

## Newsletter - Week ending 20 June 2008

**King & Country:** Bright and early on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, the South West Detachment of the Royalist Army of Charles I (*aka Year 8*) gathered to hear a rousing speech from their local commander Sir Bevil Grenville (*Mr Pender*). St George flags flew bravely and the drum beat kept up the tempo of the march as the infantry made their way round school to the muster. Magnificent in their costumes, the royalist soldiers were kept in battle order by Sir Ralph Hopton (*Mrs Ockwell*) and other aristocratic supporters of the monarchy. The army left the dangerous Roundhead area of Bath and made the journey to a more friendly place, the manor of Llancaiach Fawr in Wales, owned by Colonel Pritchard, a supporter of the King. We were shown round the house by servants of the Colonel. The year was 1645 and everyone remained in role for the whole "Living History" session. We saw kitchens and the servants' hall as well as the dining room, which doubled as local court room, and then we toured the family rooms. The servants told us much about life in the manor, and also the Pritchard family.



**Comédie-Française:** Some of our Year 9 linguists took part in Friday's "Fête du Théâtre" hosted by Prior Park School. They performed two short sketches in French, which they wrote and directed by themselves. In the first sketch, written by *Lizzie Leeming*, two friends visit the fortune teller, convincingly played by *Madi Gray*, and her assistant (*Lucy Bird*). The first girl (*Jess Herman*) learns that she will become Queen of England as her destiny is to marry Prince William. However she also learns that she will unfortunately die in a skiing accident in Italy. Her friend (*Lizzie Leeming*) is horrified to hear that she will become a French teacher!

In the second sketch, written by *Jenny Brennan*, two rather dim robbers (*Jenny Brennan and Sophia Love*) decide to try and hold up a shop keeper to steal a load of electrical equipment. Unfortunately they decide to do this in a cake shop and they are no match for the baker (*Eleanor Osborne*) who gets her evil revenge. This was an enjoyable day out and our commédiennes were awarded with the "Prix de l'originalité" for their creative talents and French.

**Sum Achievement:** 23 of our young mathematicians in Years 7&8 were awarded certificates in this year's *UK Junior Maths Challenge*. This nationwide event requires students to tackle demanding and intriguing questions which test their problem solving skills and mental agility. It is suited to students who show particular promise in mathematics, and roughly 40% of participants nationally achieve an award. Particular congratulations go to *Lucinda Balshaw*, *Martha Dick* and *Lucie Webber* who won Gold certificates. Lucinda was also Best in School. Our 6 Silver and 14 Bronze winners also have something to celebrate.

**Campanology:** If you are seeking a new hobby that combines music, team work and gracious surroundings you could join the (free) beginners' bell ringing classes at St Stephen's Church in Lansdown which will be running over the summer. It will be happening on Monday evenings from 6.45 to 8.30. Please contact Mr Dave Kelly on 01225 742325 or [kelttek@btinternet.com](mailto:kelttek@btinternet.com) for more information.

**Air Cadets:** A number of our boarders belong to the Bath Air Cadets. They have some great opportunities to learn new skills, play sport and get airborne. Over the weekend, *Emily Saunders* in Year 9 competed in the Regional Air Cadet Corps Sports Event and won the Javelin outright. She will now proceed to the National Finals in two weeks time to compete against the rest of the country's Cadets.

**Opera News:** One of our talented singers, *Amy Lyddon* will be performing in this summer's opera season, in the sumptuous location of Iford Manor. Amy will be holding her own on stage with professionals in Mozart's 'The Marriage of Figaro', in which she sings a duet.

### HEAD'S COMMENDATIONS

Syvanne Aloni (x4) 8W

## Calendar

<b>Mon 23 Jun</b>	All day	ABRSM Music examinations	
	08.30 - 12.00	Morrisby Careers Aptitudes Testing for Year 10	Sports Hall
<b>Tue 24</b>	Today	RHS Exchange students return from France	
	All day	ABRSM Music examinations	
	All day	Girls' Day School Trust Tennis Competition	Queenswood
	19.00	Year 7 Parents' Evening	
<b>Wed 25</b>	All day	Year 12 Modern Languages students to London for 'Cultural Day'	
	All day	ABRSM Music examinations	
	Lunchtime	Inter-House Swimming Gala	School Pool
	19.00	Year 9 Music Showcase Evening	Memorial Hall
<b>Thu 26</b>	All day	Year 10 Environmental Awareness Conference	
	19.00	Year 13 Leavers' Party for students, parents & staff	Sports Hall
<b>Fri 27</b>	Today	Charity Mufti Day for 'Help ourHeroes'	
	Lunchtime	Charity event - 'Strict Teachers Come Dancing'	Sports Hall
	16.00	Barbados sports tour Fundraising BBQ & Pool Party	School Pool
<b>Sat 28</b>	10.00	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award weekend (return Sunday at 16.30)	Marlborough

**Jam Busters:** Year Seven geographers have been doing their bit to solve the city's congestion and air quality problems. They have just completed a traffic survey in Bath and have been interviewing residents, shoppers and workers in the city to find out how they travel and what changes they want to see. We look forward to hearing the results of their analysis and recommendations shortly.

**Commedia dell 'Arte:** On Wednesday evening Year 9 provided a superb entertainment before a distinguished panel of judges, family and friends. *Commedia dell 'Arte* is the forerunner of pantomime, dating back to Italy in 16<sup>th</sup> Century. They created their own pieces of Commedia, based on the essential ingredients of stock characters, form and structure. All Year 9 girls participated in the production, as writers, actors, directors, musicians, or production support artists responsible for lighting, sound, music, set design and makeup. Mr Graham-Brown was joined by well known actors Bill Wallis and Lisa Coleman to judge the event. Amongst the winners were *Laura Seal* (Best Actress), with the Best Script award going to the talented writers of 'Little Red Riding Hood' for their innovative interpretation of a children's classic.

**Sport For All:** Over 50 of our students in Years 7&9 took part in the K3 Multi Sports Event at Bath University on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June. Year 7 students joined in basketball, hockey, touch rugby, athletics, cricket, golf, lacrosse, dance and volley ball. They all thoroughly enjoyed the new activities and inspiring coaches. Our Year 9 students volunteered their time as young leaders, either running activities themselves or helping the coaches.

**Author's Talk:** Caroline Lawrence, author of the popular 'Roman Mysteries' series of children's books gave a talk about her work on Wednesday. Our Year 7 students were joined by visitors from our Junior School and St Stephen's School. Caroline's books are young detective stories based in classical times and are an authentic introduction to life in these ancient civilisations. The talk provided a fascinating insight for the students into creative writing.

**Mind Your Mouth:** The *O.Pro* mouthguard dentist is coming into school on Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 12.30pm. All students playing contact sport must have a properly fitting mouthguard, otherwise they will not be allowed to play. If you still have last year's guard please check it still fits, is not uncomfortable or rubbing and does not fall out. The school undertakes to have these fittings done before the September term so that everyone is properly equipped for the start of sporting lessons in the first week back. If you need any further help or information please do not hesitate to contact the Medical Centre's direct line 01225 731007.

**Disappearing Fast:** G.C.S.E and A Level Art Packs are selling fast. To avoid disappointment, return your order form as soon as possible, or buy one directly from the School Shop. There is still time to get a House coloured baseball cap for Sports Day. At £2 each they are a great way to keep you cool and help you get into the team spirit on the day. Orders need to be placed within the next week.

**Help For Heroes:** We will be supporting this charity, which helps servicemen and women injured in Britain's current conflicts, with a Mufti Day on Friday 27 June. Please support it with a donation of £1.