



# TAVERHAM HALL

## Preparatory School

9 October 2009

Dear Parents

This week's newsletter starts with a photo of last Friday's victorious Under 11 netball side who won their tournament at Thetford in style. More details to follow.



### ***Euro Language Challenge***

James Graver represented Taverham Hall in the semi-final of the Junior Language Challenge 2009 and came 16th out of the best 28 competitors in the Anglia region. A fantastic achievement considering that the language he had to learn the basics of was... Korean! A well-deserved Headmaster's commendation for James and all our congratulations on this superb effort!

Continuing with the theme of languages, the winners of the European Day of Languages Treasure Trail are listed below. Well done to the following teams who followed the clues in French to 15 locations in our grounds and gave the most accurate answers to the questions about Europe, the world and nature.

Y8 winners Robert Goldsmith, Blyth Few, Scott Wigglesworth, Freddie Gayfer  
Y7 winners Sacha Burke, Ellie Richardson-Howell, Victoria baker, Sophie Owles  
Y6 winners Hermione Buttery, Isobel Hall, Rosie Griggs, Anna Jolly, Sophie Wigglesworth

Y5 winners George Clements, Harry Darley, Toby Cooke, James Graver  
Y4 winners Emily Chapman, James Cherry, Jabez Cooke, Alfie Eagleton  
Y3 winners Harry Dunn, Oliver E, Joshua Burton, Louis Clark, Daniel Hamilton,  
Thomas Barter, Victor Konstantinidis, Yuri Bettoni

Winners of the best outfits representing multiculturalism on the day go to the following pupils.

Y3 Louis Clark – Thailand  
Y4 Joseph Fagg - Scotland  
Y5 Amelia and Lydia Ellis-Baumber - Spain  
Y6 Rhys Pearson-Shaul - Zulu tribes  
Y7 Samantha Blackman - Portugal  
Y8 Cecily Rainey - Kenya  
Staff Mr Hamilton - Scotland

### ***Nursery***

The older Nursery children have begun learning about the rainforest this week and have been exploring patterns that may be seen on the various creatures that inhabit the jungle. Lots of “hands-on” activities have been devised to create habitats using compost, collage materials and play animals.

The younger class have been exploring our woods with their new teacher Miss Linton, who is enjoying finding out what Taverham Hall has to offer in the acres of woodland and parkland.

Year 8 children have been reading stories to the Nursery children this week as part of their Book Week. Blyth Few certainly engaged the children with a story of “Where the Wild Things Are”!



## ***Pre Prep***

This week our Reception children have been busy baking jam tarts and designing crowns as part of their work on nursery rhymes, in particular the Queen of Hearts who made the tarts!

Year 1, as part of their project of bodies, have been examining bones and lots of art work based on the human skeleton. This will be further explored next week by identifying the various bones in a real life size skeleton.

Year 2 having been busy in English with writing descriptions of famous story book characters and as a result they have produced some wonderful pictures.

## ***Geography and History***

Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed their geography and history fieldwork in the beautiful town of Framlingham in Suffolk. Framlingham staff put a great deal of effort and planning into the day and the children took part in a variety of outside activities. The freshwater mere allowed the children to study the changes in vegetation in such an unusual environment and the impressive ramparts of Framlingham castle provided a superb example of Norman castle building. It was surprising then that this seemingly impregnable fortress was surrendered without a fight in the only siege it faced in the reign of King John! The final task saw the children studying the river bed of the Ore that bounds the school and one group including Mr Newton had great fun at the end trying to clamber out of it! Our thanks go to Framlingham's head of Geography, Mr David Barker, for arranging such an interesting range of activities.

## ***Drama and Music***

Mr Drew-Batty has been busy incorporating drama for our younger pupils into the curriculum with great success and National Poetry Day on Thursday was celebrated by combining musical compositions with the children's own poems. Charlotte Billig, Rosie Griggs, Rhys Pearson-Shaul and Isobel Hall all contributed extremely well in this regard.

Thursday evening's Junior Concert was the perfect opportunity for a number of pupils to perform to an audience for the very first time. Not surprisingly they were nervous but all deserve huge credit for providing the audience with a really enjoyable evening. The variety and standard was exceptionally high overall and the pupils' enjoyment of the event was very evident. The Year 3 and 4, who gave a lovely musical version of the Wooden Horse, deserve special mention as does Mr Drew-Batty whose hard work and gentle manner with the children was appreciated by pupils, parents and staff.

