



Latham House Newsletter

Michaelmas Term 2011



Issue 46

From the Head of House - CP

It's Christmas! Fourteen weeks have flown by and we are all getting into the swing of the winter festivities. It only seems like yesterday when we were dropped off at the beginning of September, and the new additions to the Latham community in B Block and Lower Sixth were finding their feet. It's nice to see each and every Lathamite getting involved in activities this term whether they are 'smack bang' in the middle of it or on the side lines cheering their friends on, and for the years I have been in

Latham this attitude has never changed.

On the last Thursday of term our Senior House footballers, through true grit and determination, fought their way to the final of the House football competition, sadly to lose to a strong Priory team. But the day wasn't all bad as a fine selection of pizzas were awarded to those who played. The House charity table tennis competition was also concluded with a much anticipated Jonathan Leung taking first place.

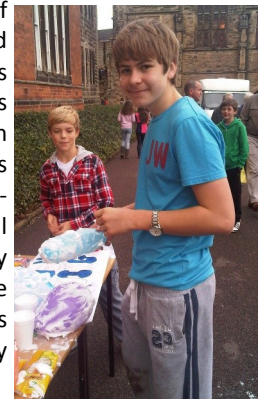
As we get into the coldest part of the year, it's

good to have that warm feeling in the House due to the friendliness and selflessness of all Lathamites. This could only be thanks to Mr Dahl and the 'mother' of the house, Matron. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both on behalf of the whole of Latham for all that they do for us. I hope you all enjoy a well-deserved Christmas break and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Sale of Work 2012

The Michaelmas charity drive was once again a real success with the boys raising £2200 for good causes. As ever, the L6th ran the highly popular tuck shop out of JELD's office and a keenly-fought table tennis competition saw Jonathan Leung come out as champion. On the day itself, the tuck shop was supplemented with old favourites such as Name the Teddy (won by Mr Wells from Foremarke with the name 'Aristotle') and Guess the Number of Sweets (won by the Meads). Space-Hopper Racing and Shave the Balloon also proved popular, with Mr and Mrs Johnson winning the raffle. On Saturday 26th November, 56 guests descended on Latham to enjoy another fine Evening at the Races and although most people went away with their pockets slightly lighter than when they arrived, lots of money was raised and much fun was had. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Keen who came up trumps by buying the winning horse in the final race, and many thanks to everyone who supported us again so generously this year.



Top : Wear What You Dare Day
Above: Shave the Balloon for charity!

Introducing the new B Block....

- Connor Bradbury - "Latham is great! Everybody is really nice. It's the best House!"
- James Chantler - "It's really good here at Latham, you meet a lot of new friends."
- Giles Davis - "Great fun, lots of new friends and everybody gets along really well"
- Julius Green - "Latham has really nice people, the food is good, I'm really enjoying it"
- Chris Hill - "Everybody has been really friendly, I couldn't have asked for more."
- Tristan Howle - "Latham has been great fun and I have been welcomed really well."
- Woody Lewis - "At Latham you get an amazing experience, I have, everyone's friendly"
- Charlie Mead - "Repton and Latham? All I can say is that it doesn't get any better!"
- Jordan Potts - "I absolutely love Latham, everyone is so nice. Latham = best House"
- Sam Trotman - "I have been welcomed really well at Latham and made lots of friends"



Above: The Mysteries - God and Jesus
Below: The 'Latham Four'



The Repton Mysteries

Anyone who went to see the recent superb production of the Repton Mysteries, the first official production in the newly refurbished 400 Hall, will have been mesmerised by the wonderful acting, the excellent music, the professional sound and lighting, and the smooth running of the back stage crew. How pleasing it therefore was that Latham boys played key roles in all of these areas.

On stage, Latham provided both God, Edwin Wilton-

Morgan, and Jesus, Harry Mead, and both of their performances rightly won critical acclaim. Daniel Gillbanks was a gruesomely convincing Cain and there was also a cameo appearance for Jack Carter. One audience member on the first night was overheard saying that the crucifixion scene, in which every single actor on stage was a Lathamite - Harry plus Ben Frost, Dan Gillbanks, John Macdonald and James Wilson - was the most moving piece of theatre she had ever seen.

