



# School House Newsletter

*Michaelmas Term 2011*

## ***Introduction***

Having applied for a teaching post at Repton School, in February 2003, I was delighted to be called for interview by the soon to be retired Headmaster, Graham Jones. As part of the questioning, I was asked where I saw my career heading. My instant reply was that, in time, I wanted to become a Housemaster. On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011, my ambition became a reality as 75 teenage boys descended on School House for the start of the 2011/12 academic year!

So, what has it been like? Well, above all, the last thirteen weeks have been very busy. There have been many enjoyable moments and Vicky and I have really enjoyed getting to know the boys. Of course, there have been some very challenging times too. I am in no doubt though that School House is a very special community, full of talented, caring and committed young people who, individually and collectively, have a great desire to ensure that the house offers a welcoming, secure and inclusive environment for all.

We are very fortunate to have such a strong set of tutors; Mr Hill, Mr Bradburn, Mr Mitchell, Mr Levesley and our new B Block tutor, Mr Crombie, as well as a matron, Cherry Baker, who together offer such great day-to-day support to the boys. In addition, I would like to thank Vicky, my wife, who has thrown herself so fully into boarding house life, even on those days when she has completed a long and demanding day's work at hospital!

I was very encouraged by the approach to work in the house and the vast majority of boys received very good reports. However, at this early stage of the academic year there is much hard work ahead for all; especially those pupils facing public exams this year. The Upper Sixth continue to receive replies from universities regarding offers of a place for their chosen courses. We wish them well with this over the coming weeks; especially Jake Tobin and Hayden Ball who are awaiting contact from Cambridge.

**Next term begins on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January (boarders should arrive between 6pm and 8pm) with lessons beginning for everyone on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

Vicky and I would like to thank you for your many kind gifts at the end of term and we wish you a very restful and happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.



## Sport

This term, four members of School House were regulars for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI football team: Vice-Captain **Oliver Welch** (U6S), **Matthew Fletcher** (U6S), **Andrew Findlay** (U6S) and **James Gough** (L6S) have all contributed to a successful term that saw the 1<sup>st</sup> XI reach the quarter-final of the ISFA Cup. With a number of others playing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and U16A teams, hopes were high for the Senior Team who felt that they had a great chance of winning the main house competition. Sadly, the boys lost in the semi-final to Priory (the eventual Senior House champions, who beat Latham in the final). Although the Junior House team struggled, our Junior and Senior House League teams were very strong this year and both had great success. The Junior League Team reached the semi-final but lost 2-1 to The Cross, whilst the Senior League Team lost to New House 1-0 in the final. Spirits were lifted on the penultimate day of term though when the Senior Reserves managed to overcome New House (and heavy winds and rain) to secure the House's first silverware for the year!

**Mackenzie Wilson** (4S) and **James Byrne** (4S) are both involved in the U15A team that has reached the ISFA Cup semi-final, to be played against Bolton Grammar School in the New Year.



**Arjan Drayton-Chana** (U6S) who plays for Repton 1<sup>st</sup> XI hockey team, and Cannock Mens 1<sup>st</sup> XI, was, at the start of the term, selected to play for 'England' in the UK School Games. At the end of the Michaelmas Term, Arjan received the news that he had, once again, been selected for the full England U18 Boys Squad. School House boasts a number of very talented cricketers who are likely to be pushing for places in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI later in the year, including Matthew Fletcher who is heavily involved with Derbyshire CCC, whilst **Matthew Goodacre** (5S) has recently been invited to join the ECB England Development Programme.

In the other house sports competitions of the term we struggled in the squash and basketball competitions, but with a number of very capable swimmers in the house, we were always likely to be competitive in both the Caroline Tyler Relays and the House Swimming Gala. In the end, we came third in both swimming competitions. In the House Gala, **Atilla Ak** (L6S) won the Senior 100m Freestyle; **George Newstead** (3S) came first in the Junior Individual Medley; whilst the Senior Team won the 6x25m Freestyle Relay. It should be noted that the Senior Team was especially strong and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in their respective competition.

