Before the October half-term, our very own drama teacher, Mr Blake, went on a trip to Indonesia to visit a child whom he had been sponsoring through the 4th Musketeer organisation and Compassion charity, as well as running a 26 mile marathon to fundraise for Compassion.

See page 3 for more
Tis The Season To Be Jolly…

Christmas Quizzes and Trivia

Christmas Films Quiz (answers at the bottom of the page)

From which Christmas films do these famous lines come from?

I. "Teacher says, every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings"
II. "Bless this highly nutritious microwavable macaroni and cheese dinner and the people who sold it on sale. Amen."
III. "You'll shoot your eye out kid!"
IV. "We're your worst nightmare... Elves with attitude"
V. "Now I have a machine gun. Ho-ho-ho."

Christmas Trivia Quiz (answers at the bottom of the page)

Are these Christmas facts True or False?

I. The bones of the original Santa Claus (St. Nicholas) are preserved in an Italian church
II. NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) tracks Santa on his sleigh every year
III. The Bible states that three wise men visited Jesus
IV. The old English word 'wassailing' means 'to decorate festively'
V. Santa has his own post code at the North Pole

Fun Christmas Facts!

- The Christmas tree in placed in Trafalgar Square every year is given by Norway
- "Jingle Bells" was the first Christmas carol to be broadcast from space in 1965
- The 3 wise men were Balthasar or Arabia, Melchior of Persia and Caspar of India
- Rudolph was originally called Reginald
- The Poinsettia plant originates from Mexico


Christmas Trivia Quiz: Answers 1. True 2. True, they have been for over 40 years 3. False, the number is never specified 4. False, it means 'to sing' 5. True
Before the October half-term, our very own drama teacher, Mr Blake, went on a trip to Indonesia to visit a child whom he had been sponsoring through the 4th Musketeer organisation and Compassion charity, as well as running a 26 mile marathon to fundraise for Compassion. Mr Blake has been sponsoring a child named Riska on the island of Nias in Indonesia for a couple of years now and has been in regular correspondence with her through Compassion.

According to Mr Blake, Riska was just seven years old and living in severe poverty on the tiny island of Nias. His monthly contributions of £25 as well as the fundraising he did before going and during the visit has helped to transform Riska and her family’s lives.

Mr Blake visited Indonesia along with over a hundred other sponsors from several countries including the Netherlands, Germany, America and even Australia. Despite the various cultural and linguistic differences, Mr Blake made loads of friends and continues to keep in touch with many of them today.

When they arrived, Mr Blake and the other sponsors were able to visit the children they had been sponsoring and meet their families and friends. While most of the sponsors were only able to spend a few hours with their sponsored children, Mr Blake was able to spend the whole day with Riska. She was apparently very emotional and even began crying with nerves! Mr Blake also said that he felt very honoured and yet humbled to visit these families who were so excited to see him and had treated him so well. He was very likely the first western face they had ever seen.

In addition to meeting Riska, Mr Blake also had the privilege of meeting another sponsored child with his roommate, Bob (the only American there). Mr Blake felt very lucky to visit another family and act as the photographer for Bob.

After visiting their sponsored children, Mr Blake and the other sponsors then undertook a gruelling physical challenge. People did marathons, treks and even cycling across the Indonesian countryside. Mr Blake undertook a 26-mile marathon through villages, farms and on roads and mountain tracks. He had to begin at 5am to avoid the ferocious heat of the day and battle illness, dehydration and more than 80% humidity to finally reach the finish line.

For Mr Blake, the experience was a humbling and yet incredibly rewarding one. He said that after returning from the trip, he continues to reflect on the lessons that he learnt over there, and that it has changed him as a person. He is now able to better understand people, having gone through such a physically and spiritually life changing experience. He also better understands what it means to reach out and help people on a national and international scale. From being so inspired by the teamwork and bonding he went through, he stated how that, “We are all the made of the same clay”.

He recommends the experience to everyone, as it helps people to appreciate the level of commitment in humanitarian support beyond just a simple donation.

Mr Blake is still in correspondence with Riska and he looks forward to visiting Indonesia again, and to see Riska and her family once more.