## **Radiator of the Week**

It has been fascinating to observe several form periods this week where one of the topics for discussion has been how best to formulate friendships. This has been a focus in our assemblies this week.

Pippa Crabtree received both the radiator of the week award and a Headmaster's commendation for her work in the dormitories and in the library. On this point Miss Chapman, the new Head of English is very keen to update and refurbish the library and any parent who may feel they have the time or inclination to assist in this exercise should contact either Miss Chapman or the office.

## **DT Hobby**

Conal Murphy and Ryan Martin proudly escorted me to the swimming pool on Thursday where Mr Banks and I witnessed the maiden voyage of their 'boat', HMS Never Give Up, designed and constructed in the DT hobby. Ryan claimed it was "the best day of my life" as the contraption not only floated but moved gracefully across the pool. The photo below illustrates their sense of achievement and enjoyment. Both Ryan and Toby received Headmaster's commendations for their work.



## **Sport**

Sadly the rugby fixtures at St Felix on Wednesday were cancelled due to the hard grounds but here as promised are the details on the girls' Under 11 triumph...

Under 11 Netball Tournament at Thetford

*This team played outstanding netball all afternoon, not just individually but as a team, making play look slick and professional. We beat Fairstead House 9-0, Downham Prep 16-0, Riddlesworth Hall 10-3, then we beat our hosts Thetford Grammar, 12-1 before having a rest period. With one match left to play it was important that we maintained concentration and the standard of play that we had produced thus far. Although it took a few minutes to settle in to play again we were victorious, finishing 10-0 against Swaffam Convent School. Our team play, as well as shooting skills, were acknowledged by other team coaches and I believe we were worthy winners of the tournament. It is impossible to choose a player of the match because all looked so good and we were very proud of them. Well done **Charlotte***

***Billig, Annie Serruys, Hermione Buttery, Rosie Griggs, Anna Jolly, Sophie Wigglesworth, Sophie Richardson and Jemma Crossley.***

The boys were at the same venue but playing football..

Under 11 Football Tournament at Thetford

We started against Thetford Grammar and found ourselves 2-0 down due to some indecisive defending. Jack van Poortvliet scored a great goal after a good run to leave us needing one more goal to draw. We pressed forward but just ran out of time. We then played Fairford House who won 1-0 with their only real chance of the game. We dominated possession and territory but were still a little disorganised at the back. Downham Prep were our next opponents and we were, by this time, much more organised. Charlie Sizer scored a good goal after an excellent ball from Harry Darley, only for Downham to equalise. We pressed forward and a storming run from Charlie ended up with the ball sitting up nicely and he volleyed it into the back of the net from quite a distance for the winner. The boys were very excited to get a win in their first competition and against teams who played regular football. Our final match was against Norwich Road School in Thetford who has some very skilful players. We played well and competed physically but found ourselves 2-0 down with only seconds to play. We didn't have time to force a draw but Ryan Green scored a spectacular volley from just past the half way line. It was an enjoyable experience for the boys and Mr Hamilton. It was really good to see them develop as a team. Kieran Peters played well in goal, Robert Baker and Oliver Conway play effectively in a number of positions. Oliver Obeney caused the opposition all sorts of problems and Harry Darley held the ball up well up front. This was an U11 tournament so I was pleased that we managed to compete with three Y4s in the team and that those Y4s were our goal scorers. This bodes very well for the future...

***Another fantastic sporting achievement took place on Tuesday with the very promising Under 9 boys' rugby team... Mr Ross takes up the story..***

The U9 boys played Town Close away. The boys were really fired up for this encounter and made a perfect start. Jack van Poortvliet passed the ball to Ryan Green from the pass back and Ryan ran through the opposition to score a try with less than ten seconds on the clock. Jack scored a good try himself before Mikey Keith, Charlie Sizer and James Cherry all scored to make the half time score 5 tries to none. Mikey scored again just after the restart so some changes were made to allow some of those who had played in the B fixture to play for the A team. I am pleased to say that Joshua Burton played very well at scrum half, Louis Drane ran and tackled well on the wing and Aaron Hollinger put in a strong performance with some strong running and determined tackling. This added enthusiasm allowed Charlie to bulldoze through for another two tries before he was replaced by Greg Chamberlain who really got stuck in, in his first outing for the A team. Felix Heywood battled hard all afternoon, as did Harry Williamson and Josun Cole who were not giving Town Close a moment to catch their breath. Walter Buttery played at Fly Half in the second half and showed what he is capable of when he has the ball in his hands. The team pushed forward and were rewarded with an excellent try for Josun Cole, his first for the A's, just before the final whistle. A good result 45-0 but the boys will need to start tackling again as there was not enough of this on display and the boys cannot rely on Jack and Mikey to do all the tackling themselves.

