



ST EDWARD'S SCHOOL
READING

November 2014

St. Edward's School Newsletter

FROM MR MOTTRAM

Autumn Term

Issue 76

As you know the School Council has decided to complete the Goal Challenge for Launchpad, the charity we have decided to support this year. Many thanks to all the boys who completed the Challenge and collected and handed in the money. A special mention must go to Thomas Brice-Wernham for raising an incredible £195.50! As part of the Launchpad awareness campaign the boys have been asked to sing carols at the Oracle shopping centre on Thursday 4th December, 9am till 12pm, and at the Reading Minster on 5.45 to 6.00pm. These are wonderful opportunities for our choir and selected boys to sing in front of an audience.

Keeping with the singing theme, we have the Carol Concert on Friday this week and it would be lovely to see you all there to join us in song at this special time. There will be a Chocolate Tombola afterwards as well as tea and mince pies for the parents.

The boys have been auditioning for the school production of Pinocchio and with casting now complete the rehearsals will start in earnest in January. We look forward to seeing you all at Pangbourne College for this exciting evening of entertainment.

The teachers have completed the second round of assessments this year and are preparing the grade cards to go out next week. The boys should be aware of their levels in Mathematics, Science and English as well as their targets for these core subjects both in National Curriculum Levels and objectives they should keep these in mind in order to move quickly to the next level.

On behalf of the staff I would like to wish you and the boys all the best for the festive season.

Grant Mottram

WELL DONE BOYS—STRAIGHT As IN THEIR GRADE CARDS



Matthew Perry and Max Williams

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5A ASSEMBLY

The Year 5s kicked off their year's assemblies with an assembly about 'New Beginnings'. To begin with, they soon realised the importance of making goals that were achievable and realised that even if a goal was achievable many other factors needed to be in place in order to conquer these goals. To this end they decided to play on the word RESOLUTIONS and were soon telling the school what each of their letters meant and how they could help a person achieve their goal. R stood for RENEW as a new beginning is a good time to start afresh and renew one's resolve. E was for EXCITEMENT as it is always important to feel excited about a new beginning or resolution. Ansh told us that S stood for STAND SURE and this was significant because the only way we could achieve our goals or resolutions was to stand sure. O was for OPPORTUNITIES as looking for opportunities were key to new beginnings and setting goals. Fraser told us that the L in resolution stood for LOVE and LIKE. As it is not always

easy to achieve our resolutions, it is important to surround ourselves with friends and family who will love and like us. Backing this idea was Henry, who said that the U stood for UNDERSTANDING. He felt that even if we failed in achieving our goals it would be important that friends and family, who love and like us, would understand if we failed to meet our resolution. The easy peasy (lemon squeezy) part was all about TEAMWORK, said Jai and I was all about IMAGINATION felt Dom. Using our imagination helps us to be ready to make new resolutions. The letter N reminded us that there are always NEW BEGINNINGS and the final S stood for SECURE. The Year 5s promised that if their advice was followed, everyone could feel secure in achieving their resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS ARE ABOUT BEING DETERMINED!

Mrs Andrew



FULL LIST OF WINNERS ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

CROSS COUNTRY

The St. Edward's annual Cross-Country of 2014 yet again provided an opportunity for all boys to test themselves against their peers and the environment. With around eighty boys from Years 3 to 8 running simultaneously around the 1.5 mile / 2.4km circuit, the anticipation and bustle for the leading places would be as fierce as it was in 2013.

Conditions on the day were ideal for running; there had been some light rain, but on the whole the ground was not particularly slippery. Therefore the start of the race proved to be a frantic charge for prime position, as each participant fought eagerly to get ahead of the remainder of the field. Within no time at all a mass of bodies had spread across the open spaces of the Prospect Park course and the race was in full flow. The boys attacked the course with great energy and the determination of many to outwit their closest rival was clear to see, as runners tried to claim those all-important point-scoring places for their house team.

The boys worked extremely hard to match and beat the times and performances in previous outings on the course. Noah Walcott and Josh Brooking smashed the previous school record by 50 seconds; a phenomenal achievement for both boys, which resulted in them deservedly obtaining cross country colours badges, along with Dillon Smyth, who placed fifth overall as a Year 3! The determination and efforts of all those involved showed just how much improvement and commitment the boys continue to make in their sporting pursuits.

