

MAIDSTONIAN

2009





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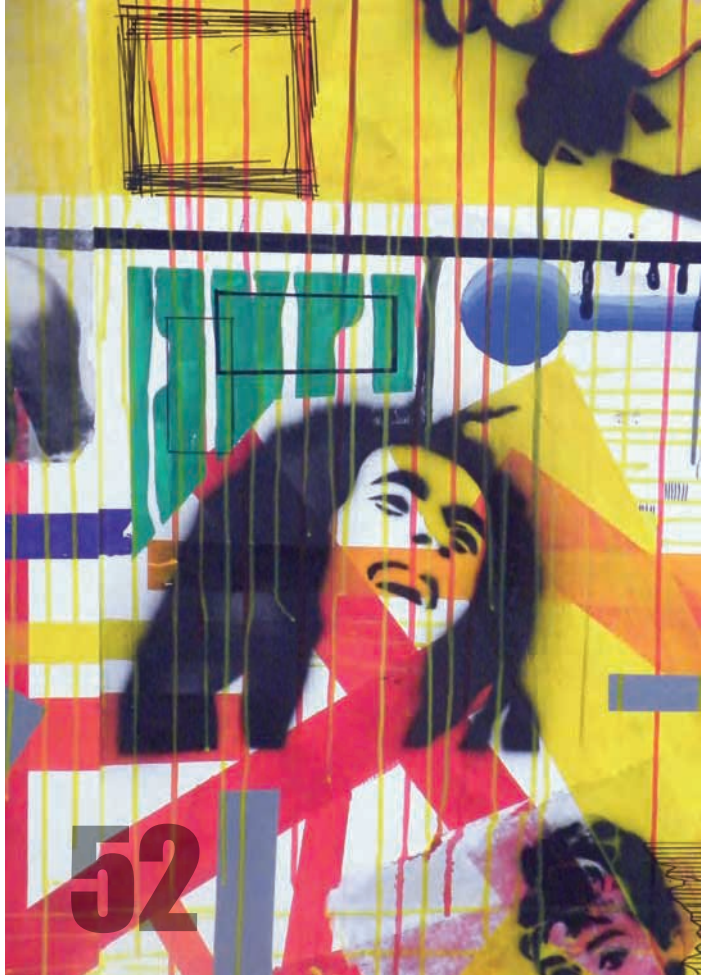
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END OF AN ERA

NEIL ANTHONY TURRELL BSc, MA, FCoIP, FRSA HEADMASTER OF MAIDSTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1992-2009

An era ended in July with the retirement from MGS of Mr Turrell after seventeen years as Headmaster. For generations of MGS students he had come to embody the spirit of the school. I joined MGS a year after Mr Turrell as a member of the senior management team and thus for sixteen years worked very closely with him. The main reason why I accepted the offer of the post of Head of Sixth Form those many years ago was primarily because I wanted to work for Mr Turrell. His vision for the school and his drive communicated itself to me even at interview. In the years since my continuing respect for his capacity as Headmaster, my sense of sharing his vision of what education is for together with the deep affection, which we both shared, for this fine old school has kept me here.

In those years I saw Mr Turrell's work here at very close quarters and know only too well how much the school owes him and Mr Turrell can be justly proud of the many achievements secured during his term of office. The improved academic performance of the school, shown by a series of steadily improving Ofsted inspections, culminating in the outstanding grade awarded last year. The development of the IB, when everyone else was highly sceptical, was something Mr Turrell drove forward because he believed that it would give 'his boys' the edge. Now the IB is a respected part of the 'British' curriculum, admired by government, recognised by UCAS and his initiative has been copied by many others. It is now an established part of our curriculum and other schools look to our experience in delivering it. On top of that we can see developments such as the language college, more recently, applied learning, a two year KS3 and a three year KS4 along with three magnificent new buildings that all form part of Mr Turrell's legacy. Mr Turrell, by his personal interest, made us admired for our work with special needs students and in addition he drove forward the resurrection of the house system to develop greater opportunities for leadership, competition and development for students of all ages, something that was always very dear to his heart.

