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Beech Hall School

for pupils aged 6 months to 16 years

The Griffin Extra

Issue 8/1 - October 2022



In this issue...



The sun sets on an incredible South American experience

Front cover



Griffinesses kick off the term with sporting success in Chatsworth's inaugural Girls Football Festival

Pages 4-5



Staff v Pupils fixtures - the return Waterpolo match - and the first Rounders match

Pages 6-7



ISA Art Competition, North - 3 regional winners and 2 second places ... and Louis nominated for ISA Whitbread Memorial Prize

Pages 8-9



Triathlon & Biathlon Inter-House competitions fiercely contested

Pages 10-11



Machetes and giant tortoises, vicious sea lions and terrifying truck rides - Galápagos Islands relived

Pages 12-19



Musical Soirée performers exude confidence and cool

Pages 20-21



95 swimmers swim 5 times across the English Channel in 24-hour Swim Marathon for Mencap

Pages 22-23



U11 waterpolo players compete in the ISA Competition in Rochdale

Pages 24-25



The school celebrated the life of Britain's longest-reigning monarch

Page 26



Mr Allen defends himself in that sea lion incident

Page 27



Imogen's winning design becomes Beech Hall's official Christmas card for 2022

Back cover

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the Michaelmas term and will so soon be mentioning the C word which you will not read in this edition, I promise. Plenty to do before reference to festive activities and the Big Man in red. Since the last academic year ended in such style with our return to St Peter's Church in Prestbury, two teams have crossed the English Channel to France, and twenty-six pupils have spent almost three weeks exploring the natural habitats of the Galápagos Islands.

In just the last six weeks, pupils have thrown themselves into a new digital world of learning, as have my colleagues, and it has been fantastic to see the impact that these devices and large screens have had in the classroom.

Thanks to Helen Turner, we held our first 24-hour Swim Marathon in three years, swimming 10,662 lengths or 106 miles, the equivalent to just over five times across the Channel. Swimming from midday on the Friday to Saturday noon, 95 swimmers including pupils, family members and staff swam at all times of the day and night. Thank you to those who swam and also those who donated money to our cause, edging ever closer to that target of £50,000 for Mencap. If you would still like to support our swimmers,

you can do so at <https://bit.ly/MencapMarvels>.

It has certainly been a half term of sport with the return waterpolo fixture in the pool between the staff and the pupils, and the first Rounders fixture as well. The football match, unfortunately, will have happened too late for the result to be included, although I believe the staff are confident! Our U11 girls have enjoyed their first ever football fixture in Wimbledon against other Chatsworth Schools, we have enjoyed an U11 ISA Waterpolo competition, football and netball fixtures against Pownall Hall and Hulme Hall Schools, and the Inter-House Triathlon and Biathlon competition has taken place.

Outside of the sporting arena, it was super to see the return of the Musical Soirée with performers across the school performing on tenor horn and ukulele, guitar and saxophone, piano and singing. As I extolled on the night, not only is it wonderful to see the progress that our pupils make from one performance to the next, it is such a joy to see the genuine pride and enjoyment on every one of their faces after they have performed. It's not perfect, and it is not expected to be. It is an opportunity to showcase the point that they are at right now, enabling them to play with confidence,

accepting that when mistakes happen, it doesn't matter and we can move on. Just brilliant!

The following evening, we welcomed back current and former pupils who joined the South American adventure as we shared food and drinks, and a few stories as well. Aside from the more obvious aspects of such a trip, it is noticeable how some pupils have matured and the impact that this has had on their learning and attitude in the classroom. They spent the best part of three weeks getting up at 5.45, grafting hard on the tortoise plantations and swimming almost daily with the baby sea lions. They travelled on four flights to reach a point over six thousand miles away from home, and they had to be pretty self-sufficient. Because of the very safe nature of the town in which we were staying, they were allowed some freedom in the evenings which enabled independence and a level of responsibility. Some dealt with illness whilst away from home, others simply missed home and everyone grew as a result. I am confident that the twenty-eight pupils who are currently in Belgium on their History and English Literature educational trip to the WWI Battlefields will be learning similarly as those opportunities outside the classroom are integral to our pupils' development.