Matt Thomson
Dursley Rugby Club

If you are looking to get involved with rugby and have a knock around in the 2nd most popular game in Europe, then Dursley is a great place to start. The club has established itself as one of the leading clubs in the local area and offers a great chance to get stuck in to a new environment and team whilst embracing the ethos that rugby brings.

Find them at: GL11 6AJ

https://www.dursleyrfc.co.uk/

Wotton Hockey Club

As local as you can get. Based on the KLB school AstroTurf, Wotton Hockey Club has the capacity to lead players of all abilities to become the best player they can in a sport that everyone can thrive in and enjoy. Priding themselves on ‘being at the heart of our local community’, you can live and breathe hockey or just enjoy a weekly knockabout, the choice is yours however you choose to play the game.

Find them at: GL12 8RB

http://www.wottonhockeyclub.org/

With many of our sixth formers playing throughout the Wotton hockey ranks, it has made a big impression on the local press. With games from the Wotton Ladies reported on by the Gazette, the coverage and attention that the team has been getting is testament to not only the hard work of the players but how much the game has grown in the local area. let’s hope that this triumph is sustained and is just a glimpse of what is to come.

Chippenham and District Wheelers

The Chippenham Wheelers are a cycling club from the local area that accommodate for all disciplines of the sports. Whether you are into mountain biking, TT, Road racing, track or cyclocross. The club gives a platform for all riders and can lead you to all stages of cycling. And with England looking to fill the huge boots of Geraint Thomas and Chris Froome, this could be your chance to take to two wheels.

Get in contact at:

https://www.chippenhamwheelers.org

By Chris Gunton and Will Bridges
See next term’s edition for an exclusive interview with Head of Sixth Form, Miss Khan about her own life as a secondary school student and as a sixth-former herself!
Year 12 Geography Trip

Over the course of a 3 day trip (20th November to 22nd November) exploring Porlock Bay, Taunton and the town of Watchet, 2 Year 12 geography classes undertook intense fieldwork in order to prepare for their A level coursework. The trip was very similar to the previous years trip, however the Year 12s of 2017 stayed in the Nettlecombe court estate house, a grand manor owned by the Field Studies Council, who lead the trip. The students were joined by 3 lovely teachers: Mr Hancock, Mr Andrews and Miss Guthrie, who enforced the ‘no phones at the table rule’ throughout the trip! The pupils learnt many different fieldwork strategies and the leaders provided by the FSC (Mark and Mandy), where thoroughly helpful when explaining new concepts like how to do event surveys, anti crime scores, formal and informal secondary research and many more. Mark and Mandy also taught the students how to present their research by letting their creativity flourish with posters filled with graphs and tables.

A few students who travelled to these areas commented on the immense natural beauty of the area in which the house was situated and enjoyed the amount of freedom they were given to pursue their own interests when it came to different types of regeneration and coastal erosion.

The data the students collected was then analysed to discover many inquiries that may have been asked and further calculations were made to enforce this. Many students have said that this trip will help them prepare for the next trip they need to go on which is essential for achieving high grades at A level.

By Hannah Meheran, Ruby Trego and Thea Stephens Tuffee

All photos on this page taken by Mr Hancock
Art Trip to Venice, Italy

Near the beginning of this term, students from Year 12 and 13 ventured into the beautiful city of Venice, using its culture, history and architecture in order to fire up their imaginations to draw, film or photograph the wonders which are found around every corner. A detailed account of the trip, written by a Year 13, which can be found in the full school newsletter.

They were accompanied by Mr Hall, Mr Warren, Miss Hall and Mrs King who also joined in with the students by producing their own incredible pieces, also sketching odd scamps (rough, small drawings) here and there in personal notebooks/field sketchbooks and taking photographs along side them.

The students were lucky enough to undertake a guided tour, visiting the Rialto Bridge (a beautiful architectural work made from white stone), The Venice Biennale in The Giardini and The Arsenale, The Basilica di San Marco. However, many students say the most breath-taking part of the experience was the gondola ride through the city.

By Hannah Meheran, Ruby Trego and Thea Stephens Tuffee

Top right and left — Aneira James
Bottom left — Alistair Barkley
Bottom right — Megan Weston
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