After the competitors had crossed the line and re-grouped in their house areas, everyone keenly awaited the announcement of the places and points. Every boy had given their all and everyone involved from Year 3 to Year 8 was congratulated by proud parents and teammates for their contribution and achievements on the day.

The event itself was a tremendous success and my thanks go to the boys who made this such a well-contested sporting spectacle. In addition, huge appreciation must also go to the PTA for their continued support with such a wonderful and creative contribution to the refreshments stand. Much appreciation goes to all the staff, coaches and parents from St Edward's School who helped with marshalling the course, encouraging all the boys and collecting results at the finish line. Without their support, this event simply would not be possible.

Mr Fearn



RECEPTION GO TO THE LIBRARY

On Thursday 16th October, the Reception class went to Battle Library, as part of their topic of 'Learning Through Stories'.

When they arrived they were met by the Librarian, who read them 2 lovely stories. One was a brand new one they had only just received at the library called, "Use Your Imagination" by Nicola O'Bryne with the moral of, "Never try to trick a Rabbit" (Check it out, it is really good and held all the boys attention, there would have been some lovely pictures of their expressions if only the camera battery had not died)

The boys then had time to explore the other books in the library and read them in the Caravan in the library!

They found books we had looked at in school, books on Countries and books written in different languages. The boys enjoyed sharing the books with one another and behaved impeccably. We had a lovely morning out and 2 nice Thank you letters were written once we got back and sent off to the library staff.

Miss Cullum

YEAR 4 ANTI-BULLYING ASSEMBLY

The Year 4 assembly was a mixture of fun and serious messages about bullying. The boys had a complex series of scenes including flashbacks and some Chris Tarrant humour. It was a great way to end the week as the school had heard some heart-rending stories of children who had been bullied and on how

best for our boys to deal with similar situations themselves. The boys talked through strategies in PSHE and other subjects and a new 'Chatterbox' has been set up for pupils to ask for help in a safe and unthreatening way by indicating who they would prefer to talk to in order to solve the problem.



Mr Mottram



PTA CURRY AND QUIZ NIGHT

Thanks from the PTA to those parents and staff who came along to the Curry and Quiz on Saturday. It was a really friendly evening with lots of new faces – parents from Reception and Year 1 & 2 etc – lovely to see you there. In addition to having a great evening, we were able to raise £404 which is a fantastic amount and makes it all worthwhile for the boys.

“Thank you for a really entertaining evening! As usual, it was great fun and everyone was relaxed and had a lovely time. This is an impressive profit for the evening. Thanks to Rob Tomblin for challenging us so well and for being such an impartial judge (I can say this because we won!)” Mr Mottram, Principal

“We had a great night and thank you to all those that helped make the evening a success. I just wanted to let you know that we made £404 profit, which is great! This is a combination of ticket sales, bar sales, raffle and poppadam sales! A big thank you to everyone who took part” Lisa Langton, PTA Chair

Lastly we must let you all know that the curry has been wonderfully served by Pappadams restaurant at the school for the past 5 years – they come highly recommended and have been voted 21st out of 483 restaurants in Reading on Trip Advisor! <http://www.pappadamsreading.co.uk/>



THE WINNING TEAM!

YEAR 6 GO TO SPECSAVERS

The Year 6 boys were treated to a visit to the Shinfield Road branch of Specsavers, managed by Mr Vara (Sachin's dad), to supplement the science topic they had covered about how we see things. Mr Vara really engaged the boys in talking about how eye tests were conducted. We found out that the most common injury was fracture to the back of the eye by squash balls (as they are the perfect size to fit in the ball socket) and 20-20 vision is an American term which uses the imperial system rather than Britain which uses the metric system. Well that's a turn up for the books!

Several boys had their vision checked and all the boys had a go at using the ophthalmoscope to look in someone's eyes to see the blood vessels at the back of the eye. The boys attempted to do the colour blindness test. This was helpful to the rest of the class

to understand how one of the boys in the year struggles to interpret colour. Did you know that colour blindness is genetic and usually affects boys?

The boys were rewarded for their excellent behaviour with a pack of information which they enjoyed looking through. They came back to school gloating by saying "Should have gone to Specsavers". Thanks to Mr Vara and the driver John for making this possible.

