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Beech Hall School

for pupils aged 6 months to 18 years

The Griffin Extra

Issue 9/4 - July 2024





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In his letter to parents about the upcoming Sports Day, Mr Walker wrote: *“Sports Day is always a wonderful occasion that brings together our entire school community, including pupils, teachers, and parents. It is a day dedicated to celebrating inclusivity, physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship.”* I hope that you will agree that this goal was fulfilled in bucket-loads on Friday as pupils from our youngest to the eldest celebrated sport in all its forms in the sunshine. Although Sports Day is entirely optional for those in Upper V who have finished their GCSEs and are enjoying that wonderful time in their lives when they have absolutely nothing to worry about, it was wonderful to see so many of them here either in support or grabbing the odd new school record!

This mad, energetic, high-octane day is all about community and participation which is why pupils were given as much choice as they wanted when it came to what sports they wanted to enjoy. Track or field, swimming or tennis, whatever is your thing, it was all about the competitive participation. The staff v pupils waterpolo is always a great spectacle and although we will take the first ever win for the staff this year, I am grateful to a bunch of Upper V pupils who chose to play for the staff team over their peers (I’m not sure we would have seen the same success albeit with the introduction of the fearless Quigley up front, crocodile-rolling Clayton and quick reflexes of Moran in goal).

The attention to detail had left nothing to chance as could be seen from the lettering both on the lawn and the sports field welcoming everyone to the event

of the year. However, as the competitors began warming up on our very own Centre Court, and the strains of Keith Mansfield’s *Light and Tuneful* serenaded across the lawn, we knew we were in for a class act as Messieurs Fosbury and Killgallon braced to play their one set final.

Of course the swimming galas are always a highlight as was the very welcome re-introduction of the Tug-o-War, not only between pupils in their Houses, but also between parents, staff and anyone who wanted get involved; and, as you can see, there was no shortage of willing participants, the pride of the win going to the parents for 2024!



Whilst prizes, certificates, trophies and awards are aplenty, two stand out in the sporting world for the boy and girl who have shown outstanding commitment to sport, shown considerable progress and have best espoused the qualities and virtues of a sportsperson, and both Hattie (Form III) and Mason (Lower IV) are pictured here. Rory (Upper IV) took the Joshua Hadley Plate for being the most determined sportsperson following his outstanding commitment to training for both

his second English Channel swim later this month and his 20 Bridges Manhattan swim in October.



The majority of the photos in this edition are to be credited to Katie Richardson with some particularly impressive portrait shots. Those on the page entitled *The sky’s the limit* are thanks to Mrs Loraine Gardner.

Half colours, full colours and special achievement ties were presented as well as the first four Sports Blazers for Beech Hall, coveted by those who have achieved the pinnacle of sporting excellence. In this case, Messieurs Inwood, O’Connor, Lyons and Platt Wells are awarded for becoming, respectively, ISA Long Jump National Champion and selection for the English Schools Competition, his phenomenal mastery of golf, and their double English Channel relay crossings, the latter just five days apart.

Thank you for your fantastic support of an awesome day, and I hope these pictures bring back some happy memories of a day when ***“we learned so much, we grew so much and we made memories”***.



the Beech Hall
Swim Squad





RETCH



COLLABO





DRATE





Isaac Inwood sets a new school High Jump record of 1.64m



The Juniors' gruelling 8 laps of the Duncan Mile





LEAP...ROLL...SASHAY









THE
SKY'S
THE
LIMIT





REACH





DETERMINED







UPPER V TO THE RESCUE





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SPORTS DAY 2024