

AWARDS EVENING

John Cawdell, Head of Leisure at Mole Valley District Council was the principal guest at the Annual Awards Evening.

John was delighted to be with us as he has developed a strong link with young people in the area, having a major role in the development of the Youth Voice scheme which has been so successful.

The evening was again an opportunity to celebrate the success of young pupils through to those students who had left us last summer. The school appreciates the wonderful community support that enables us to run the event.



Left to right: David Blow, Janet Housden (Chair of Governors), John Cawdell (Principal Guest), Chloë Keedy (Head Girl), Jon Langford (Head Boy), Fiona Jamieson (Head Girl 2004/5), Guy Simmonds (Head Boy 2004/5).

Opening of Bradley Arts Centre



The official opening of the Centre was a very successful occasion and the new Bradley Arts Centre was declared opened by the Chairman of Surrey County Council, David Davis.

Mr Davis and the other guests visited the new rooms and were entertained by a guitar solo from Lower Sixth student, Matt Coughlin, and the performance of an extract from 'Pygmalion' by the Upper Sixth Theatre Studies group.

Pictured left are David Davis, David Blow and Janet Housden with the commemorative plaque.

- Language College News... page 2
- School Visits page 4
- Charity Fundraising page 6
- Music page 7
- Life in the Sixth Form page 8
- Sport page 10



We were delighted to hear from the DfEs last term that our bid for redesignation as a Language College was successful. This means extra funding for the school for the next three years.

We have also heard from the British Council that we have received a grant to promote a joint primary curriculum project with a partner primary school in Shanghai which is the main feeder school for Changzheng Secondary School, the Chinese school with which

we have had a link since 2001. Local primary schools have already started work on their "story sacks" to promote English at the Chinese Primary School. In return they are compiling "culture kits" to share amongst our primary schools for International Week and other curriculum projects.

As part of our Language College community commitment, classes in French, Spanish and German were held on Tuesdays at 3.45pm last term for

primary school parents and their children.

Sylvie Lewis again ran a 10 week course for adults learning French last term on Monday evenings.

If there are languages that you would like to learn please contact Alison Owen, the Language College secretary, to find out if we are able to help you. We welcome enquiries from individuals, families, friends and businesses within our community.

Spanish Exchange

The school's first Spanish exchange took place in February. All post-16 students of Spanish spent ten days in the Spanish capital. Students were hosted by families from a school in the Atocha district of Madrid. Many people remember Atocha as one of the bombs in March 2004 went off in its beautiful railway station. Students visited the nearby Retiro Park and the newly designated remembrance garden created in memory of the victims of the blasts.

It was the Spanish school's first venture into the world of exchanges, and both 'legs' were incredibly successful. In Madrid visits were made to both Real's and Atlético's stadiums, to a European Cup basketball match, the Prado Museum, the Reina Sofia Museum, the Valley of the Fallen (a monument with huge political significance built in the beautiful Sierra Guadarrama after the Civil War), and students spent a lot of time immersing themselves in the life and culture of Madrid. Amongst the



many highlights was a four-hour long musical called *Hoy no me puedo levantar* based on the songs of Spain's most successful group of the post-Franco era, Mecano. The sight of English students singing along in Spanish with their Spanish student hosts with loud rock music and a sensational light show at 12.45am amongst a sell-out audience in a major theatre in Madrid should be an encouragement to any language learner.

The hot chocolate and churros (doughnuts) were popular features of a

mid-morning second breakfast on cold mornings.

The Spanish group spent three days in London, and one in Oxford and Brighton and a half day in Guildford. They thoroughly enjoyed their stay with English families who matched the generosity and warmth of their Spanish counterparts.

It is hoped to repeat the exchange next year and involve Year 11 pupils who study Spanish.

Mr Thompson

French Exchange

In January we were very pleased to welcome 43 pupils and 4 staff from Collège Sonia Delaunay in Gouvieux this year, our largest Exchange ever.

It is always an anxious time as introductions are made but all partners seemed to get on well, including some pairings of French boys with Ashcombe girls. We would be delighted to have more English boys participating in the Exchange.

Our visitors enjoyed trips to Canterbury, the Cabinet War Rooms, Windsor Castle and Brighton Pavilion. One day was spent locally in Dorking, following the town trail and visiting primary schools.

