strong turnout of army cadets. The parade was proudly led by the 11 veterans who live in Bury. Sadly there are no longer any survivors from that campaign although their memory lives on.

The parade followed a short route around the outskirts of Bury town

centre before marching up Silver Street and saluting the Mayor of Bury. Then we returned to Castle Armoury and were dismissed. After a quick debrief from Captain Newton, the contingent made their way home, taking care to avoid the Robert Peel as, in Captain Newton's own words, "There are some strange people in Bury at this time," (12 noon on a Sunday).

RSM Philip Douthwaite



ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

As we set off, with Mr. Bishop at the wheel of the School mini bus, morale was high, with everyone happy to have finished exams for a while and looking forward to a week of 'unwinding' to be held, as usual, in the rugged surroundings of the Lake District.

The main party arrived in the evening, a day after the advance party, who had kindly erected our tents. Arrivals were staggered owing to the majority of cadets being involved in exams that afternoon. After eating our army issue ration pack meals, we underwent a strange adventurous training tradition of being issued with a small pot gnome that we were to carry at all times. We received instructions to take the gnome with us everywhere we went, and to treat it as one would a rifle. If one were to be caught with a damaged gnome, or indeed, with no gnome at all, the penalty would be to carry several bricks in one's rucksack the next day. A simple instruction, with a significant penalty attached, and indeed, most JNCOs understood the severity of the matter. However, there was the exception of Ubader Ali, who was found guilty on several occasions of neglecting his gnome, much to the amusement of us all.

We woke up on Friday morning to wonderful weather. Friday's activity comprised kayaking in the morning and rock climbing in the afternoon. Mr. Crouch instructed the kayaking. After kitting ourselves up in wet suits and buoyancy aids, we hastily took to the water. Once we had reached the larger waves in the centre of Ullswater, it only took Phil Collins a matter of minutes to capsize. Not to worry, because Sgt. Peake was there to save the day. However, Sgt. Peake asked me to aid him in tipping up the flooded kayak to let the water out, so that it would stay afloat when Phil got back in. What we managed to achieve was to tip all the water that was in Phil's kayak into mine, which quickly sank! After playing various games, everyone got the chance to get cold and wet by jumping off a ten meter high rock into the lake. In the

afternoon we went to an indoor rock climbing centre in Keswick, accompanied by Mr. Scourfield, late of the Junior School, and his son. The afternoon proved to be very enjoyable, with many boys attempting the harder walls of the centre and I think everybody left with aching muscles.

On Saturday morning we woke to a day of arduous walking, which we all found demanding. We had planned the walk the evening beforehand and knew our routes. Under the leadership of James Larmett we took a large loop, known as the St Sunday Walk. We set off at about 9 o'clock in the morning, and didn't return to our campsite until about 5 o'clock in the evening, at which point the majority were exhausted.

On the final day we all woke up with aching muscles and hurried into the rat pack breakfasts. Today's activity was to scale the gargantuan walk of Helvellyn, via the highest peak, Striding Edge, standing at 997m high. Despite the heroic efforts made by every member of the group, we were not able to reach the summit owing to the weather turning from foul to disastrous. We were forced to turn back and return to camp.

All the cadets who attended the course would like to extend our gratitude to all the staff involved in the running of the course, which was very enjoyable and provided many memorable moments.

CSM Paul Broadbent



Music & Drama



Music

It was another busy year for the Music Department. Following the performances of *Souled Out* we were into preparations for the Christmas Concert. It was given over two nights with excellent performances from the Concert Band, Dance Orchestra, Choir and Senior Orchestra, all combined groups from BGS and BGSB. On the second night Mr. D. Southcott made a cameo performance on the triangle with the Orchestra, which sent many into hysterics. The Concert Band, led by Mr. Hyde, performed the folk overture *Hootenanny*, while the Dance Orchestra played some classic big band tunes like *April in Paris*. A mention must go to the choir who, directed by Mrs. Stoddard, sang carols including *Sir Christemas* by William Mathias and *Bethlehem Down* by Peter Warlock.

For the end of the Spring Term the Music Department was again at full steam in preparing for the big production of *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* by Carl Jenkins. Before this joint concert the Boys' School held its annual Music Open Evening. This began with several soloists and ended with the Senior Orchestra performing two pieces, Jeremiah Clarke's *The Prince of Denmark's March* and the Minuet from Haydn's "Clock" Symphony.

The end of term joint concerts in the Roger Kay Hall were brilliant successes. The orchestra contained a number of boys playing major parts, while in the choir not only were the bass and tenor sections strong as usual, but several younger boys sang magnificently. Soloists, including Mark Harrison and John Findon, were given their chance to shine. This evening also featured performances from the Concert Band and the Dance Orchestra under Mr. Southcott.

At 8.00 am on the 5th of May, the joint choir assembled in Bury Parish Church for the annual communion on Founders' Day to sing Mendelssohn's *Verleih' uns Frieden*. Later in the main service they sang the anthem

God is Gone Up by Finzi.

In May there was also another major success for the School. Martin Hagan of the 3rd form won the Rotary Club Young Musician of the Year Competition held in the boys' Junior School. Martin played a piece by Jakob Gade named *Jealousy*. It was the first time a member of BGS had won.

June and July were also busy. First came a lunchtime concert in Bury Parish Church. It gave the Brass Ensemble and Woodwind Group a chance to perform to a decent sized audience. The concert also featured solos from Chris Parsons, Alex Benn, Nick Swirad and James Scholes.

The annual House Music



Competition took on a new format this year. It was held in the evening rather than during the day so parents could come along and watch. As usual both junior and senior sections were of a very high standard. There were excellent performances



throughout and several sections proved to be very competitive. Many of the individual winners were in Hulme House, who were the outright winners of the competition.

Many boys were involved in the concert celebrating the 100th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the present Girls' School. The joint Orchestra and Concert Band were the largest groups on display; however several smaller ensembles, such as the Saxophone Quartet, featuring Mark Harrison and Alex Benn, performed.

There are a number of people we would like to thank. Firstly the schools' music teachers, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Benger, Mrs. Stoddard and Mr. Castell. They have worked tirelessly in getting everything right and have used much of their spare time for rehearsals. Also Mr. Southcott, for running the Dance Orchestra, Mrs Grundy, for directing the Brass Ensemble, and Mrs. Good, in her final year, for conducting the Woodwind Group. We are very grateful to Mrs. Good for all her hard work over the years and wish her well for the future. We hope there are many years to come of flourishing music-making at Bury Grammar Schools.

Chris Parsons and Alex Benn



Souled Out

Souled out by C.J. Maybury and P.A. Burnett, with music and lyrics by CNJH, was this year's musical, performed in the Boys' School Hall on 24th - 26th November.

The musical tells the story of the hapless, love-struck teenager Roger, played with a wonderful mixture of

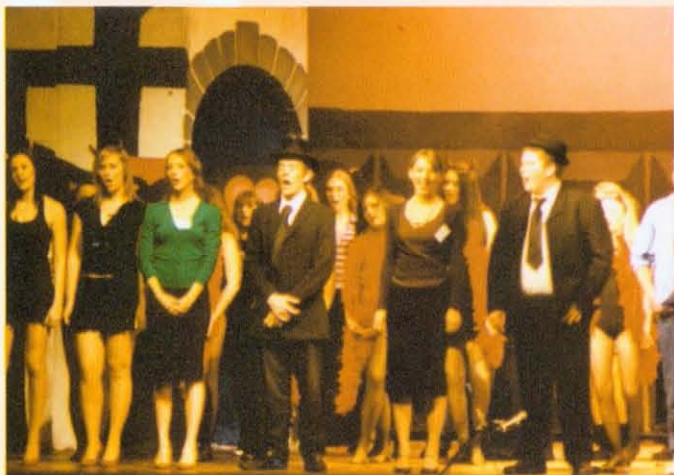
awe and sheer terror by Matthew Evenson, whose quest for a date with the most beautiful girl in the School, Julia (Caecilie Hobhouse), is constantly thwarted by her thuggish elder brothers, Mario and Angelo. Once again seventh formers Tom Wilks and Phillip Fitzsimon-Porter had ample opportunity to show the breadth and depth of their inestimable talents.

The show, a cross between *Romeo and Juliet* and *Faust*, is basically a pantomime, particularly from the point where Roger agrees to sell his soul to the devil (John Findon) and

his accomplices, "the Devilettes", wonderfully choreographed by fifth former Olivia Sherrington.

A large cast of around 50, a small band and a hard-working backstage crew enjoyed themselves immensely. Their obvious enthusiasm shone through each night and their comic timing, never an easy thing to master, at times reached very high levels of expertise.

CNJH



The Clavian Art and Literary Competitions



*For this year's Junior School competitions boys were given the title "World Cup 2006".
The Senior School Art Competition subject was "Pets and Wildlife" whilst the Literary
Competition was a piece of free writing.*

LIVING THE DREAM

I woke up after a rough night's sleep. The excitement was unbearable and there were still nine hours until kick-off in the World Cup final against Argentina. I had a relaxing shower and got changed into my England tracksuit.

I went to join the rest of the team at breakfast. I had four Weetabixes and an apple. We then had a team meeting where I was told I was going to play at centre back in tonight's big game.

I went and had a relaxing massage, after which I felt brilliant so I went and had lunch. I had some pasta with spinach. After lunch all the team went back to their rooms.

When I got back to my room I rang up my mum, dad and brother. They were very helpful because they made me relax a lot more. Then I put my suit on and went down to meet the team. Even with my family's encouragement I still got very nervous.

We all got on the coach and went on an hour and a half journey to the Olympiastadion in Berlin. On the coach I listened to Guns 'n' Roses on my Ipod. When I walked off the coach there was a big cheer from the crowd. All the players went into the stadium and onto the pitch.

After studying the pitch we went and got changed into our kit. When everyone was ready Sven reminded us of the tactics and players to watch out for. Then we were called to come into the tunnel. Even inside the tunnel you could hear the crowd shouting "ENGLAND, ENGLAND!"

We suddenly started walking forward and as we emerged from the tunnel the noise was deafening. I was so nervous I felt like being sick. All the players stood in a line ready to sing the national anthem. While I was singing I nearly started crying. At the end of the anthem there was a big roar from the crowd. All the players got in their positions, ready to start the

match.

The match was a close encounter but just before half time Riquelme hit a brilliant shot into the top corner. I felt gutted, absolutely gutted. We walked back into the tunnel with our heads down. Sven told us to keep our heads up as the game was still wide open.

At the start of the second half Gerrard passed the ball to Rooney who just tapped the ball past the goalkeeper. We were ecstatic and went in search of another goal. We couldn't get past the defence but then in the last minute we got a corner. David Beckham crossed it and I headed the ball right in the bottom corner. Everyone piled on top of me. We all got up and the crowd were chanting "MATTY, MATTY!" but then I realised it was my mum trying to wake me up!

*Matthew Bowen, Transitus II Jade,
Winner of the Upper Junior School
Literary Competition*

* **

THE WORLD CUP 2006

Some people say it's winning,
Some people say it's not.
You should hear the fans singing,
They're a really crazy lot.

Group A was a really tough one,
It was really close too.
Germany finished first though
Ecuador finished at number two.

The reigning champions Brazil
Did not play well at all.
I nearly went to sleep in their
matches;
It's like they've forgotten how to play
football.

*Imran Hashmi, Transitus I Royal,
Winner of the Lower Junior School
Literary Competition*

HEDGEHOGS

Rockets flashing upwards
Fill the sky with light.
All the colours of the rainbow
Paint the black of night.

Sounds of laughter fill the air
As people gather round,
Fireworks, crackers and flames alight
Not knowing what's aground.

For every 5th November
In all parks nationwide
The wildlife of the area
Look for a place to hide.

A favourite for hedgehogs
On chilly autumn days
Is the centre of the bonfire
Before it becomes ablaze.

Our spikey friends they settle down;
Cosy and warm they hide
Not knowing that they'll soon get hot
And eventually get fried.

So when it's lime for fireworks
On your next Guy Fawkes Night
Lift up your bonfire before it's lit
And move it six feet left or right.

*Tom Barling, Winner of the Taylor
Poetry Prize.*

* **

THE RAFT

I was sleeping. I was sleeping and I
knew I should not be. The white light
above my head was drawing me closer
and closer until I was soon back in
the freezing cold raft. The woman
next to me closed her eyes and I shook
her and woke her up. She then
thanked me and we held onto each
other to keep warm. There were about
twenty centimetres of water in the raft
and the water was absolutely freezing.
There were about twelve of us in the

raft, which did not have a roof because it had blown off in the storm which had caused the ferry's doors to open and the water to flood into the boat. The boat had then begun to sink.

It was now pitch black as the moon was covered by the thick storm clouds. I thought my fingers were going to fall off as I was so cold and a strong wind was blowing. Then suddenly the light on the raft went out and the watchman on the boat swore and ran over to it and tried to fix it. Two of the older men had gone to sleep in the raft. I crawled over and shook them both; neither of them woke up. We covered their bodies with their jackets as a mark of respect. I dozed off again. The white light was brighter now and it seemed to be getting closer. A noise was accompanying the light and I thought that God was talking to me. The woman yelled, "A chopper, we're saved!" The chopper did not see us and flew away. I dozed off and didn't wake up.

I did wake up eventually. I was in the arms of a big man on the end of a steel wire winch.

Jonty Rigby 2LA, Winner of the Lower Senior School Literary Competition.



IN THE FIELDS OF SLUMBER

When I am gone, do not weep in pain of me;
Do not be saddened by your loss and demons.
Do not in anguish punish your friend or foe, my child.
Do not weep in pain of me, because you have not truly known me.

When I am gone, do not weep in pain of me;
Do not be afraid of the ultimate void and the shrouding darkness;
For when I am gone there will be spring after winter,
There will be life after death.

When I am gone, do not weep in pain of me;
I can no longer feel pain or your sor-

rows, so do not pity me,
Do not buy me the flowers of innocent youths,
For I can no longer see their brilliance of colour and life.

When I am gone, do not weep in pain of me;
For I can no longer sense in human terms;
But I feel on and beyond the veil
And I know that life prevails...

When I am gone, do not weep in pain of me;
You have not truly known me or experienced me.
Do not wear a frown upon the brow,
Nor the pallid colour of the weeping grief.

When I am gone, do not weep in pain of me;
Do not trudge through rainy moors in black,
Do not trudge as I trudged through solemn sombre fields.
With the bang and the boom and the smash of the bomb.

When I am gone, do not weep in pain of me;
The rapid rifle fires on.
The threatening thunderstorm rumbles on,
The next screaming soldier dies like me.

When I am gone, tunnels will hold my body.
The rapid rifle fires on.
When I am gone, a soldier down, our situation worsens.
And the next screaming soldier dies like me.