Mr Vara mentioned that he was inspired by his work experience placement when he was at school. If you work in a workplace that you think the boys would be interested in finding out about, please get in contact, because as you see it really can inspire children in their future career choices.

Mr James



YEAR 5 & 6 SCIENCE QUIZ CHAMPIONSHIP

On Friday 7th November, 2 teams of boys from St. Edward's set off with Mr James to Eton End PNEU school to attend a regional quiz championship. The boys that attended were:

Team 1 - Robert Page-Mason, James Perry, Dev Mohan and Rishabh Ramesha

Team 2 - Fraser Robertson, Ansh Barot, Yusuf Umair and Ben Campbell

These boys had been selected from Year 5 and 6 in a lunch time pre-selection quiz. They then reliably attended four practice sessions during lunch time to train, so they deserve a lot of credit just for getting to the regional quiz.

The quiz got underway with all the teams fighting it out for vital points in every question. Each team member had a voting pod and the team could vote as they wished to try to maximise their points for each question. If

the team all went for the question and it was correct, they would score 100% of the points for the question but if they all voted the same way and the answer was wrong, they would score no points. It was a tactical team game as well as a quiz of knowledge.

It was a tight battle with all 8 teams present. Both of the St. Edward's teams scored well in the final round and made some ground on the leaders, Holme Grange. Unfortunately, Holme Grange were a very strong team who had let from the outset, answering virtually every question correctly, some of them Mr James did not even know the answer to!

In the end the St. Edward's team 1 and 2 finished 5th and 6th respectively with only 5 points between them (1455 to 1450) after 40 questions - an incredibly close battle! These were very good scores and the boys should be proud of how well they did.

D. James



REMEMBRANCE DAY AND TROOPER POTTS

Richard Bennett, Chairman of the Trust, History students from Reading College and Captain French and Brigadier Verey from The Berkshire Yeomanry spent the morning at St. Edward's to teach the boys about the Great War and Trooper Potts' bravery. The event began with an assembly for all the pupils and the guests were amazed at the boys' knowledge of the conflict. After the assembly boys were split into groups and either spent time with Captain French and Brigadier Verey learning about weapons used in war and the uniform and helmets worn by soldiers or worked with Reading College students and Richard Bennett writing poetry about the rescue or the Great War or painting the VC presentation.

Mr Fearn said, "The morning has really brought history to life for the boys and they have thoroughly enjoyed the activities and learnt a great deal in the process!"

Mr Mottram said, "A wonderful event for the boys in a week when we have all been remembering our war heroes. I would like to thank all involved in The Trooper Potts Trust for such an informative morning."



ST EDWARD'S BOYS WIN LOCAL RUGBY DERBY

Sunday 19th October saw St Edward's boys, Owen Warwick (year 1) and Alex Green (year 2) represent their club Redingensians Rams Rugby Club at Under 7s in the local Reading RFC minis festival. Along with their teammates they were key players helping to secure wins in all four of their matches against Reading RFC and Reading Abbey RFC.

Both Owen and Alex are strong players in the team and both very fast runners who ran in try after try. The winning scores were 6-4, 11-3, 9-5 and the final match against Abbey was a very close end to end game with the final score being 9-8 to Redingensians!

The teams relentless tagging meant the other teams could not easily breakthrough their defence and the team showed some great passing and evasions skills but also enjoyed some lucky passes and interceptions which made for great viewing from the side-line. The team had no substitutes and played their matches literally back to back – their determination, stamina and conduct was admirable.

Redingensians entered three teams in the Under 7 age group and they won all three groups which is a great testament to their commitment and efforts and which has made their club very proud of them.

Redingensian's Under 9 squad also enjoyed success at the festival, and featured St Edward's boys Rhys Warwick, Ollie Ireland, Pierce Brown, Nathan Green and Elias Cevikel-Li (year 4), with Nathan and Elias' team winning their group. This was a great result in only their second ever full-contact rugby festival. All the boys have shown great courage and discipline in starting to adapt to contact rugby and this is testament to that.

Redingensians run fun training sessions every Sunday morning at 10am at their Old Bath Road ground and everyone is welcome.

Coach Elaine Warwick Redingensian's U6&7

MORE SUCCESS FOR ANISH IN GOLF

I'm delighted to inform you about yet another success for Anish Bhadresa, Year 7, whereby he won the under-13 section of a significant county junior golf competition during the half term. This was an end of season competition only open to those juniors that had top-two placings in other county competitions during the season - hence the title "Champion of Champions." Anish had qualified for the event by winning a competition during the summer as profiled in the school's September newsletter.



