



SDC - The Week

7 May 2009

Year 4 trip to Cromer

Once again Year 4 headed off to Kingswood Activity Centre in Cromer, Norfolk for this annual adventure. The weather started off poorly with the rain following the group up the M11, but by Tuesday afternoon they were blessed with blue skies. The lovely weather remained for the rest of the week, making a huge difference to the children's time away.

On arrival, the boys and girls bundled themselves into their comfortable dormitories in Blickling. Conditions were clean but basic, and the food was good and filling – just what a 9 year old needs when on the move for 12 hours a day!

Pupils took part in a range of team building activities including brain teasers in "Indoor Initiatives", mental planning and thinking in "Problem Solving", physical partnership in "Team Challenge" and a combination of everything in "Low Ropes" and "Night Line". Even "Laser Quest" required teamwork and communication in the dark. All the pupils did very well and Mr James was particularly impressed with how quickly and skilfully his group solved some really challenging tasks.

Pupils also had the chance to test their nerve and strength in "Zip Wire", "Leap of Faith", "Climbing", "Bouldering" (climbing sideways) and "Canoe Capsize". Many were confronted by their fear of heights and of the unknown but all



pushed themselves and achieved beyond their initial targets. Well done. It's quite scary standing at the top of a 30 metre telegraph pole and jumping out to a trapeze!

A lot of work was done too. The group visited Cromer where they investigated the history through map comparisons and local facts, and looked at the local industries of tourism and fishing. The children carried out a traffic survey and visited the church, and also spent time on the old pier and visiting the lifeboat station at the end. All this will help them compare rural Cromer to urban Catford later this term. Not only that, they also spent the best part of a lovely sunny day on the beach, investigating sea defences, watching the cliffs disintegrating in front of their eyes, eating a picnic, making sand castles and investigating life forms in rock pools. To top it off, the children also had an ice cream!!

Finally everyone enjoyed dressing up for the end of week disco where some pupils demonstrated a completely different set of skills!

Thank you all who came – it was a fantastic week away.

Year 9 and 10 House Debating

The motion was: This House would make all schools fully independent

The debate started off strongly with an effective definition from Evangeline Atkinson, and continued down the table with a sustained and impressive display of well-structured argument. Phillip Thomson and Max Woodbridge, from Stuart House, were particularly impressive given their relative lack of debating experience, as was Greg Burr's summary speech for the proposition. Amatey Doku, Nathan Beardsworth and



Finlay Stroud are continuing to show a confident transition from the format of Lower School debating to the more demanding 'British Parliamentarian' style. Evi Atkinson and Charles Brook continue to go from strength to strength and showed the skill that took them to the finals of the International Competition for Young Debaters in Cambridge last weekend.

On the basis of this debate, Mr Webb is extremely confident about next year's Debating Society. Well done to everyone who took part – it was a genuinely close contest.

German Exchange Trip to Neuberg

Imogen Clarke (9I) reports: "The German Exchange was a great success. All the participants had an amazing time; we tried new food, met new people, saw new things, infinitely improved our German and made lifelong friends.



One of the trips we took was to an Audi factory. We saw how the cars were made and how you could get custom parts fitted for your Audi. It was very interesting! We also visited Nürnberg (Nuremberg) and had a tour around the town, looking at different sights. All participants went to school with their exchange partner. This was interesting, but also a linguistically difficult and confusing experience! We also visited lots of places with our exchange partners' families.

Overall, the German exchange was a wonderful week. A big thank you to Miss Lambert and Mr Austin for organising the visit and to the exchange partners for being so welcoming and friendly!"

Junior School Swimming

On Wednesday evening, 20 swimmers represented St Dunstan's at the London Schools Preliminary round at JAPs. The children swam brilliantly and everyone who raced contributed points to the overall score for the school. Each child had supporting parents which is fantastic so thanks go to them for coming along. The finals take place in June.

Staff v. Pupils Rounders

A mixture of students in Years 11-13 turned up on Friday keen to beat the staff in a rounders match - sadly their added numbers still did not allow them to gain a victory as the staff team contained quality rather than quantity. After the first innings, knowledge of the rules improved and the staff, despite

being down by one rounder, came back stronger than ever. On the pupils' team, Rebecca Dalby Bowler demonstrated some hard hitting, as did Jordon Plummer and Greg Holder. In the field, Georgia Neblett, Clare Skinner, George Frewin and Nathaniel Johnson impressed all. For the staff, Mr Akinson proved to be a star fielder and Mr Adriano an amusing yet effective striker. Final score, 16½ - 17½.

1st XI Cricket v. St Olaves

The 1st XI played their first match of the season in the Lemon Cup away at St Olave's. Early season rustiness gave the opposition, who batted first, too many extras. However, Chris Murray and Euan Johnson bowled beautifully in the middle of the innings taking 3 and 2 wickets respectively. Alex Price claimed two late wickets with some excellent leg spin, as St Olave's finished on 156 after their 30 overs.

St Dunstan's reply started with the loss of two early wickets. However, there were solid contributions from Josh Waters, Chris Murray, Euan Johnson and Mark Wilgoss who all batted well. Unfortunately, as the overs ran out, the team finished 40 runs short.

There were many plus points during the game which augurs well for the season ahead.

U13A & U12A Rounders v. St Thomas' Battersea.

The U13As began tentatively as St. Thomas' Battersea gained an early lead of 2-1½ before the SDC girls warmed up and brought out the big hits. In the second and third innings, the team thought more tactically about the "15 good ball" innings, placing more pressure on their opponents and scoring more readily on their last bat. This match was won 11 ½ - 6 thanks to SDC's strength when striking the ball.

Player of the Match: Rhiana Sheth.

Catches: Courtne Wilks (2), Elyse Jones, Rhiana Sheth and Christelle Clements-Davies.

Rounders: Elyse Jones (2), Rhiana Rheth (3), Jess Twist, Nina Tayler, Connie Sjodin and Rebecca Burnett.

After an exciting first innings, the U12As were equal with their opponents on 1½ rounders each. SDC struggled to gain form when batting, with St Thomas' fielding well throughout the match. However, their bowling was less consistent and provided SDC with a rounder in no balls. As SDC stepped up to field, Lani Davies caught a great ball situated between 2nd and 3rd base to reduce the opponents' batting opportunities.

During the second innings, SDC picked up the pace with Caroline O'Maley scoring a rounder, and Lani Davies and Anna Marlow scoring half a rounder each. The other points were picked up through no balls and SDC took advantage of this by putting on the pressure, running from base to base assertively and at speed. Both Rachel Adebiji and Kemi Akinlotan were out during the second innings but played well.

Final score, 5-2½ to SDC. The game was well played by both teams given the wet conditions. SDC need to concentrate on their fielding skills during their next training session as this is an area for improvement before the next match.

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