French pupils enjoyed a day at The Ashcombe with a special programme of ICT, English, Chemistry (making crystals) and Food (scone making and tasting) as well as one lesson with their partners.

English and French families arranged activities for evenings and at the weekend. The group of Ashcombe students in France enjoyed excursions to Paris, Versailles, Château d'Auvers and Chantilly.

Following our success of taking French pupils to local primary schools (St. Martin's, St. Paul's and Powell Corderoy have all participated), arrangements were made to visit a local primary school in Gouvieux, as well as lessons at Collège Sonia Delaunay.

Mrs Clarke

Language Competitions

A Latin reading competition was held at St Catherine's, Bramley and congratulations are due to two Year 8 pupils, Robert Moorcroft and Will Westcott who beat lots of pupils from other schools who had taken Latin for a long time. They also surprised the judges with the quality of their reading given the little time they have been studying this subject.

Congratulations also to Russell Jones of Year 11 who performed excellently at a British Council Chinese competition held at Djanogly School in Nottingham.



German Exchange

Following a very successful first leg in England last November our 11 pupils from Years 9 and 10 returned to Troisdorf, in February. The cold and wet weather did not dampen the enthusiasm for the visit and everyone was well received into the German families. Lots of activities were organised privately in the evenings and at the weekend.

The programme in Germany was varied and well organised. Our colleagues followed our lead and arranged a session

in the local primary school, as well as lessons with partners and an introductory talk about the production of wool (with German vocabulary). This proved invaluable when we went to a Living History Museum and pupils were given a demonstration and had the opportunity to card and spin wool.

No exchange visit to Troisdorf would be complete without the visit to the German History Museum in Bonn. It is a brilliant museum and the guides highlight the main points of interest in the 60 years' history since 1945. Pupils enjoyed their

visit to Cologne and the climb up the cathedral steps for breathtaking views across the city. Our tour of WDR television studios is always a favourite.

Partners spent the last day together at Brühl Schloss where they marvelled at the architecture and questioned some of the myths of the castle. They later had lunch together and enjoyed an afternoon at the bowling alley.

What is most encouraging is that many of the pupils are making arrangements to meet their partners again in the summer.

Mrs Clarke

European Languages Award 2005

Shortly after the last edition of this magazine came out we were delighted to be named as winners of the above award. At a ceremony at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, four Year 11 students [Emma Martin, Tom Lloyd, Rachel Barker and Russell Jones] represented the school and received the award from Sir Trevor McDonald.

During the ceremony further awards were announced and the students had to make two more appearances on stage when it was announced that the BMW

Languages in Business Award and the prestigious Mary Glasgow Award were to be given to the school, each one to the value of £1,000.

Edwin Glasgow, the nephew of Mary [an

eminent publisher] came to the school last term for the official presentation of the award. A special assembly was held and the cheque was presented to Miss Bird, Head of Languages.



Edwin Glasgow and Ms Sarah Bird



Pictured with the Award and cheques are Tom Lloyd, Russell Jones, Rachel Baker and Emma Martin



School Visits

Berlin 2006

After an exhausting plane journey, and an average of three hours' sleep all round, we finally arrived in Berlin, with a very tiring day ahead of us. However, despite the yawns, we had a very active and fascinating day visiting the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, seeing an existing part of the Berlin Wall, and, maybe most importantly of all, tasting the culinary delights of Germany: Bratwurst! We finished the day with an interesting talk about the history of Berlin from our Tour guide, but by this time most of us had fallen asleep on our desks!

Feeling somewhat more refreshed the following day, and after a considerably larger amount of sleep, we set off to see the recently built Holocaust Memorial, a landmark dedicated to the six million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust. We then moved on to the Topography of Terror, and to the infamous Checkpoint Charlie, followed by an evening of ten pin bowling, where some excelled and others, I'm sorry to say, were somewhat catastrophic!

On the third day the group spent the morning visiting the Sachsenhausen

concentration camp, located in Oranienburg, which claimed the lives of 30,000 – 35,000 victims. This was a valuable insight into what life was like for the poor victims of Nazi Germany, and seeing the camp and the way people were treated whilst inside was a shocking and moving experience for all.