When I am gone, do not weep in pain of me;
Just know this thy faithful child lingering for me.
In some distant corner of some distant field,
There is a field of slumber and that is where I sleep.

Alex Jackson, 3UA



WINTER SPORTS

Wind running across the fields,
Invisible but freezing everything it touches.
No one is outside except the damp, lonely snow.
The world is frozen like one giant ice-cube.
Every bit of grass gone,
Reindeer, tiny dots in the never-ending sky,
Snowballs being launched full pelt across the street.
People slipping and sliding on every frozen puddle.
Older than mankind, the weather tightens its grip around the globe.
Reassuringly it comes once every year.
To give all the chance to play.
Snow, cold as ice but warming to the heart.

Piers Wheel don, 1LG



THE DROWNING

It was the middle of the night and the waves pounded the stone of the harbour. The moon peered around the grey banks of cloud. The moon's light danced on the waves and then scattered with the waves as they hit the harsh rock. Every now and again a lonely ship sailed passed.

On the side of the stone harbour were steps which led to the waves. Three shadows crept down these steps towards the unforgiving sea. These shadows pressed themselves against the wall whenever someone appeared on the harbour above. When they reached the base of these stairs the first two jumped in straight away but the third stopped.

Tom Buxton couldn't swim. He hadn't told his friends this; he thought that if he did he'd look stupid. His friends had come up with the idea weeks ago. Tom thought they were joking, but early that evening they had phoned him and told him they were meeting at the dock. Now as he stood staring at the waves below him his mind wandered to reports of children

drowning after jumping off piers. Those children could swim.

With his friends calling him Tom took one last deep breath then jumped, his eyes shut tight. He fell his body slap against the water. He gasped with the shock of the water temperature. He opened his eyes and saw the cloud-filled night sky above him. He was floating on the surface, bobbing up and down like the boats around him. He stayed there for several minutes without incident, floating calmly on top of the waves.

All of a sudden one of Tom's friends jumped out of the water and landed on top of him. Tom was forced under the surface of the water. He panicked and started flailing his arms wildly trying to get to the air above him. It was no use. He watched as the surface slowly became further and further away. He opened his mouth to let out a cry but felt the water rush in and down his throat. He now knew what would happen to him. He closed his eyes and slowly felt his body shut itself down.

*Matthew Latham, 3UA, Winner of the
Upper Senior School Literary
Competition*

* * *

THE TEMPLE OF TEARS

I stared at the 25 miles of jungle ahead of me; armed only with a knife I had a lot of work to do. I had researched that there were many dangerous animals and poisonous insects in this part of the jungle. I cut at one of the vines; it came off fairly easily. For the next three hours I covered six miles. I had only had to change my knife once and had been lucky enough not to spot any animals or insects. Suddenly I thought I heard a low growl coming from the bushes beside me. From the sound of the growl I reckoned it was a tiger. I quickened the pace of my vine cutting to get away from the tiger when all of a sudden it was standing in front of me. It cut through the vines with its teeth and was coming closer to me. I ran past it, after a few seconds it was chasing me. When it was

far away from me I dived into a bush. The tiger stopped at the bush, looked around and went in the other direction. I went out of the bush but when I was out I felt a tingling sensation on my neck; the tingling feeling went down my neck to my hand. I looked down at my hand and to my horror, I found out that there was a millipede crawling on my hand! I shook it off and continued cutting the vines until I came to a river.

The river was around 10 metres wide, far too much for me to jump over. It didn't have a bridge so I thought I could swim across it but when I saw a crocodile in the water I changed my mind. I saw a thin tree next to the river; I thought that if I could cut down the tree I would be able to use it as a bridge to walk across the river. I got my knife out and began hacking at the tree. After a while the tree went down over the river. I walked slowly over it. But I was never good at balancing and after three steps I fell off. The water was ice cold and muddy but its current was unbelievable. I hung onto the tree for all I was worth, while the water flow was constantly trying to pull me off. I felt something scrape my leg, I knew it was a crocodile. I started to panic. I frantically tried to slide across the tree to the other side of the river. I finally managed to do it. I climbed out and walked another mile until I arrived at a mountain.

The mountain was about 4000 feet high and was fairly steep. At the top was the Temple of Tears, my target. I took my climbing gear out of my rucksack. I threw the hook, and luckily I caught a rock. I put my harness on and started to climb. I slowly went up, one step after another. I was surprised at how steep it was; without my ropes I would never have been able to climb it. After an hour I was at 2200 feet. I was finding it very difficult, the steepness was really starting to affect me. It was already 6 pm and if I didn't quicken up it would be dark and I would find it even harder to climb the mountain.

Suddenly I thought I heard something move; after a while I could definitely hear it; to my horror I saw it was a landslide. I didn't know what to do. If I stayed there I would be

knocked off and at 3890 feet I wasn't going to let that happen. The rocks I was climbing on were slipping away, I quickly scampered up the mountain face, but I found it harder and harder to get a grip on the rocks until I was at the top. My legs lost grip completely and dangled hopelessly off the mountain face. I was hanging on the tip of the mountain using only my hands. The sharp rocks were cutting into my hands but I managed to heave over the side of the mountain and saw the Temple of Tears in front of me.

The Temple of Tears was magnificent. It was a tall golden structure, shaped like a pyramid. It was perfectly curved out of sand with a huge elegant door, with hieroglyphics on. I walked up to it. I tried to push the door, but it wouldn't move. It was far too heavy for me to lift up. I read the hieroglyphics which said, "Use the code to enter. Get it wrong, pay the price. Get it right ...". Someone had rubbed the rest of it out. I stepped back and tripped up. I looked at what I had tripped up on. It was a rotting corpse. I screamed. I came closer and examined the dead body. It was about fifty years old. The man had been ripped apart. I stepped back. Suddenly I saw three straight lines form in the ground. I was very shocked as no one was making them. I realised what was happening. The three lines must be the code! I went up to the Temple. Suddenly I heard a voice, "Don't go in! Evil, Evil, Evil". The voice trailed off. I put three scratches on the door - it opened. There was a picture in the temple, nothing else, a painted picture of three men. Suddenly I felt myself being sucked in and before I knew it I was in the painting and the door had shut. A single tear rolled down my face.

*Nishan Ghoshal,
Exitus Scarlet*



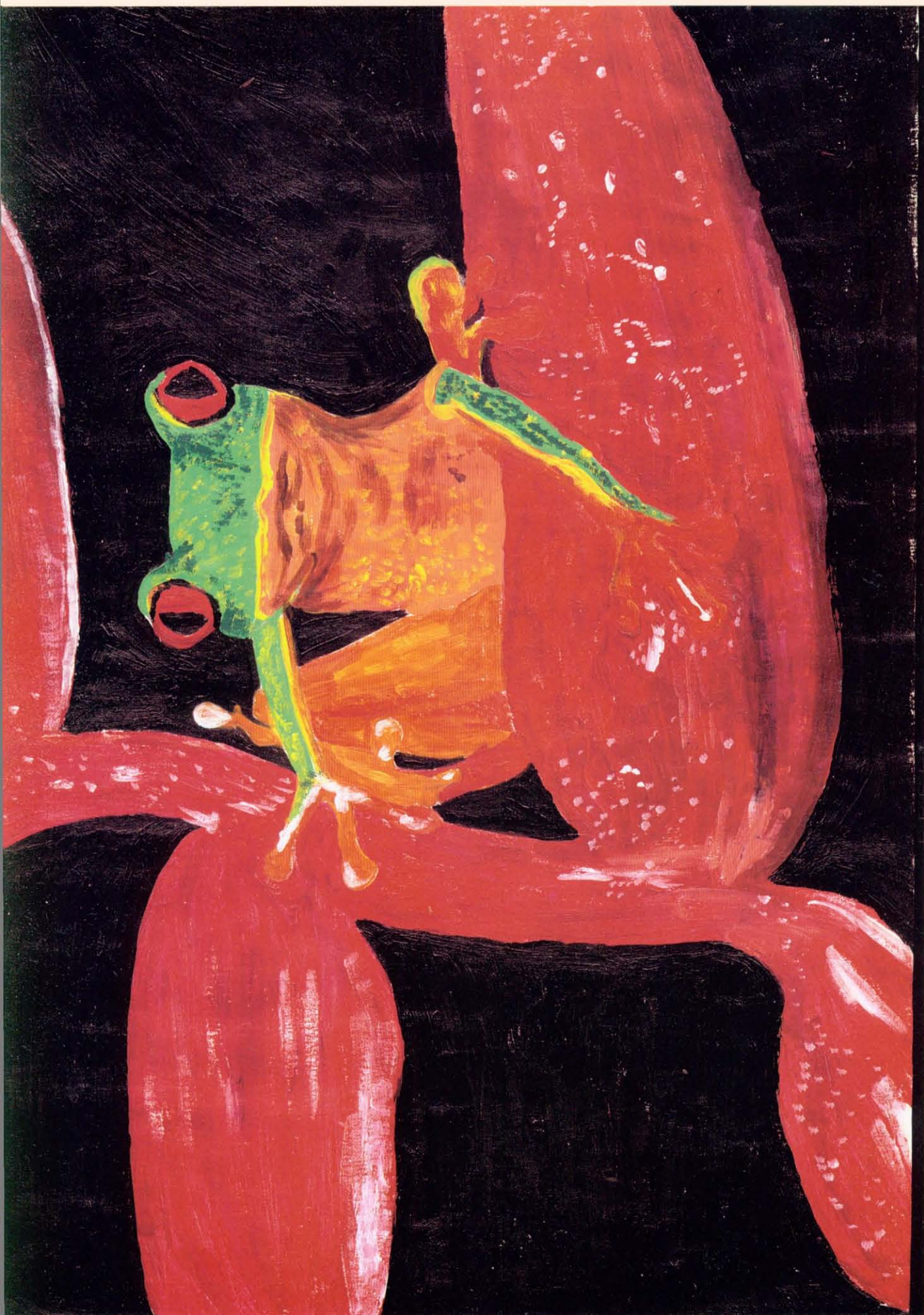
M. Rainbow; 1UI, Winner of the First Year Art Competition



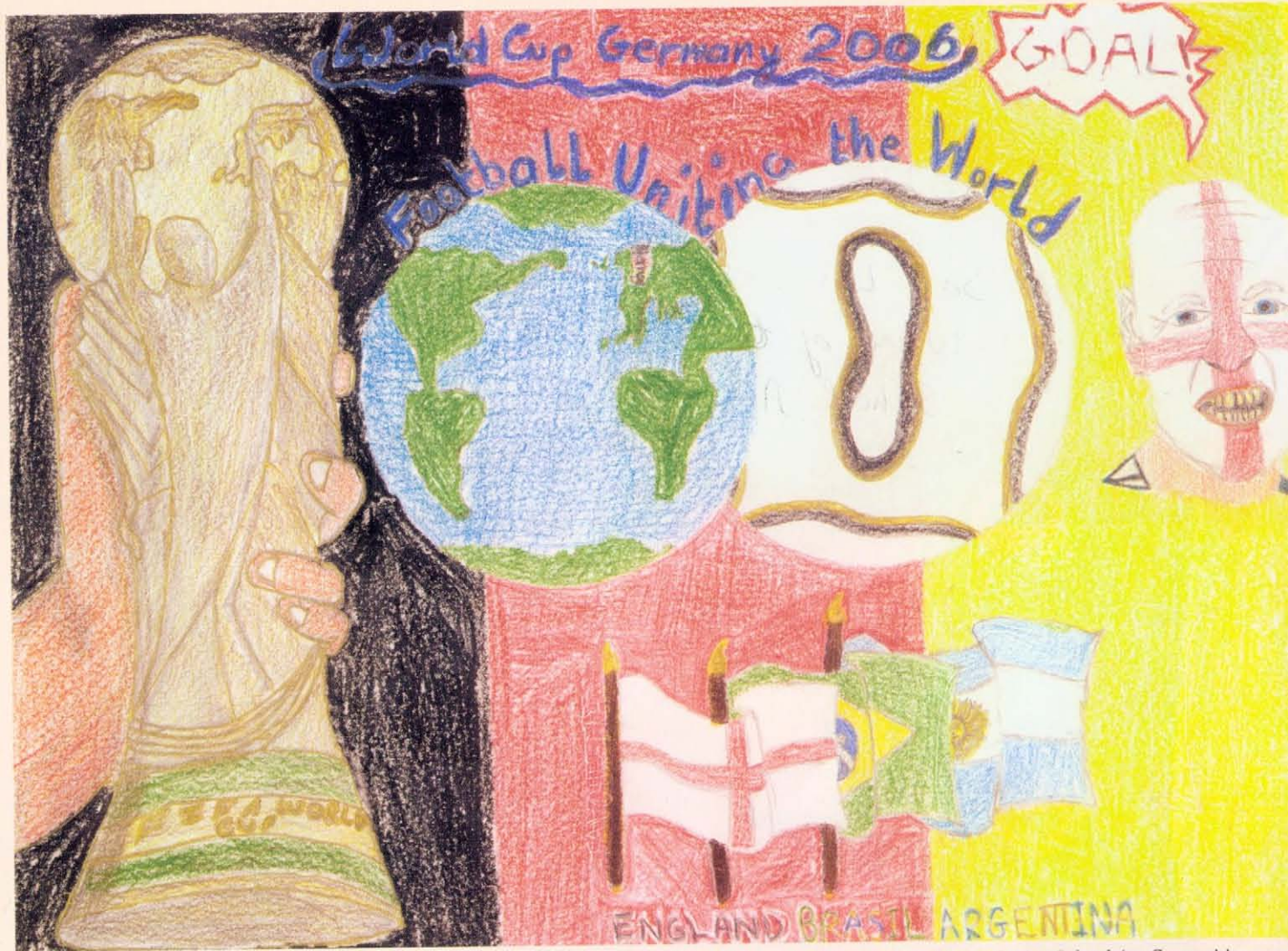
J. McGowan, 2LD, Winner of the Second Year Art Competition.



*B. Lyth, 1 LA, Runner-up
of the First Year Art Competition*



J. Armstrong, 3UC, Winner of the Third Year Art Competition



Sam Lyth, Exitus Burgundy, Winner of the Upper Junior School Art Competition



C. Stott, 3UC, Runner-up of the Third Year Art Competition



J. Noble, ILA



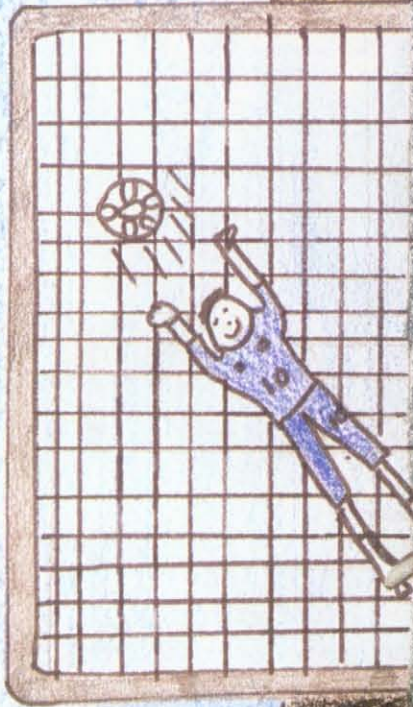
K. Heatherington, 2LD

World Cup

2006 !!!