The house system is an excellent example of the way in which Mr Turrell saw education as being far wider than just what happens in the classroom. Personal development were always his watchwords when talking about what really matters in education. That is why he always took such interest and supported so strongly the extra-curricular events in the school, whether this is music, drama, sport of all varieties, the CCF, Interact or other volunteer activities. All received his encouragement and support, not least through giving up his own time to support 'his boys' in what they were doing. This was because ultimately what he cared most about were 'his boys' (and of course sixth form girls, who have come over

the years to consider themselves as honorary members of that club). Those thousands of students who have passed through MGS in the last 17 years, as Tom Lednicksy said on Speech Day at the end of the summer term, respected and admired him. It is also evidenced by the warmth of the tributes paid to Mr Turrell from Old



Maidstonians and current members of the school which appeared on 'Facebook' just after he announced his retirement. Two have stuck in my mind several months after reading them. One simply says of him 'Defines the term legend', while the other commented that 'He can't leave: Mr Turrell is MGS'. There were hundreds of others in similar vein. Few Headmasters would be paid such tributes by their students.

However that respect was earned by the care Mr Turrell always showed to students. Not only the firm and commanding presence around school, but the warmth of his personality, the interest he showed to individuals and the support he provided when times were tough. I remember the school refuser in Year 11 who worked every night for months outside the Headmaster's study after school to do his homework, who got decent GCSEs, came back into the sixth form and became the first person in his family ever to go to university. Mr Turrell would merely have commented that is what grammar schools are for. I also remember the huge support he gave to three boys after their father committed suicide and their mother battled against cancer. However not all stories have had a happy ending. I know how much the example of Ben de Garis, who lost his struggle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma just days after he completed his A Levels (he got 2As and a B) meant to Mr Turrell over the years and it is Ben's memory I am sure that influenced him in choosing to create a Neil Turrell Award for Courage. In the last few days of his Headmastership I know the loss in Afghanistan of Ben Babington Browne, one of his most respected students, hit him hard.

At times as well students disappointed him. He regarded every permanent exclusion as a failure because he could not persuade a student to work with the school. The infamous CCF incident provided one of blackest periods of his term of office because he felt let down by senior boys who through their behaviour had threatened an institution, the CCF, which he saw as offering huge

opportunities to some students. However he turned a disaster into a positive: having faced and tackled the issues thrown up, he then campaigned to make both the services and other schools aware of the potential problem they could all face and thereby change national arrangements for CCF camps.

It is not just the students who had cause however to be grateful to Mr Turrell. Many members of staff saw his generous spirit when faced with personal or family problems. He was always concerned to support his staff through hardship and to seek to reduce the pressures if possible when times were bad. His capacity to pull us together in difficult times was shown so clearly late in 2008 when he lead the school through our grief at the loss of Mr Sanfourche.

For seventeen years as Headmaster Mr Turrell provided outstanding leadership and excellent stewardship of this remarkable school. It is a better and stronger place for those seventeen years and the school owes Mr Turrell a huge debt of gratitude for his time as Headmaster. Our best wishes for his new life in Singapore go with him.

P.G.S.



In Memoriam

As another year has been and gone, we look back and reflect on the events of the past year. Sadly, however, a most beloved member of the school will not be here to see another year's passing. As we all know, Mr JM Sanfourche passed away earlier this year and will be greatly missed by all of us.

Mr Sanfourche first joined the school in the autumn of 1973 upon taking up the position of French assistant within the language department. This was the point where he first met the young Miss Taul, a German teacher who, in 1975, would become Mrs Sanfourche.

From August 1974 to August 1975 Mr Sanfourche embarked on his National Service in his native France, regaling staff and students alike for years to come of how his platoon took a wrong turning and accidentally invaded Switzerland fully armed.

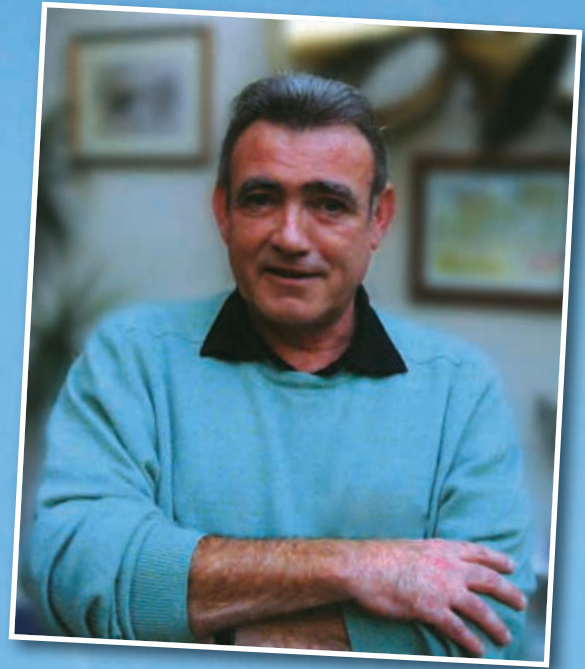
After this brief period, Mr Sanfourche returned to England, where sadly there were no teaching positions available at the Grammar School, so began teaching at Oldborough Manor before returning to us as a French and Italian teacher in 1980.