Beech Hall may be a small school, but we are surely one that punches above its weight and this is no more true than in the ISA Art Competition, in which we regularly feature regional winners and this year is no exception. With no fewer than three winners in the North region, each going through to the national finals, we couldn't be more proud of our pupils' talent and commitment to the arts. Having promised not to mention the C word, I realise that I must congratulate Imogen in Form III F for her winning design to be Beech Hall's official Christmas card for 2022. Thank you, also, to four Lower IV boys who happened, at the time of anonymous judging, to be in the pool for Friday Family Swim. I was struggling to decide between four very different designs, one of which depicted a particularly impressive reindeer with udders, hilarious if not anatomically entirely accurate. The decision on the festive card is one of the biggest decisions I have to make throughout the year and so, unclear in my own mind, I photographed the four options and sought pupil opinion. *"I like the penguins...that's a very artistic reindeer"* and, on seeing Imogen's: *"Oh definitely that one - a hundred per cent."* Congratulations Imogen!



Mr J D Allen
Headmaster



On Friday morning, we set off to London, excited to be playing in the inaugural Chatsworth Schools 5-a-side tournament.

Arriving slightly later than the scheduled start meant that we had to play three matches as soon as we arrived. Encouraged by the success of our first match we met Crown the eventual winners of the whole competition. Sadly, we lost to them and then drew against Griffin House.

However, our success in the opening stages meant that we were through to the Plate Competition. Harper defended our goal with excellent skills and some fantastic kicks - getting the ball away from our area. Once again Praha's super goal scoring skills were on display and we were through to the final,

where we met Village Prep.

We were determined, having reached the final, to defend our goal and attack when we could. It was a really exciting final – this final match was nerve racking and we were really happy when we won the plate!

We all took responsibility for our roles within the team and played with grit and determination – Edith and Anya worked tirelessly in defence and Niamh worked in partnership with Praha to attack.

I think the trip down to London was definitely worth it and I am really glad that we were able to go!

Praha Williams (c) & Harper Hulme [Form III]



Crown House Prep School crowned Chatsworth girls football champions!

It was almost inevitable that it would come down to penalties. A pulsating final, played out between two fiercely committed and skilful teams, in the end needed that slimmest and most harsh of margins to decide it. Crown House's goalkeeper, Amie, resplendent in a bright gold vintage Peñarol top, saved twice, and the crowd erupted. Griffin House, beaten after a second epic match – more of that later – were gracious and honourable in defeat, but the moment belonged to Crown House.

The climax of Chatsworth Schools' inaugural girls U11s tournament delivered everything that a great sporting moment should: tension, skill, and a worthy winner. But the day itself was full of excellence, teamwork, and fun. Expertly organised by HSW's Head of Sport and Upper School Phil Dockery, the event saw eight teams travel from across England to compete. Andrew Hammond, Head of Hall School Wimbledon, set the tone in his welcoming address, which emphasised talent and stamina and teamwork, but also exhorted the "very determined faces" in front of him to enjoy themselves too.

And there was much to enjoy. From a footballing perspective, the level of skill was high, despite several girls only having had their first training session that very morning. There were so many moments and players to pick out, but it is worth highlighting the excellence of Highfield's striker Maddie, Praha's leadership and goals for Beech Hall, and the midfield dynamism and goalkeeping bravery of Pattison's Nancy and Rhea respectively. HSW's Audrey showed fierce determination in midfield, while The Village's Finley and Benedict House's Amariah both exhibited real bravery in goal.

