



11+ Scholarship Success



Back L-R: J Stewart, W Hall, L Cartmell, R Taylor

Front L-R: J Pring, G Donsworth, F McCausland, H Russell, H Fairbanks-Weston

Everybody at Brandeston has a chance of proving to themselves that they have discovered their own talents and, for some, this can be achieved by putting themselves forward for a scholarship.

It is a demanding task, and in my opinion every pupil who applies will gain from the experience, even if they do not necessarily succeed. These are important lessons in life and I am proud of them all. This year the vast majority of our pupils were successful candidates and in September the Year 7 group is going to one of the largest for a long time. I am pleased to announce that these children will receive the following scholarships, *Mr Martin Myers-Allen, Headmaster.*

Academic Scholarship - William Hall, Lily Cartmell and Isabel Huxley

Academic Exhibition - James Pring

Music Scholarship - Alexandra Moorhouse

Albert Memorial Scholarship - Henry Russell, Jack Stewart and George Donsworth

Sport Scholarship - Florence McCausland and Ralph Taylor

Sport Exhibition - Hugo Fairbanks-Weston

Boarding at Brandeston



Amy Bradford, Grace Trembath, Ellie Gemmill and Lucy Baker enjoy drinks before 'Christmas' dinner

We are all familiar with that wintry feeling of getting up and setting off to work in the dark, only to return at the end of the day under similar gloomy conditions.

There are times in school when the damp wet months of December through to March can be much the same. It is with great pride that we can report that Boarding at Brandeston Hall seems to be a shining light in this gloomy time. We now have over 70 children that enjoy the boarding experience. Throughout the week they follow a busy programme of supervised prep periods and a range of activities as well as having fun with their friends.

At weekends we often have the best part of 30 children staying in. These include our full time boarders but increasingly day pupils who join us for our Sunday activities. This term there has been something for everyone, from the thrills of go-karting and shooting at the College range to table tennis competitions and making tie dye t-shirts.

As the snowdrops start to herald the onset of Spring, the occupants of Charles Austin and Princess Alice Houses look forward to even better times, when the splendid location we live in opens up even more opportunities.



Henry Russell and Ben Skinner make the most of the snow

Forthcoming Events

Open Mornings at Brandeston Hall
Our Nursery 'Little Bears at Brandeston Hall' and Pre-Prep
9.30am, Friday 7th May

Whole School
9.30am, Saturday 8th May
If you would like to attend please contact Mrs Lucy Bryanton

Holiday Activities
Football 6th & 7th April and 12th & 13th April
Swimming 6th - 9th April
Cricket 7th, 8th, 9th April
Further details can be found under Enterprises on the website



Circus Skills workshop

Year 6 Saturday Club



The last term has been fantastic, with pupils involved in making musical cards, designing key rings and t-shirts. There have been out of school trips to Framlingham Castle and Deben Swimming Pool in Woodbridge. Two of the highlights were our annual jaunt to Southwold pier, kindly hosted by the Bournes family and our pre Christmas trip to Jimmy's Farm where we were all extremely excited to have met the man himself! Future excursions include the Sealife centre in Great Yarmouth, Kingpin Bowling and an Easter craft fair.



Baking warms up an Icy Morning

Year 2 attendance was low one icy morning last February so we changed the timetable and made it rise. Using Google to supply the recipe the children decided to make cheese scones and had fun using a variety of measuring scales, as well as describing the textures and feel of the ingredients. Our friends in the kitchen baked them for us and the end result was, of course, delicious.

Hats for Haiti

A fantastic assortment of weird and wonderful headgear was worn on Thursday 11th February to raise money for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Donations amounted to a fantastic £562 which will be used by the charity ShelterBox to provide a tent and lots of other essential items for a family.



Henry Russell enters into the spirit

60 Tiles for 60 Years

Our Head of Art, Chris Lenton, has worked tirelessly to put together a magnificent piece of artwork that fittingly commemorates our first 60 years as a successful preparatory school. Members of staff and pupils volunteered to work on one of the 60 tiles and the final assembled piece stands at 2m x 1.5m, which is now on permanent display in the Black and White Hall.



Pre-Prep

Nursery Rhymes were the topic as the children in the Reception class explored the story of Humpty Dumpty. They were interested to see what would really happen if an egg fell off the wall, so we carried out an experiment. Each child let their 'Humpty' fall off the wall, some eggs smashed completely but others only cracked. Later in the classroom the children examined their broken egg and recorded the results by drawing pictures before and after the experiment.



Spring Concert

Well done to all those who took part in the Spring Concert and worked so hard on their performance.

All the main groups in the school performed, including the Orchestra (see flute section pictured) who played some very tricky music from the Harry Potter film and a medley from 'Carmen'. Junior and Senior vocals had a good sound and well organised part singing in places too. The two rock bands included newcomers in Year 6 and together with Year 8 they provided a contrast to the classical fare, playing tightly and with enthusiasm. The newly formed Ukulele Orchestra played two tunes and demonstrated the level of progress they had made from first rehearsal to the actual performance.