Here he joined the formidable Mr Williams from the maths department, as well as Mr Lock and Mr Burnett to form the popular staff pop-group 'Satan and the Ghoulies' (with Mr Williams playing Satan), and Mr Sanfourche on the drums. It was said by many, that what he lacked in musical prowess, he made up with enthusiasm and roguish charm.

Some might argue, this roguish charm made Mr Sanfourche such a joy to be with and to know. There was also, no arguing, that Mr Sanfourche was undeniably French; it was as if he had come directly from the set of 'Allo 'Allo, he loved good food, good wine, rugby and French tobacco. His debut on the cricket pitch, playing for the staff team, prompted the response; 'why am I playing this bloody English game'.

JM however, could never have been accused of not liking other countries, for he, felt himself to be a connoisseur of Belgian beers. Although, should the Dutch be bought into conversation, a tirade regarding their awful caravans would begin. Some of the less responsible students in the class would often bring up such topics so as to bring the lesson to a complete standstill until this interlude was over.

Mr Sanfourche's true spirit was with teaching; he always looked for the best in his students and truly appreciated all those who put in the maximum effort,



even when their successes were limited. However, he was more than just a teacher, he was a fantastic mentor, but most importantly he was a friend to many; his door was always open to anyone who needed advice or just a friendly face to talk to.

Behind his gruff exterior was a truly remarkable man who was adored by all and to whom I am extremely privileged to have met and to have known. He created an impression upon the hundreds of students he taught and helped to shape the lives of many students who passed through the school. I was one of the very lucky to have had him as a form tutor for many years and when I think of how much he helped me during my time at MGS I am eternally grateful.

Just hours after the school heard of Mr Sanfourche's passing, hundreds of people had joined a facebook group to pass on their respects and to commemorate this great man. However, as I looked through all of the comments made, one word stuck in my mind the most, 'legend', and throughout people showed the utmost respect to such a great man.

The school and our hearts are much emptier without Mr Sanfourche with us and to whom I wish to raise a glass:

Rest In Peace, Sir.

Oliver Burbidge



School Captain

REPORT

To say the guidance given to me for this article was 'vague' would probably be an understatement. The free reign the editors of the Maidstonian (who I should congratulate on another fantastic edition) have given me means I can fill this little page with a topic of my choice, and so feel it is probably about time I addressed something that may have confused some members of the school since my appointment last March.

Change.

Many staff and older students will remember me in Year 9-10 particularly. For those of you who don't - think about your class. There will probably be some boys who you would consider the 'troublemakers', right? The ones who disrupt lessons, and get detentions and so on? Well I was one of those boys at the back of the room, probably plotting to disrupt a cover lesson in some mildly amusing way.

So why, therefore, have I been asked to write this article as outgoing School Captain? Why the change? In all honesty, I don't know. I'm sure it is partly due to growing up and maturing. There's likely to be a little family influence and personal experience in there. But I know that the support from MGS has been massively influential.

If I were reading this article when I was in the lower school, I would be thinking 'Here we go - more ramblings from an outgoing student who wants to sing the school's praises for brownie points'. I'm sure many will be thinking that. Let's not get deluded - reading through these pages it is easy to think, with all the nice words, sporting achievements and so on, that MGS is perfect. It is not. No school is. Yes, I think MGS is an excellent school, and I know I made the right choice to come here, but no, we are not infallible. There are numerous inevitable faults that if fixed would improve MGS. More will surface, but we will be making progression. This progression has been quite remarkable over Mr Turrell's 'reign', for which we rightly thank him and wish him all the best. There will always be more to be made, and I sincerely hope Dr Argent will chase this and take MGS forward. To the voices in the corridor who say that no-one can replace Mr Turrell and we are at our best now: I'm afraid you are wrong and hope that you can see a new Headmaster as an opportunity for, not a hindrance to, change for the better.

Steady progression has taken MGS to where it is now, just as it has for me. (For those closely following my narrative, yes - I realise I digressed a little!)

At no point did I ever consciously seek to change myself - to stop being the boy at the back of the room. It is only now with hindsight that I realise that it was simple encouragement and direction from the school that improved me and so many others in my year, as happens every year. Staff have given so much more than their salaries require to help me as a person, and for that I am incredibly thankful. To name a few but by no means all - Mr Smith, Mr Lehec, Ms Lewis, Mrs Anderson and Mr Walker.