### ***The B team had a tougher encounter..***

In a close encounter Taverham Under 9's B team lost two tries to 1 to Town Close. Two early, break-away, tries from Town Close left Taverham a difficult task for the team as they tried to get back into an evenly contested match. The first half was dominated by the forwards play in the Town Close half of the pitch, but the slick passing of Town Close and some early missed tackles from Taverham allowed the home team to score twice. The second half saw a marked improvement in tackling. Man of the match for Taverham, Josh Burton, tackled with skill and determination and was supported well by Aaron Hollinger, Louis Drane and Gregory Chamberlain. Gregory eventually scored from a penalty pass on the left wing. The team showed a great improvement in the second half and are making great progress through the season. Four of this team then came on as subs for the A team that played after, showing how much they are starting to close the gap to the top side.

The Under 9 girls' had a long but exciting afternoon at the Brandeston Netball Tournament. There were 7 teams in our pool, so we had 6 first round matches to play. We started against Riddlesworth winning 1-0 and by the end of the first game we were much more focused. Our next game was against a very strong and tall Town Close team, which we lost. We lost narrowly to Culford, the beat Holmwood House 1-0. We drew 2-2 with The Abbey before losing to a very strong Brandeston A team who were the eventual winners of the tournament. Unfortunately rain prevented the play offs against teams from the other pool, so we finished 4<sup>th</sup> in our pool. Everyone improved noticeably during the afternoon but the most improved player was Elana Foster and player of the tournament was the ever energetic Molly Crabtree. Thank you to Mr Unwin for his help and to the parents for their fantastic support.

### ***Charities – raising awareness***

The Jeans for Genes day raised £162.25.

It is always good to see staff leading the way and our congratulations go to Mrs Marles who completed the 15 mile Bure Valley Railway Walk in aid of Prostate Cancer. Should you wish to sponsor her after the event, please donate at the office!

### ***Operation Christmas Child***

A plea from Mr Unwin for you to keep your shoeboxes ready for this year's appeal. You will receive a letter and a leaflet before half term. The children will have an assembly explaining the appeal to them and how to pack a shoe box. The shoe boxes will be collected after half term (the date to be confirmed) and a few of the Prep school children will have an opportunity to visit the warehouse and see how the boxes are checked, sealed and made ready for transportation.

### ***The Giving Machine***

If you shop online you could help raise funds for the school. Find the website <http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk> and shop online from here. There are a wide

variety of companies who will donate a percentage of the sale to our school. Happy shopping!

### ***Notice Boards***

It is good to see the newly fashioned parents' board getting some use but please don't be shy as it needs filling up!

### ***Safety and Security***

Due to the obvious need to concentrate on ensuring the pupils' safety is absolutely paramount, the decision has been made to close the gate to the covered way at 0830 in order to deter any unwanted visitors and consequently late comers will need to enter school via the main entrance and report to Reception and sign in there. The gate will be opened in the morning at 0745.

The number on the key pad has been altered and pupils and parents are requested not to ask for this number for obvious reasons. Quite simply, once the children are in school they will be escorted out of the gate by staff when the need arises, and we will all rest more easily in the knowledge that we are doing everything possible to deter strangers from visiting the premises.

May I also make a plea for parents to ensure pupils are in school by 0820 at the latest as registration takes place at 0825 and pupils arriving later than this will be recorded as late in the school register.

On a final point, please ensure that you adhere to the speed limits around school as with the nights drawing in it makes it even more important that the children can walk safely around school and the car parks without fear of speeding traffic.

### ***Open Morning Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October***

Open Morning next week promises to be a very busy event and Year 7 & 8 will all act as tour guides throughout the morning. All tour guides must have a tie to accompany their white shirts and blazers.

### ***Old School Desks***

There are still a number of old school desks available for sale. Please see the office if you wish to purchase one.

### ***Bags2school***

Please bring any items you wish to donate to the Sports Hall on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

I do hope everyone has a restful weekend and whilst the U12 rugby players are in action on Sunday at Finborough, there will be no football tournament on Saturday.

M A Crossley  
Headmaster

***Forthcoming events***

***Year 3 Parents' Evening – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 1545***

***Whole School Opening Morning – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 0930 – 12noon***

***Whole School Bonfire Night – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 1830 onwards***

***Friends' Quiz & Chips Night – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 1900***