The day also showcased Chatsworth's commitment to inclusivity: some clearly excellent footballers took to the pitch alongside others who had little to no experience, but everyone weighed in and the shouts of encouragement and support were heartfelt and resonant. There were some touching moments of sporting behaviour, too: one player, after being on the receiving end of a very hard tackle, found her opponent helping her to get her shin pad back in place!

This spirit of camaraderie and enjoyment pervaded the whole experience. "It feels exciting because we've not done anything like this before", said Griffin House's Esme. "It's really nice doing it all with my friends, too. I really like football."

Of course, every tournament must have a winner, and Crown House, expertly coached by Theo Fragus, triumphed in a nail-biting derby penalty shoot-out against Griffin House, led by Alex Lafleur. It was even more joyful for Crown, as their two travelling journalists Dean and Ryan, who had been vlogging the event, were live-streaming the final back to the school.

Other highlights included Beech Hall, who had the longest journey to get to the tournament, winning the Plate competition, while Highfield participated in two of the most exciting games, beating a very spirited Pattison 2-1 and then finding themselves up against the incredible goalkeeping of Griffin's Charlotte in the semi-final of the Cup.

The day had everything that one could want from a tournament, not least some brilliant football. As Andrew Hammond and football journalist Alex Stewart handed out prizes and certificates to every participant, it was clear that the girls felt they had been part of something special. The sense of togetherness, pride, hard-work, and commitment to fair play was palpable.

Girls who had barely, if ever, played football before were clearly empowered by the experience and the event was a testament to Chatsworth's commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and fostering enthusiastic excellence. Everyone who was there will be able to look back with pride and say that they were there at Chatsworth's very first girls' football tournament. It certainly won't be the last, though.

Alex is Head of Content for Analytics FC, and has worked for The Athletic and Tifo Football



Killilea reports...

It's a wonderful day here at the Beech Hall swimming pool folks!

Competing for "Team Teachers" are Mrs Gordon, Mrs Morrell, Mr Jardine, Mr Hawkins, Miss Litherland and Mr Allen, and for "Team Pupils" are Gio in Upper IV, Jack in Lower V, James Barlow in Lower V, Charlie Barnes in Upper V, Reece Bromley in Upper V and Daniyal in Upper V.

Mr Allen dives in, and the teachers are ready! Mrs Griffin blows the whistle, and they're off! The ball goes to Bromley, then to Barnes, who gets tackled by Mr Allen! Then it goes to Miss Litherland, then back to Barnes, Hawkins shoots it and misses and then it goes to Daniyal! What's this? Barnes comes up and he SCORES!! 1-0 TO THE PUPILS!

Hawkins has the ball, it goes down back to Barnes and near the goal! It's pure chaos here today! Jardine and Barnes battle for the ball, and it goes straight across the pool and back down to the shallow end. Hawkins wrestles Charlie, and it ends up out of the pool! Allen and Charlie wrestle for the ball, then Jardine and Charlie! Barnes shoots for the goal but he MISSES! He shoots again and misses! Hawkins has the ball now, and Griffin blows the whistle. It's the

end of the first quarter, and the score is 1-0 to the pupils. Can the teachers redeem themselves in the next quarter? Let's find out!

Mrs Griffin blows the whistle and they're off for the 2nd quarter. Morrell gets the ball, then it goes to Litherland then Hawkins! Barlow chucks the ball away as the teachers stride with determination. Hawkins gets it, and he shoots, but Gio saves. The ball goes to Mrs Gordon, and down towards the deep end! We're getting massive amounts of cheering from our crowd, what a lovely day for it!

Morrell gets the ball, but not for long as Daniyal tries to get it off her, Morrell gets it again and shoots, but Gio saves again! Barlow takes down Morrell, but she won't give up. "COME ON MRS MORRELL!" screams Mr Allen, and it's the end of the second quarter!