Although we are at a grammar school, personal and behavioural problems do exist, and the way that these have been dealt with has really defined MGS for me. There are so many schools where the staff give up on the students and they leave still 'sitting at the back of the room'. Many of our staff really care about the students, and we are blessed to have them.

I realise I haven't answered directly as to why I am in the position to write this article. To that - I am utterly clueless. I certainly wouldn't have chosen me if I were in the Head's position. The opportunity afforded to me by the Headmaster in my appointment has been staggering, and he knows how grateful I am for that. Given what MGS has given me, the honour of being able to serve as School Captain means more than to most.

As a final thought, I want to clarify my message. What I am not saying is 'Mess around, chill out, and you could still be School Captain'. No. Get on the right tracks as early as possible, and stay on them. My message is really to those lads who identify with the Year 9 boy I described. MGS doesn't give up on you, so don't give up on yourself - there is still time to change.

Jon Bardsley

Boy-at-the-back 2003-5
School Captain 2008-9

Vice School Captain

CHARITIES REPORT

Through the plethora of activities and events this year, not only have we all been thoroughly entertained, but also the school have managed to raise just over £11,000 for various charities. So I'm just going to give a brief overview of what has been going on this year.

The year started exceptionally well, with Invincible raising around £2200 for Cancer Research UK through their production of MGS Has Talent, in which Helen Barton from Hurricane amazed both the audience and the judges with her angel-voiced rendition of Panis Angelicus. Her stunning performance allowed her to come joint first with 'Just Another Boy Band' who later reappeared during Hurricane's 'Stars In Their Eyes'.

November saw Spitfire House hosting the Staff-Student Football Match in which we saw some of the best and funniest football skills from among the staff, whilst Jamie Edwards oversaw fair play as referee. The student team won the match however, there were some fantastic goals made by the staff, with Mr Restarick scoring from the half-way line. £1542.50 was raised for BBC Children in Need.

Content with the school's singing ability, Alex Torbica, House Senior for Churchill House proposed testing its dancing, and so 'Step Up 3: MGS' was born. Of all the performances, which included Father Christmas Feat. James Kersey, Tola Akanbi-Onasanya and James Arscott impressed the audience the most and walked away with a victory for Invincible House. Wooden Spoon gained just over £2000 from the day which was greatly appreciated as contributions to improve the lives of children here in Kent. Hundreds of cans of food were also donated to the Kent Messnger 'You Can Help Appeal' which supports the Maidstone Day Centre.

The highlight of Endeavour's charities day was 'Teacher's Blind Date' where Miss Tomes managed to win a date with the Headmaster, and Mr Redmond spent an apparently not quite



so enjoyable time with Mrs Harris from the English Department. The most successful part of the day were the 139 shoeboxes filled with snacks and books for our troops in Afghanistan that were comprised of student and staff donations.

As the year moved on, the competition for Charities Plate became more and more intense, with Hurricane House determined to win this year. Months of hard planning and effort went in to producing the most successful charities day of the year. 'Stars in Their Eyes' was a hit with the school featuring star act Year 7 Ben Wright with his performance as Freddie Mercury. £2386.32 was raised for Comic Relief.

The year ended with Challenger's charities day with a 50-a-side Year 7 football match (England vs Germany) as well as various other activities throughout the day.

However, all of this could not have been achieved without the immense support from the staff and students, but mostly it could have not been done without all the hard work from all of the house prefects, Mr Holmes the house co-ordinator or the School Captain Jon Bardsley, so a huge thanks must be go to all those people.

Oliver Burbidge
Vice School Captain

Charities



The money raised went to the Wooden Spoon Charity which supports mentally and physically disadvantaged children within the UK.

Years 7, 8 and 9 were out in force on Charities Day, unleashing their new found entrepreneurial skills. 7Sh were especially keen, setting up three attractions: 'How Many Tees in a Jar?', 'Rock Band Challenge' and 'Bop-it Challenge' raising a total of £18.36. However, 8Gr went for a 'quality over quantity' approach, raising £17.13 with just one attraction – the classic 'Mario Brothers' game. Year 9, although slightly ambitious with their choice of attraction, also raised an impressive £17.68 with a simple yet effective 'Dice Game'.

A remarkable effort was made by the Churchill House Prefects to maximise the potential that the more senior students of Churchill House have for making money for charity. With meetings up to twice a week, they managed to organise a host of events:

'Super Smash Bros Challenge' – our most effective computer game money raiser brought in £20.10.

