

Headmaster writes:



Welcome back to the start of another academic year and a very special welcome to all new boys and their families, as well as new staff, who have joined us this term. We wish you every success and happiness and trust that you will experience school as a place of delight, excitement and enchantment in the year ahead.

We have been busy over the summer with decoration and refurbishment. The Governors have acquired the farm-workers' bungalow at the entrance to the car park. Although this opportunity comes at a time when we are all feeling a sense of financial restraint, this is a good strategic opportunity to increase the footprint of the school, to develop more space for the school's use and possibly to improve traffic flow. The boys have also been enjoying the addition of a fourth table-tennis table in the playground [see above]. We enjoyed two very full and interesting days of staff training just before the start of the new term. We have been considering the benefits of positive psychology and its applications to life at school. I shall say more about this very promising research as the year unfolds. The other main thrust of our training was to consider the ways in which a philosophical approach can really boost the pupils' learning, and in particular the specific role that questioning plays in teaching and learning. I agree with Bishop Creighton when he said that one real object of education is "to leave a man in the condition of continually asking questions". We want to spark curiosity, even in our youngest pupils and see this fan into flames of authentic intellectual enquiry as the boys grow older. We want them to see the "quest" in "question", to evoke the sense of awe and wonder of an enquiring mind. We will be inviting you to attend a special parents' evening to discuss the topic of thinking skills on the 19th October. Finally, we like to celebrate the achievements of all our pupils in as many ways as possible. Amongst the most notable achievers is Tarun Mahotra who has been crowned the top U.11 chess player in the country. If you prefer your son not to be featured in our publications—e.g. if you do not wish your son's name or picture to be included in any of the newsletters (including yearly magazine) or on the website—please let me know in writing by 25.9.09 at the latest.

Best wishes as always Trevor Lee | Headmaster

Diary Dates

- Mon 21/09/2009
Y3 Parents' Information Meeting 4.00pm
- Tue 22/09/2009
Y4 Parents' Information Meeting 4.00pm
- Tue 22/09/2009
Staff & Parents' Prayer Meeting 8pm
- Wed 23/09/2009
Whole School Staff Meeting 8.00 am
Nursery Parents' Information Meeting in the New Barn Theatre 9.15am.
- Fri 25/09/2009
Harvest Assembly. World's Largest Coffee Morning 8am Senior School Hall.
U11 Saracens Challenge Trophy at (h)
- Sun 27/09/2009
Manches Moor Park 10 km / Junior Fun Runs
- Tue 29/09/2009
Founders Day
- Wed 30/09/2009
Year 5 to Verulamium 8.45am - 4.15pm
- Fri 02/10/2009
Y7 Visit to National Archives, Kew
John Harris Storyteller (YR-Y4)
- Tue 06/10/2009
Caroline Lawrence Author (Y3-Y6)
- Fri 09/10/2009
Prospective Parents' Open Morning 10am-12pm
- Sat 10/10/2009
Gayhurst U8 Tag Rugby Tournament 10.00 am-1.00 pm

MVP & MIP

To encourage further effort and achievement, two cups are awarded to boys in the Senior School each week: Most Valuable Pupil of the week and Most Improved Pupil of the week.

Most Valuable Pupil

This time we congratulate:

Andrew MacLean (8S)

Nimai Thakrar (4E)

Most Improved Pupil

This time we congratulate:

James Fowler (8S)

Karan Soni (8W)

Drama Workshop

On Monday 14th September, Year 6 boys took part in a drama workshop in the New Barn Theatre to launch rehearsals for this year's production of 'Grimm Tales' by Carol Ann Duffy and Tim Supple. The workshop was led by professional actor Leo Wringer, an original cast member of 'More Grimm Tales' at the Young Vic in 1997. The boys had tremendous fun exploring the play's dramatic characters and powerful storytelling with Leo, who can next be seen as Mr Gardiner in 'Silent Witness' for the BBC. 'Grimm Tales' will be performed at the New Barn Theatre in February 2010.

Mr S Hinton | Theatre Director

New Equipment



A big thank you to Mrs. Egan and all the boys who took part in the Easter Football Camp for their kind donation. With the money we have been able to replace all of our tackling equipment for the upcoming rugby season. A big thank you to our Old Terryers who have very kindly donated £1000 towards hockey development at the school. With these generous funds, we have been able to buy sticks for students as young as Year 1 and have been able to buy brand new goals for our senior students.

Mr D Todd | Director of Sport

We welcome Mrs Bain (Y3) to Johnson House, Mr Kneller (Y4) to Livingstone, Mr Cook (Y5/6 Maths) to Wren and Mr Reissis (Old Terryer & Head Boy 2003-4) back to Northwood Prep as our Gap Year student. The academic timetable, clubs and Life Skills are all underway again whilst Rugby/Hockey trials and 13+ interviews have given a competitive edge to the start of term.