Hawkins races for the ball, and Team Teachers are pulling through. Litherland chucks the ball but it lands in Bromley's hands! The ball goes out of the pool, but Cameron Welsted (last-minute reserve) saves the day! Barlow shoots but Mr Allen saves it! Jardine now has the ball, he shoots, but it is saved! Litherland passes to Jardine, and he shoots

again! Charlie has the ball now, now Bromley, and Morrell! Mr Allen chucks the ball! It lands near Bromley, and Morrell fights to get it. Mr Allen is getting very energetic now, he wrestles Daniyal and the whistle blows! What a 3rd quarter!

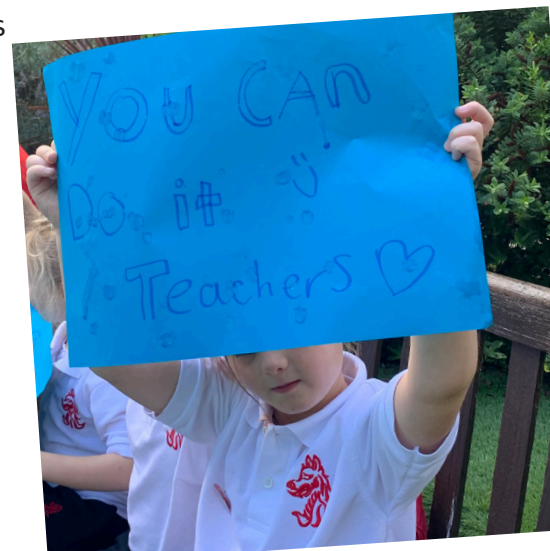
One more to go...

Griffin blows the whistle and Hawkins races for the ball! Daniyal chucks it to Barlow and Barlow chucks it to Barnes! Daniyal's marking Hawkins as the ball flies from the deep end to the shallow end! Charlie wrestles Morrell, and Litherland arrives on standby! Morrell lets go and it's now Charlie vs Hawkins! Barnes has decided to join in too! It's Bromley vs Allen...I don't think Allen is coming up...can he breathe? Then the ball flies out of the pool! Hawkins has it now, then Litherland, and now it's out of the pool! Allen chucks it but Barlow blocks it and the pupils score again! Jardine chucks it to Morrell, who misses! Mrs Gordon has it now, then Charlie, another energetic scream from Mr Allen and the final whistle blows!

The Pupils have won 6-0!

William Killilea [Upper IV]

William is Beech Hall's official on-site match reporter, commentating and reporting on any sport from football to horse-riding, waterpolo to quidditch. Unfortunately he was on overseas assignment during the Staff v Pupils Rounders match, and so we can only report the final scores as follows: Staff v KS3 Pupils 6-2; Staff v KS4 Pupils 7-3 so a convincing win for the teachers this time with energetic screams not dissimilar from the Masters versus Pupils rugby match in Monty Python's Meaning of Life!



ISA ART COMPETITION 2022

Our annual ISA Art Competitions, held in each of the seven regions, are a celebration of creativity and making skills.

The competitions are open to all ages and several different mediums including 2D and 3D art, photography, fashion, sketchbooks and textiles

Winning artworks from each region will qualify for the National Finals held at the ISA Autumn Conference in November 2022.

Visit the ISA website for full details on when your regional competition opens and how to enter



Above: **Fantasy Head** [Bethany Fisher, Lower V]

Left: **Unrequited Love** [Harold Ghorbanian, Upper V]

Below: **Giant Insect** [Danny Lawson & Ethan Oliver, Lower II]

Right: **Japan** [Cole Forrest, Year 7]

Far right: **The New Warrior** [Louis Tapster, Lower Sixth]





WHITBREAD MEMORIAL PRIZE



Recognising and celebrating achievement of academic excellence in Year 11 exams, and outstanding involvement in school and community life.

