



St John's College



Middle School

Newsletter April 2010

Dear Parents,

With Spring finally in the air, the Middle School teachers join me in hoping that you, and all your family, had a happy and restful Easter break. Last term was particularly busy with Middle School pupils involved in the highly successful school production, the Eisteddfod, the Easter Concert and a variety of trips, including the ever-popular Ski Trip.

The Summer Term promises to be equally vibrant with a host of events planned. I particularly look forward to meeting R13 parents at the Options Evening in May.

With my best wishes, Rosemary Hart (Assistant Head)

Senior School Production



After months of rehearsal, the talented thespians of the Middle School were at last ready for curtain-up on the 4th and 5th March. Theatre of the highest order graced the stage which transformed our school hall into a playhouse worthy of any dramatic presentation - but in particular, the adventures and comic antics of Bertie Wooster and his ingenious valet, Jeeves.

Thanks to the up-and-coming Middle School cast members and some Senior pupils, the show was a resounding success with audiences giving their fulsome praise for all who made their evening so memorable. They were entertained with some superb performances, scintillating dancing and witty musical interludes while the swift and slick scene changes owed much to our fully committed backstage crew.

Nick Sturrock rose to the challenge of playing Bertie with some deft comic touches and his foil, Jeeves, played by Joe Evans, was a feast of subtlety and irony. They were most ably assisted by the ever talented Kate Gildersleve whose Honoria Glossop was convincingly formidable and Ieuan Lewis whose Chaplinesque comic talents were a highlight for many in the audience. These were beautifully supported by some fine acting from all the cast. St John's Middle School has an abundance of talented pupils and none more so than those who embraced the opportunity to shine in the footlights of a very polished theatrical treat. Well done to all!

Eisteddfod

What an excellent time we all had at the Middle School Eisteddfod this year! Bute were overall winners and Morgan Foley won the most prestigious competition of all –being crowned bard. Ashleigh Patrick from R12R, Daniela Mizzen from R13C and Phoebe Utting from R14N won the most points scored for their house from each year. All pupils in R12, R13 and R14 congregated in the hall and

watched a wealth of competitions. Amongst them were the R12 Choir Competition (winners – Bute), R13 Reciting Competition (winner - Hannah Son) and the R14 Group Reciting Competition (winners – Mostyn). R12 were taught a folk dance and danced at the very end as a tribute to the bard for doing so well. Huge congratulations to all those who competed; some pupils put a tremendous effort into numerous competitions.

World Maths Day 2010

On 3rd March pupils in R12 to R14 were able to log on to the World Maths Day website and take part in a worldwide mental arithmetic competition. They played minute-long games against pupils in other parts of the world, gaining a point for every correct answer. Three wrong answers and they were out of that game. Certificates were given to each of the 1,133,246 students from 235 countries who had united to set a new world record by correctly answering 479,732,613 questions. Ali Jaffar (R13) was awarded a gold certificate for answering 6432 questions correctly on the day.

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge 2010 Results

Pupils from R14 were very successful competing against pupils from years 9 to 11 throughout the United Kingdom in this competition organised by Leeds University.

Gold Certificate: George Thomas, Morgan Foley, Richard Griffith.

Silver Certificate: David Birley, Karthik Kumar.

Bronze Certificate: Anna O'Leary, Tom Boocock, Daniel Jeremy, Ralph Pompeus, Joseph Evans, Anna Jones, Matthew Edwards. George Thomas, Morgan Foley, Richard Griffith qualified for the next round on Thursday 18th March.

Royal Institution Mathematics Master Classes

Ralph Pompeus, Richard Griffith, Max Price and Waseem Jawad from R14 have, for the last couple of months, spent their Saturday mornings attending Maths Master Classes at the University of Glamorgan. Pupils with a talent for Maths are introduced to intellectually demanding topics they do not normally meet in the classroom. "The Mathematics of Juggling" and "Twisted Topology" were particularly enjoyed by the pupils, as was meeting new friends.

Choir Schools Association Sports Festival - Wed 24 March

Congratulations to the choristers for their wonderful achievements at Magdalen College, Oxford. The choristers sang splendidly with the 150 choristers from the cathedral choirs of Bristol, Exeter, Hereford, Llandaff, Wells, Worcester, and the choristers of Tewkesbury and Magdalen College, Oxford. We are extremely proud of the girls' netball team who won the entire netball competition for the second year in a row and remain unbeaten in CSA sporting history, and equally proud of the boys who scored several truly outstanding goals and came through to be victorious as winners of the football plate.

A special note of congratulations to **Ross Lisney-Wilson** for his solo treble performance in Handel's *Messiah* with Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society on Saturday 27 March. The performance was a sell-out and received a standing ovation!

Easter Concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff - Tues 23 March
Many congratulations to the Cathedral choristers for a magnificent performance of Bach's St John Passion to a large audience. The opening chorus was especially thrilling. The Cathedral Choir also sang beautifully in BBC radio broadcasts on 14 February and on Easter Sunday.