Nevertheless, the group managed to raise their spirits once again upon arriving at the Olympic Stadium and seeing just how vast and impressive the building was. This was followed on the final day by a tour of the Cecilienhof Palace; another impressive building in which the Potsdam Conference was held in 1945. To finish off the trip, the group had a tour of the grand Reichstag building at night climbing to the top of the glass dome, and maybe feeling slightly queasy for it!



The visit was full of enjoyable activities, interesting history and valuable experiences which really helped the students to empathise with people living in Nazi Germany, and appreciate the emotional and physical suffering of these victims. The further understanding of German history that the students developed was precious, and the trip will be remembered for many years to come.

Amanda Wright (L6)

World War One Battlefields

During this school year the History Department have taken two trips to the Battlefields in France and Belgium. Well over a hundred Year 10 pupils have visited the cemeteries and front lines of Ypres and the Somme Valley. Pupils walked across the

battlefield where some 60,000 British troops were lost in two hours in 1916 at the start of the Battle of the Somme. On one of the visits the pupils took part in the Menin Gate Memorial Ceremony which occurs every day of the year at 8pm. Two pupils laid

flowers in front of 700 spectators. The pupils were moved to visit a grave of a 14 year old who was the youngest British soldier to have died in World War One, having lied about his age on his conscription papers.

Mr Robinson



School Visits

Romania

Mary Penman, now in the Upper Sixth, was one of fourteen students and two staff who went out to Romania last summer as part of our annual commitment to charity work there. Due to lack of space in the last edition of "Accent on Ashcombe" her article was omitted. Here is an edited version, updated with details of the shoebox appeal to which she refers in the last paragraph.

None of us knew what to expect when we set off for Romania. After a brief stop at Milan Airport, we arrived in Bucharest in the late morning and made our way to the main station for a long train journey to the North Eastern city of Iasi where we were going to stay.

One of the first things we noticed was the strange mix between poverty and affluence: the train was much better than most of those in England but we pulled into pothole-covered platforms and run-down station buildings.

One project we worked on involved building a playground at a children's centre in a village called Erbiceni and another was helping out at the 'Farm of Hope', a place where young men who have spent their lives in orphanages can learn agricultural skills. Amongst our tasks were cement mixing, road laying, sawing, painting, digging very deep holes and pulling up monstrous weeds in a corn field. We made a climbing frame complete with swing, tower and rope ladder, and a new cement floor in a room at the farm.



In the evenings we were taken to see various projects that 'Link Romania' maintains. Visiting a shanty town showed us just how much Romania is in need of help and how incredibly fortunate we are to be able to live in safe, sanitary conditions. We also visited the gypsy village of Slobozia and saw another community centre. This village is remote and even slightly bad weather renders it inaccessible.

Nevertheless, it is a stunningly beautiful place.

We met lots of people, all of whom were wonderfully friendly and committed to their cause. Probably the most inspirational people were the various groups of children who befriended us during our stay. Despite living with poverty and having demanding lives, these kids were entertaining, welcoming and happy.

We had a chance to see some of Bucharest. We walked through busy streets to the vast Palace of the Parliament which was built by the dictator Ceausescu from whose rule the country is still recovering. The palace, which extends underground as far as it does in the open air, is the largest building in Europe and the third largest in the world. It still dominates the city and is a constant reminder of Romania's recent troubles and the continuing gulf between rich and poor.

I doubt any of us will forget the time we spent in Romania. We learnt that even small things mean so much to these people and that the charity can make fantastic use of funds. For example, £250 would fully install a well that would make the lives of the people in Slobozia much easier. So in Charities Week and when it's time to collect shoeboxes again, be assured that even a small contribution can make a genuine difference.



Charity Fundraising

Charities Week

The Sixth Form came back from half-term raring to go with Charities Week. A strong Lower Sixth team had worked hard since Christmas to organise five lunchtime events and a staff versus Sixth Formers football match.

The week began with the Lower School Talent Show which featured a Year 9 band and a Year 8 dance group, and was won by the excellent Kayleigh Norris, who sang a solo piece.