MATCH REPORT

St. Edward's A put on a very strong and committed performance against Brockhurst who had the advantage of a number of subs and whilst this made the boys anxious it would turnout that due to the strength and team spirit of St. Edward's their opponents would need them.

St. Edward's in defence were fearless and their relentless tackling and the speed of their defensive line put real pressure on Brockhurst creating numerous turnovers. St. Edward's game progressed well and they learnt to capitalise on lose balls quicker and used their strength well to win the ball in mauls. They drove Brockhurst back again and again and in the second half St. Edward's took control of the game and kept Brockhurst pinned in their own half. In the spirit of it being a friendly and with St. Edward's well in the lead Brockhurst were allowed to field an extra player to try and even up the score but to no avail. In attack Ollie and Rhys played

well as centres taking the game to Brockhurst and linking up well with Elias and Nathan who made good ground and got the ball out to Alex and Reiss-Alexander on the wings. The use of space, speed and consistent passing was a joy to watch. The pace of the game meant closer support was needed at times and the boys needed to avoid the desire to take the ball into contact so much, as on occasion they were losing the ball, but they were so well in control in attack, especially with the speed of their wingers, they ran in 10 tries to Brockhurst's 3. The win was a real team effort as whilst the wingers scored the majority of the tries it was the play-making by their team mates to release them into space that helped them score. The boys played with such confidence as their lead increased they even enjoyed some creativity using basketball style passes over the top of players to create space and score, much to the enjoyment of the spectators.

Report by Mr Warwick

6C ASSEMBLY

On the 24th October, 6C presented their assembly with a title of "I am special and unique and I can work hard to achieve my goals".

The boys talked about how in their tutor group, successes are celebrated. They each said something they felt they did really well, a special talent that they felt they had and wanted to share. The ideas were varied, from making the best chocolate brownies, to speaking 3 languages fluently!

They had also prepared 'Certificates of Excellence' for each other to praise each other's special talents and recognise achievements within their peer group. These have been laminated and displayed in our tutor room to remind them of how talented they all are. I was pleased to see a great variety of sports and a range of interests the boys have from football, tennis, cricket and swimming to having lots of knowledge on World War 1 and 2, being a loyal friend and being able to make people laugh!

The boys also designed posters to represent themselves and their interests and we have displayed these around our tutor room.

With Yusuf, Ben and Dev as narrators, members of 6C acted out the story of the woman, which was humorously portrayed by Diamond Edwards, with four sons. A spirit, wonderfully brought to life by Oli Langton, blessed each of the sons with a special and unique talent. One was a beautiful singer, one an excellent farmer and the third a talented artist. But the fourth did not seem to have any special talents? By the end of the story the woman had realised, having seen an excellent rendition of 'Happy' by Shalom Robinson, that her fourth son shared all the talents of the other three, simply by having been a good learner!

6C wanted to share some of their special talents by teaching them to others. Abdullah and Yusuf taught the rest of the school how to say hello, how are you in Arabic.

Marhaba! Kayfahaluk?

6C ASSEMBLY—CONTINUED

In our PSHE lessons, we are also planning to teach something new to each other. It may be a few words of a 2nd language we speak at home or how to play a musical instrument or do a sport skill.

The boys talked about examples of perseverance and being excellent learners that have led people to achieve great things, from Thomas Edison and the invention of the light bulb to motivational words from the American actor Will Smith.

Thomas Edison:

"I haven't failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that didn't work"

Will Smith:

"The 1st step before anybody else in the world believes it is you have to believe it!"

"What's the point in being realistic? It just puts up a barrier!"

"There's no reason to have a Plan B, because it distracts from Plan A!"

Shalom concluded our assembly by reading a prayer to make us think about how unique and valued we are.

Thank you that you have made me me.
Thank you that I am unique; that even my fingerprints are different;
Thank you for the things I am good at and enjoy doing.

Help me to be the best I can be and to never give up on my dreams.
Thank you for my family; for those who made me as I am.
Thank you that I have things in common with my friends, but I am different and unique.
Thank you that I live in a country where we are allowed to be who we are. Help us to work together to make this last.
Amen.

Mrs Carlisle-Smith