In the band Latham provided Joseph Jankinson on oboe, Damon Zhong on violin and Jamie Clarke on percussion, all of whom performed superbly in Mr Hodgkinson's band. Dominic Chaffey proved to be a highly efficient and effective Stage Manager, and Matthew Jones once again proved his worth in the sound and lighting box. The talents of Lathamites never cease to amaze me. What a wonderful team effort it was from all the boys and what a wonderful production!

House Football

This has been a tremendous term for the Latham football teams with the seniors topping the league in the main competition and the juniors coming a highly creditable second in their league competition.

The new format for House football threw the boys right into the heat of battle back at the beginning of September with a new, round-robin format to be played over two afternoons. The senior boys were undefeated and consequently topped the league, qualifying them for the final to be held on the final Thursday of term.

The match against Priory was played in horrific conditions with the game being temporarily abandoned in the second half due to torrential rain. Despite playing into the wind in the first half, the Latham boys dominated the opening half hour of the game and were unlucky not to go 1-0 up when a Groombridge shot just went wide. Priory scored just before half-time and then again

just after when a wonder strike from 35 yards flew into the top corner. Hugill was inspired in goal saving a number of Priory shots and, when Dan Gillbanks hit the post with 10 minutes to go, we knew the footballing gods were against us.

The junior boys finished in mid-table respectability in the House competition but carried all before them (except School House!) in their league competition, qualifying them for the semi-finals as second seeds. The game, also against Priory, was likewise played in tempestuous conditions and was certainly not conducive to the flowing football which we had seen in previous rounds. Having gone 2-0 down, the boys fought valiantly to get it back to 2-1. Priory got a third late in the second half which effectively ended Latham's chances but the boys came off the pitch with their heads held high. Many thanks to all the boys for running their sides and playing in absolutely the right manner. Here's to next season!

House Swimming & Caroline Tyler Relays



Above: the junior football team
Below: the league-topping seniors



- Swimming Role of Honour 2011**
- Senior ind. medley - Ed Coleman
 - Senior backstroke - Ed Coleman
 - Senior b'fly - Finn Birthistle-Cook
 - Senior f'style - Christian Priestley
 - Senior medley relay - Latham
 - Overall Senior Cup - Latham

The Michaelmas Term is always an exciting one for the swimmers in the House and, as reigning champions in both the Caroline Tyler Relays and the inter-House swimming competitions, hopes were high.

In the relays, the Latham boys were dominant in the seniors, with the intermediates and juniors also putting in some fine swims. Orchard, our long-suffering swimming rivals, looked strong, and it was with bated breath that the boys awaited the result. Having won the competition four times in the last five years, I suppose we can allow Orchard to win it just this once (with Latham a very close second!)

Going into the swimming gala, the boys therefore knew that they would have to put in a very special effort to overhaul the boys in red and white. This we did, with a number of boys winning or coming second in their races. The seniors won their trophy but it was another agonising second place as Latham finished on 138 points, with Orchard on 150. We may have lost the silverware, but it was another fantastic House effort.



Above - U6th before Xmas Social
Below - The Junior Ice-breaker
Bottom - Wear What You Dare Day



Other House Sport

As defending champions of the senior House tug-o-war competition, it was with a heavy heart that the Latham boys learned that this year's competition had to be postponed for bad weather.

It was not long, however, before some of the other House sports competitions were upon us. In the Senior basketball, we were unlucky to be drawn against Cross House with their new 6ft 8 West Indian fast bowler! Despite their best efforts, the boys just came off second best to the eventual winners. The same was true in the junior competition where we got through to the semi-final, only to lose out to Priory, the eventual winners.

The Latham Squash team went into November's competition with high hopes and soon got through to the semi-final against Cross. Ben Berry just lost out in the first rubber and things were going according to plan in the second game as Jacques Taylor went one game up with minimum effort. Sadly this only spurred our opposition to greater things and by the time Charles Perera stepped onto the court, the semi-final was all but over.

Success might not have come our way this term in the minor sports but never has Latham struggled to find boys willing to pull on their blue and white top in order to give their very best for the House. Long may this spirit last!



Above: An U6th Sale of Work slave
Below: Mario & Luigi or the L6th?

