



The Acorn

SUMMER TERM 2011

hEaVE ho!



Eve Win the Tug-o-War trophy

Sports' Day was a huge success this year, despite the best efforts of the weather. Bentham became the undisputed rulers of the relay racing and never let a baton drop! But it was the all new Tug-o-War event that truly won the day. The children and parents came to life as the roar for tugging joy were unleashed. Like mighty armies the four Houses locked horns and pulled for all their worth. It was great fun! Let's hope that the Tug-o-War becomes a regular feature of the Sports' Day agenda.



Simmons try their best!

Science Week (Year 3)

On the 9th and the 16th of March year three worked together with Belsize Park School. We tried to work out in groups of five mixing up with UCS and Belsize Park School who used a swipe card to break into the Science Museum and steel the famous Gorge Washington's false gold teeth. We had to work this out by finding out the time the criminal came in and out of the science museum.

First we sat down in our pairs and thought of some magnetic metals. I know it sounds really weird and it's got nothing to do with robberies and crimes but even I at first was confused. Then, Miss Trinnaman told us why we were thinking about magnetic metal. It was because we were going to use magnets in the process of finding out who was the criminal. We started to watch a movie with all four of the criminals and get clues and suspects to help us find out the culprit.



We went on to find out who tried to steel the famous Gorge Washington's gold false teeth. But it was harder than you would think. We had to work out the code on the swipe card, which is not that easy. Miss Trinnaman told us that the criminal came out at 4:45am. We all had a copy on tape of the time each criminal came out. After we looked at the time and figured out which of the times labeled A,B,C,D, we all found that C was the exact match that Miss Trinnaman said which was 4:45am. When it was nearly the end of the lesson everyone would tell there answers and we found that everyone was right. The hole class figured that it was...C!!

By Dylan Rendell

Problem Page



The Peer Mentors

The peer mentors have had an exciting and busy year so far, many boys have made new friends and problems have been solved. Many boys, especially from years 3 and 4 have been more confident towards the peer mentors when they have to speak to them.

The message box has been very popular these last few terms. This year the boys have become a lot more confident and have found the peer mentors more accessible to go towards. The message box has been very helpful for boys who are more shy and don't want to talk face to face with a peer mentor, and also allows students to be anonymous when they have a problem.

Being a peer mentor I have learnt that there are always two sides to every story, and that if someone's problem is trivial from your point of view it could mean a great deal to them.

I would advise the year 5s to become a peer mentor because it's a great experience helping others, and sorting out their problems.

Thank you Miss Banihashem for helping the peer mentors and I hope she will find a great group for next year's peer mentors.

By Auryn Jones

Year 6 memories



We were all sitting in the cold drama studio, as silent as mice wearing slippers, while Mr Thomas read out the parts of the play.

“Piggy will be Inigo Gunning.” He said.

We were all waiting to hear who were the main parts, the evil part, the leader of the tribe, who was Jack Merridew? The Drama teacher unhurriedly read out, “Now onto Jack...”

We all froze.

My heart was pounding and I was sweating. For Four years at the JB, I felt I was dreadful at drama. I had always been stage manager. But this year, Mr Thomas had inspired me and for the first time, I auditioned for a lead role and I really wanted it.

I felt really nervous because lots of people had auditioned for the part of Jack and I really wanted this part.

“...Jack Merridew will be...” the wait was endless... “James Milne.” I was so excited but astonished at the same time. For the first time in my life, I had got a main part in a play.

I was Jack Merridew.

By James Milne



More Champagne moments

The lights were on me. The haunting lime light of the Lund theatre. I was Simon in *Lord of the Flies*. I was just about to die a horrific death. I was going to be stabbed by a pack of savage boys who had been left on a remote island for six months. Then, in that split second the lights started to flash black and white in a slow motion strobe. I knew my 'Lord of the Flies' moment was almost up. I then said my last line, "There isn't a beast, it's just a man." And the other boys on stage started screaming.