'Winter Warmers' – 12Ln helped fight the cold by selling hot drinks on the front gate, bringing in £44.24.

'Tug 'O' War' – the brawn of MGS fought on an epic scale to raise £41.31.

'Paper Aeroplane Challenge' – aeronautical engineers of the future put their skills to the test as they launched recycled paper through the air to raise £10.00.

'Father Turrell' – the students' desire to embarrass the Head was exposed when £96.89 was raised to see him in a Santa's costume.

'Sponsored Silence' – it seems MGS students place the silence of Emily Thorpe at an exceptionally high price! An incredible £370.43 was raised with the simple use of a piece of duct tape and a small whiteboard.

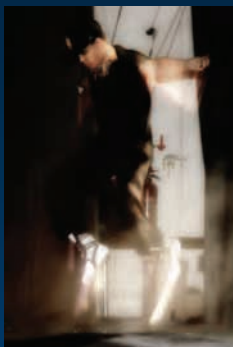


'Mr T Calendar' – after hard work from Churchill Prefects, and an almost infinitesimally small amount of time to organise, a respectable £56.00 was raised for the photography, printing, marketing and sale of some saucy pictures of Mr Turrell.

A brand new event was proposed for Charities Day. It was called 'Step Up 3: MGS.' It asked a lot from its competitors, requiring a delicate concoction of co-ordination, finesse, and musical fluency. In short, it was a 'dance off' between members of each House with elements from the hit film 'Step Up 2: The Streets'. The best act was arguably James Arscott and Tola, who performed a perfectly choreographed and synchronised dance with flair, although Sam Jenkins' Santa suit did earn him much respect from the crowd (it had a diameter of about two metres). An entertaining show, it raised £275.02.

The Prefects and students that participated and worked hard in the organisation of the Charities Day deserve much appreciation. The School will give a total of £967.16 raised by attractions, plus £1057.98 raised by non-uniform, to the Wooden Spoon charity, totalling at £2038.30.

Alex Torbica
Churchill House Captain



Charities

CHALLENGER HOUSE CHARITIES DAY:

To organise this day was certainly a challenge, the odds were stacked against the team with preparation for the day only starting 2 weeks before. However the team came through with huge support coming from Challenger tutor groups and tutors.

The initial idea was that the big event would be a performance based show in the Big Hall; however, this was abandoned as it was too close to exams for any students to devote large amounts of time for rehearsals.

The theme for non-school uniform was shorts and shades a risky decision in the event that it could possibly rain, however, with good fortune it was a warm, sunny day. This was a result as we had chosen a field big event; had we done a Big Hall event it would have been undermined by the good weather.

We had many events going on through out the day, a consistent effort from the copper bandits prowling the corridors for loose change. At break, we had a successful smoothie selling stand in Piccadilly along with safe cracking. On the field there was a 'keepy upy' challenge, and beat Jon at handstands (for those who don't know Jon he is a gymnast and to beat him would take miracle!).

Throughout the day we were selling old school photographs of teachers, the task was to guess the entire sheet correctly and the winner (chosen at random from a hat) would claim a £5 reward. As well as guessing who's who from the old school pictures we also had a helium tannoy challenge were teachers would sing the school song on helium... brilliant! A delightful interruption to period 5 I'm sure all would agree the announcement lasted about 5-10minutes which was a bit more than anticipated.

The highlight of the day was the "50 a side football Year 7 football match" (England vs. Germany) which in the turn ended up being a 20-40 match as most student wanted to be

Germany (some didn't realise where their allegiances lay). So with a quick reshuffle from the team and we were back on track. The game was played with an oversize beach ball which dwarfed most of the Year 7s playing. Unfortunately, the ball didn't weigh very much and ended up being biased against the English from westerly winds.

This was not the only lunch activity; we also had a staff vs. student basketball match organised by Mr. Martin, (who isn't in Challenger but don't mention this to him), whose efforts were greatly received. The match took place in the Year 7 basketball courts with two Year 12 students acting as security. Wandering around in a blue outfit, shorts far too short and tops far too tight and batons ready to discipline any youths. We had leg waxing in the gym, a painful experience for them, enjoyable for us. There is no clear reason why watching people put themselves through pain is funny, however, if you are going to do it the best reason to do it is for charity.

The last effort on the day was the whip-round during registration which worked remarkably well. People were willing to donate money to charity, and there was plenty of humour trying to persuade people as well.