Brazil

kaka

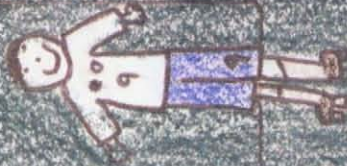
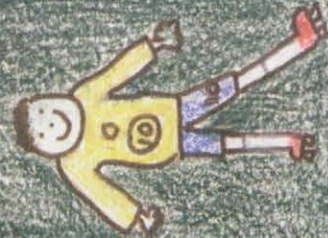


England



POWERADE

LEIPZIG



Mohammed Seedat

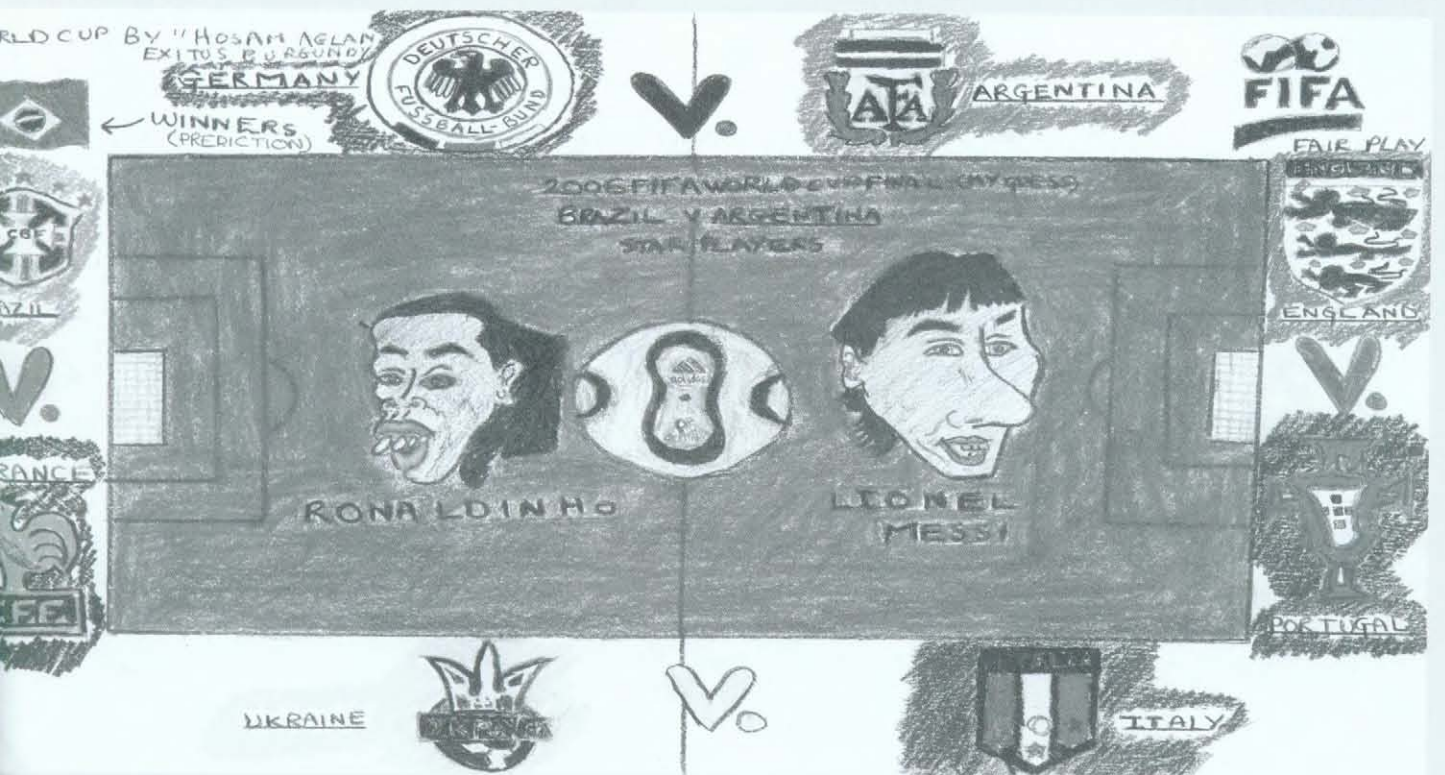
Mohammed Seedat, Winner of the Lower Junior School Art Competition



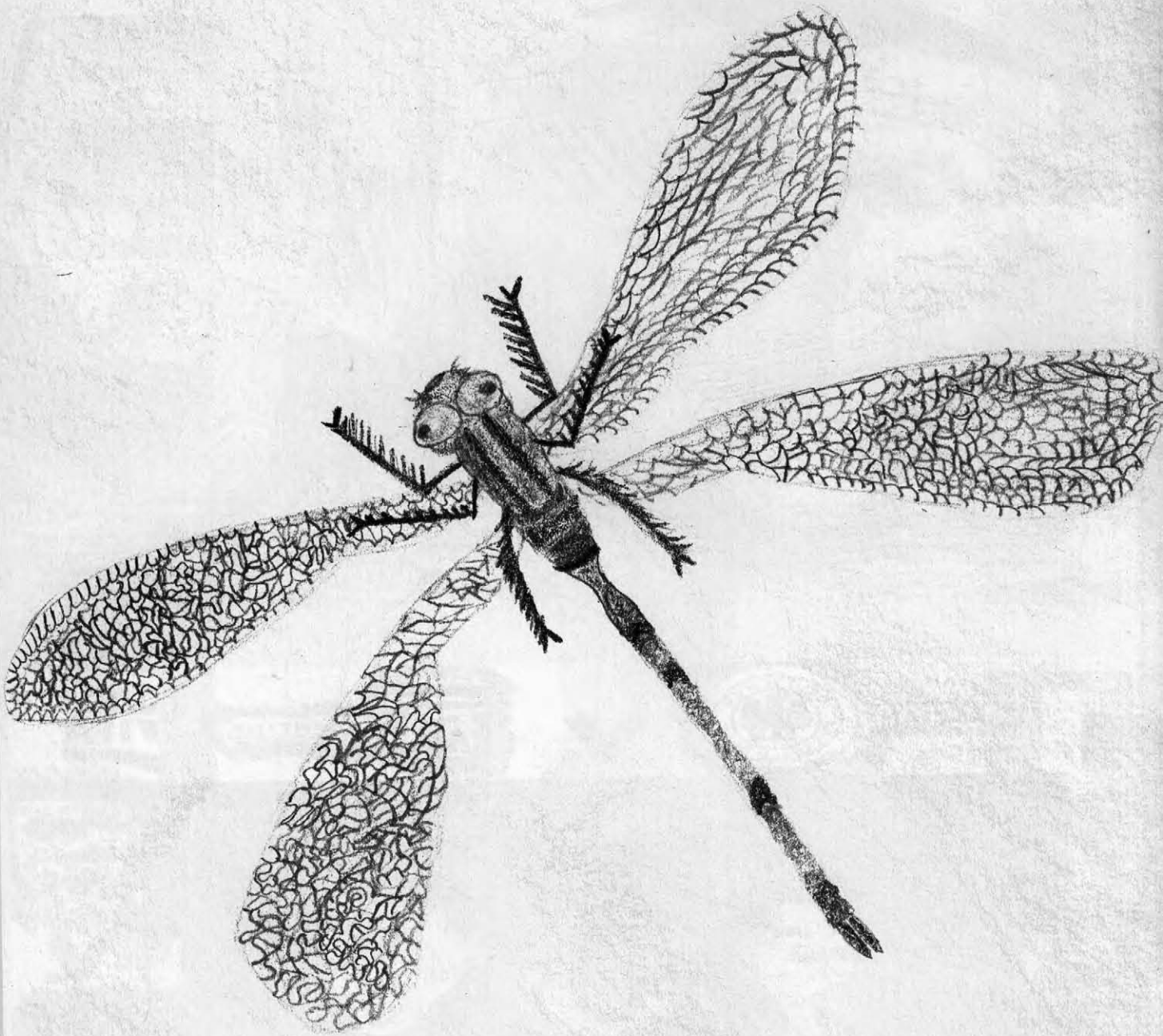
Matthew Walker, Exitus Burgundy, Runner-up of the Upper Junior School Art Competition.



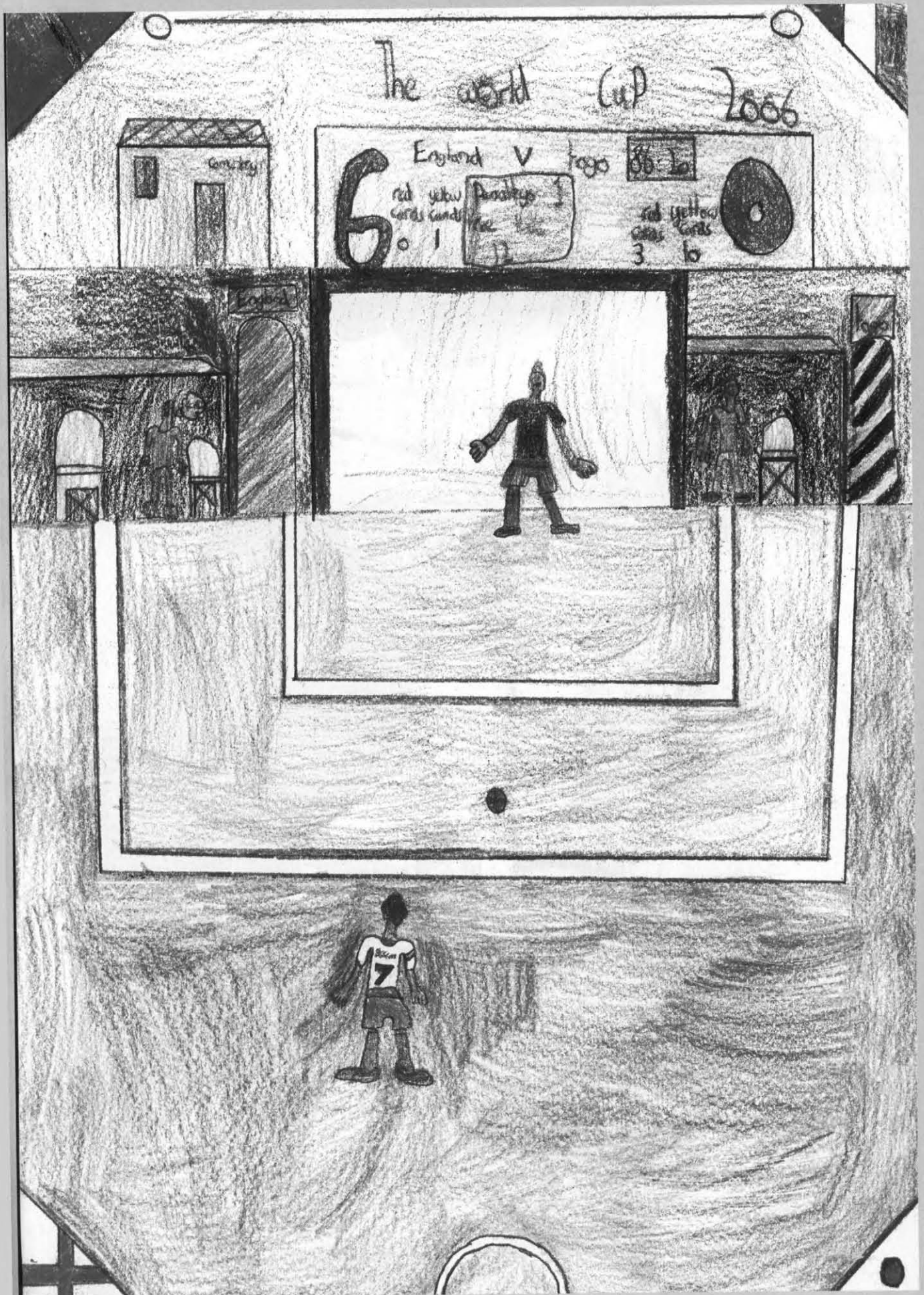
M. Hurst, 3UC



H. Aglan, 1UQ



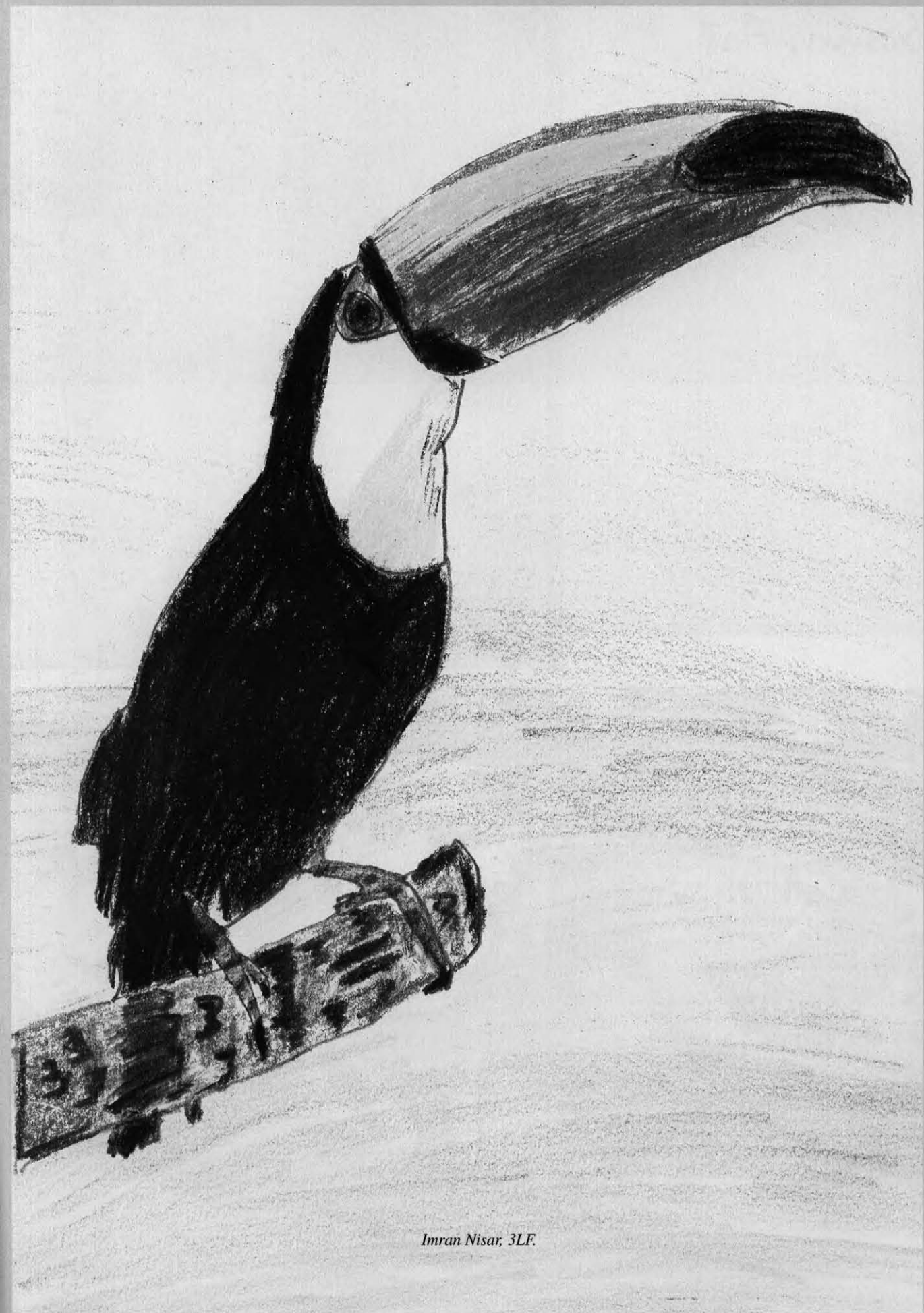
R. Cheung, ILLA



Matthew Walker, Exitus Burgundy, Runner-up of the Upper Junior School Art Competition.