'Strictly Come Dancing' on Tuesday was a huge hit. Four staff couples battled against each other to a wide range of music. Dr Mendham and Mr Robinson were very professional but the event was won by Mr Rosser and me with our own "freestyle" form of dancing! The Fashion Show on Wednesday was popular with the audience and thanks must go to a group of Year 10 girls who stepped in at the last minute after one group dropped out. Thursday saw the return of the teachers in "The Games", a

series of physical challenges that put Mr Hartley, Mr Smallridge, Mr Ketley and Mr Ellesmere through their paces. Mr Ketley came out on top in the end after a closely fought battle with Mr Smallridge over sit-ups and press-ups.

The finalé came on Friday with the Upper School talent show, where bands formed from students from Year 10, 11 and the Lower Sixth performed. There

were some excellent performances that were very popular with the audience, but the "Uncontrollable Thrusts" were judged to have won by the "clapometer".

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the Sixth Form, in particular Jolene Bull who coordinated all the events of the week.

Mrs Wright

Year 10 Big Breakfast

As part of the Year 10 Whole School Tutor Programme, we ran a Big Breakfast morning on Thursday 12th January to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust. This particular cancer charity was selected because in the autumn Nigel Revell, from Teenage Cancer Trust, spoke to the year group about his experiences as a teenager with cancer.

Over 90% of the year group participated in the Big Breakfast. Pupils had a choice of breakfasts and this year we added a fruit salad option. During the breakfast two of the Year 10 bands, Animosity and The Pyromaniacs, entertained the year group. Overall this was a very successful event with both pupils and staff enjoying themselves and £252 was raised for Teenage Cancer Trust.

Mrs Ruben

Royal Marsden

Once again through Charities Week we have been able to make a further donation to the hospital from the £3,000 raised. Following conversations with members of the education team supporting children with brain tumours, school donations will be made to help the development of ICT facilities within the children's ward.

Mr Thompson and I represented the school at a function held by the Royal Marsden to thank those individuals and organisations who had raised substantial amounts of money for the hospital over the years. During the ceremony the school received a certificate signed by Jimmy Tarbuck, a special guest for the evening.

Mrs Reed

Barbara Witts - 25 years service

Members of the Science department helped technician Barbara Witts celebrate 25 years of service to the school. Barbara has had a long association with The Ashcombe as both her daughters studied here.



House Events

The House Bazaars in December raised over £600 and thus financed the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.

Music

Spring Concert

The Spring Concert had its usual packed programme with a full range of year groups and wide spread of musical talent.



Year 11 Performance Evening

The Year 11 Performance Evening was a great evening with solos, duets and ensemble performances.



Life in the Sixth Form

Murder at Ashcombe Manor

It was a dark, cold night, and all that remained to be seen of Lady Victoria Fletcher was a chalk outline on the carpet. Ashcombe Manor, otherwise known as the Sixth Form Common Room, had been the scene of a terrible crime.

At one of the Sixth Form's most successful socials ever, over sixty 'friends and acquaintances' of the Lady gathered together in grief (or was it...?) for the inquest. Everyone had a motive, everyone had an alibi, but somebody was lying and, with this in mind, Jonny and I swapped our Head Boy and Girl hats for those of two not-so-secret detectives.

Mozart played on repeat in the background, characterising the classy charm of this wealthy estate, whilst Toby Barker stepped neatly into his role as the lurking butler, Kingfisher, plying the guests with Sainsbury's finest cheese straws and orange tango.

Highly convincing statements were put forward by all present: Reverend Jesus N'Tati Lutwama Serugo Lugo (Ed Judge) had been far too busy 'counting' the money from the Parish Poor Box to

commit a murder; Mr Gould the Cornish farmer (Marco Lopez) had been preoccupied with his 'vegetable' patch, Mr Slaughter the Gamekeeper (Tom Stenton) had far too many guns to 'polish' and Crazy Al the Homeless Bum (Richard Jolly) had been engrossed in his favourite soap opera, 'Temptation Island', in the basement. (Sadly, this was actually the case). Mr Goddard (Mr Woollett) would have been tending to one of his many 'observation stations', whilst Miss Roberts (Mrs Roberts) was probably trying to escape from the attic. Little Zoe Fletcher (Miss Ricciardi), meanwhile, was still cherishing 'the lolly and the hug' that had been given to her by a mysterious figure in the kitchen ...