Congratulations to pupils selected as Ambassadors, Librarians or House Officers. **R. Shah** and **J. Man** are the School Captains, **T. Beveridge** is Head Librarian, **J. Gelernter** is Head Chorister and **H. Douch** is Captain of Rugby. We would also like to congratulate those musicians who passed recent Associated Board exams, **J. Fowler** for his fifth place in the Heart of England Judo competition and **A. MacLean, A. MacLean & J. Shwartz-Briskin** for representing the school in the national Prep Schools' tennis tournament. Andrew only lost in the singles event to the eventual champion.

For the record, the following boys have been elected as Form Captains for the Autumn Term 2009: **R. Kelion** (7B), **D. Green** (7W), **A. McCormick** (8MS) and **R. Shah** (8RW).

We enjoyed seeing Year 7 parents at the information meeting last week, and look forward to your support of school matches and the Macmillan Coffee Morning (Fri 25th September). Many boys and families will, I am sure, wish to pit their wits against each other and against staff in this year's Fantasy Football competition. May the best team win!

Mr A Crook | 2nd Deputy Head

Summer Achievements - NP boys

Congratulations to **James Fowler** (Y8) who competed over the holidays in several Judo competitions, representing the notoriously strong Northern Home Counties. James has qualified for the National Competition in October this year and narrowly missed out on securing a place in the England Judo Squad.

Congratulations also to **Andrew MacLean** (Capt.), **Jonathan Shwartz-Briskin** and **Alasdair MacLean** for representing the school in the Annual IAPS Tennis Tournament at Queenswood School, Potters Bar. In the Senior doubles the boys made it through the group stages and were finally beaten at the quarter-final stage. **Alasdair** was paired with a student from another school and made it through to round 16 of the plate competition. Andrew made it through the singles main draw and went on to beat his opposite at Belmont School. He was beaten by the current holder of the singles title who went on again to win the overall competition. Well done to the boys for all their efforts. The IAPS tournament is held annually, usually the first week after the end of the summer term. We would very much like to enter more students in this tournament in the future, so start your preparation now!!

Congratulations to **Ashane Wijesuriya** who was a member of the Eastcote CC U11 side that won the Middlesex competition. Ashane had the privilege of scoring the winning runs, hitting a four over extra cover to win the game. **Shakil Karim**, a member of the squad, was presented with a personal achievement award in recognition of his maiden half century and a five wicket haul against Bessborough earlier in the season.



Mr D Todd | Director of Sport

The new school year has started well and we welcome the pupils from the Junior School into the senior school and the following new boys into the school; **Eamon Hicks Y3B, Niek and Joep Van der Kamp Y3B and 4K, Dishant Dattani 4E, Christian and James Nutt 4E and 6G.** We also welcome the following teachers to Northwood Prep; Mrs Bain (Y3 Form Tutor), Mr Kneller (Y4 Form Tutor) and Mr Cook (Y5 Form Tutor and Maths).

I would like to thank all Y5 parents who attended the parents' information meeting on Wednesday 9th September and remind all Y3 & Y4 parents about their introduction meetings on Monday 21st September & Tuesday 22nd September respectively, starting at 4pm in The New Barn Theatre.

All boys have '*Personal Organisers*' to help them record their prep and plan their learning. We ask for parents support in checking homework and signing their organiser every day. Supervised Prep for Year 3 & 4 at school takes place in room 1 and finishes at 4.15pm when the boys will be brought up to the car park. For Year 5 to Year 8 Supervised Prep is in the Learning Resources Centre and any pupil, who is not collected by 4.30pm, will be taken to Supervised Prep. Parents should report to the School Office if they wish to collect their son before the end of prep at 5.15pm.



Over the Summer holiday break **Rishil Patel, Anuj Patel and Aanand Daryanani (Y5C)** were lucky enough to participate on Richard Hammonds Blast Lab as the 'Fireblasters'. They competed against another team of three girls and met the 'Hamster' himself, 'Ninja Nan' and 'Mini Miss' before taking part in some

challenges. To see how well they did watch this space for detail as to when the show will be televised. What a wonderful experience!

Congratulations to Harry Saunders (3B), Azeem Fidahusein (3B), Raunak Khanduja (3N), Kieran Patel (3N), Kailum Patel (4E), Aryaman Jhunjunwala (4E), Brij Kantaria (4K), Joep Van der Kamp (4K), Mohammed Marji (5C) Ashane Wijesuriya (5C) Samay Unadkat (5T), Darshan Shah (5T), Adam Lalani (6F), Patric Rondel (6F), Matthew Jacobs (6G) and Dylan Patel (6G) for being voted Form Captain and Vice Form Captains respectively this term.

Mr I Rice | Deputy Head

Junior School News

We have had a really good start to the new year in Nursery and Junior School. All of our new children have settled in so well and are happy with their new teachers and in their new classes.

Thank you to Junior School parents for attending the information meetings last week and for showing us how much you are in support of everything we do at school. Nursery parents are also invited to an information meeting next Wednesday at 9.15am in the New Barn Theatre.

Today in Junior School we had a special assembly about London and the boys showed their postcards relating to the place that they visited in London. This has resulted in some really interesting talk about the historical and cultural background of our capital city. Thank you to parents for taking the time to visit a place in London with your child and for helping him to extend his general knowledge.