So in all, I think the team have done a brilliant job as usually the last event is the worst event of the year as it is close to exams and people tend to be less generous and usually all the good ideas are taken. So once again, a big thanks to Challenger house prefects, students and tutors for all your support to raise the £1,679.72.

Craig Turner 13Wg
Challenger House Captain

CHALLENGER HOUSE TOTALS

Non-Uniform	£1,077.07
Year 7	£15.81
Year 8	£210.16
Year 9	£146.06
Year 10	£39.61
Year 11	£143.31
Years 12/13	£47.70
Overall Total	£1,679.72



Charities

SPITFIRE HOUSE CHARITIES DAY: 7 NOVEMBER 2008

Never before has this date been blessed with such an epic, monumental occasion. Spitfire House's Charities Day proved worthy of the efficient, smooth, yet exhilarating plane from which it inherited its name – the greatest Charities Day ever consummated on the previously profane grounds of MGS!

There was a whole range of spell-binding events on offer:

7MI organised a Cross Bar Challenge and a tremendous Safe-Breaking activity and raised over £20.

8Lt ran a Play Station racing game and Guess the Number of Beads in a Jar, and they too raised over £20.

10Wt had Guess the Teacher's Age and this raised £4.

11Zc's X-Box Challenge raised nearly £48.

The event to which the masses congregated was unsurprisingly the Staff Football Match, our equivalent of the Big Hall event. The much anticipated clash of the teachers ensured many goals and much hidden talent. The normally reserved and gentlemanly Mr Ashenfelter showed himself as a mean and sometimes dirty tackler. Mr Morse unsurprisingly raced around taking everyone out who came within a small distance of him. There were many dives, injured shins and egos, much mud and much fun. The match did, however, destroy any circulating rumours that Mr Restarick could have ever, in this world, been a professional! Of particular creditable acclaim was Mr Stucken whose brutal and formidable right foot proved lethal to many of the opposing team.





Our thanks must go to all the staff who courageously and valiantly turned out on behalf of Spitfire House, even if this was not their own House, and, of course, thanks and a well done go to Jamie Edwards for even attempting to referee such a match, let alone actually achieving what he did, which was to referee the match with fairness and finesse. I am highly cynical that any future attempts will better the performance and athleticism demonstrated by the staff of MGS and the many hundreds of students who watched the event.

Importantly, the House raised £1,542.50, which will be gratefully received by 'Children in Need'. Thank you and well done to everyone involved.

Dan Smith
Spitfire House Captain



Non-Uniform	£1,088.27
Year 7	£20.75
Year 8	£21.22
Year 9	£0.00
Year 10	£4.00
Year 11	£47.37
Years 12/13	£360.89
Overall Total	£1,542.50



Charities

HURRICANE HOUSE / RED NOSE DAY: 13 MARCH 2009

In the tradition of any Charities Day at MGS, the silly costumes and even sillier antics were out in force for the 2009 Hurricane House Charities Day. What made the day even sillier and therefore even better was that the day was in support of Red Nose 09 – the BIGGEST one yet but also with the slogan “Do something Funny for Money”. Well, we surely did that!!

The house was ably represented by all of its form groups and with assistance from many other groups too – such is the spirit of Red Nose Day. We had been selling red noses all week and actually sold over 600 by the end of the day itself. Nearly everyone was wearing one – it was great. The non-uniform for the day was quite obviously anything red and again the support was tremendous. The non-uniform raised over £1,072 for the house.

8Ph organised Wii Sport activities for the day on a turn up and play basis, whilst 9Js had an Easter tombola. 10Pd played 5 a side football and of course Frankie Fairbrass deserves a mention for having the front to dress as a fairy all day! Well done Frankie you looked lovely and sparkly all day!

Whilst talking about fairies we do of course have to mention Jason Smith and Jon Luc Carlow from 11Ts who also dressed up for the day – we all paid a lot to see those two in pink frills and sparkle wings I can tell you. The rest of Ts organised the Big Screen games consoles. Sam Craddock in the sixth form busked in Piccadilly all day and several members of the sixth form even volunteered to have their legs waxed!

The Big Hall event was fun and energetic and raised a tremendous amount of money along with the traditional balloon race, with balloons ending up as far a field as Belgium, Holland, Germany....and Clacton!

The fact is – we did all do something silly and

we did all try to help out – and we had great fun doing it. RND 09 has raised over £82 million pounds so far – and we, Hurricane House are proud to have contributed over £2500 towards this. We are, of course also chuffed to bits that we were the house that raised the most money on Charities Day – the Charities Shield is ours (until next year at least!!)