It was sweet, little, vegetarian Miss Hall who eventually stepped forward as the psychotic, gun-wielding maniac who had orchestrated the night's events. With a glint in her eye, 'Roberta' (or 'Bob', by preference) claimed that getting rid of the 'old bat' had all been 'rather good fun', and this seemed, aptly, to sum up the entire evening.

Chloë Keedy

Christmas Ball

The question of tuxedos and evening dresses once again took precedence over less important matters of coursework and university applications for the Sixth Form last December as preparations for the Annual Christmas Ball got underway.

As always, a tooth and nail fight for tickets ensued, the great majority of Sixth Formers keen to get their hands on one of the 170 golden tickets.

The evening itself was a great success. Sixth formers were wined, dined and then humiliated as part of a comic Mini Awards ceremony arranged by the Senior Prefect team. Mickaela Wall was awarded for making the 'Most Ridiculous Comment' of the year so far, which involved a mix-up between 'Rhinosaurus' (yes – Rhinosaurus) and Unicorns, and Jack Conway won the 'Jack Trick Award', a special award tailor-made to fit the man attending his third consecutive annual Christmas Ball.

In a more complimentary fashion, Chloë Cooke and Sam Cumming were awarded with the "best dressed" titles, and Alex Patterson celebrated his newfound status as 'King of the Christmas Ball' by means of a slow dance with his new Queen, the one we all call Mrs Roberts!

The remainder of the evening was spent on the dance floor, boogying to the beats of DJ Mr Charles Coe, and generally having a good old festive time.

Chloë Keedy

World Cup Fever

As The Ashcombe runs its own version of the World Cup at lunch times in the Sports Hall (more of that in the next issue of this magazine), the Study Centre has been getting in the mood by promoting football literature. Study Centre manager Annette Page says the magazines and books on display are subject to much browsing, and that the pupils have taken a keen interest in features about the teams that she has linked to a map of the world.



Slapton Field Trip

As part of the A level Geography course all students must produce a coursework report analysing data collected in the field. In order to collect this data, 19 students spent a week in Slapton field study centre in Devon. The students worked extremely hard collecting and presenting data on ecological succession, urban morphology and coastal processes and management. Despite the adverse weather conditions - driving rain and sea mist - and lumpy beds, excellent data was collected and the students had a good time. The fieldwork tutor commended the students on their fieldwork skills and attitude.

School Council

The re-launch of the School Council has got off to a fantastic start with excellent commitment and enthusiasm from all pupils and students. The meetings are buzzing with ideas and recommendations to put to senior staff for their consideration. Having been given a grant of £1,000 from The Ashcombe Trust, students are actively considering how best to spend the money. Serious discussion and thought has been given to a range of school issues including developing a web page to aid communication and provide support to younger pupils, anti-bullying, the siting of new CCTV cameras, the uniform review, next year's student planner, water dispensers and food served in the canteen. Future discussions will include combatting litter and developing ideas regarding the uniform to submit to Governors.

Mrs Reed

Tanzania

We are delighted to have been awarded a three-year grant from the British Council for a Global School Partnership Award.

Working with the Department for International Development and Commonwealth Education Fund, we will use the money to develop joint curriculum links involving students and staff in both countries and we will be able to enrich our curriculum provision particularly in Humanities.

Peer mentoring

Our scheme, part of the Surrey Peer Support Project, has now been running for four years and 25 Year 10 pupils have been involved with this year's Year 7. The mentors are trained and the system here is coordinated by Miss Taylor.



Design Technology

Congratulations to Louise Shaw, Alexander Gowan Webster, Hugh Baker, Andrew Higgins, Curt Guven, Colette Parker, Sophie Mackie and Amy Birch from Year 8 who took part in a county-wide Science and Technology day for gifted and talented children held in Reigate.

Worldwise Quiz

The Geography department entered a team of Year 10 students into the regional rounds of the Geographical Association's Worldwise Quiz. Preliminary rounds were held in the school and a team of three - Alice Hearn, Laura Grimes and Louise Wilson - came fourth in the regional finals at Kingston University.

World Book Day 2006

The Study Centre held a number of activities to celebrate World Book Day on 2nd March. These included a lively and amusing talk to the Year 7s by the author, Peter Corey, a display of the favourite books of the staff, a book sale, quizzes and word puzzles.



