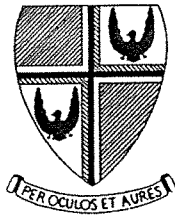


CHATTERBOX

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 1991

P.M.'S SURPRISE VISIT



John Major chats to pupils in C.D.T. Block

Speculation that a V.I.P. was coming was rife for days beforehand, but the secret was well kept. On the morning of Friday, 29th November, the news was broken to the pupils that premier, John Major, had asked to visit the school. Feelings were mixed - many pupils were disappointed the mystery guest was not Michael Jackson but most were delighted that the P.M. was eager to find out more about the school first hand.

Security was tight and the police with dogs checked dormitories and all rooms near the planned route.

Somewhat late Mr. Major duly arrived and was introduced to Stefan Kodjie (Head Boy) and Sandra Wood (Head Girl). He met the Countess of Carnarvon and Mr. Philip Wroughton, who explained the plans for the new Sixth Form Campus.

The Prime Minister then toured the drama and music areas, where he saw the band in action, passed through Home Economics, saw a Maths lesson and Computing and finally visited the new C.D.T. suite. All the way he shook pupils' hands and spoke personally to many. Dr. Tucker commented after: "It was pleasing to have a visitor who was not reticent in talking freely and naturally to the youngsters. He seemed very relaxed and apparently enjoyed his tour. It was a non-political visit and Mr. Major seemed to want to know more about deaf education."

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

EXCLUSIVE SCOOP

One highlight of the visit of P.M., John Major, was a unique opportunity for the Media Studies' students to interview a top politician. While the world's press were kept away, Steven Mifsud and Clare Flory asked Mr. Major his feelings about deaf people. He replied that he already knew many deaf people, but was learning more about deaf education from Dr. Tucker. He said he was most impressed by the school, especially the band. In the week before the Maastricht Conference, Clare was even able to ask about Europe and the Prime Minister explained how important the decisions were for young people - he said "I hope we get them right!" The interview was filmed by Panmun Jacob-Lot and Sarah Herriott.

QUITE A MOUTHFUL!

To mark the anniversary of Mr. Major's premiership, which almost exactly coincided with his visit, a special cake was baked by Mrs. Rose Fenney. The presentation of the cake was televised nationally. It showed Mr. Major peering from the door of No. 10 holding a cricket bat.

SCI-TECH

How many pupils can claim "The Duchess of York fixed my camera?" Deborah Thom can. She was one of nine lucky year 7 pupils who travelled up to the House of Commons for a party given by The British Science and Technology Trust. Nicholas Cutajar, Gregory Pierssene, Kate Stevenson, Jacqueline Coyle, Michala Hedigan, Reena Guru, Duncan Rowley, Sarah Gillatt and Deborah Thom were selected after joining in a competition to invent something to help the handicapped. The pupils all met the Duchess of York, who proved to be quite technically minded as she mended Deborah's broken camera. Also present were personalities Christopher Timothy and Sue Pollard and entertainment included the Choristers of the Year.

TOAD OF ARLINGTON MANOR

Pupils from years 7 to 9 formed the entire cast for the November production of "Toad of Toad Hall". With a little help from a few senior pupils backstage and with music the younger students gave a marvellous performance including singing and dancing. So evil were the weasels that some primary school pupils at the matinee were too frightened to watch! Special credit must go to Justin Smith (as the lovable rascal Toad), who was on stage for almost the entire play and the other principal characters: Emma Campbell (Mole), Catherine Saunders (Ratty) and Lee Stickings (Badger). Well done all!

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Year 11 pupils look forward to their week out in the big wide world. The chance to find out what a real working day is like is a great opportunity. They come back full of tales - some good, some not so good - but the experience gained can be valuable in choosing the right career. Employers' comments included:

"She has been a pleasure to have and has worked very hard."

... a very professional standard of work."

"... always polite ..."

"... an enriching experience for both sides!"

"He is a credit to your school."

"... mixed well with staff ..."

"... asked numerous questions ..."

At Mary Hare we have always been very proud of the way our students acquit themselves on work experience. This year was no exception.



Jonathan Ballinger working at Plentys.

WHETHER THE WEATHER BE FINE

"What temperature will it be on Christmas Day in Belfast, Glasgow, Cardiff and London?" was the question pondered by year 7 pupils in the I.T.V. Weather Competition.

After studying the temperature variations and recording them for the last three weeks as part of Geography lessons, pupils hope to win a satellite linked computer system for the school - other winners may prepare and read I.T.V.'s weather forecasts. We'll keep you informed if they achieve success.

ON THE ROOF

Look up at the Manor roof next time you visit the school and try to spot the automatic weather station.

THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

I COME FROM A LAND DOWN UNDER

Sadly Bob Warren leaves us after his one year exchange visit. He will be missed by both staff and pupils, as he has made an immeasurable contribution to school life, especially to the Geography department on several field trips. He says Mary Hare has been the most wonderful educational experience he could have wished for " - a total experience". Bob returns to Foster High School, some 200 miles north of Sydney, where our Miss Ogg has enjoyed 5 months of drought! We look forward to her return in January, while wishing Bob a safe journey and all the best for the future. Keep in touch, Bob.