To find out more and nominate an exceptional pupil, visit the ISA website

www.isaschools.org.uk



Louis has also been nominated for the **ISA Whitbread Memorial Prize** - scoring six grade 9s in Biology, English Language, English Literature, Geography, Physics and Design & Technology, in addition to two grade 8s and a grade 7 in Art. Junior Head Boy in Y6 and Senior Prefect in Y11, Louis collected crayfish and created a poster of all crayfish species and sold 300+ copies worldwide on Etsy on a not-for-profit basis. His Art GCSE final project focused on creating eco-warriors to protect the environment from the damage caused by humans. This followed his own project creating 3D creatures from waste materials during lockdown. He placed his final piece characters in protected ground on Lindow Common; the area had been recently destroyed by fires caused by barbecues. Louis was awarded his Ice Swim tie for committing to swimming throughout the winter months in temperatures as low as 5°.



Triathlon & Biathlon results...



	Junior Triathlon	Lower Senior Triathlon	Upper Senior Triathlon
1st	Thomas James (Yew)	William Stokes (Yew)	James Barlow (Yew)
2nd	Anya Davenport (Oak)	Indi Platt Wells (Yew)	Tyler Gardner (Yew)
3rd	Danny Lawson (Ash)	Cameron Welsted (Ash)	Lucas McCulloch (Oak)
4th	Morgan Partridge (Oak)	Austin O'Connor (Ash)	Isaac Platt Wells (Yew)
5th	Edith Parkes (Ash)	Thane Davenport (Oak)	
	Junior Biathlon	Lower Senior Biathlon	Upper Senior Biathlon
1st	Naamah Riley (Ash)	Theo Naylor (Yew)	Charlie Barnes (Ash)
2nd	Isla Heath-Smith (Yew)	Max Santos-Facchin (Oak)	Henry Barnes (Ash)
3rd	Cameron Graham (Oak)	Harper Hulme (Oak)	Blake Lyons (Oak)
4th	Hattie Hicks (Yew)	JJ Jennings (Yew)	Alex Stanley (Yew)
5th	Millie Graham (Oak)	Harry Cowgill (Oak)	Luke Edwards (Ash)



Galápagos Ex



pedition 2022







I'm sure that most of you are aware that we used machetes but don't worry, it was all safe and no one was injured by them. However, we worked so hard and were so determined to help the local community and improve the environment. We definitely needed gardening gloves as got blistered despite wearing them. We all worked as a team efficiently to help clear invasive plants and areas ready for new planting for the tortoises.

We also prepared pathways at the conservation centre, shovelling rubble into 30 kilo sacks and transporting the heavy sacks to the greenhouse.

This all consisted of very hard, tiring work from early in the morning...from quarter to 6 in wet, cold conditions to changeable weather like hot and humid. Everyone who participated in these activities always grafted and gave 100% every minute. Whether people preferred to paint and work in the school or rather go out chopping down invasive plants, we gave it our all in every aspect of the work, and I'm proud for all the work everyone put in. We looked forward to the breaks of having freshly cooked empanadas from the mobile cafe ... much-loved by everyone ... except Mr Allen as they were filled with cheese.

I want to thank all the members of staff who worked hard to organise this trip and worked just as hard doing the activities as well. Thank you.

James Barlow [Lower V]





The main thing I miss about the Galapagos islands is the wildlife. The wildlife there was very different to the wildlife that we have here. The amount of exotic wildlife there was amazing, ranging from iguanas to giant tortoises. It was even better interacting with them and feeding the animals. Another part of the trip that I miss were the white beaches and the clear blue sea. Even though it was the colder season there when we went, the sea and the beach was very enjoyable, especially in the evening whilst watching the sun set. One of the things that made the beach even better were the sea lions. Even though they smelt and they were all scattered around the beach, it was good being so close to animals, but not too close, otherwise you'll end up like Mr Allen.