Hurricane House Prefect Team.

HURRICANE HOUSE TOTALS

Non-Uniform	£1,072.50
Year 8	£16.61
Year 9	£17.00
Year 10	£120.20
Year 11	£124.17
Year 12/13	£1,186.04
Overall Total	£2,536.52



Charities

ENDEAVOUR HOUSE CHARITIES DAY:

13 FEBRUARY 2009

Prefects were on duty from 7.45am on the Friday morning till 8.45am collecting money from staff and students for non-uniform in addition to collecting the considerable number of items being donated to 'Support Our Soldiers'. Three bin liners from the back gate were filled whilst a further eleven bin liners were collected from the front gate. Prefects then took the contents of the bags to Room 57 where, for the duration of the day, they were sorted into piles and packed into shoe boxes by members of the 6th Form body. It took the volunteers until 5.30pm to pack the donated items into boxes contributed from over a dozen clothing and shoe outlets within Maidstone. The total number of boxes sent to Afghanistan was 126, which were labelled and then collected by Royal Mail on Wednesday 18 February. An article was written with accompanying photograph and was sent to the 'Kent Messenger' for publication.

The break-time events ranged in success, but no year or form groups produced a loss and some were very profitable. Year 8 (board games, quizzes and puzzles in Room 4), Year 9 (dodge ball and drinks in the Sports Hall), Year 10 ('Beat Mr Morse' at table tennis in the Gym), Year 11 ('dictionary lucky dip' in Room 5, with the main prize being a mobile phone donated by Phones4U), 12/13Hs (smoothies and organic fruit juices in Piccadilly) and 12/13Ar (face painting in the Refectory) were all very popular during break and made profit.

Mrs Warnett organised a very successful staff raffle that raised £68. The winner of the first prize – a delicious Valentine's themed cake baked by Mrs Edwards (wife of Dr Edwards) – was won by Mrs Spendley. Thank you to Mrs Warnett, Mrs Edwards and to everyone who donated the prizes and who bought the tickets.

The Big Hall Event "Teacher Blind Date" was a brilliant success, with a slightly late turn out which filled the Hall. The sound and lighting team deserve much of the credit as I had them

practising light changes and choosing audio tracks three weeks before the actual event and they were very accommodating to staff timetables when it came to rehearsals; for which the staff that took part have the appreciation of the Endeavour House Prefect team. The event included singing, ventriloquism, impressions, funny costumes, audience participation and humour of all tastes; not to mention videos of the members of staff who went on the dates and what they thought about each other. We would like to thank all of the staff who participated in the event – not least of all the winners: Mr Redmond and Mrs Harris, and Miss Tomes and Mr Turrell. We felt that "Teacher Blind Date" was something different from the normal Big Hall events and feedback from students and staff has been nothing but positive. I hope that next year's Prefect team come up with something to the same standard, or better still, surpass this year's Charities Day, and with the calibre of my Year 12 Prefects, I am sure they will.

Declan Wilson

Endeavour House Captain

ENDEAVOUR HOUSE TOTALS

Non-Uniform	£1,029.19
Year 7	£3.80
Year 8	£4.90
Year 9	£25.39
Year 10	£6.00
Year 11	£106.36
Years 12/13	£252.79
Staff Raffle	£68.00
Overall Total	£1,496.43

Charities

INVINCIBLE HOUSE CHARITIES DAY:

17 OCTOBER 2008

A lot of fun was had on the Friday of Invincible House Charities' Day, despite the morning's chilly weather. The day only got better from then on. All the Invincible Forms had been working hard during the weeks prior to Charities' Day and the fruits of their labour sprung forth during break and lunch-times.

The main buzz during break-time was along the Language corridors, with intense musical prowess being showed off with 'Guitar Hero' on the Wii, and a few steps away, there was the hustle and bustle of Piccadilly, where Jack Chilcott, accompanied by special VIP guest – his brother George – were busking to raise money for charity. Jack was playing saxophone like a seasoned jazz player, with George providing the backing on the keyboard. That wasn't the only thing happening during the day, however. At the same place, Year 7s, Year 8s and Year 10s had set up tables to tempt passers-by to spend some cash on their events.

One of the highlights of the day were the merciless Custard Pie Death Squad, They sought and destroyed their targets with malice and glee – some of the unfortunate recipients of the charity pie fest were Miss Tomes, Mr Lozano and Mr Tismer, and they weren't the only ones.