VIVE LA FRANCE

Mr. Somerville says "The reason for doing French is to go to France and have fun." With this in mind eleven year 11 pupils with Mrs. Pocock and Mr. Somerville visited France in late September. They stayed near Paris and enjoyed all the usual sights, especially the museums.

ANIMAL MAGIC

Year 7 pupils made a trip to Marwell Zoological Park to study the variety of life and endangered species.

CHILLY IN TIRABAD

Twenty-eight year 9 pupils with four staff spent a chilly but very exciting week in South Wales at the adventure centre in Tirabad. Activities included a gully walk, orienteering, climbing, abseiling, canoeing and caving. On their return the pupils looked exhausted, but proclaimed the week a great success.

ON THE FIDDLE!

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. C. Hultmark as a peripatetic violin teacher to the school. At the moment she has just two pupils, Natalie Smith and Deepa Shastri. We wish them success and lots of fun.

BAND ON TOUR

Despite the loss of one or two senior members, the band has continued to flourish and receives acclaim wherever it goes. This term they travelled to the N.A.G. conference in Rhyl and after their performance Natalie Veale gave a presentation and talk.

They also played on television during the "Children in Need" appeal.

Why not arrange for them to come to your area?

THE SOUND OF SUCCESS

A grade "A" in Music G.C.S.E. was the exciting news for Natalie Veale this August when the results were announced. Quite an achievement for a pupil with a 115 dB hearing loss across the speech frequencies! Especially when you consider Natalie had received NO CONCESSIONS in the examination.

Natalie also plays the flute and you may remember her stunning performance as Maria in "West Side Story". She plans to start a nursing course in the spring at Taunton's Musgrove Hospital, but in the meantime is helping Miss Roderick with music lessons at the school.

Alice Cobley is also to be congratulated on achieving a grade "B" in her Music G.C.S.E.



THE MARY HARE GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MAKING THE GRADE

Summer results in the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams were also good news and we congratulate the following:

Clarinet Grade 2: Suzanne Clubley, Kirsty McMullen, Steven Meacham.

Piano Grade 3 with Merit: Joanna Penfold

Piano Grade 1: Oliver Harland

FAIR SHARES

Year 10 carousel work involves cross-curricular activities between music, business studies, art and media studies. This year the pupils have set up a business project to produce, market and sell a tape of Christmas Music. Shares have been sold to finance the company and the shareholders are hopeful of a good return on their investment.

The music is all original and the three songs on the tape are:

"Who said Christmas should be Jolly" (by Catherine Woolley, Sara Tyake)

"Do I know it's Christmas Day?" (Conor Fox, Robin McMeekin)

"It's Christmas Time" (Marcella Stratton, Jenny Barton, Kirsty McMullen, Louise Gibson)

For details contact Andrew Hearn (Year 10) who is Managing Director of the marketing side of the company.

IN THE BAG

Tetley Tea have kindly sponsored a brand new minibus for the school through the Royal Variety Club. The bus is fully equipped with seat belts and is a welcome addition to the fleet that is used to transport pupils out for social, academic and sports events.

IN THE NET

There has been some disruption of fixtures because of the school play but a few sports hall netball matches have been held for the junior years against local schools.

The House Netball was finally completed at the end of November. The results are as follows:

Juniors (Years 7,8,9) 1st Braidwood
2nd Beverley
3rd Mary Hare
4th Arnold

Seniors (Years 10,11,12,13)
1st Mary Hare
2nd Arnold
3rd Braidwood
4th Beverley

Final Result 1st Mary Hare (greater goal average)
2nd Braidwood
3rd Arnold
4th Beverley

IN THE SWIM

The annual swimming match against L.V.S. was as usual closely contested but unfortunately we lost narrowly at both the home and away match. We have further matches arranged after Christmas where we hope to fair better.

The House Swimming Gala held last week resulted in an exciting competitive event. Results:

1st Braidwood
2nd Arnold
3rd Mary Hare
4th Beverley

IN THE LEAGUE

This term the soccer results have not looked very spectacular due to limited experience as other schools have been concentrating on rugby. Next term, however, there will be more games and the 1st XI will take part in the West Berks. League. Good luck to the teams.

Results so far:

| | P | W | L | D |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Juniors (U14/U15) | 5 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Seniors (U16/1st XI) | 5 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

Forthcoming events:

The House Cross-Country: Wednesday, 18th December
The Area Schools Cross Country: End of January 1992.

NEW IMAGE

Great interest was generated in the game of rugby during the World Cup. We have arranged for Alison Kirven to visit the school in January. Ms. Kirven is the Rugby Youth Development Officer for Berkshire and specialises in teaching New Image Rugby. This is a non-contact version of the game - fast and full of skill, but with limited risk. It is suitable for mixed sex and age groups. A House competition will be arranged and ultimately, we hope, a local schools' tournament will be viable.

Robert Rattray, Conor Fox, Alex Hurley and Robin McMeekin have already had a taster by training at Thatcham R.F.C.