Charlie Rooke [Upper V]



HOGAR ♥ **HOME**

As all of you will know Mr Allen was mauled by a sea lion and he blames me but, my fellow Beech Hallers, you have not heard my side of the story so I am going to tell you what really happened. It was a normal afternoon and I was swimming until I was spotted by a sea lion. I noticed it immediately and I started to swim away but as I got out of the water it was still following me. As I continued running Mr Allen said "it only wants to play" but I ignored him. As it got nearer I saw Mr Allen but didn't pay any attention to him but when I ran past him the sea lion redirected her attention to Mr Allen. He just stayed still and at first it gave him a warning bark but he didn't move so it took a chunk out of his leg - and all because he thought a vicious beast wanted to play.

Aleks Rangayah [Upper IV]

[Ed: for those interested in reading the facts, rather than this work of creative, unadulterated hogwash, please turn to the inside back cover]



Cameron and I asked Mr Allen if we could ride in the truck on the way back, and he said yes of course, so we got in the back of the wet truck, and we started moving. When we set off it felt like the rain was gunshots in our face, so we had to keep going behind the back of the cab to avoid it. We started going down the hill, and we were going up to speeds of 60mph. We were going so fast that we thought that we were going to be flung out the back of the truck onto the main road. We had to go through some dirt tracks which had really narrow roads. The branches of the trees were really long, and almost hit us in the face.

William King & Cameron Welsted [Upper IV]



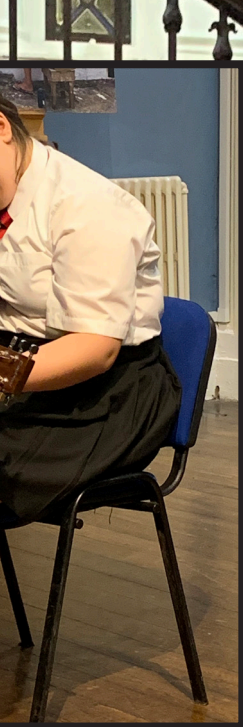


I'm going to be talking about the tree-felling. We were clearing a huge area of plants and weeds to make space for a school for children with learning difficulties. We started by chopping up plants at the front and advanced onto the trees. Me and Monty were assigned to a big tree which we chopped with machetes. When we got close to the end, the video happened, catching the tree fall directly onto the bonnet of some bloke's car! Oops! Overall, we covered a lot of ground, thank you to Mr Allen, Miss Fitzgerald and Mr Jardine for taking the time and effort to organise such an amazing trip.

Josh Hirstwood [Lower V]







Musical Soirée...



I slept for 3 hours before my mum woke me up to get ready for my midnight swim. I left the house at 11.30pm. My dad drove me to school and when I got there, it was all dark, but there were candles to light up the pool.

I started at midnight and swam for half an hour. I swam 26 lengths. When I finished swimming and got out, I felt a little sick because it was freezing! We went straight home after my swim and I went to bed. I feel very proud for doing the swim.

Hughie Lodge [Upper I]

Me and my whole family came to do the charity swim to raise money for MENCAP. My Mum, sister, Immy and I did the midnight swim for half an hour. We all managed to swim 30 lengths. I felt sick afterwards because I think I was very tired.

We went home and I stayed up for a little bit longer.

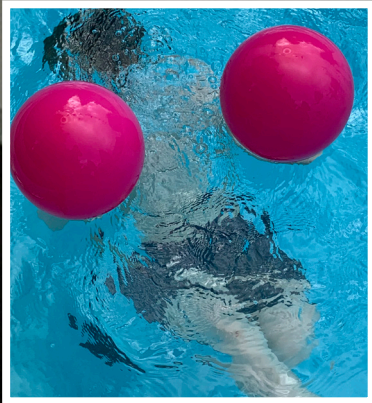
I feel very proud of myself for raising money for charity.

Will Robinson [Upper I]



24-hr Swim Marathon







**Match Day: Friday 30th
September 2022
Fixture: ISA Waterpolo
Tournament
Venue: Castleton Leisure
Centre, Rochdale**



We departed Beech Hall in the new minibus and travelled to Castleton Baths in Rochdale. It took about an hour to get there.