I ran across the stage and one of the boys, Maurice, tripped me up. I fell on my face. Then all the other boys crowded around me and started to stab me with their wooden spears. I had died! I lay motionless in the wings. *Lord of the Flies* was now behind me. There was no more remembering my lines it had all finally finished.

By Barney Brenner

My champagne moment was when I scored the equalizing goal in the John Lyon football tournament final. We were 2-1 down and I had come on as substitute. I had always wanted to score a goal in a final. I got the ball, I twisted and turned past defenders, should I dribble, pass or shoot? Mr. Walliker screaming "shoot!" but I was not listening. I just focused on the goal.

Finally I shot and that was the moment I'll remember for a long time.

The ball striking the metal at the back of the goal, the clanking sound and being surrounded by my teammates.

That summed up our tournament. We had had our ups and downs but that was the highest point.

By Jack Naftalin

The Acorn says “Hello.”



A great big “Acorn hello” to our all new salad bar. Everyone seems really thrilled by the chance to skip the long queue and head straight for a super salad option for lunch. (Remember- you can’t go to the hot food option and then double back to the salad counter.)



The new table football games are a magnificent addition to school play time. They are extremely popular and the boys love the competition. One rule that must be remembered, however, is the ‘no spinning’ rule.



A really warm “Acorn Hello and goodbye” to Hamish, our latest Gap student recruit. Hamish’s mum is our secretary Donna. Hamish has already fitted in to UCS like one of our own, a shame he has to leave us so soon.

Trip to Lille

And French Day

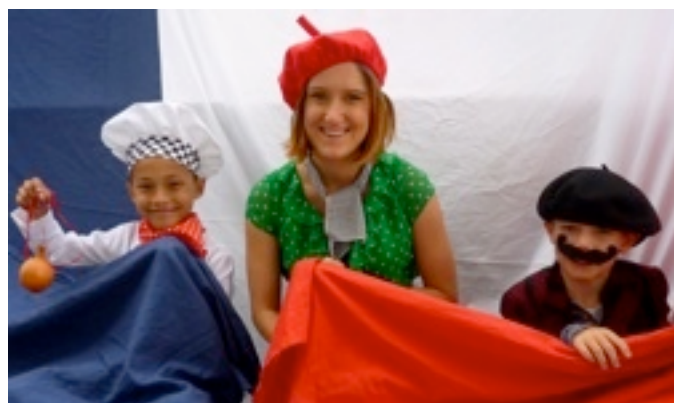




It all started at 7:00 at St Pancras (Kings Cross). When we arrived we formed into four groups and after all the security checks we finally got on the Eurostar. The train took about 2hrs 15mins to get to Lille. When we arrived in Lille we were kindly met by Miss Couture's mum (Christine) and old school friend (Manu). We immediately set off to see the sights and fill out our questionnaire. Before lunch we visited Notre-Dame the great cathedral of Lille. It had a modern front with stained glass windows, which looked amazing from the inside as it was destroyed in the First World War.

For lunch we visited a small café called the Brioche Doree. We had a baguette, water and a chosen desert. At the café the news was broken to us that we had to say goodbye to our great friend Manu. We had photos with him and a friendly hug. After lunch we visited the art gallery Musee de Beaux Arts. We spent about 2hrs in there finding selected paintings, painters and drawing our favourites. When we left we went shop, ate a delicious French waffle or (GAUFFE) and ate lots of sweets. We then watched a game of (ladies) volleyball (Mr Thomas loved it). Although we arrived home exhausted it was definitely worth it!

French Day was a wonderful occasion. A chance to explore school from a different perspective. The whole school threw itself into the event with abundant enthusiasm. The costumes were magnificent. Napoleon made an appearance as did a chocolate croissant. There were Cordon Bleu chefs as well as a Mousier Onion. Eidan brought in a bottle of something red- he said it was Ribena. And of course there were berets and striped shirts a plenty. Ms Couture organised a lovely French day and the school enjoyed immersing itself in all things francais. Not forgetting le boeuf bourguignon for lunch-delicieux!