# Sale of Work

School House managed to raise £1,715 from its Sale of Work fundraising effort. The campaign started with our 1960s themed Sale of Work Dinner, where the Lower-Sixth did a fantastic job of organising the whole evening.



Guests and the lower-sixth waiters dressed up in a range of 60s outfits (including psychedelic, hippie, tie-dye, mod and mini-skirts); the house band played hits by the Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Johnny Cash and Jimi Hendrix; the menu reflected popular dishes of the decade too (including Cheese on sticks, Prawn cocktail, Beef Bourginon, Coq au Vin, Trifle, Black Forest Gateau) and a 60s Quiz tested out the guests' knowledge/memories of the decade! The evening was a great success and we would like to thank everyone who was able to support us by donating a raffle prize or attending the meal itself.



The House's fundraising efforts continued after half-term through a series of events including: a Yard Football 5-a-side Competition, a Pub-style Quiz for all members of the House and Wear What You Dare Day. Of course, the Sale of Work Fete itself provided the boys with further opportunities to raise money for charity in a fun way, which included: Splat the rat, Pin the tail on the donkey, a Second Hand Book-stall, a golf "chip nearest the pin" competition, Arm-wrestling, Tom's £20 note, a burger stand and Guess how many peas in the jar!



## The Arts

It is wonderful to see so many of the boys in School House involved in the cultural side of school life. Indeed, I was delighted that **Max Summerton** (4S) was given such positive feedback for his outstanding contribution to the bi-annual School Fashion Show that was held this term. The event was a great success but everybody was in agreement that Max's collection stole the show. The recent 'Repton Mysteries' production was also an overwhelming success and I was so pleased that **George Newstead** (3S), **William Wollaston** (3S), **Matty Thomas** (4S), **Matthew Davidson** (5S) and **Hayden Ball** (U6S) all chose to be part of such an exciting, but challenging, piece of work that was Directed by our very own House Tutor, Guy Levesley. The boys were truly committed to the demands of the production and they can be extremely pleased with their contributions – especially Matthew and Matty who had already been involved in the Junior School production of *The Wind in the Willows*!



It is also very encouraging to see that so many boys in the house have some form of musical interest. For some this means taking weekly music lessons as a beginner in a new instrument, whilst there is a significant group who play their chosen instrument(s) to a very high standard indeed. It has been a great pleasure to see Hayden Ball, **Cameron Atkinson** (5S), James Byrne, William Wollaston and **Dominic Lea** (3S) singing with the Chapel Choir each week. There are also a significant number of boys who are also involved in Chamber Choir, Concert Band and Jazz Band. Particular mention should go to **Joe Sorrell** (L6S) who passed his Grade 6 Saxophone with Distinction, whilst **William Abell** (4S) continues to excel in a range of instruments and is currently working towards Piano Grade 7, French Horn Grade 8 and Guitar Grade 8. **Fearghus O'Sullivan** (L6S) is also a Grade 8 Classical Guitar player too. At the lower end of the house I really enjoyed seeing our musical B Blockers - **Lewis Blood** (3S), **Maxim Hibbs** (3S), George Newstead, **Daniel Yung** (3S) and Dominic Lea - perform at a recent 'Informal Concert'. In the last week of term, it was announced that **Tom Main** (L6S) and **Samuel Yung** (U6) were both awarded their Music Colours: well done to you both!



### *Finally: Maths Success...*

**Lygon Bowen-West** (L6S), **Honglie Chen** (L6S) and **Jake Tobin** (U6S) were an integral part of Repton's success in the recent Senior Maths Challenge competition. The four man Repton team won the Regional Maths Challenge at Derby University and now progress to the National Finals on 1<sup>st</sup> February at the Campden Centre against 50 other regional winners. We wish them luck!