



SDC - The Week

21 May 2009

Year 12 IB Theory of Knowledge Conference

Katrina Taylor (12F) reports: "Arriving late at the University of Kent wasn't the best start, causing a "safety hazard" by sitting on the stairs; we had made an entrance and I'm sure we will be remembered. After a short but engaging lecture on the change and continuity in science, there was a quick sales pitch for the university, a bit cheeky but it seemed like a nice place nevertheless.



After a quick caffeine boost we split into separate groups according to our intellectual preferences, such as: law, social science, humanities, languages, maths and science. For the rest of the day we took part in a wide range of discussions and workshops that enabled us to gain different perspectives on some possibly controversial issues such as: fashion and morals, honour killings, empathy, and whether or not certain groups are terrorists or freedom fighters. We also had the pleasure of touring and exploring the Kent campus, and interacting with other IB students from around the country.

The experience was one to remember, particularly the people we met. We realised that there were in fact thousands of people doing the IB all over England and it was reassuring to know that we weren't the only crazy ones taking six subjects, yet enjoying it at the same time, and that there were others that could share our experiences and views.

All in all the general consensus within our IB class was that although the days' workshops hadn't served justice to the ToK topics we had hoped to encounter and depict, we still managed to make the most of the day by gaining different views on life

and teaching as well as realising that we were thankful for our insightful ToK teachers at St Dunstan's."

Year 5 Trip to Little Canada, Isle of Wight

Year 5 had a well-deserved break and took a trip down to the PGL activity centre of Little Canada on the Isle of Wight. Raring to go on Monday morning, the children said goodbye to their parents and little did they know, the sun also! With the majority of activities taking place either out in the water or high up on climbing apparatus, this was destined to be a week like no other.

With the wind at its strongest on Tuesday, the children trekked down to the beach to learn how to sail. Battling against the fierce wind to get out to open water, there were no better conditions for sailing than this although the fact that the sail boat the children used was damaged later that afternoon by the windy conditions, perhaps suggested otherwise! The afternoon brought the extremely popular 'Aeroball' followed by the notorious 'Jacob's Ladder' - a climbing exercise requiring teamwork that put initiatives to the test.

Wednesday saw the children return to the water, this time as two teams in giant dragon boats. After a short practice it was time for a race to rival any between Oxford and Cambridge. With pride at stake the children rowed like never before and the gracious cries of "Losers!" from the winning team highlighted just what it meant to them. After drying off, the children engaged in afternoon activities including the climbing wall and the tricky 'Catwalk' high ropes course. By Thursday, tiredness was undoubtedly beginning to set in but the children didn't show it and adrenaline and excitement kept enthusiasm



high. If anything would put this to the test it was a three-hour hike around the local area exploring fields and the nearby-forested areas! Having spent the morning walking it was back in the water after lunch for canoeing and kayaking. The children provided entertainment on the final evening as they demonstrated their talents with a variety of performances around a campfire.

With the rain pouring down for all of Friday morning, the children admirably attempted the Trapeze jump from the top of a tall pole. This was followed by a session on Quad bikes during which Maelo Manning completed her circuit in a time Lewis Hamilton would have been proud of! After lunch the children waved goodbye to the Isle of Wight and set off for the ferry and home, arriving back in the pouring rain having forgotten what the sun looks like but also having had a thoroughly enjoyable week.

Year 6 French Trip

This year's French trip was as eagerly awaited and carefully planned as ever. There was only one thing which could not be foreseen: the weather! We're used to the vagaries of the English weather, but surely the continental climate would be kind? Not necessarily... Richard the coach driver welcomed us, and immediately startled us by saying that he didn't mind sweets, singing or noise on his coach. Yr 6 didn't need to be asked twice!



The trip to the centre in Hardelot was over in the seeming twinkling of an eye and the group were soon there, going on their guided tour of the premises, being shown where to line up for the fire drill – which was just as well, as early the next day, all were roused by the fire alarm. Then the cause of the scare was revealed – a massive build up of steam in Mr Duckworth's shower! Mr Duckworth was soon forgiven, however, as the week flew by in a whirl of activity: French market, preparing lunches, cheese farms, a windy day on the beach, an even windier day on the beach, massive WW II bunkers, a museum, the chocolate factory, a hyper-market, building camps in the woods, the disco (Britain has certainly got talent!), the trick-or-treat night (which was mostly just tricks to be honest). It was a fantastic taste of French culture (and of some snails and frogs' legs as well) – thanks to the teachers who came but especially to Mrs Poole, the organiser of the whole trip!

Junior School Parents' Prayer Meeting

All parents are warmly invited to join a Junior School Parents' Prayer Meeting to pray for the children, teachers and the school on 8 June 2009. To find out more contact Richard and Lois

Evans on 020 8776 5463 evans@portlandsquare.co.uk

U15 Tennis v. Colfe's

On Tuesday, the U15 boys took to the courts against Colfe's full of confidence and enthusiasm. Conscious of time, it was decided that the sets be played to 5 games, with tiebreaks deciding matches poised at 4-4. After the first round of matches, Louis Phelps and Andy Booth convincingly beat Colfe's pair three (5-1) whilst Robin Loo and Oliver Fox also recorded a win (5-2) against the middle pairing.

Going into the second rotation, SDC were 2-1 up and extended that lead with Louis and Andy again on form (5-2), meanwhile Amaar Wright and George Howlett secured a win as SDC's number two pairing (5-2). The 4-2 lead eased the pressure on SDC ahead of each pairing facing their opposite numbers, knowing that just one win would mean a St Dunstan's triumph. However, it would seem that pressure was what SDC needed! Robin and Oliver lost on a tiebreak and after what seemed to be a never ending game on court two, George and Amaar were beaten in the final game.

This left a truly nail-biting finish to the game between the number one pairings. Having been within touching distance of the win, Colfe's were holding on well and broke serve. This took the game to a tiebreak in a winner takes all situation. The gathered audience watched on as the lead changed hands with what seemed like every point, until Louis stepped up serving for the match and secured the point, the game and the match for SDC! A great win of 5-4, well done to all those who played!

U14A Cricket v. Chislehurst & Sidcup (a)

The U14A team beat Chislehurst and Sidcup last Saturday in what was quite a comfortable victory. The conditions were poor and the opposition went into bat on what was an unpredictable wicket and they made 73 all out off 17 overs. SDC batted in slightly drier but extremely windy conditions and managed to knock the runs off in 15 overs. Michael Wilgoss made 20 runs, Greg Burr 16 not out and Fraser Amory 11 not out. Apart from a few too many catches being dropped, the team put in a solid batting and bowling performance, and it was good to get another victory under the belt. Well done to all involved!

U14 Rounders v. JAGS

The U14 fixture with JAGS really was a game of two innings. Going into bat first, the girls were strong yet cautious in their hitting with Izzy Wilken-Smith setting the tone, scoring 2½. Full rounders also came from Lana Richards and Olive Supple-Still, bringing the SDC total to 6. In fielding, the girls were fast in getting the ball to second base and a strong partnership emerged between Katie Payne and Isabel de Cala at backstop and fourth. It was no surprise that the girls took with them a lead into the second innings, however, a more adventurous approach was perhaps a little too adventurous, as six girls were caught or stumped within the first round of batting. A huge feat of increasing the gap in scores was left to Izzy de Cala as the only remaining batter. However, JAGS fielding proved just too much for SDC who finished the innings with 2 rounders, making 8 in total. JAGS hitting then stepped up a gear, to finish the match with a 13½-8 win, however, there are some real positives to take from the first innings.

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