Gym and Dance

The highlight of last term was the perennially successful Gym, Dance and Trampolining Evening. More than 80 pupils performed to an audience of 200 local primary school pupils in the afternoon and to parents, friends and teachers in the evening.

Performances this year were more diverse than ever. Pupils performed pieces from curriculum and extra curricular clubs, with dances from a number of different genres, including ballet, tap, contemporary and street jazz. Gymnastic pieces included compositional sequences incorporating apparatus, and some excellent displays of floor work.

All pupils performed in the initial display, with the opening composition of the 'Star Wars' theme as the musical inspiration. This spectacular start led on to some impressive individual and group sequences. The grand finale was to the 'Grease' tune of 'We go together', which proved very popular with performers and audience. It was fantastic to see so many pupils participating in the group trampette and vaulting display.

This year saw the introduction of the new 'Gym, Dance and Trampolining Award' to the pupil felt to have shown excellent levels of commitment to gym and dance over a number of years. This year it was awarded to Lucy Nicholls, who has performed in the last 5 shows and has always been a great role model to all performers.

Ms Doodson

Basketball

Fixtures have been played competitively at U15, U17 and U19 level. There has been mixed success with U15 and U17 achieving an equal number of wins and losses. However, the U19 were extremely successful in beating all the teams in the district. Outstanding individual performers were: U19 - Steve Thomas, Martin Laban, Iwan Llewelyn, Jack Conway and Harry Cooksey; U15 - James Swaine and Freddie Case.

Swimming

The Spring Term is marked by two very different swimming events for the school.

The Surrey Schools Individual Championships feature 100m events against tough competition from across the county. This year for the first time each swimmer could enter two events which raised the level of competition. Four girls travelled to Trinity School in Croydon in February to represent the school. Phoebe Fielding (Y7) was first in the water with a great swim in the butterfly and later completed a gruelling Individual Medley. Team-mate Katherine Hall was pleased with her times in the Lower Junior backstroke and freestyle events. Although a year young in the Junior age-group, Georgie Chapman (Y8) performed well in the freestyle and Individual Medley. Charlotte Mann (Y9) took on strong opposition in both butterfly and backstroke events and won them both in excellent personal times. She was delighted to represent Surrey in the Division XI competition against Kent, following a fantastic haul of medals in the County Club Championships.

The Rotarians' annual Swimathon event was again supported well by staff and students. The fast team consisted of U6 students Hayley Wearn and Claire Day, Jenny Martin and Chris Day (both Y11), Alice Wearn (Y9) and Ms Brown

from the Languages department. Facing several teams of adults from local clubs, the team from The Ashcombe pulled out all the stops to complete no fewer than ninety six 50-metre laps in the allotted 55 minutes. This fantastic performance has enabled The Ashcombe to keep the School Challenge Shield for the 11th year running and members of the Rotary Club will be visiting school for a presentation this term. Alice, Chris and Ms Brown stayed on for another hour to join six other teachers and 21 students who took over the whole pool to swim as six teams, each completing between 50 and 60 laps. As well as promoting the sport, the event is a tremendous fund-raiser and we hope to have about £600 to share between The Ashcombe Romanian Fund and the Royal Marsden Hospital. Thanks go to all who helped by organising, sponsoring or swimming in this enjoyable event.

This term, Mrs Carter and Miss Fitzgerald (both qualified swimming teachers) are joining forces with ex-pupil Rona Lucas, now Principal of the Swim School at Dorking Leisure Centre, to provide classes for students who aren't yet confident in the water. Swimathon 2007 - watch out !!

(Enquiries about swimming classes welcomed).

Mrs Carter

Cricket

The Ashcombe organised and hosted the preliminary round of the Surrey Indoor 6-a-side competition for Year 8. Our team beat The Priory and Therfield and so our Year 8 team qualified for the Surrey Finals Indoor 6-a-side competition.

Cross Country

Individual success has been achieved by Luke Caldwell, who was selected to run for Surrey at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships in Nottingham. The following pupils qualified for Central Surrey to run at the County Championships: Evan Erskine-Thomas, Lewis Evans, Becky Gardner and Alex Spooner.