Miss K McNerney | Head of Junior School

Chess News

Tarun Malhotra (6F) was crowned the "British Under-11 Chess Champion" for the year 2009 at the 96th British Chess Championships held during the Summer.

Tarun, who was eligible to play in U-10 category, however chose to participate in the higher age categories, i.e., U-11 & U-12. He won the British U-11 and came 4th in the British U-12 category. In addition, he also played in the Major Open competition comprising mainly of higher rated adult players. He performed creditably and gained his first FIDE (international rating) rating of 1730.

Tarun also represented England U-11 team on one of its top boards for their match against Flanders (Belgium) held on 5th-6th September at Eltham College, London, which England won with a score of 27-13. Another Northwood Prep boy, **Roman Mitra (6G)**, also had success over the summer. He qualified to play in the final stage of UK Chess Challenge- Terafinal Challengers where he became the top U11.

Mr I Rice | Deputy Head



Music School News

Over the summer Northwood Prep boys have been busy representing the school at musical events. **Rafi Kelion, Krishen Shah and Rohin Shah** all attended the Stonebridge music course at Wellington College and Jake Gelernter has recently made his West-End debut in *Oliver!* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Congratulations to them on their success.

Instrumental lessons commenced this week. If your son is interested in learning to play a musical instrument please contact me via the schools office or e-mail to see what the availability is. I am particularly interested in hearing from any boys who are interested in learning an orchestral instrument as there are vacancies in Violin, Cello, Double Bass, Brass and Woodwind lessons! Also, congratulations to the following boys who successfully sat Music exams last term.

Name		Instrument	Grade	Result
Dylan	Bhundia	Guitar	Prep	Pass
Oliver	Forrest	Guitar	Prep	Pass
Anam	Armstrong	Drum Kit	1	Pass
Finley	Kilmartin	Drum Kit	1	Pass
Neel	Kalhan	Drum Kit	1	Pass
Angus	Armour	Piano	1	Pass
Kabir	Mandair	Piano	1	Pass
William	Stubbs	Singing	1	Merit
Akshay	Doshi	Piano	1	Merit
Tara	Armstrong	Piano	1	Merit
Rishil	Patel	Guitar	2	Distinction
Nathan	Kemp	Drum Kit	2	Merit
David	Shaw	Piano	2	Merit
Amar	Shah	Guitar	2	Pass
Kushil	Ganatra	Guitar	2	Pass
Nikil	Shah	Theory	2	Distinction
Rafi	Kelion	Piano	3	Pass
Jacob	Forrest	Trumpet	3	Pass
Luke	Withell	Trumpet	3	Merit
Kyan	Karashah	Electric Guitar	3	Merit
Alex	McCormick	Drum Kit	4	Merit
Rishav	Shah	Drum Kit	4	Merit
Joel	Kelion	Baritone	4	Distinction
Krishen	Shah	Trumpet	4	Pass
James	Wells	Jazz Piano	4	Pass
Alistair	Parker	Piano	4	Pass
Vivek	Midha	Violin	5	Pass
Rafi	Kelion	Theory	5	Merit
Krishen	Shah	Piano	5	Pass
Shamil	Shah	Piano	5	Pass
Alistair	Ho	Piano	6	Pass

Orchestra Week

At the beginning of the summer holidays **Rafi Kelion, Krishen Shah and Rohin Shah** went to Wellington College for a week to play in an orchestra. "For 6 days we practised 6.5 hours. At first we practised in sectional groups. We then went on to practise as a full wind band. We got up at 7:45, and went to bed at 9:30. The food was very nice. In between rehearsals we had breaks. After lunch, we had activities, and these included a 5-a-side football tournament, laser quest, bowling, tennis, swimming, squash and quick cricket. The week ended with a fantastic concert held for parents."

Rafi Kelion, Krishen Shah and Rohin Shah

Thank you for your support



Firstly I would like to thank everyone that sponsored me for my Charity Challenge Trek in Iceland for Epilepsy Research which I completed recently. It was a fantastic experience and certainly had its challenges over the seven days. The group walked on average about 7 hours a day over a variety of hilly terrain including glaciers, grass, black sand and volcanic rock before setting up camp, usually at about 500m above sea level. Iceland has truly spectacular scenery if almost surreal with its black volcanic landscape and an almost complete lack of any form of vegetation. It is very clean; so much so that I was able to refill my water bottle from streams as I trekked. The volcanic island has many hot geothermic springs which can be seen bubbling to the surface and in one campsite we were able to bathe in them. A very relaxing end to a day of trekking. The group dealt with an amazing variety of weather from beautiful sunshine, rain (most days) to freezing blizzard conditions with 90mph gusts of wind 1000m up in the hills. It was a wonderful experience and I am so glad that I have been able to raise over £5000 with gift aid for the charity. Once again thank you very much.

<http://www.justgiving.com/ianrice1>

Mr I Rice | Deputy Head