Alex Trafford, 2UH, Runner-up of the Second Year Art Competition.



Imran Nisar, 3LE.

Senior Art

W. Glancy



M. Taylor



L. Gaffney



N. Crossley

INTELLIGENCE EXHIBITION

The following are all original and authentic quotations, unknowingly contributed by members of the School.

The chicken was crispy and dry inside and the sauce was bland and insipid. However I was ravenous so I ravished the lot.

(Describing the composer's mother's death) Then Mussorgsky's mother pasted away when he was doing a major composition.

At the beginning of the first verse you hear just a bit of wrapping.

The music builds up to a crescendo of sound and ceases abruptly with a symbol clash.

Just before we set off for the lake we were handed flamboyance aids to wear.

I picked this song because it has all sorts of comuterised stuff. Voices of people screaming and some noises of instruments are done on the comuter.

(Can you guess the record's real title?) The piece of music I am going to write about is called Tuba lebell's.

(Boy's question on seeing the words "France and Flanders 1914 - 1919" carved on the wall of a French cemetery) Sir, who was Flanders?

The jellyfish is easy to recognise as it is 4 feet tall, it has long testicals and smells like a fish.

Q. What is the main purpose of the large intestine?

A. For bigger food.

Q. Where was William Rufus killed?

A. Behind the bushes.

Since mobile phones were made, people have been bullied by others who send illegal massages to upset them.

The only operation that I have had is when I had two of my moles pulled out of my mouth.

My uncle Kevin (who is the one having a baby) got married to his wife, Suzy, five years ago.

At this point the DJ scratches and introduces the guest rapper.

Having been taught the mnemonic SOHCAHTOA for Sine, Cosine Tangent ratios the pupil enquired): What's trigonometry to do with Krakatoa?

Q. Name a brass band instrument.

A. A menstronome.

Pizzicato is an instrument with tight strings.

Q. Name 2 brass band instruments.

A. Tenor horn and hornet.

Q. Name the 2 instruments.

A. Saxophone and tombola.

The angel of the lawn richly blessed

Abraham.

D.D.T. stands for Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane and was the insecticide to end all insecticides.

The music slows to a steady halt.

In this section church bells are ringing and a brass drum is hit.

This is the build up to cannons firing every odd five seconds.

This piece opend's with trumpet's and floots and is played at a fast speed. The speed gradually gets greater and then louder.

Rich people gave money to the church so that the priest would pray for their soles.

You got blues played by instruments like boggy woggy.

One style of blues was called booby woogy.

Holst starts the piece off by playing a beginning of the piece.

The Roman army contained great worriers.

A small untuned percussion instrument is the snarl drum.

These poets were ordinary soldiers ... when they were fighting, they would shout encouragement to their piers.

(A member of staff to a pupil, loudly) If I want to be ignored I'll go to my wife and children!

Sir, isn't a goat a mythical creature?

Q. Apart from Liverpool name another major slave port on the West Coast of England.

A. Blackpool.

Q. What is a philosopher?

A. Someone who studies fossils.



This song was made by a synthesizer symbol.

I was waiting for the video to start and I was a little bored.

(Boy's Question) Is Europe not in America?

Jazz started in New Orleans at the mouth of Mississippi.

Jelly Roll Morton, Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington were all popular jazz musicians.

In the inner cities many people live in tenement houses.

Q. Why are there more string instruments in an orchestra than any other type?

A. Because they are the more silent instruments.

The early blues influenced the blues.

A famous jazz musician was Louis Armstrong.

Teacher: Think of something topical you can design a poster for.

Pupil: What? Like the Caribbean?

Pupil 1: What's that measurement of energy that sounds like a diamond?

Pupil 2: Do you mean joules?

Q. Which group was discovered in the Cavern?

A. I know - 'The Beatles'.

Q. Explain why natural increase in populations is generally greater in LEDCs than MEDCs.

A. In MEDCs there is a low infant mortality rate so they don't have many spares, but in LEDCs they have lots.

I feel that the song has a pleasant calm mood.

Q. Write down all the multiples of 4 between 9 and 40.

A. 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40.

Q. Write down all the prime numbers between 15 and 30.

A. 17, 19, 23, 29.



House Reports and Sports



HOUSE REPORTS

Derby

Derby have had an excellent year under the stewardship of the Earl of Derby and House Captain George Kirkman and his band of willing prefects.

The spirit of the House has never been in question, shown by the enthusiasm of boys elected to select teams. They have carried out the task energetically and thoughtfully.

The overall result is that we have pipped Kay to the top House award and for this every single boy who is a member of the 'banana yellows' must be congratulated.

In swimming Derby were the winners of the Mark Oakden Trophy, the first time Hulme's monopoly of this competition has been broken. Derby finished second in the prestigious Hutchison Swimming Trophy.

Derby's footballers and

basketballers competed brilliantly to win their overall sections. Special mention must be made for our second and fourth year footballers who won their year group competitions impressively. The Derby seniors were second in the six-a-side soccer. Despite the efforts of the first and third years, our badminton players finished second.

It was back to winning ways with rugby and hockey as Derby again dominated these two sports. In athletics Derby were first overall and second in the relay cup.

Cross-country, cricket and golf were not Derby's strong points and certainly there is room for improvement in these sports.

Nevertheless it has been a marvellous year on the sporting front. In the House Music Competition Derby finished a creditable second.

This was a very good effort, especially when you consider that a lot of the best musicians in the House left last year. Congratulations must go to Nicholas Swirad and David Howorth in the Senior Strings and Robbie Hernandez in the Junior Vocal section.

At the end of last academic year we were optimistic about the future and now that optimism has borne fruit. A big thank you and congratulations to all staff and boys connected with Derby House.

Finally, very best wishes go to Jackie Cheung, our new House Captain, and Michael Taylor our Vice Captain. Let's hope they can carry on the good work.

PK

Hulme

On the whole, 2005-06 has been an eventful and enjoyable year for members of Hulme House. We approached the various competitions with a positive spirit and participated enthusiastically in all the sporting encounters.

Our football players performed well in the House football competition, with the first and third years" winning their respective tournaments.

Traditionally, the House always triumphs in the swimming competitions, but it was not to be this year. After an extremely long spell as champions, we were superseded by a very strong Derby team. However, our thanks must go to all swimmers who supported the cause and competed so valiantly in the Gala. Next year, we will try our best to reclaim what is rightfully ours.

There were some noteworthy performances from our boys in other competitions. The first year hockey team defeated the other Houses to win their section of the event, and we

ran extremely well to finish second in the House Cross-Country event and the Senior Athletics.

It was particularly pleasing to see Hulme so enthusiastically represented in the Athletics Gala. Congratulations go to the fourth year athletics team who competed with so much determination, particularly in the relay events.

Away from the sporting field, there were some commendable performances in the House Music Competition, which was held on Monday, 3rd July. Our House possesses some superb musicians and we came out winners in almost every section at Senior level. Special thanks go to Richard Chew, John Findon, Nick Swirad, Paul Broadbent, Chris Parsons, Martin Hagan and Nicholas Hobhouse for their outstanding musicianship.

Our third year cricketers batted superbly to win their section of the House cricket competition and our fourth and first year teams ran a close second in their events.

I would like to offer my thanks to all those boys in Hulme who competed so enthusiastically on the field. On behalf of the House, I would like to record my thanks to Andrew Cooper for his superb assistance as House Captain this year. Together with our House prefects, he ensured that Hulme were well-represented in every competition. I would like to take this opportunity to wish his successor, Michael Lillis, all the best in his new role as House Captain of Hulme next year.

To conclude, I would like to thank most sincerely all members of Hulme House, both boys and masters, for their unstinting support throughout the year and their participation in the Inter-House competitions. Many congratulations on your successes this year and best wishes for the sporting year to come.

KMC

Kay

2005/6 was another successful year for Kay. Fourteen competitions were competed for this year, and Kay came first in over half of them. However, this year Derby put in a strong challenge and they just won the prestigious Inter-House Sports Cup. The "second" places were important as they also score good points. To be successful, it is essential to do as well as possible in everything; so the Kay success is down to good organization, an enthusiasm to compete and, admittedly, some talent.

Kay won the cross-country once again. This is very pleasing because all the boys in the House have to take part and contribute to the result. In Athletics, on a very warm evening in early June, Kay won the Lower School competition, the R.P. Calrow Athletic Cup, with ease. There were some tremendous performances, particularly in the sprint events. There is a long list of individual winners, but, as usual, congratulations must go to all who competed. The following were victorious in the 100m - Tim James and Josh Mason (first year), Uzair Ahmad and Anthony McCracken (second year), Sam James (third year) and Ben Charlesworth (fourth year). Although Ben was running in the "B" race, he actually recorded a faster time than the "A" team runners. There were two victories in the 200m: Luke Finlayson (first year) and Andrew Greenwood (second year). Matt Doyle (first year) and Steven Schulz (third year) won their races in the 400m, and Ryan Edwards and Lewis Doughty came first in the second year 800m and the fourth year 1500m. For the first time, the certificates were presented to the winners in the final House Assembly of the year. Another new innovation, which did not go down so well (or perhaps they did!), were the bands that were supposed to be worn by the competitors. The bands were in the House colours, but they were quite loose, particularly on the smaller boys. Richard Etherington was seriously impeded by his and he was surprisingly beaten by the Hulme sprinter. Mr. Phillips came to the

rescue and designed a unique way of wearing them so there was no danger of their slipping down around the ankles, which could have been disastrous, particularly for the sprinters!

As always, the sprint relays are extremely important since they are worth double points, and a further trophy, the Taylor Relay Cup, is awarded to the winners. Kay came first in every one of the four sprint relays, a feat never before achieved. This enabled the whole of the fourth year relay team to collect the trophy at the end. This was an unselfish touch by the captain, Richard Etherington, and shows that Athletics is very much a team sport and that the whole team deserves credit. In comparison the Kay Seniors were shown up in their Athletics competition and came last. This has been a worrying trait for the Seniors this year, as they have struggled in most of the competitions. This has been down to not just a lack of talent, but also a lethargy that crept in, which was particularly apparent in the football competitions in the first term. It was very pleasing to see an improvement in attitude in the latter part of the year.

The most pleasing performances of the year were in the pool. The swimming was the one huge success for the Seniors and credit must go to Raymond Ahmad, who organized the sixth formers, and to the fifth years, in particular Joe Ainscow and Cameron Collins. At last, after 10 years of trying, Kay House won a swimming trophy, the Hutchison Cup. Derby won the Mark Oakden Trophy for the Lower School swimming event, but Kay managed to achieve a good second place, which was enough for the House to win the overall competition. Kay now have some strong swimmers: the three seniors mentioned already, plus Luke Finlayson (first year), David Cahill and Jonty Rigby (both second years). Again the importance of the relays must be stressed; Kay won four of the eight races.

During the Autumn Term, the Kay senior football team failed to win a

single game for the second year on the run. Another big disappointment for me was the senior rugby. However, there were further successes in the badminton, with Kay having particularly strong teams in the third and fourth years. In basketball, Kay achieved a commendable second place. It should be stressed that all these minor sports are still very important and they do involve extra commitment as they take place during lunchtimes. The captains of the relevant teams did very well to organize their players and this is very much appreciated.

In the summer term, Kay, the pre-tournament favourites, won the golf for the third year running. The quartet of Chris Howarth, Jay McGarvey, Joe Ainscow and Matt Travis were far too strong for the other Houses. The tennis showed good strength in most of the year groups and Kay were first overall. In cricket, the fourth year team set the standard to beat all the other Houses in their age group which helped Kay to win the C.E. Lord Trophy.

The last event of the year is the Music Competition. Unfortunately Kay does not have sufficient talent or quantity of musicians to be able to compete on the same level as Hulme. However second place was achieved, thanks mainly to a couple of first rate performances from David Cahill in the Junior Piano and, in the Senior Brass, James Scholes. The future does look more encouraging since apparently there are several very good musicians in the House entering the first year from the Junior School. This year the main competition was held in the evening. Although this requires extra commitment from the boys, all were agreed that it was far more enjoyable to play in front of an appreciative audience.

On behalf of the House, I would like to thank Liam Nuttall for his invaluable assistance as House Captain. He started quietly, but grew into the job and by the end of the year he was organizing teams, helping out at House events and performing other duties in an efficient and unflustered manner. I would also like to give

special thanks to Tom Wilks (badminton and swimming), George Quin (rugby and tennis) and Mark Allen for their enthusiastic help and willingness to participate. I look forward to working with the new prefects next year and with the incoming House Captain, Joel Waring, who I am sure will be a worthy successor to Liam.

To conclude, I would like to thank the masters that have supported the House and unselfishly given up their own time to help with assemblies and events, in particular Mr. Benger, Mr. Lee, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Phillips, Miss Martin and Mr. Ahmad. Several other masters also helped out at various times of the year and their help is very much appreciated and essential for the smooth running of the House. My congratulations go to all for an excellent year and my hope is that Kay will experience even greater success in 2006/7.

DAB



Howlett

This year the boys in Howlett have produced impressive performances and results in the inter-House competitions. I want to praise the enthusiasm and commitment of the vast majority of the boys in the House; the positive attitude shown by volunteering to take part in the organised events is commendable.

