

The Cultural Quarter From the Head of House - EJGW

The Michaelmas term has once again been a highly enriching time for many boys in Latham House. Joseph Jankinson (woodwind), Tom Hume and Guy Davis (both electric guitar) have all won their respective classes in the intra-school music competition. Tom Hume, Jeremy Williams & Edwin Wilton-Morgan have once again been stalwarts of the Repton's Opera Society. In the world of drama, Mark Harrison was a superb Banquo in the recent school play and he was joined on stage by a whole host of other Lathamites - John Macdonald, Josh Boyle, Dan Gillbanks, Ben Frost, George Brockway, Rhodri Richards & Guy Pass. Matthew Jones should also be congratulated for his backstage contributions with the sound and lighting. A number of boys - Jamie Clarke, Laurence Webster, Jeremy Williams, Matthew Jones, Alistair Robson and Tom Hume - also won a Silver Medal at the recent Midlands Concert Band competition held in Northampton. It is no surprise that Latham has kept its reputation for excellence in the Arts.

Sale of Work

As ever, the Michaelmas Term has provided the Lower Sixth with the opportunity to raise as much money as possible for this year's Sale of Work charity drive. Normal service was resumed with the House tuck shop, and the Sale of Work day itself was a roaring success with over £400 being made on that day alone. Mrs Wilton-Morgan prevailed on the 'Name the Teddy' stall, Mrs Parish guessed the weight of the cake correctly, and our very own Joseph Jankinson secured the Haribo by correctly guessing that there

Another long, busy and cold Michaelmas term has tested the perseverance of many boys in the House but, as usual, Latham has not only managed to ride the storm but has achieved a great deal in doing so. I am pleased to report that all of the new boys this year settled in very quickly indeed and no-one has been hesitant in their contribution to the House. This ethos has helped Latham to continue to thrive as an all-round, friendly and well-integrated house.

We have excelled in sport, music *and* drama this term. After victory in the Caroline Tyler Relays, we were on form for the House Swimming. Ably captained by John Hignett (U6th), we surpassed endless

attempts from Orchard to disadvantage us and pulled through with another comfortable win. For the first time in many years, Latham triumphed in the Senior Tug of War. On the football field, prospects remain high for both the Junior and Senior League teams, reaching the semi finals and final respectively, before a sudden downturn in the weather caused all matches to be postponed. Congratulations to Joseph Jankinson (A Block) for winning the Junior Woodwind competition, to Guy Davis (O Block) for winning the Junior Guitar competition and to Tom Hume (U6th) for winning the Senior Guitar competition. A healthy number of Lathamites have also taken part in numerous concerts



and festivals throughout the term. The Senior Lit Soc play and the School Production of 'Macbeth' saw performances from Lathamites that were extremely well received - congratulations to all who were involved. The L6th made a fantastic effort in organising this year's Sale of Work, and the whole House played a part in the annual 'Wear What You Dare' day.

I would like to say on behalf of the house a massive thank you to Mr and Mrs Dahl for putting up with us this term! The house simply would not be what it is today without their dedication and support. Finally, I would also like to add that we are extremely grateful for our wonderful Matron who keeps us going throughout the term and for all the support she gives us.

Left : The Junior boys get very excited before the Social. Can you spot Barack Obama?!

Below: A L6th pupil going French for Wear What You Dare day



Below : Jockeys at the Sale of Work dinner taking parents' bets



were 601 sweets in the jar. Another highlight was the 'Wear What You Dare' day on which the customary sale of the Upper Sixth boys as slaves for the day took place. Not only was this a great money spinner, but it was wonderful to see the younger boys getting their own back!

This year's dinner was a highly successful and thoroughly enjoyable 'Evening at the Races' and the L6th did a wonderful job in hosting and entertaining our guests for the evening. Over £1200 was raised on the night as the

dining hall was transformed into a scene from Glorious Goodwood. There was a steward's enquiry when JELD's horse won the third race, but it was widely agreed that Mr Noakes proved the most successful gambler of the evening. In all seriousness, we would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who have supported Sale of Work this year either by donating prizes or by attending the events. Without your support we would not have been able to hit the £2000 mark for the fifth consecutive year.

Senior League Football

Having won Senior League in 2008, this year's team were keen to reproduce the sort of form which would push for silverware. Things did not start too well, however, with two draws against New and School, followed by a disappointing defeat to Orchard. With one minute to go in our fourth match against Cross, the boys were 4-3 down and it looked as if this year's campaign would end in disappointment. However, a last minute goal meant that if we could overturn a -4 goal difference in our final game against Priory, then qualification for the finals was still possible. What followed was the stuff of legend! Having gone 1-0 down, the boys rallied to dispatch Priory 7-1, with Greg

Flavell netting a remarkable five goals! This was enough to get us through to the semi-final where pre-tournament favourites Orchard were waiting for us. Undaunted, Latham produced a scintillating display of attacking football, managing to reverse the result of the previous encounter. We ran out 4-0 victors with Carlile scoring a hat-trick. This left Latham with a final against Cross House but, unfortunately, the freezing weather at the end of term meant that the game would have to be played in the new year. Whatever the result, this has been another highly enjoyable season of football for the boys and they should all be congratulated for their contributions over the past term.