Sports news

R12 Girls' Netball has taken on a new and exciting level this term with enough regular attendees to make two squads: The Devils and The Angels. The girls have won a multitude of games, and outstanding performances in netball this term have been from Faye Courtney, Mako Chiganze and Isabella Constantine. Wonderful performances also from Kelly Powling, Merna Shafik, Kudzai Matsungo and Ashleigh Patrick.

Jeeves and Wooster Dance

This year saw an outstanding contribution from the R12 girls performing a 1930s dance piece, *Minnie the Moocher*, for the school production of *Jeeves and Wooster*. The dancers put a great amount of time and effort into rehearsals including some early morning meetings on the week of the event. Dancers from R12 were Lok Yee Choi, Ashleigh Patrick, Olivia Evans, Sarah Lewis, Lily Element, Isabella Constantine, and Mako Chiganze.

Welsh Novice Gymnastics Competition

The U12 team finished in a respectable 4th position in the February round of the gymnastics, tumble and vault competition. Kelly Powling, Harriet Simons, and Olivia Evans displayed good skills on the set floor and vault and exceptional skills in the voluntary section.

R12 Boys' Football is a very talented side and we have the ability to score at any time in the game thanks to the skills of Joe Payne and Owen Jones, and can shut out most attacks with Robbie Griffith marshalling the defence. Our best performance of the season was after a training turnout of over 20 boys - an excellent effort from the guys, proving what can be done with a full compliment of players!

R12 Boys' Rugby - Ryan Martyn has been ever present at training, with George Quine making himself available at every opportunity. It is no coincidence that these two boys are the most improved players in the school and are great role models for the younger players coming through. On that note, Kane Tear-Bourge (still in R11!) has featured for the R12s in both Football and Rugby with great success.

R13 Girls' Netball team has worked hard and showed strength and determination in a whole host of matches this term. Most recently the girls played in the county tournament against our close rivals, Howells. In the final game of the netball year, the girls faced Howells once again and reversed the score making it a convincing win to St John's. This year's netball team: Charlotte Rowsell, Tess Russell, Georgia Barry, Francesca Ford, Hannah Son, Daniela Mizzen, Emily Knowles, Kathryn Dainty, Eleanor Dimond and Aimee Howell.

R13 Boys Rugby & Football teams are one of our strongest age groups. Their performances in football and rugby this school year have been outstanding. In **football**, wins against Llanishen, Cantonian, Tockington and Cathedral were stand-out results. Great performances came from Ellis Bellamy, Toby Thomas and George Willicombe. Special mention goes to Greg Jones whose work in defence has significantly improved. On the **rugby** front, Teri Gee has represented Cardiff and District and led the school team to victories over Corpus Christi, Rougemont, Tockington and

Michaelston. Teri has led the team superbly, supported well by Connor Martin and Dominic Yau. Congratulations to all boys who have represented the R13s, for such a successful year.

R14 Girls Netball team have **won every netball match** they have played this year with outstanding players being: Anna Jones, Eilish Menzies and Heather Courtney.

R14 Boys' Rugby team acquitted themselves well against a number of opponents. Memorable games came against Corpus, Llanishen and Cathedral, with stand-out performance from captain Matt Edwards, Jordan Leaman, Richard Griffith and Charlie Hall. We wish those boys the best of luck this summer when they will attempt to gain a place in Cardiff Schools U15s at the trials.

Boys' Football team have had a couple of tightly fought games with some great performances, particularly away to Cathedral where we had an excellent 3-2 win. Joe Hill performed particularly well, as did this year's skipper, James Dixon.

Ski trip

The school ski trip to Switzerland hosted many R14 pupils who demonstrated great skills and talents on the slopes. The pupils took



part in many fun activities such as tobogganing, ice skating and curling. The pupils had every opportunity to flaunt their musical talents in the music room that hosted a grand piano, guitar and a

violin, which contributed nicely to the Cabaret Night!

Charity events

Thanks to all middle school pupils who purchased socks and wrist bands for Sports Relief. Congratulations to all those who took part in the tug-of-war sponsored event.

R12 Science trip to the New Theatre-25th February

The R12 pupils had the pleasure of seeing 'Horrible Science' in the New Theatre. Everyone was bubbling in their seats, excited to see the actors. Then as the curtains opened, we all screamed with pleasure. The show was brilliant as the audience got involved and learned that Science is fun. It was great learning about all the different sorts of bacteria and gruesome body parts. I know four people who actually find Science easier now. After watching Horrible Science, I learned to really like science. Everyone had an amazing time and through the interval we all enjoyed sharing sweets and eating lots of ice cream! It was definitely the most brilliant, educational play we have ever seen!

Written by Jordan Ambler R12R

R13 National Museum Art Trip

R13 pupils focused on the eight artists selected for the Artes Mundi Prize. Some of the themes discussed were "war", "immigration", "globalisation" and "evacuation". The pupils produced some powerful imagery and developed creative ideas as a result of the trip and lesson activities. Staff were very impressed with the pupils' behaviour and mature attitudes during the visit.

Dates for the Diary

Spring Orchestral Concert – Wednesday, 28th April at 7pm
UK Junior Maths Challenge – Thursday, 29th April
May Day Bank Holiday – Monday, 3rd May
R13 Options Evening – Wednesday, May 5th from 4-6pm