At the end of the year Howlett had won the six-a-side and cricket competitions. We also obtained second places in the football, badminton and golf events. Unfortunately our overall performances were not as strong as the other Houses. At the beginning of July Howlett finished with 167 points in 4th place; we were pushed out of 3rd place by Hulme with 173 points, although we still await the outcome of the Tennis competition.

There have been some pleasing results in this year's House Music Competition, with enthusiastic performances by many boys. Peter Phillips was impressive, winning the junior brass competition, whilst Alex Jackson was runner up in the junior

keyboard event. I am very grateful to all boys who have given up their time to play in House assemblies; these performances are appreciated by all members of the House.

After our success last year in raising £780 for OXFAM, the other three Houses decided to join us to collect sponsorship for the cross-country event. I was amazed by the generosity and commitment of all the boys who collected sponsorship; in total we raised nearly £2200. This money was gratefully received by Oxfam in January. We intend repeating this event in the autumn of 2006; hopefully we will be able to further increase this total.

I would like to thank Adam Al-Attar for his hard work and support as House Captain; he organised all the senior teams and led the six-a-side team to an impressive victory. This year's House Captain is Jack Spellacy. I am anticipating that Jack will use his sporting ability and highly organised mentality as a guiding example to the other boys in the House. I hope that all departing

5th and 7th formers will look back on the House events with fond memories and I wish them success in their future endeavours. Finally, I would like to thank all members of staff who have given their support and encouragement to the boys during House events this year; these have been much appreciated.

BA



SOCCER

First XI

P25 W 12 D 7 L 6

The team took several games to find its rhythm and the pick of the early matches was a draw against St. Bede's College. However, we soon found our feet and, after a hard-fought 2-1 victory against a strong Thornleigh team, went from strength to strength.

The much anticipated ISFA Cup match with QEGS was the highlight of the first half of the season. With only five minutes left to play, Bury netted a late goal and sealed a 1-0 victory, setting up an away tie with Latymer Upper of London in the next round. After a long journey to Latymer Upper, Bury were victorious 2-0 after another excellent performance. The victory set up a mouth-watering quarter-final tie with King's Chester. The match with King's never lived up to its billing from Bury's perspective and we were on the wrong side of a 2-1 defeat after a lack-lustre performance. King's were the eventual ISFA Cup winners.

Other highs of the first half of the season included advancing to the

quarter-finals of the Manchester County Cup after thrashing Manchester Academy 5-0. Bury's good form in the Manchester Cup continued into the second half of the season and after beating St. Bede's in the quarterfinal, we defeated Bolton School 3-2 after extra time, setting up a final with Thornleigh. The final, played in early May at the Bolton Arena, turned out to be the lowest point of the season. Bury simply didn't perform on the day and, after several individual mistakes, went down 7-1 to everyone's dismay. This was an extremely sour way for those boys leaving the School to end their school playing careers, which for some had lasted seven years.

The second half of the season saw several cancellations owing to bad weather. In March, the first ISFA 8s tournament was held at QEGS. Bury fielded a strong side and, despite losing their first match against Oldham Hulme, topped their group and eventually advanced to the final. The run to the final included good victories against Manchester Grammar School and St. Bede's and an epic victory over King's Chester in

the semi-finals. The victory over King's came after a penalty shoot out with each side taking fourteen penalties. This win set up a final with the hosts, QEGS. Bury dominated the match but could only manage a draw and so the final was decided by a penalty shoot out. After seven penalties each, QEGS were victorious 6-5 and Bury were left rueing missed chances. However, the following Saturday Bury avenged their loss with a 2-1 victory over QEGS, despite missing several key players.

Many thanks must go to Mr. Aston who yet again put in hours of his own free time for the sake of the team and even bestowed some of his vast wisdom on us. Without his efforts the team would have been an average one at best. Congratulations should also go to Simon Curtis who performed excellently all season and was rewarded for his efforts by being awarded the player-of-the-year trophy.

Adam Al-Attar (captain)



Second XI

P18 W4 D5 L 9

With Ben Jones installed as captain the season began with a good performance but a 0-2 reverse to a livewire St Bede's side. A hat trick for David Burgess plus a goal from Howard Tattersall gave BGS a 4-1 win over Wilmslow and this was followed by a hard-fought 3-2 win over Habergham.

For the next few weeks the team chopped and changed and unfortunately this led to a poor sequence of results with no win in nine. Yet some performances were still very encouraging. Draws came with Thornleigh, Altrincham GS and St Bede's.

Under 15

In a pretty mixed season the team lost and won roughly equal numbers of games. They played extremely well at times and poorly at others, losing by the odd goal when they should have won.

Matthew Travis in goals was excellent and saved us in many games with some fine saves. The back four of David Howorth, Adam Turner, Nick Swirad and Adam Collins were solid and always gave a very good account of themselves. The midfield

Under 14

The U14 team's season was variable to say the least. It started in miserable fashion with the first five completed fixtures ending in defeat. Whilst the team's performances were poor, we were also very unlucky with injuries, notably the horrific broken leg suffered by Ethan Clough in only the second fixture of the season. An 8-2 drubbing by Castlebrook in the first round of the Lancashire Cup ended any title-winning hopes the team might have possessed as our losing run stretched into October.

However, this proved a turning point. Mr. Richmond, who had been striving with increasing desperation to find a formation that suited the team, struck gold in the next match with 3-4-3. Playing against St. Bede's, a team who had soundly beaten us in the opening game of the season, we produced an outstanding performance and would surely have beaten them

Unlucky defeats came against King's Chester, and Oldham Hulme. Disappointing performances came against Parrswood, St Ambrose and Crompton House.

The drought ended with a nail-biting victory over Sandbach 3-2. One of Raphael Milnes' goals was a complete stunner. Confidence was now restored and BGS produced a fantastic performance at Bolton to draw 1-1. Another excellent draw with Oldham followed and then a 4-1 victory over William Hulme.

Unfortunately, for the next couple of games resources were really stretched and defeats to Liverpool

anchor man was Tom Bower with Marc Gallanders, Tom Ramsbottom and Jack Harrison offering excellent support. Up front the team had Ryan Dutton and William Doyle who both always gave 100%. Ryan broke his ankle and was out for several weeks. This affected the team's performance as he was a key and focal player.

The reserves, who included Paul Bailey, Darius Mafi, David Taylor, Robert Slater and Lewis Doughty, were always eager to play and always

were it not for the referee. Although we were denied, we went into half term with renewed confidence and approached the first game after the break with genuine hopes of winning. We succeeded coming back from 3-1 down to triumph 4-3. Next up came Oldham Hulme, a team whom we had lost to in previous years. Again we played good football in a wide open match and were devastated when they equalised with quite literally the last kick of the game. Owing to poor weather, this proved to be our last game before Christmas.

After Christmas, more injuries halted the team's progress with losses to both Sandbach and Bolton, but when a full complement turned out, there were victories against both Marple Hall and William Hulme. The final game of the season was against QEGS Blackburn and more misfortune meant that only ten players

College and the Grange followed. Poor finishing resulted in another defeat to QEGS Blackburn.

Inconsistent form, the need to change the team frequently and injuries certainly did not help results during the season. However, everyone still enjoyed playing and I am certain that individually various players have benefited from the rigours of a tough season and this will hold them in good stead for next season and beyond.

PK

gave their best when asked to play.

The team had an excellent run in the Bury Cup. They beat Castlebrook High School and Riverside High School in tough matches.

Ryan scored a memorable winner against Riverside in extra time. The team then lost to St Monica's in the semi-final.

Well done to all who played and good luck next year.

MAh

turned up on the day. Despite this, everyone performed incredibly, making a good game of it and only going down 2-0 against a good side. Mr. Richmond was convinced we would have beaten them with 11 players.

As in previous years, our team showed a frustrating lack of consistency and ruthlessness but on the few occasions when we did start playing, there were few teams who were a match for us.

All our thanks must go to Mr. Richmond for his hard work and patience. He has been our manager for two of our three years at the School and during that time he has helped us improve in all aspects of the game, even if we are not the finished article (yet!).

Chris Long and Nico Hobhouse

Under 13

P26 W 15 D 1 L 10 F 102 A 71

The season started with optimism and a 5-2 victory over St. Bede's did much to fuel the fire. However, the opening month proved to be a real omen for the season: some scintillating victories mixed with some pedestrian performances. The team thrashed Habergham 12-3 and King's Chester 4-0 but lost 3-2 to St. Monica's and 4-2 to Altrincham Grammar School.

Just before the half term break in October, the team played the return fixture against St. Bede's in Manchester and contrived to put in their worst performance of the season: an 8-1 mauling did little for team confidence. The return after term saw just one win from three matches; the nadir was our ability to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory against Crompton House 5-4. Further struggles ensued after Christmas with defeats to Bolton GS and Sandbach. However we then went on an unbeaten five match run to finish the 'Saturday season' with four wins and one defeat.

During the season we had been embroiled in two cup competitions

and achieved a great deal. The side made the final of the Bury Cup with convincing wins over Phillips High School and Elton and a dogged performance against local rivals, St. Gabriel's. The final was played at Derby High School against Tottington, but the team did not perform well and lost 5-1. The greatest achievement of the season was in the Greater Manchester Cup in which we reached the final of the local competition and were entered into the regional finals. Unfortunately we lost in the first round 5-2 to a very strong Maricourt side from Liverpool. The final match of the season was the final of the Greater Manchester Cup against our old nemesis, St. Bede's. The team played well on a full-size adult pitch but lost 4-1; the result flattered our counterparts.

We have a group of players who can brush many teams aside, but who need to be prepared to 'dig in' and show determination to gain draws from games they are losing. Determination and perseverance are two unsung qualities that are hallmarks of the best teams.

I've enjoyed this season a great

deal and particular mention should go to a few players. Conor McElherron was a strong leader of the side and performed admirably on numerous occasions. Oliver Gaydon bagged 25 goals in all competitions and displayed some ruthless finishing at critical moments. However, the player of the season was undoubtedly Alistair Dickson who scored 26 goals and terrorized opposition defences in every game.

I would like to thank the squad for all their efforts and rewarding me with some dramatic games that will live long in the memory. Particular thanks should also go to the group of parents who turned up regularly and offered vociferous support at all times. One final mention (and massive thanks!) should go to Mr. Gaydon who provided a comprehensive statistic report for all fixtures with scorers etc ... this report could not have been written without his dedication to the cause.

ASC

Under 12

“THE CYGNETS”

The signs all looked promising. I was to inherit a team dubbed “The best squad in the Junior School”. However, it became apparent early on that there were some teething problems and after two trial sessions we faced a St. Bede’s side with a team made up mainly from the Junior School. We took an early two-goal lead and held on to win 2-1. Next came St. Monicas’s away and we deservedly lost 4-2 to a strong side. A completely new squad of mainly non-Junior School boys followed for our fixture against Habergham and although the team played with great spirit we lost 8-3. King’s Chester away saw the beginning of a team beginning to emerge. Having dominated the first half, we failed to score and eventually lost 3-0 to a well-balanced attacking football side.

Altrincham was the lowest point of the season, a 6-1 hammering: our defence was a shambles and team spirit was at a very low ebb. Having received the dreaded vote of confidence from the Headmaster we changed our formation from a 4-4-2 to 5-4-1 with captain Alex Trafford now employed as a sweeper. Although we lost to St. Bede’s 3-2 it was a spirited performance.

Our debut in the Bury Cup saw a conclusive win (6-0) and the previous five defeats were a fading memory.

Next came a strong St. Joseph’s side but we deservedly won 2-1. Our 4-0 victory over Crompton House was one of the most pleasing displays of the season. We scored four good goals, the highlight a thirty-yard screamer from Josh Mason after some excellent build up play. Oldham Hulme came on the last game before Christmas and put up a spirited performance but they were no match for a team growing in confidence.

We now had a settled side: Joe Yearsley in goals; a strong back three of Robbie Stott, Ben Shedwick and Alex Trafford; Ryan Gaffney and Luke Byron played attacking roles at right and left back; George Bevan controlled midfield, helped by the energy of Josh Mason; Luke Finlayson led the line superbly and I rotated both right side and left side of midfield between Matthew Doyle, Andy Fernando, Luke Costello and Mark Howorth.

After the holidays we continued our winning ways against a strong Sandbach side. Next came our clash with Bolton School where we dominated the game but lost against the run of play. Bolton defended well and we lacked the necessary composure in the final third of the field to get that vital goal. We recovered well to beat Oldham Hulme with a hard-fought 2-0 victory on a tricky shale pitch. Matt Doyle

had now established himself in the team and got the winning goal against a talented Marple Hall. William Hulme were well-beaten, giving a chance to rotate the squad with fringe players Callum Bull, Dylan Eastwood, Abdullah Khan, Waqas Aslam, Tim James and Jack Whittles excelling. These boys made up the bulk of the B-side who beat St. Bede’s but lost to Crompton House.

The boys had emerged as a strong footballing side and beat The Grange 3-0. A draw against Q.E.G.S. (0-0) proved to be one of the best football matches I have had the pleasure of watching. We avenged our defeat against St. Monica’s in the next round of the Bury Cup with an excellent 2-0 win but lost the semi-final in the last minute to Castlebrook 3-2 in a game that had everything.

There is undoubted potential in the side and I fully expect Mr. Cawtherley to take them to the next level. I enjoyed the season and at times we played excellent passing football. I must thank the boys, the supportive parents and Mr. Cryer, who unearthed the goalkeeping talents of Joe Yearsley. A big thanks to the captain, Alex Trafford, and finally a special thanks to Mr. Koziura, who led the training sessions with fun and enthusiasm.

DPH

Under 11

Mr. Byrne’s last season in charge of the under eleven football team was always going to be a hard act to follow, especially when half of this year’s squad came from Transitus II.

Nevertheless the boys stuck to their task admirably and did finish the season with some silverware, the BJSSA League Trophy being retained in style with a 5-0 victory over Tottington. This was an excellent end to a league season that had been severely hampered by the atrocious weather - at one point we didn’t play a match for five weeks!

Despite the interruptions the boys

put in some superb performances in the league, including a 12-0 victory over Hazlehurst and the semi-final itself against Chesham, where a Jordan Smith hat-trick sealed the game.

Our league form, however, was not taken into the cup competitions. In the Bury Schools Cup we crashed out to a very physical Radcliffe side in the second round, whilst dreams of retaining the AJIS Cup were shattered in a narrow 2-1 loss to St. Ambrose - a somewhat harsh result given the boys’ performance.

Other notable victories included a

4-3 win over Bolton and a hard-fought 2-0 victory over St. Joseph’s and St. Bede’s. Goal of the season must surely go to Jordan Smith for his volleyed effort in the league semi-final. Hit from just inside the opposition’s half the ball sailed into the top corner and helped to secure the game.