Junior League Football

Not to be outshone by the boys in the Senior League side, the Juniors put in some stunning performances to qualify for the semi-finals in their competition. This was a remarkably impressive feat as the first two games of the campaign were large losses. Never disheartened, the

boys came back to beat Cross House 7-1 and, in their final game, inflicted a painful 12-1 defeat on Orchard, with Barnaby Dykstra scoring no fewer than 6 of the goals. School House were waiting for us in the semi-final which has sadly been postponed until the Lent Term due to the frozen pitches and recent snow.



Above : The Senior House League side after their 7-1 victory



Above: the mighty Junior League football side after hammering Orchard 12 - 1

Below : The Senior Tug-of-War team after surprising the entire school by winning the competition



House Swimming

After the swimming success enjoyed earlier in the term, hopes were high for this year's inter-House swimming gala held on the afternoon of Thursday December 2nd. John Hignett (U6) put together a crack team of talented swimmers and the gala started very well with two 2nd places in the first two races. Unfortunately, after a mix up over ages in the Junior Medley, the boys knew they were up against it with Orchard putting in some very strong performances. The Latham spirit shone through in abundance, however, with Harry Garland, George Bathurst, Christian Priestley and Sebas-

tiaan Howle all winning races, and Harry Mead winning two. Going into the relays, which were worth double points, the boys knew that they had just about closed the gap on Orchard. The Intermediates (Coleman, Howle, Garland & Brockway) then won the 4x25m Medley and the Juniors (Mead, Johnson, Lownds, Hunt, Polglase & Bathurst) won the 6x25m freestyle, with all our other teams either coming second or third. A nervous wait ensued; had Latham done enough to win? As it turned out, Orchard scored 140 points but the Latham team amassed a staggering 148 points and duly

took home the 2010/11 Swimming Cup. Well done to all the boys who swam and all the boys who turned up to support!

House Squash

Having won the House Squash trophy for the past three years, the team of Shiralagi, Groombridge and Sentance approached the competition with high hopes. Orchard were dispatched with consummate ease 3-0 and so progress to the final was only blocked by School House. Shiralagi won his rubber 2-1 but the opposition players proved just too strong in the other two pairings and so the boys went home empty-handed.

Caroline Tyler Relays

The first major inter-House event of the Michaelmas Term is always the swimming relays in memory of OR Caroline Tyler. Having won the relays in 2005 and 2006, Latham have been pipped into second place for the past few years. The team therefore set out on Thursday 16th September determined to get back into the winning way. The B Block boys (Lownds, Johnson, Mead and Bathurst) got us off to a great start, finishing in second place in their relay and the A Block four (Lee, Jankinson, Richards and Boyle) followed suit by just missing out on first place in their race. The O Block team (Howle, Brockway, Coleman and

Garland) went one better, coming home in first, before the Sixth Form quartet (Priestley, Groombridge, Hignett and Noakes) also finished second. Going into the final 8-man medley, the boys knew that they needed to beat Orchard in order to win the title and they did not disappoint, finishing over half a length in front of our nearest rivals. Orchard therefore managed an impressive total of 31 points, but Latham's 32 was enough to win the trophy for another year. It was a wonderful way to start the term and the future looks bright with so many talented young swimmers in the House. Well done to all!

Senior Tug-of-War

Although the tug-of-war competitions have not traditionally been successful for Latham, 2010 proved to be slightly different. Anchored by the highly impressive Kaven Bains (the people's player of the tournament), the Latham eight (Boyle, Hignett, Macdonald, Priestley, Shiralagi, Swann & Webster) soon started to show their potential. Cross, Priory and School were soundly defeated and we lost to New House by the narrowest of margins, 2-1. This was enough to see the Latham team through to the final against old enemies New House. The toss was all-

important and, as Kaven shook hands with the opposition, the crowd looked on with bated breath. Mr Cooke tossed the coin, Kaven called "heads!" and heads it was! The first pull went like clockwork - Latham one-nil up. The second pull went to New House - one-all! One final, Herculean effort was all it required and nothing could separate the two teams on the third pull. Just when we thought the rope was inching to our side, New would put in a counter-attack and regain any ground lost. Eventually, the superior skill, fitness, and House spirit won through and the Latham boys took home another inter-House Trophy.