When we arrived, we were told the rules by a grumpy man, who said we were late! We didn't tell him it was Mrs Morrell's fault for getting lost...hee, hee! It was very busy with around 9 other schools there.

We quickly got changed and waited at the poolside for our first match. We had to put these hideous caps on so we knew who was on which team. It was in the deep end and it was very challenging because we couldn't swim as fast as we wanted. We also couldn't stand up! Sadly, we lost 5-0, but it helped us to understand which positions we all needed to be in.

Our 2nd match was in the shallow end and we definitely felt more confident. We scored first, which we were ecstatic about! The other team then scored, making it 1-1. It was very exciting! We both scored again, ending the game at 2-2. A draw! We were happy about this.

After this, there was a gap of 4 games, so we were

able to eat our sandwiches whilst watching the other teams play.

Our next game was back in the deep end and we worked hard as a team. We played well, with Thomas on the right wing and Henry A down the left. Danny and James were in midfield, whilst Hattie and Louisa were in defence, leaving Morgan in goal. We fought so hard to get in front, with Thomas scoring 2 and Henry A scoring 1! Sadly, we lost at the last minute, making the final score 4-3. It was such a close game, up until the final whistle!

Despite losing, we were buzzing going into our final game, which was in the shallow end. Again, we scored first, but our opponents came straight back with a goal! It was literally end to end action, with the final score being 2-2. It was such a great game!

Even though we didn't get through to the final stages of the tournament, we went home with happy memories of our first ever water polo competition and we are already looking forward to our next one soon!

Henry Allen and Danny Lawson [Lower II]





Last Friday, a team of 7 (including Louisa, Hattie, Morgan, James Mayer-Rees, Thomas, Danny and Henry A) went to Rochdale to play in a water polo tournament. We played 4 games - we drew 2 and lost 2, but overall, it was fun and well worth the trip!

Our favourite part was playing in the shallow end as it was so much easier when you can stand up! The funniest bit was we were playing against a school called Beech House.

We think everyone enjoyed working as a team and were happy to take part. The team worked really well together, given it was our first ever match with each other. We trained super hard and it definitely paid off.

The star striker of the tournament was definitely Thomas, who is also known as Cheesy Feet! We also had a super goalie, Morgan, aka Head Boy, who even saved one with his face!

Louisa Parkes and Hattie Hicks [Upper II]

On Friday 30th September, the Beech Hall water polo team played away at a tournament in Rochdale. The team trained hard for this event.

One of our strikers, Thomas, aka Cheesy Feet liked the small ball they played with as it made scoring goals a breeze for him. However, when speaking to Goalie Morgan (our Head Boy), the small ball made saving goals tricky. However, this did not stop him making some spectacular saves - including one with his face! Our Jolly James was our midfield/defender, enjoying tackling opponents and even dunking them if necessary to defend Beech Hall's honour.

All in all, the tournament was described as fun, exciting and challenging: drawing and losing 2 games. Our top scorer was Thomas, scoring 6 in total, and Henry A scoring the other Beech Hall goal. What a great day out we all had and we hope there's more of these to come!