This all bodes well for next season; with at least eight of this year’s squad available for next season we should have a good platform to build on.

SHS

RUGBY

First XV

P11 W4 L7

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ROSS WATSON

YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ROSS WATSON

CAPTAIN

ED DUXBURY

This year the team did not quite make the expected progress. There were a number of reasons for this, the main one being the fact that it was a very young squad. There was far too much reliance on players from the fifth-form. Although a number of these young players showed a great commitment, they cannot be expected to dominate against boys that are two years older in a game in which physical presence is of utmost importance. However, Ross Watson was an exception to the rule. More about Ross later. A second reason for the low win/loss ratio was that the teams that we invariably beat from year to year, our "bankers", could not raise enough players, so the games

were cancelled. If the results of the matches against Woodhey and Thornleigh could, hypothetically, be added then the season would have ended - Played 15, Won 8, a greater than 50% win/loss ratio.

Ross Watson was the star player of the year. He is a scrum-half with a great future. He is one of the few players that I have seen that actually accelerates into gaps or into contact if he is forced to do so. He was always willing to take on the opposition backrow and scored 11 tries over the year, becoming the leading try scorer. In fact he scored a hatrick against St Bede's, the youngest player to score a hatrick for the School's 1st XV, a body of players that includes past players of the calibre of Pat Sanderson, the captain of England on the summer tour of Australia. Much of our most inventive attacking play came through Ross and the try of the season was scored by Tom Murphy as he took an inside pass from Ross after the latter had made a Jason Robinson-esque break from Bury's

own 22 metre line and Tom had the pace to outstrip the Sandbach cover defence. There are weaknesses to Ross's game - his decision making the link to his three-quarters via the fly-half and his kicking out of hand, are areas that can all be improved. However, he has reached my "Select Team" as the best scrum-half in the last nine years.

In any report it is impossible to mention all the players. However, I would like to thank the seventh formers in particular, mainly because it is their last opportunity to get a mention in a Clavian article! Liam Gaffney became the first choice outside-centre after switching codes from the round ball game at the beginning of the season. His dependability and defensive qualities were a feature of his game. All he needs is a bit of pace to be a very good centre. Rob Nuttall, the ultimate stick insect in the second row, was our main ball winner in the lineout. He was light enough for even our weakling props to lift! Ben



Knowles moved out of the frontrow to the backrow and eventually to full-back because he did the opposite to most boys of his age and lost weight and gained fitness. The stalwarts of the team were George Kirkman, Will Glancy and Ed Duxbury, the captain. Their fitness and defensive abilities were most impressive and it was this that kept us in contention in many of the games. Teams had to play quality rugby to defeat us and only an extremely strong Cheadle Hulme side managed to outplay Bury completely. There were cameo roles by Stephen Gillan and Philip Fitzsimon-Porter, the latter having two walk on appearances, literally! George Quin continued to whinge like an ageing prop forward, but he will still be missed by the School and Rugby Union as a whole as he intends to see if his 17 stone, bulldozing runs are more effective in the League game.

There were not too many notable incidents this year. Sadly, my memories will be blurred a little by a couple of quite serious collarbone injuries to the young players Luke Woolley and Adam Jones-Bradburn. This had been my greatest worry when the First XV has to rely on too many fifth years. However, the most memorable incident was Tom Murphy being sent off by the Mayor

Under 15

At the end of the season, the team had not quite achieved the fifty per cent record for which it had striven. Nobody was too concerned: statistics tell little of the successes, failures and near-misses of a seven-month period of rugby football.

There have been losses. There were some days on which the team played below its collective ability, as at St. Bede's and Marple Hall. There were defeats after heroic defence, as at St. Mary's, and defeats, as at Bolton, where the play flowed from end to end of the field throughout a close game.

There were also some very good victories, and the outstanding game, played at Altrincham on a heavy pitch and at a very fast pace, will live long in the memory.

The Under Fifteens have been

of Bury, who was the designated Society referee for the home game against QEGS. I cannot condone any boy being sent off, particularly for ungentlemanly conduct, but it is another thing to be sent off by the Mayor!

This season, 2005-06, was my last year as the School's 1st XV coach. There have been many great moments in the last 10 years, such as beating Bolton and Sandbach in the Manchester Cup in 1998, but in the end what gave me most enjoyment was watching players develop, often from keen, "headless chickens" to confident leaders on the pitch. It also gave me a great feeling of satisfaction when boys continued to play the game after leaving Bury GS. It does not matter to what standard; the important thing is to enjoy playing the game of Rugby Union.

Next season Mr Toney and Mr Ferguson have the task of taking the team forward. There are some talented young players coming through, so the future looks good for rugby at BGS. The lineout needs improving, as does the scrummaging, since first phase possession is of paramount importance. And then the team needs developing in aspects of maintaining possession and in the continuity of using that possession. I

think I must be missing coaching already!

In my mind I have always tried to compare teams and players from the present team with teams of previous years. So I wish to leave you with the BGS 1st XV made up with my selection of the best players of the last 10 years:

Full-back - Simon BIRZGALIS (2003-4)

Wing - Will GLANCY (2005-06)

Centre - Dan FENN (1998-99)

Centre - James ATKINS (2003-04)

Wing - Ed DUXBURY (2005-06)

Fly-half - David TAYLOR (2000-01)

Scrum-half - Ross WATSON

(2005-)

No 8 - Andrew TAYLOR (1998-99)

capt.

Openside WF - Ian AINSWORTH

(1997-98)

Blindside WF - Matt TODD

(2003-04)

Second Row - Andrew CLEGG

(2001-02) and Dan TAYLOR (2000-1)

Prop - Gareth ROBERTS (1998-99)

Hooker - Will READ (2002-03)

Prop - Peter SHIRES (2000-01)

DAB

purposeful and determined. Under D. Thorpe's captaincy, they have developed a unity and a sense of camaraderie that bodes well for their future success at senior level.

PGN



Under 14

I love rugby as a game. Rugby played well is beautiful to watch. The steady flow of phase to phase, the commitment to the moment, the power of the tackle, and brilliance of the passing all burn brightly. It flows. It has an almost mathematical structure to it, but one that is often randomised by moments of great brilliance or great ineptitude. I always try to communicate this passion for the game in my coaching and it was very pleasing to see the U14s respond extremely positively to this, and acquit themselves honourably.

Initially the team was disjointed: forwards and backs didn't link up effectively, the forwards lacked physical presence and the team had a tendency to go into games with the attitude of keeping the score down rather than trying to show their strengths in attack and put pressure on the opposition defence. Several new faces spiced up competition for places and a huge amount of training time was spent on sharpening everyone's handling and contact skills, positional awareness, lines of running and, crucially, the ability to make the right decisions in open play and in heavily congested contact areas. Although their form could still occasionally desert them BGS were moving in the right direction and opposition teams found it increasingly difficult to cope

Under 13

P 10 W 1 L 9

Captain: Michael Gaunt

Although the overall playing record may appear poor, the whole squad can reflect on a season where they have developed individually and as a team. Many of the squad were very new to the game, but they should all have learnt from the experiences of a long season. Unlike their previous season the team not only scored some tries but they also won a match for the first time!

A 12-0 win over William Hulme GS was thoroughly deserved. A tight affair was decided by two first-half tries. Prop Chris Boon had the honour of scoring the team's first ever try, whilst Mitchell Perry, who became a valuable asset to the back-line, scored

with the pressure exerted from an increasingly powerful set of forwards and the running and handling skills of a super set of backs - BGS were becoming a very hard team to score against!

From a coaching perspective the match against Audenshaw was the highlight of the season. The team suddenly gelled and finally showed exactly what they had been threatening to do for several of their previous fixtures. BGS progressed up the pitch with real intent from the kick-off. The tackling and overall commitment were superb and the genuine belief and determination to win showed no bounds. While it was a true 15 man effort several of the players were truly immense. The courage, constant foraging and sniping of Richardson and Brearley at half back created the space for James to be able to use his exemplary pace and footwork to slip his markers which in turn enabled Beswick to switch on the afterburners and display a level of power and intensity of running that left the opposition supporters' mouths hanging open as he charged at gaps and broke their line on numerous occasions, claiming several tries in the process. Yiasoumis and the other members of the tight five took their cue from this and made it abundantly clear that they too would not be taking a backward

the second.

Two narrow defeats to QEGS Blackburn were the closest the team came to recording another victory. St. Mary's College, Bolton School, Audenshaw H.S. and Altrincham H.S. proved too quick and skilful whilst St. Bede's possessed a very talented fly-half who proved to be the difference in both matches.

Besides a lack of general fitness the weaknesses lay in ball retention and in tackling. Too often the forwards, who to their credit held their own in the set pieces, lost possession too easily in contact situations whilst the tackling of too many individuals remained suspect.

Certain individuals deserve mention for their efforts. In the backs Michael Gaunt, Andrew Greenwood and James Kettleborough always ran

step and excelled in the dark arts of the murky worlds of rucks and mauls to produce a steady supply of quality possession. Hornby, Riley and Khan produced a textbook display of back row play: they combined superbly and fashioned a seamless link between forwards and backs, knew when to send the ball wide and when to stuff it up their shirts. They made it their mission to be as much of a nuisance as possible on the fringes of Audenshaw's rucks and mauls, and, in the case of Hornby in particular, left a trail of destruction in their wake whenever they rampaged into the opposition half. Audenshaw weren't completely sure what was going on and it was only when they had all but one of their county players on the pitch that they started to contain the BGS threat.

The team now pass on to the next stage of their rugby careers, able to hold their own against quality opposition, and in both attack and defence are much more comfortable and better organised. I would like to express particular thanks to Richardson and Hornby for the sterling work they did as the Captain and Vice Captain respectively, both on and off the pitch.

HDM

strongly and defended bravely. Try of the season was without doubt scored by Andrew Greenwood against St. Bede's. He finished off a splendid move along the backline by sprinting past three defenders - a great effort appreciated by all spectators and even the referee! In the forwards Nicholas Street, Robert Johnson and Chris Boon formed a solid row whilst Elliott Wolstenholme and Anthony McCracken emerged as promising back-row forwards. Ashley and Bradley Taylor were always committed and can reflect on an encouraging season.

28 players played for the School during the season. The squad remained enthusiastic and should look forward to developing their skills next season.

JCRC

Under 12

P11 W6L4D1

Captain: Luke Hartley

This season was a very enjoyable one for me as a coach. From the very beginning the players showed enthusiasm and dedication. Despite their relative inexperience it was clear from the beginning that this squad would compete on an even footing against the better rugby-playing schools during the season.

Our very first match was against St Mary's College which is always a difficult task as they play rugby in their junior school. This season proved to be an even bigger challenge as their team had played together at club and school level for four seasons with very few losses to their name and lots of success. Although we lost the game by 60 points in the end I knew that I had the makings of a promising group of players as, despite being outclassed, they showed effort throughout and they did not put their

heads down at any stage. In the next game we played well and won 10-5 against St Bede's, and the team followed this up with a 10-10 draw against William Hulme's having dominated the match. Two more comfortable wins against St Bede's and Marple Hall set up the challenge ahead against local rivals Bolton. In this match the U/12s showed lots of character and fully deserved to win, but a powerful Bolton School number 8 was the difference between the sides in a nail-biting 0-5 loss. Further successes against Altrincham, Audenshaw and Queen Elizabeth's Blackburn helped build our confidence for the return match against St Mary's College. This was a thriller and a much more even contest as they did not play their over-age boy and we had progressed to such a level that we nearly caused a big upset. They won the match 21-14, but a draw would have been a much fairer result. The final game was a huge disappointment as it was my intention to play as many

players as possible against a team I assumed we would be too strong for. However, playing against 15 players and the referee (!) proved too much, despite having 80% possession and total territorial domination. We lost this match 10-7 and I know the team will be looking forward to putting things straight next season!

Over thirty pupils played for the U/12s this season. Clearly, there are some outstanding individuals, but the real strength in the team lies in the depth within the squad. Luke Hartley, Joshua Coates, Danny Toseland and Piers Wheeldon were the pick of the backs with Scott Murphy, Michael Ferguson, Andrew Page and James Jackson providing the strength and skill up front. Certainly this team has the potential to develop further as the boys not only have ability but, more importantly, they enjoy their rugby and are prepared to listen and learn. I look forward to watching their progress in years to come.

PGT

BASKETBALL



Under 18

P13 W8 L5

Led ably by Alex Lundy the U18s did really well without actually winning any silverware.

The season began with a four match winning streak against Holycross, Bury College, Thornleigh College and Manchester GS. However, despite some really good performances, significant defeats to Oldham College and Hopwood Hall dented title aspirations.

Victory over Cardinal Newman 'B' ensured BGS's highest position for many years as runners-up in the North

West League Division One. However, defeat to Blackburn College meant BGS missed the Pool final for the Second Division title and effectively finished third.

In the Play Offs victory over Cardinal Newman 'B' sent BGS into the Division One Play Off Final for the first time in many seasons. Oldham College, with an England player in their ranks, were much too strong beating BGS 43-91.

In the Division Two Play Offs BGS beat Preston College and Thomleigh College. Narrow defeat by Blackburn

College meant no Division Two final for BGS.

So it proved to be a so-nearly year for the team. As usual the standard was high and BGS matched that standard most of the time but not quite all. Nevertheless, congratulations to everybody involved.

I do hope our seventh year leavers continue to play at University and possibly even for the Old Boys of Bury Grammar.

PK

Under 16

P10 W9 L1

Captain: Ben Daniels

The team's record should speak for itself. In winning all but one game they also won the Bury League and the Lancashire Cup. The bigger goal, however, was to reach the latter stages in the English Schools competition. Unfortunately, for the second year in succession we went down to Blue Coat, Liverpool, who ended last season as runners-up at National level.

Early season form resulted in some

very big wins against Bury opposition. The only team to come close was Derby High School, whom we defeated 50-31 in the Bury final. The season then dragged on after this match as we had to wait at least a month at a time to play Lancashire Cup matches. The final of this competition took place in April and it turned out to be a thriller. We had the game won with two minutes to go as we were leading by 7 points, but a mixture of complacency and a brilliant spell by Turton resulted in the score being tied at full time. Fortunately,

the team regained their composure and won 58-54 in overtime. The leading players in this game were Ben Daniels, David Page and Christian Farnworth. However, Adam Jones-Bradburn, Scott Mody, Alessio Bacci-Evers and Jonathan France gave the side added strength on the boards and solid scoring in all games. Oliver Dean, Robert Freeman, Nick Murphy and Ross Watson all made valued contributions and added to the fun atmosphere in the squad.

Several key players in this squad are not returning next season, which is

a shame as they have remained successful throughout their time at BGS. Those returning, however, will

form the nucleus of a much-changed U/18 squad next season and with much hard work they are capable of

further success.