Funky Monkeys is growing from strength to strength with more instrumentalists than ever playing - particularly from our younger students.

In the second half of term there were two recitals, offering a big range of music and expertise with about 70 performers involved from Years 3 - 8. Two sets of exams in the penultimate week finished the term on a high note!



Year 6 rocks, George Heldreich on bass and Sam Thorogood on drums



L-R Alex Holland, Emily Heldreich, Amanda Birch and Kelsey Love

The Boyfriend

Brandeston Hall's Senior production, 'The Boyfriend' took place last November in the Headmaster Porter Theatre at Framlingham College.



The show was a great success, with packed audiences on both nights. This modern 'celebrity' version of Sandy Wilson's 1920's musical was directed by Fiona Brooks, and acted, sung and danced with energy and commitment by a very hard-working cast.

A talented backstage, lighting and sound team worked wonders, and we also had a fantastic soundtrack orchestrated by Rob Rogers. George Coulson brought the house down as 'Lord Brockhurst', pictured here with India Gibbons who played his 'wife' and Mr Myers-Allen, whose cameo performances are eagerly anticipated.



'It' Girl Kitty Dunham as Nancy Winehouse

NEWS IN BRIEF

Art & Black Cat Theatre group

Before half term we were fortunate to be visited by The Black Cat Theatre Company who worked with Years 7 and 8 on the Common Entrance text 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck. The three actors Kate, Sammi and Adam acted out various important scenes from the text and then discussed the issues raised by them or how a character developed in that scene. They used audience participation to highlight themes and the afternoon was a super revision tool for Year 8 and an enticement of things to come for Year 7.

Sports Report



L-R Alex, Jolyon and Ashley

Cross-Country

Jolyon Summers, running 2 years young, Ashley Rooke and Alex Lawrence achieved the great honour of being selected for the Suffolk Minor Boys' cross-country team. The boys represented Suffolk on a very successful day at Hinchingbrooke Park in Cambridgeshire, with Jolyon finishing in the top 20, just ahead of his team mates.



L-R Jolyon Summers, Roman Engelbrecht, Callum Anthony and Hugo Fairbanks-Weston

Prep School Barbarians

Following an excellent season at both Senior and Colts level, four pupils were selected to represent The Midlands Barbarians Under 11 and Under 13 rugby teams.

Following the three trial matches, Jolyon Summers and Hugo Fairbanks-Weston were chosen to represent the U11s, and Callum Anthony and Roman Engelbrecht were selected for the U13s to play against the Northampton Saints Academy.

Sadly, due to the bad weather the second round of matches against the North of England were cancelled, however Jolyon went on to win further honours by playing for the Northern Barbarians at Rugby School.

Jolyon and Hugo, along with Ralph Taylor and Tom Watson have now been picked to play for the newly formed Northampton Saints Under 11 Academy.

IAPS NETBALL

Congratulations to the U13A netball squad, who have enjoyed an excellent season and looked incredibly smart in their new team kit (see picture).

This season they have played 7 matches so far, losing once to South Lee in a closely fought game. A special mention must go to Karen Li and Amanda Birch who have been training with the Suffolk Netball Satellite squad and the Development Squad respectively. Both the U13A and U12A worked really hard in the annual IAPS Regional Tournament, which was hosted by Brandeston. The U12s just missed qualifying for the Nationals, but finished a very creditable 3rd and the U13s came 4th in a very tough group.



Well done to all the senior girls who have represented the school teams during this term.

Badminton Success

Adam Oliver and Nicholas Bailey (pictured) represented Brandeston Hall in the IAPS U13 Badminton Tournament on Saturday 16th January at St Paul's Prep school in London.

To win their group they had to play in a round robin against 3 other schools. There were good results against Bedford Modern when they scored 15 - 7, this was followed by a closer match with Caldicott and their final game saw

them put in an excellent performance as they beat Dowsend 15-2. Having won their group the pair moved into the knockout stages in the afternoon but lost in the quarter finals to Dulwich College. Making it to the last 8 out of 24 pairs in their first competitive outing is a fantastic achievement and bodes well for the future.



During the February half term we held a badminton coaching day with Steve Morley, which was well received and we hope to introduce a House competition next term with details to follow in the next newsletter.

En Garde!

Two groups of children, one in Pre-Prep and the others from Years 3 - 8, are now enjoying the ancient art of fencing.

Once a week, Mr Paul Stimpson introduces the various aspects of the sport. The younger pupils use foam blades to develop their stance and techniques, while the older ones practice with proper 'foils' and the full kit! Mr Stimpson is delighted with the progress his pupils have made and is now looking at assessing the children for national awards.