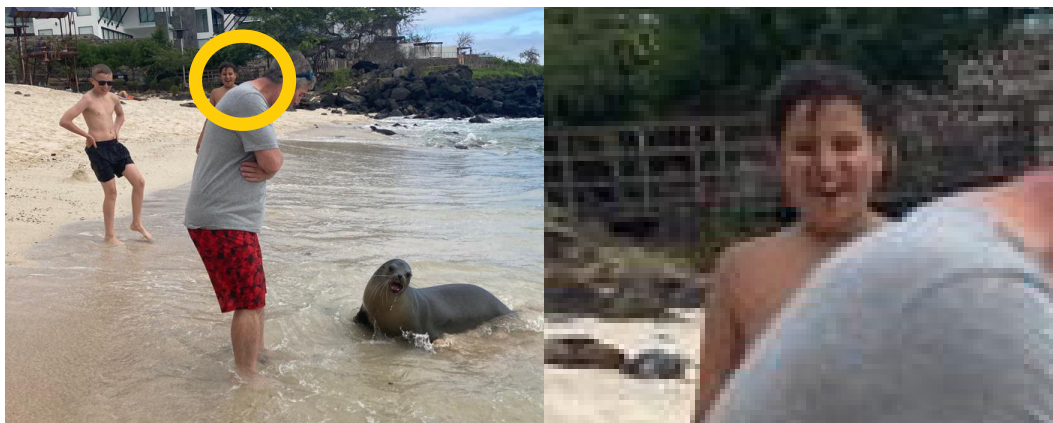
Thomas James, Morgan Partridge and James Mayer-Rees [Upper II]

1926 ~ 2022
EIR



"WE
WILL
MEET
AGAIN"

Harold Ghorbanian [Upper V] travelled to London and joined "the queue" just after midnight, waiting a little over twelve hours to pay his respects to HRH Queen Elizabeth II. He drew this and left it with some flowers in Green Park. He chose to use the Queen's own words from the heart of the pandemic: "*we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again,*" itself a reference to Dame Vera Lynn.



Before: Aleks Rangayah looks on from afar as he witnesses the harm he has inflicted on the unsuspecting Mr Allen, with evident satisfaction, even joy

Evidence of Rangayah’s role in the sea lion mauling of a Headmaster

Generally-speaking I trust and respect my “fellow Beech Hallers” and it brings me no pleasure or satisfaction whatsoever to say this. I asked Master Rangayah to write a factual, first-hand account of this deeply unpleasant episode on the trip, hoping and fully expecting that what he would produce would be sensitive, supportive and similarly respectful. Instead, as you will have read earlier in this edition, he appears to have used this opportunity to castigate and crush his Headmaster, painting himself as the innocent victim and me as some kind of deluded fool. Here I shall offer you the facts and, after all, who would you believe? An upstanding and respected member of the school community, or a clearly calculating adversary? The evidence is clear for the jury to see.

Previous experiences with the baby sea lions had taught us that they were inquisitive by nature. Swimming and body-surfing with them had shown us that, far from staying away from the friendly creatures, they were keen to play, nuzzling alongside us and even tentatively and gently nibbling our toes in the water.

On the day in question, Rangayah was in a particularly rambunctious mood, intent on causing harm, mayhem and general tomfoolery wherever he could. The late afternoon swim had been as pleasant as always, many of the group were still in the shallow waters as the cooling sun began to

set behind a raft of boats and marine life. Spotting an especially aggressive female sea lion, I watched as the protagonist led her directly toward me, apparently intent on encouraging the beast to do me harm. In his own account, he admits to “when I ran past him the sea lion redirected her attention to Mr Allen”. It was a planned and controlled method to lure the aggressive animal to me, in the full and certain knowledge that he had been playing with her pups in the water and clearly agitated the female. A plan from the start that had taken time and ingenuity, evidently malicious in forethought and action.

Experts on the case have watched video footage of the incident and noticed the clear and evident pleasure on the face of Rangayah. As he appears in the background looking over my shoulder and from a safe distance, the glea across his visage as the sea lion approaches is unquestionable. How else can that look be described other than cold-hearted satisfaction?

As the sea lion sank her foul, infected canines into my unsuspecting calf and the blood mixed with the water in which I was standing, Rangayah’s smile broadened. Three visits to the hospital, a week of antibiotics and the ignominy of having to walk back to the hostel with the blood waterfalling down my leg was the result of this heartless child. Who would you believe?



After: Post-operative photographs evidence the swelling and bruising as infection begins to spread. Like most animals, sea lion mouths contain numerous flora and bites are at risk of polymicrobial infections, hence the repeated visits to hospital for cleaning and re-dressing