PGT

Under 15

P9 W 5 L 4

Captain: Jack Harrison

The U/15s started the year full of enthusiasm. The numbers at training remained high throughout the season and almost 20 players represented the School at some stage.

During the season the team never

showed the consistency required to achieve their full potential. One week they would play brilliantly and their effort could hardly be faulted, and the next week they would look a completely different team. An early exit in the Lancashire Cup to the eventual winners and a disappointing league defeat against St Gabriel's brought the season to a premature end. The leading play-

ers this season were Jack Harrison, Ben Charlesworth, Daniel Thorpe, Lewis Mervin and David Howorth.

With a renewed effort next season, and a little more luck, this team could undoubtedly win the Bury League as their skill level is higher than that of most teams. If they can believe in their ability they will achieve their goals.

PGT

Under 14

P 13 W 9 L 4

Captain: Chris Long

A succession of cancellations in the first team meant that the U/14s only played one game before Christmas and that turned out to be a disappointing cup defeat against Canon Slade. However, throughout the remainder of the season the team got better each

week. Finishing in front of the basket was always the problem, but when they got it right against the likes of Elton, Prestwich and Derby they looked formidable. Two narrow losses against St Monica's in the league and in the play-off semi-final meant that the team finished with no silverware.

Chris Long led the team well and he was well supported by Robbie Hernandez, Jordan McBriar and Tom

McKenna in particular. Certainly, the team are capable of achieving higher goals, but as very few of them attended the additional practices with the U/15s their improvement during the season was gradual rather than rapid. Success does not come easily and in a sport like basketball dedicating 35 minutes to training each week is not likely to lead to trophy success.

PGT

Under 13

P10 W6 L4

With Alex Adler as captain, the team had an enjoyable season. Skills improved, although there is still a lot of work to be done in the future.

The first match was a visit to Turton who had a strong team and BGS eventually lost 28-40 having played well.

A difficult fixture at Canon Slade saw a very good 26-20 victory over the

hosts. Continuing their travels BGS now went to Saddleworth School to play in the first round of the Lancashire Cup. Saddleworth were very strong and romped to victory 64-18.

Next BGS travelled to Bury Church for a Bury Schools Rally and did well. They won a close match against Bury Church 12-8 and then lost the final 12-14 in overtime to a sudden death basket in favour of Philips HS.

BGS had another crack at Bury

Church in their first home game, winning 22-16 and playing well.

The season finished with a home rally and unfortunately on the day scoring proved a major difficulty. BGS beat St Gabriel's just 4-0, Broadoak by 4-2 and defeat came with Woodhey by 2-4.

All players must continue to practise hard next season if they are to win next year's U14 Bury League.

PK

Under 12

P9 W 8 LI RALLY: P5 W5

Captain: Alex Trafford

This was the most enjoyable season I can remember at U/12 level for a long time. From the very beginning vast numbers attended training, but the reasons the team was so successful were they were willing to learn and they showed dedication throughout.

Early season friendly matches against local opposition did not look pretty at first! However, once the team understood the importance of playing to a structure they started to look like a team beyond their years. A four point loss before Christmas to Canon Slade

did not deter the side as from this point onwards no team really got near them. In all rally competitions they dominated and on a few occasions the second placed team was our 'B' team! The culmination of an excellent season had to be reaching the Lancashire Rally Final. Four teams were involved in a play-off for the right to be crowned champions of Lancashire. In our first game we comprehensively beat last season's winners, Southlands School, and then followed this up with a nail-biting win against Saddleworth. The Final was against Canon Slade who had beaten us in a friendly early in the season. However, this time we won comfortably in a fairly one-sided final

with Alex Trafford, Luke Finlayson and James Daniels leading the way. As is often the case the strength of this team lies in the depth within the squad, and other leading players this season were Taimur Randhawa, Haroon Gauhar, Luke Byrom, Abdullah Khan, Matthew Doyle, Mark Howorth, Piers Wheeldon and Andrew Page.

Without any question this squad is capable of playing basketball at a higher level in the future as the talent is spread across the board. Their enthusiasm is infectious and their willingness to listen and learn is refreshing. Roll on next season!

PGT

CRICKET

Senior Cricket

The First XI enjoyed an extremely good season with both bat and ball, recording 11 victories as against only five losses. Two matches were started but abandoned owing to rain, one of which had progressed far enough to see Bury in a commanding position.

Our losses included the very first match of the season, played against Clitheroe, and could not have been closer; we ended trailing by a single run, Simon Curtis having hit a six off the penultimate bowl of the game. The match against Cheadle Hulme was also very close. We lost by a mere six runs against opposition who, a man short, were aided in the field by Tom Murphy. For Tom it was a match to remember; having caught out Simon Curtis, our second top scorer, he himself was controversially run out for the last wicket.

However, memories of victories easily outnumber the setbacks. Again

several of these were quite close, in particular the excellent match played against the Staff. XI at the end of the summer term. Highlights included a 60 run defeat of Manchester Grammar and a monumental struggle which saw us overtake Ashville College's total of 180 with four wickets in hand.

We showed similar form in the Under 17 Lancashire Cup. We won through against Lancaster RGS to reach the quarter-finals where we were able to put last year's winners, Turton H.S., to the sword. The semi-final against Bacup and Rawtenstall was probably the most thrilling match of the season. Despite a catastrophic start, which at one point saw us at 25 for 4, we reached 142 for 9 from 30 overs, thanks largely to Aman Arora and Imran Khan. Aman then went on to take three crucial wickets in the Bacup innings and he was supported by some first-class fielding. A nail-

biting final over saw a six, a run-out and four dot balls, leaving the match tied; we won on account of our higher scoring rate in the first 20 overs.

Sadly the final itself proved an anticlimax. It was played on a rain-soaked pitch in September against Manchester Grammar. Our captain's decision to put MGS in to bat looked suspect once they had amassed a total of 269 for 4, including a 245 run second wicket partnership. We replied valiantly but to no avail and lost by 102 runs.

Nevertheless the team can be proud of its achievements and I offer my congratulations to them for a highly enjoyable season.

PK

Under 15

Captain: David Taylor

P11 W 7 L 4

An early season loss against Manchester Grammar was not the best start to the term. However, the team bounced back with a commanding win against St. Monica's in the Lancashire Cup. Matthew Travis was the star of the show with a big-hitting innings against a team who had knocked us out of the same competition in the previous two seasons. Disappointingly we fell at the next hurdle against Ormskirk with probably our worst performance of the season. Throughout the rest of the term we played some very good cricket and built up a winning streak with comfortable wins against Cowley and Kirkham, and a one run win against Cheadle Hulme. A heavy defeat against King's Macclesfield and a narrow loss against Ashville College brought the team back down to earth.

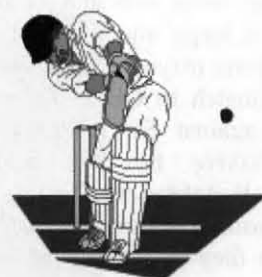
However, the team finished the season with three resounding victories against William Hulme's, Q.E.G.S. Blackburn and Sandbach.

The strength of this team was undoubtedly their team spirit. Nineteen squad members played this season and, regardless of the changes, the team maintained their enthusiasm, skill and commitment. David Taylor found form with the bat in the second half of the season and was unfortunate to finish two short of a century against Q.E.G.S. Other top batsmen were Matthew Travis and Jonathan Glover. On the bowling front Taylor once again led from the front with several fine performances, including a hat-trick against Cowley. John Findon was the pick of the other bowlers, showing consistency and pace throughout and finishing the term with very good bowling figures.

Hopefully, many of this squad will move into Senior cricket next season with confidence. Certainly, it was a

pleasure to work with them and I look forward to observing their progress in future seasons. I must also thank Mr. Newton for his support each Thursday afternoon.

PGT



Under 14

P 9 W 7 L 2

This season has been very successful. We had a big and talented squad. The first game of the season was against QEGS whom we managed to bowl out for 97 with Tom Barling taking a hat-trick in the last over. We successfully chased this score only losing two wickets. Chris Long guided us home, making a fine 33 on a difficult wicket.

An easy initial victory in the Bury Cup was followed by a lowlight in our season. When Bury were all bowled out for 120 in a 30 over game there were always going to be problems. Only Mohammed Ahmad and Ali Shafiq managed to score more than 20. In response Manchester Grammar reached our total with only one wicket down. However MGS were not nine wickets better than us.

With rain falling and the pitch water-logged we were reduced to a

bowl-off in the next round of the cup. Derby managed to hit 3 against our 1 and Bury were out.

With some positive words from Mr. Aston we went into the next match wanting to make amends. Cowley College batted first, making 107 from their 25 overs. This total might have been a lot more if their opening batsmen hadn't been removed by Stephen Tetlow who ended up with figures of 4 for 16. We easily reached this total with Chris Long reaching his 50.

Cheadle Hulme thought they had won our next match after scoring 159 from 25 overs. Our batsmen had other ideas and we passed their total with 10 overs to spare. Chris Long made a superb 72 not out with good support from Seh Mahmood (37) and Tom Barling (36 not out).

Against King's Macclesfield in a closely-fought game we showed good

team spirit and managed to scrape another win. They made 79 from their 25 overs with Jordon McBriar and Mohammed Ahmad each taking three wickets. The last ball of their innings resulted in one of the best catches of the year by Peter Phillips behind the wickets. We just passed their total with Tom Barling making 57 not out.

In the last game of the season at Sandbach we elected to bat first and made 119 from 20 overs, Tom Barling making 38. Sandbach only managed 99 in reply after some excellent bowling from Ethan Clough, who took 3 wickets.

Thanks to Mr. Aston our fielding has improved a lot, consolidating our strength with bat and ball. We would like to thank Mr. Aston for a very enjoyable year.

Tom Barling

Under 13

Lack of consistency is perhaps the most appropriate phrase in summing up the season for the U13s. There were good victories in 50% of the games and a couple of heavy defeats, namely to MGS and King's Macclesfield. Other games however which should have been won were thrown away. An excellent batting performance at Cheadle Hulme, where 125 for 7 was posted in our 25 overs, was ruined by a bowling display in which 30 runs were handed to the opposition in the form of wides.

The team suffered from the loss of captain Daniel Lomax with a broken

arm after only one game in which he scored 50. Jake Neary proved to be an able and enthusiastic deputy, having some success with both bat and ball. Deputising behind the stumps Nick Street also improved as the season progressed. Alistair Dickson's no nonsense approach to batting and his quick footwork brought him runs regularly and the most consistent bowlers were Neville Mamoowala and Ryan Edwards who both bowled accurately. James Lester scored runs and took wickets but, like Jake and Alistair, sometimes tried to bowl too quickly before he had line and length fixed.

James Kettleborough and Chris Ganz came through into the batting line up as the season progressed and Chris in particular had some good innings late on in the season. Edward Hall from time to time worried opposition batsmen with flight and turn and should be encouraged to keep on going.

All in all there were encouraging signs over the year and given greater consistency, to go with the obvious enthusiasm, this side could do very well in the future.

CNJH

Under 12

P 13 W 7 L 6

Our season consisted of thirteen games, seven wins and six losses. We had a large squad of players and everyone played a part. We lost our first match to QEGS followed by a win against St. Joseph's, with an impressive bowling performance from F. Ashfaq and batting from M. Ferguson. In our first match against MGS they bowled us out for 39. In the return match we lost by only 19 runs: U. Ibrar got three wickets, with

Z. Malick and S. Excell retiring on 25. S. Mahmood bowled an impressive two overs against Cowley taking 4 wickets, which helped us keep Cowley down to a mere 14 runs. West Hill saw another victory with Z. Malick retiring again, this time on 30. We lost against Kirkham by two runs; M. Ferguson and S. Excell were retired on 30 and 32 respectively. G. Bevan bowled 3 for 14 off 4 overs. Sandbach were bowled out for 58. G. Bevan bowled 2 - 1 off 2 overs and S. Excell 4 - 4 off 4 overs. The squad

worked well together throughout the season.

We also had a good run in the Lancashire Cup, reaching the quarter final, beating Turton by seven runs. A special mention must go to M. Ferguson for his classy 40. Our good run in the cup ended against MGS though the team spirit was remarkable.

Sam Excell

SENIOR CROSS-COUNTRY

The Senior Cross-Country team had quite a good season with its Wednesday afternoon fixtures through the Autumn and Spring terms. Talented new recruits from the 5th year more than compensated for the 7th form leavers. In fact the new team remained unbeaten at home and our leading runner, Ciaran McCaughey, came first in all his races until an injury put an end to his season. Although primarily a track athlete, he produced some outstanding performances, most notably on a difficult course at Lancaster and in setting the fastest time on the home course for at least three seasons.

Special mention ought to be made of the senior course as used for home matches. In the 33 years I have been organising the team it has stayed essentially the same, consisting of a four mile circuit of Elton Reservoir. Visiting teams are always surprised and usually impressed by the rapid transition from urban grottness to attractive countryside with distant views of the Pennine moors. And being in the countryside it has the traditional features of ill-bred dogs, mud, lack of sign-posting, fences and the possibility of tripping over which

don't always appeal to our guests. The cycle route using the Wellington Street viaduct has significantly improved the start of the run, despite occasional encounters with horse and motor cyclist. A few Old Boys may remember the days when the course involved running through the dingy and damp "Tunnels" beneath this then disused railway track and then emerging into the sunlight just off Bolton Road.

Andrew Hoyle is another of our 5th year recruits. His progress through the season has been remarkable; he now regularly finishes as our third placed runner. Very gamely he took up the challenge to run as the only BGS representative in the Stonyhurst Invitation Race. Max Wright, another newcomer, had a 100% attendance record and significantly improved his fitness in preparation for a military career. Other occasional fifth year runners were Alex Lewis, Tom Makin, David Nield, Marc Woolfe and Warren Bluer: it is hoped that they can make a larger contribution to the team next season. Philip Douthwaite, the team captain, had a consistent final season, always starting each race slowly but pulling through the field to finish

(usually) in the first four places. Tom Harrison, Paul Broadbent and Richard Turck have been highly valued team members: totally reliable with excellent attendance records and guaranteed to help create a good atmosphere on the away fixtures coach. George Kirkman contributed to team victories by running on three occasions when there was no 1st XV rugby match.

As to the matches themselves, we started the season again with a long journey to Newcastle-under-Lyme to face formidable opponents in the form of King Edward's School, Aston and Adam's Grammar School, Newport as well as Newcastle. We had two well-matched fixtures with honours equally divided against Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, now managed by ex-BGS teacher Pat Brotherton. Safety concerns meant our runners missed out on the bogs, hills and river on Lancaster's course this year and Arnold's course at Lytham no longer features sand-yachts.

No doubt next season will be just as interesting and successful.