Step into Sport

Congratulations to Sarah Oram who was selected to go on an additional national 'Step into Sport' course, held at Loughborough during Easter. This gave her the opportunity to develop her leadership skills and share good practice with fellow students at the conference. *(More in next issue)*

Mr Marshallsay

Thanks

to all those parents and pupils who have brought in the Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' vouchers. We have collected about 40,000 and the PE department has been able to acquire lots of new equipment including crickets bats, footballs, pedometers, badminton rackets, tennis balls and hurdle fences.

Governors' News

Long-service governor awards have been given to Ashcombe governors Janet Housden, Peter Mills, Clive Roberts and Hazel Watson, pictured with other Surrey governors at a reception at County Hall with Chairman of Surrey County Council, David Davis.

Peter Mills has also an incredibly long connection with the Old Dorkinian Football Club and he is delighted that the club's youth policy has led to an F.A. Charter Standard Award.

"This policy has borne fruit in the under-17s winning the Guildford and Shere League this season and the majority of the team attend The Ashcombe," says Peter.

Next season the club plans to enter five youth sides in various leagues in addition to the six adult teams who already compete in the Amateur Football Combination.



Sri Lanka



Caroline Le Breton, a former Head Girl at the school and currently a student at Durham University, has been chosen to lead a group of fifteen Durham students on a two month project to Sri Lanka this summer. The project will take place in the tsunami-devastated Southern Province and time will be spent between the village of Palana West and the University of Ruhuna both teaching and helping to rebuild the community in general. Caroline is currently looking for sponsorship and donations, however small, to help her

raise the £1600 needed and would be very happy to give a presentation on the project should it be requested.

Please contact Mr Thompson if you are able to help Caroline.



Comment

At the moment, the World Cup is the centre of much attention, and the PE Department, led by Mr Marshallsay, is promoting an Ashcombe version in which each tutor group has drawn one of the competing countries. We have also included Wales, Scotland and Ireland so that the number of teams corresponds to that of tutor groups. The tutor groups will be playing indoor football in parallel with the real games.

As a Language College, and especially given our commitment to an international ethos, the linking of countries to tutor groups was the basis of the recent Whole School Tutor Period, with each tutor group finding out more about "its" country. It has been delightful to see the tutor rooms decorated with the flags of countries and messages of support - even in Cyrillic script for Ukraine (V a a).

The Modern Languages Department has incorporated the World Cup into its work, highlighting just how internationalised football has become, together with the relevance of languages for the purposes of communication, whether in the dressing room, with the fans or learning to live in the country and feel at ease.

We hope that the sport will be enjoyed and that everyone will remember that "it's only a game" [*pace* Bill Shankly], that "it's the taking part which counts", and that the event will not be disfigured by poor behaviour either on or off the field. As the host country is Germany, this is an excellent opportunity to build bridges and friendships. There have been some fascinating articles and

exhibitions about the history of Anglo-German sporting links, including the heroics of Bert Trautmann, the famous German Manchester City goalkeeper who won a Cup Final medal playing with a broken neck*. This is in marked contrast to the disgraceful tabloid headlines in Euro '96 referring back to the war, and the rioting which took place when England lost the semi-final.

We fear that there will many examples of players challenging the authority of the referee. It is a depressing contrast to rugby and cricket players who accept the decisions, knowing that dissent will be penalised. We also can see players using foul and abusive language, language which has sadly become acceptable on our television screens with reality shows and chefs such as Gordon Ramsay and Jamie Oliver using offensive language in programmes seen by children. Sadly, the potential effect of this is to shift what is acceptable.

To focus on the positive, let us hope that the memories of the 2006 World Cup will be of exciting football, highlighted by the wonderful skills of the players. We are fortunate to be able to admire the skills of players such as Thierry Henry and Cesc Fabregas, and the way that embracing foreign influences has produced a combination espoused by Arsene Wenger and Gianluca Vialli of blending the technical skills of the incoming players with the enthusiasm, pace and excitement of the "English game".

* See the website: <http://www.trautmann-foundation.org>

Work in Progress

Work is taking place throughout the summer months on window replacement, a new vehicle entrance and exit scheme for the Ranmore site and on refurbishment of the canteens.