Golf Trip Report

On the 1st of June 2011, twelve UCS boys and three teachers went over to the Warren Golf Club in Essex. The golfers stayed at the Travel Lodge hotel, which was about 15 minutes away from the golf club.

When we arrived we went straight into playing golf. Paul, our instructor coached through the morning. The competition was based on lots of challenges needing skill and ability to earn points. After, we went back to our rooms to relax at the hotel. Later that evening we went to the cinema and saw the movie X-MEN: First Class where all the boys got stuffed on sweets and popcorn.

The next day, early in the morning, we had breakfast and went straight to the golf club to learn, but also to have fun and compete in the challenges. This time we played on the mini course and went back to the hotel. There was no cinema for the boys that night as we just went straight to have dinner and then to bed.

In the morning we went to play a 9-hole course. It was won by Mr. Lall-Chopra's group. Then we went to the golf course and Paul gave out the prizes. In 3rd place came Khushveer Ahuja who won a small trophy and a pitch marker. In 2nd place came Michael Aarons who won a small trophy and a bag full of golf accessories. In 1st place came Jack Naftalin who came first in almost all of the competitions and he won a massive golf bag and a trophy. Well done to all the golfers who took part.



A Fond Farewell to Jo Eggleton-Rance



I just had a horrible thought – Mrs E-R won't be here in September! It's awful – how will we cope? How will I cope? [How will Tommy Zoom cope?Ed]

Mrs E-R has been a teacher at UCS for a very long time - well over 30 years in fact – and is very well known to all the boys in Years 4, 5 and 6. It is a terrible shame that our Year 3 will not have been taught by such a wonderful, warm, caring and skilful Art and Design Technology teacher.

Is there anything she can't do? I know she used to teach PE and Games a few years ago but now concentrates her skills in the Art/DT block and you have all enjoyed her amazing work all over the school in the fantastic way she has displayed your lovely work.

Her Warhammer Club boys will miss her patience in helping them with all their creative ideas and what will happen to Theatre Arts Club? Imagine all the school productions you have performed in without all the superb props, scenery and gadgets created by Mrs E-R. My particular favourite was the frighteningly life-like and rather sinister pig created for 'Lord of the Flies'.

She will be a tremendous loss to Simmons House too with her constant encouragement and loyalty.

I don't think there is a single subject area she has not contributed to over the years and, though I know that all your teachers will miss her, no one will miss her as much as her good friends in Art and DT. Mrs Trinnaman, Mr De Caires and I will be bereft without our wonderful friend and colleague.

We wish her lots of love and happiness in her retirement but, oh dear, oh dear – how will we cope without her?

Emily Waterhouse

Miss Scott Interview

What have you enjoyed most about the JB?

Oh my goodness, tricky question. Well, the lively activeness of the staff and the kids... Oh, and the sandwiches at break-time!

What will you miss?

Well, just the people really. And the view from our Year 3 window.... and Mr. Douglas answering his phone in assembly.

What are you doing next?

I am going to go on holiday to California and then I will work at St Christopher's Girl's School, which will be interesting.



Nick Tumber

A very sad goodbye to Nick who has been our unsung hero of the ICT Department for many years. He worked tirelessly on boring things like the school data base and was the first port of call for any laptop technicalities. His famous words, "this may take some time", and "never have any fears dear boy," are just some of our abiding memories. Never a moan or a complaint. Nick will be hugely missed.



Mr Cassel The Interview

If you could meet someone famous who would it be and why? Nelson Mandela. He is very near the end of his long and heroic life and he is a very inspiring man.

What's your favourite holiday destination? Cuba, the people are very lively and friendly and it is old fashioned in a way I like plus the weather is fab!

How do you feel about editing your final Gower? I feel proud to be the editor. I have enjoyed my time editing it.

When was the happiest moment in your life? My wedding and the birth of my two children.

Have you ever had a pet? Oh yes, cats and dogs. The cats names were, Tabs, Tigs, Monty and Sparky. The couple of dogs we owned were called Susie and Crystal.