MJC

House Cross-Country for Oxfam

Boys at Bury Grammar School have raised a staggering £2144 for OXFAM's 'Unwrapped' appeal by taking part in a sponsored cross-country event. The whole-school race saw boys run a two mile course, competing for their individual houses.

The House Cross-Country event is an annual competition at Bury Grammar School, but this year it was decided that the run provided an excellent opportunity for the boys to raise money for OXFAM's 'Unwrapped' appeal by gaining sponsorship from their family and friends. Several pupils individually raised over £30, including the boys pictured (left to right: Alex Trafford, Edward Clarke, Matthew Trafford, Thomas Townson, Andrew Lord and

Daniel Ward).

The money raised will be used to build a classroom and to provide 25 desks and chairs in a developing country. The funds will also buy 100 school lunches and purchase

educational materials for lessons. This will create a clean, safe learning environment for school children less fortunate than those in this country.

CC



ATHLETICS



All but two of our home track meetings took place this season and we remained unbeaten in all four matches. A close second at the Hulme Invitational track and field meeting made up for the disappointment caused by the cancellation of the English Schools round this season.

Joshua Mason (U12 100m), Robbie Hernandez (U14 200m), Max Beswick (U14 Hurdles), Ben Charlesworth (U15 Hurdles and High Jump) and John Findon (U15 Shot Putt) all set new School records. Ciaran McCaughey also set a new town record and not only won all of his races at the Bury Schools and Greater Manchester Championships, but also qualified to run at the English Schools in Gateshead. This year he reached the Final of the 800m and finished in 7th place overall.

At the Bury Schools championship a number of individuals enjoyed success. Our U12 team was placed 5th overall, the combined U13 and U14 team came 3rd, and the combined U15 and U16 team won their competition. Added to the success also enjoyed by Bury Grammar School Girls we won the overall championship this year.

PGT

SWIMMING



This year we had 10 matches: we won four and lost six, but we really enjoyed ourselves. This record doesn't give a good impression of the wealth of talent in the team, because a lot of the matches were close. The team was very enthusiastic and turned out regularly for training and matches.

Early in the year we did well and beat Bradford Grammar School away. They are traditionally a strong side. Some of the matches we lost by just a few points owing to the lack of experience of some of the younger swimmers.

In the senior team no one person stood out because they were all excellent in every match and won the majority of their races. These talented swimmers were Daniel Lansley, Ross Watson, Cameron Collins, Ben Jennings and Warren Bluer.

Two younger swimmers stood out, Nick Swirad and Alex Howe, and I am

sure the future team will be in good hands. I'd also like to mention Johnny Hughes for keeping us entertained on the bus.

Thanks to the X Factor himself, Mr Aston, for all his support, especially on the occasions when we lost narrowly, and also to Mrs Cooke for assisting with the home matches and taking all the training sessions. It's entirely down to her that I'm now fully competent at tumble turns.

Will Glancy

TENNIS

It was always going to be a difficult feat to match last season's success in tennis, but nevertheless our teams remained competitive in their fixtures. We won 7 and lost 6 of our matches against local opposition. The U15 team lost only one match in the Bolton League against an outstanding side from Rivington. The U14 team reached the quarter final of the

Lancashire Cup. Tennis Club on Wednesday evening was popular at the beginning of term, but for tennis to remain as a summer sport the fencing surrounding the courts needs to be replaced as inter-school fixtures require adequate facilities.

PGT



GOLF

The golf season got off to a fine start with the trip to Hawkstone Park which was organised by Mr. Hennessy. Alex Lundy won the overall trophy after 36 holes of golf, played on two different courses at Hawkstone. Not long after this trip we retained the team trophy at the S.E. Lancashire competition. Oliver Harrison was placed first overall and Jay McGarvey was runner-up in the U18 competition. Both Oliver and Jay were then selected to represent

Lancashire at the North of England Championships in Newcastle. Other notable achievements came from Matthew Bradshaw, who won the individual competition at the Inter-House golf, and Daniel Butler, who won the boys' competition in the Old Boys versus the School match held at Walmersley Golf Club. The Boys won the match this year by 3 * $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2V2.

PGT



OLD CLAVIANS' GOLF MATCH

The 2006 Challenge match was again hosted by Walmersley Golf Club and again everyone was impressed with the superb condition of the course and their hospitality. The School was seeking revenge after last year's drubbing; however The Old Boys fielded a very experienced team, captained by Paul Wright, in defence of the The Millennium Shield.

The Old Boys raced into a 2-nil lead before a resounding win (6 and 5) by Tom Grime and Paul Bailey narrowed the gap. A hard-fought contest between Michael Taylor and Ryan Tweedale against masters Toney and Sherlock ended in an honourable draw. So 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in favour of the Old Boys with two games to complete. This is when strength in depth comes to fore.

Jack Spellacy and the ever-youthful Melvyn Ince, standing in for the absent Nick Murphy, came home 3 and 1 and the final match was all over after 14 holes with an emphatic victory for Daniel Butler and Tom Parkinson (6+4). The Millennium Shield was therefore reclaimed by the School and captain Ryan Tweedale

duly collected the prize from Paul Wright.

Along with the team match play competition is an individual Stableford competition, the trophies being donated by Old Boy Terry McBride. There was much drama in the clubhouse with more recounts than in a close-fought general election, but eventually John Keate declared that Jack Spellacy's and Tom Parkinson's 39s were one short of Daniel Butler's 40 points. Mr. Sherlock, for the third time in six years, claimed the Old Boys' prize, also with 40 points.

Melvyn Ince, secretary, and Paul Wright thanked everyone and agreed that the event, played in a wonderful spirit, had been a great success and looked forward to next year's contest.

For the record here is a full list of the match scores.

MATCH No1
Matthew Bradshaw and Connor Murphy
Lost 2 and 1 to
Paul Wright and John Keate

MATCH No2
Harrison Woods and Robert Freeman
Lost 3 and 2 to
Glyn Evans and Ray Swinnerton

MATCH No3
Tom Grime and Paul Bailey
Won 6 and 5 against
Dave Freeman and Rick Purser

MATCH No4
Michael Taylor and Ryan Tweedale
Finished all square against
Mr. Toney and Mr. Sherlock

MATCH No5
Jack Spellacy and Melvyn Ince
Won 3 and 1 against
Rob Yates and Peter Jones

MATCH No6
Daniel Butler and Tom Parkinson
Won 6 and 4 against
John Holland and John Spencer

MATCH RESULT:
School 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ pts
Old Clavians 2* $\frac{1}{2}$ pts



MJS

Outdoor Activities and other excursions



MY TRIP TO PLAS MENAI

Plas Menai was the wave-riding, wall-climbing, heart-stopping adventure of a lifetime. The two hour bus ride was definitely worth it. As soon as we got there we were off to our rooms to put our bags down and then straight to lunch. After that we were straight off to an activity. The centre and the equipment were five star! There was a games room, a great dining room and the sleeping quarters were just right.

There was a choice of six activities: sailing, climbing, kayaking, powerboating, canoeing and windsurfing. Our group's first activity was windsurfing. It wasn't a windy day but there was a slight breeze. Stephen Hoyle and I had to be rescued as we drifted off too far and couldn't paddle back!

Our second day was just wow! First of all we had rock climbing which was hard at first but got easier. We had to climb all the way round a rock wall which was huge! For one person to do it, without falling off, took 25 minutes! I eventually did it - then it came to the REAL climbing. This was easy in comparison to climbing round. I scaled all the walls but one - I tried but just couldn't make it.

We had a packed lunch of butties, crisps, fruit, juice AND biscuits, then it was powerboating. It was windy, raining and the sea was rough. We put on our wet-suits, life jackets and jumpers. We needed all of them just to stop our blood freezing. It was miserable but the perfect weather to powerboat. Our instructor took us out first to a rock on Anglesey then it was our turn. One at a time we raced the other boat, did 360° turns and clung on for our lives. We had the blue boat which must have been the fastest. When we got back we were drenched.

The last good activity was sailing. It was so stimulating with the wind in your face. When we were with the tide we could fully tilt the boat. We each got to steer the boat which was hard when someone was right in front of you. When we changed direction we would all have to grab a rope and tighten or loosen it. I banged my head on the sail a few times! We

were shouting to the other boats, even singing.

The one thing I've not mentioned is the egg drop. We had to drop an egg from a high window without its breaking. We had a plastic bag and other items to make sure the egg didn't smash. Dominic and Matthew did that while Stephen and I composed the compulsory accompanying song:

Don't know where we're goin',
Have no way of knowin',
Riding on the spoon to the mouth.
Boiling for a livin',
Checking out the chicken,
Riding on the spoon to the mouth.
And we don't taste disgusting to anyone,
All we wanna do is taste like a chocolate bun,
And we're boiled and scrambled,
Scrambled and boiled
And best of all we don't like being FRIED!

Altogether we won the contest, with our unbroken egg, 'interesting' song and some bonus points.

On the last night we all slid down the huge grass bank and got filthy. We decided we should take off our muddy clothes and go to our room in our underwear, for a laugh - and we didn't get told off.

Kiefer Heatherington, 11D

"Plas Menai was great. In the centre were five groups. Each group had five activities. The activities were Sailing, Wind Surfing, Rock Climbing, Power Boating (my favourite) and Canoeing".



MY TRIP TO ULLSWATER - THE OUTWARD BOUND CENTRE

A two hour journey took us to the centre itself, which seemed bland and boring on arrival. Once off the coach though, we were soon to discover that it wasn't. We were split into groups and rooms. There were two groups - Tenzing (led by Richard) and Francis (led by Zac).

After lunch, we lined up outside on the front lawn. We were shocked to learn that we would be jumping into the icy depths of the second biggest 'puddle' in England. We did a strange warm up, before jogging down towards the lake (although the teachers were allowed to walk!). At the edge of the lake was a jetty. In turn we ran along it and jumped into the depths. It was cold! I resurfaced spluttering like mad with other people jumping in all around me, which was pretty scary. The funniest part of this was watching Mr. Elf throw himself off the edge of the jetty and into the lake! After this, we were told we would dry off by running up an extremely steep hill back to the complex - weighed down by our wet clothing. Once up at the centre we discovered that the run was in vain, as we were not dry and there were special rooms for drying clothes in anyway!

Once dry we were issued with water proofs then went off into our groups. The first major activity was team building. There was a range of tasks for us to complete, including

balancing on a beam of wood and rearranging ourselves into alphabetical order and order of birth, without falling off, with the second one done in silence. We also had to feed people through a spider's web without touching the web.

After dinner Francis group eagerly awaited the task of climbing the tallest tree on the site complex and then abseiling down the trunk; however owing to the weather, we had to settle for two different activities: the night line and tunnelling. During the night line experience we were blindfolded for a period of thirty minutes. Within this time, we walked around the complex, following ropes to guide us and figuring out when to duck, crawl, jump or climb, guided by the leader, who was constantly changing from person to person. It was all confusing and wet.

Tunnelling was great. We were given helmets with torches on and crawled along a network of sewage pipes. I fortunately picked a route which was wide enough for me to move in. The fun was on the way back, when a few of us attempted to follow the pipes back to the start in the dark. As we had only been through the labyrinth once it was hard to remember where all the different sized pipes were and so a lot of guess work was involved.

On Tuesday morning, we were



rudely awoken by the teachers at 7.00 in the morning. Breakfast at 7.30 was hectic and ample. We then had a free 40 minutes, although during this time we had to make sure that our rooms were spotless. At 8.50 we met again and learnt that we would be raft building. Within ten minutes we were layered to look like plump chickens. We were given wetsuits, fleeces and were told to put our waterproofs on. Round the corner, just before we set off for the lake, we were handed buoyancy aids to wear. We had to build rafts at the edge of the lake that were capable of floating away from the shore. We were able to use logs, barrels and rope, all of which were all about 100 metres away and extremely cumbersome to carry. After what felt to me like an eternity of carrying wood and tying rope the raft was finally fit to sail. Once out we had races with the other group's raft and then were told to swap rafts in the middle of the lake and perform various unusual tasks on them, which meant that many of us fell into the lake again!

That afternoon Francis group were told to put on their waterproofs and old trainers and follow Zac to one very tall pole - about 18 feet high and extremely thin. We would be



climbing up the pole and jumping off, attempting to grab a trapeze hovering a way out from the top of the pole itself. Easy, I thought - I'd already done it on a holiday camp. It was time for the first person to go up - me! I climbed up then launched myself into the air. I made the trapeze and stayed there dangling in mid-air for a few moments before letting go, which was the hardest part for me. After watching the other people I went up again. However, this time I was blindfolded! It was not as scary an experience this time, because I didn't have to worry about letting go of anything, as the trapeze was moved out of the way. I found it more fun in truth jumping off blindfolded.

Next was another team-building activity. All of the team plus a tyre had to get across monkey bars without anyone falling. This task was puzzling at first as we had to think about getting the tyre across and then it started to rain. Luckily, Sam and Simon had excellent grips, so consequently they threw rope over that we all walked across and then used a zip line for the tyre.

The evening activity was a variety of tasks which the two groups had to complete to earn points. Francis group were frantic at first and got off to a flying start; then we calmed down. The tasks included putting 100 items into a photo-film canister, finding six figure grid references, forming a unified structure with six hands and eight feet, and there were also some puzzle questions. We won by almost 500 points and laughed long and hard in the other group's faces. As this was the last night, however, we then had to do most of our packing - what a disappointment!

On the final day, I devoured another humongous breakfast and finished any vital packing, - after which we cleaned out our rooms and placed our bags in the games room. We next had to hand in all of our waterproofs at the stocks. Before we did this though, we had to wash all of them thoroughly. That was boring and tedious. However, what we then did was not a drag - quite the opposite.

The final activity was the zip line. I was one of the last to try this out. I remember going up the rickety ladder



and feeling fine, as if it were a breeze. But when I reached the top Zac started saying things like, "Your belly goes", and, "You feel like you're about to die when you first do this". Then he hooked something onto me and I started being dragged to the edge of the platform. When I jumped, it was totally top! It was like walking on air! I flew down the length of the wire, arms spread out like an eagle. I had a tiny bit of trouble getting down though. I couldn't get the rope releaser to pull back far enough to allow the rope to slacken and so was dangling up there for several minutes! Mr. Elf and Mr. Dennis attempted this one, and they both made uncanny noises as they

jumped off the platform.

All too soon this activity was over, and therefore so was our trip to Ullswater. After a hurried lunch, we said hello and goodbye to the arriving group (3UC) and clambered back onto the coach. Unfortunately the coach did not break down and by three o'clock the coach had pulled up along dreaded Bridge Road. Our bags were unloaded and we were officially back at school.

Thanks must go to the staff at Ullswater and all the teachers who accompanied us on a most enjoyable trip.

Alex Jackson, 3UA



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