If you had a super power what would it be? My super power would be to make myself happy whenever I want.

Why do you support Blackburn Rovers? I support Rovers because I was born there and my father took me to most of the home games. I also own season tickets at the moment and go to a lot of away games.

What encouraged you to be a teacher? I like trying to pass on my knowledge to children it gives me the satisfaction of teaching younger minds.

Are you going to miss UCS? Very much, but I would especially miss the boys however I'm looking forward to a new chapter in my life.

Who is your favourite actor? Charlie Chaplin, I thought he was amazing when I was a kid.

What is your favourite film ever? Shawshank Redemption

Going For Green



Going For Green

On the 26th May 2011 the Junior Branch celebrated Green Britain Day. The hall became a forest of green as the boys came into assembly. Everyone was wearing various shades of green to show off their support for 'green' issues. It was a spectacular sight!

The Eco Team inspired the school by declaring openly the things they do at home and school to support the environment. .

'I re-use my water bottle at school,' said Jamie of class 4B.

'I take showers rather than baths to save water,' stated Andrew Lee of 5W.

'I walk to school with my dog which gives me and my dog daily exercise,' proclaimed Jack Paul.

The boys got their revenge by quizzing two members of staff on their eco knowledge. Mr Hall versus Mr Albini. Mr Hall amazed everyone with his green facts and was crowned our 2011 Eco Champion! Mr Albini left with nothing.

Later the classes of Year 5 and Year 6 made some green pledges of their own. They promised to make some changes in their lifestyle to support green issues. Years 3 and 4 discovered some eco activities on the computer, which gave them ideas of how to be more environmentally aware. Thank you to everyone for supporting the day.

Miss Banihashem



Mr Hall wins the quiz



World War 2 Day



On the 13th July 2011 Year 6 had World War Two day. We were told to create a costume of an evacuated child in WW2. There was a fabulous array of costumes, such as boys with parcels strapped around their necks to boys carrying soft, comforting teddy bears.

Our group started off making Rhubarb Sponge in the kitchen. Mr Thomas helped us make it and showed us how to do it. It took a lot of Rhubarb and a tiny bit of golden syrup (much to our disliking.) We then baked it for 45 minutes to collect at the end of the day.

After break we walked casually into the cage for a marching lesson. The sergeant major was very commanding ordering us to march left, right, left, right we also practiced turning in line of three. There was a certain technique to it and we picked it up swiftly.

With lunchtime quickly behind us we went into the hall to be greeted by a man who got us to imagine we were a child be evacuated. After a quick briefing of what was going on we were spilt into four groups. We did four activities. The first one was getting to go in an Anderson Shelter; it was extremely eerie with sound booming around the shelter including an air raid siren. The second activity was practising holding stretchers for an unconscious dummy. We also got to play with WW2 toys such as flipbooks, ring throwing.

The third activity was water pumping. We took it in turns to pump water while the other person held the nozzle. We were aiming at some hoops to get some practice in case there was a real fire. The final activity was putting out a phosphorus bomb (not alight) we were told water wouldn't work so we had to use sand. We took turns at pouring sand on the inflamed bomb.

Overall it was a great day!

By George Spooner



The lady of the wind

The lady of the wind did you know her long black dress flapping in the wind,
Her shadows black as her smile,
Wandering round Hampstead

No mortal shall set foot, nor eye skimming her,
Blood red eyes may weep you,
As you feel her presence,

You find a shadow crawling majestically up your shoulder,
A cold black obsedion hand,
A whistle of the wind,

And a lost scream trapped in a wilderness,
Not heard but seen,

A tremble,
A high pitched croak of lesser laughter,
She fearfully howls,

And all the high dogs of the kingdom and wolves scamperd,
Who could frame,
Recapture,

The fearfull lady ... OF THE WIND,
The croaky wind whistles woe betide you,
Woe betide who,

Everyone glanced up on her like an eager waggging tail on a dog,
And cared though she pondered glancing down,
The lady of the wind.