Lunch-time saw a whole new set of events and activities unfurl, with the Year 7 Football Tournament and other events on the field such as the 'Throw a Welly' competition and the awe-inspiring 'MGS Has Talent' – the main event which took place in the Big Hall, hosted by the ever-talented Mr Holmes. The show saw the natural talents of Year 7 student Ben with his crowd pleasing Diablo tricks, Jon Mills with his acrobatic feats, and a Disney classic performed on violin – not forgetting the contributions of Mr Meigh and Mr Ashenfelter. But truly the show was stolen by Hurricane House's act Helen Barton and her angelic singing voice, and Invincible House's 'Just Another Boy Band', singing a medley of songs. The two acts were

awarded joint first place, which was an impressive result for Invincible House. With over 400 people cramming into the Big Hall to watch, 'MGS has Talent' raised over £400. 9We raised the most money as an individual Form, with just under £146, whilst the Custard Pie Death Squad raised over £300. The total sum of money raised was a staggering £2,212.87, which is going to an excellent cause: Cancer Research UK.

Tola Akanbi-Onasanya

Invincible House Captain

INVINCIBLE HOUSE TOTALS

Non-Uniform	£1,219.54
Big Hall Event	£424.57
Custard Pie Death Squad	£361.18
Year 7Gd	£12.00
Year 8Lg	£38.18
Year 9We	£146.86
Years 10Tr	£10.54
Years 11Ts	Nil
Overall Total	£2,212.87

We Will Rock You

When we discovered that November 2008's school musical was to be Ben Elton's stage success 'We Will Rock You', we did wonder: was Mr Young being slightly ambitious? The answer was a definite no, and Maidstone Grammar School's 'We Will Rock You' turned out to be a huge success.

Mr Young as always was a perfect producer, and pushed us to put on a musical that the whole school could be proud of. Mr Goddard and Miss Tomes did a fantastic job of assembling a top notch cast, and ensuring that they put on as good a show as the school possibly could. Mr Estepa Silva managed to create dancing masterpieces from the somewhat dance-shy chorus. Joshua Zaré brought a great deal of acting experience to his performance of Galileo, and was a superb leading man. Elliot Seeds returned to MGS in order to play Killer Queen alongside her crony, Khashoggi (played by myself). We were the villains of 'We Will Rock You', and brought the cross-dressing and beaver-related humour that every show needs. Mr Lowen put together an incredibly talented band, and their playing brought the show to life, recreating some of Queens greatest songs in the MGS Big Hall. Performing to packed houses every night, the musical was a great success. More importantly, the cast had a great time rehearsing and performing.

The school musical is always an opportunity to create new friendships and for many people to show what they have a hidden talent for. 'We Will Rock You' set an even higher bar for the Maidstone Grammar School musical. The cast, teachers, musicians and behind the scenes team put on a phenomenal production. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it happen and to everyone who came to watch!

Thomas Chesover





Junior Drama Production

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

For the second year in succession pupils from Years 7 – 9 participated in a highly successful Junior Drama Production. This year's play was "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" based on the classic story by Mark Twain. It was a challenging production for both the large and talented cast who had to master American accents and the dedicated and efficient backstage under the able management of Mr Young. There were constant scene changes as Huck and Jim navigated the Mississippi River and met a fascinating and eccentric group of characters. This gave the opportunity for some wonderful cameo parts. A complicated Lighting and Sound plot was an essential element and under the direction of Mr Scott the Sixth Form Prefects did a magnificent job.



It was a highly successful team effort but Kishan who played the central character was once again nominated for Best Young Actor in the Kent Drama Association Full Length Play Festival. The whole production gained twelfth place out of twenty two competitors of whom the majority were adults. This was a highly creditable performance.

We look forward to another successful Junior Drama production from 18th – 20th March 2010 – "The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents"





HOTEL



Music

The Music Department started this year with a new look. Several students spent the day before school officially started assisting the staff in rearranging the department after the construction of three new practice rooms in the Small Hall, as well as the dedication of the old music office to become a music technology mastering room. With this new start in mind, we opened our doors to a rather familiar new member of music staff. Mr S Orchard, previously a prestigious music student from the years 1997 to 2004, came to teach Music at MGS as part of his teaching qualification. He also spent some time at Maplesden Noakes, helping their AS-level music class in performance and writing harmony. Mr Orchard was a prominent pianist and conductor at MGS, having conducted the school choir, orchestra and wind band, as well as being the pianist for our school's most celebrated production of "Les Miserables" in 2003. After he left, Mr Orchard studied music at Royal Holloway University for three years, studying under Professor Robert Woolley from the Royal College of Music. He then studied as a postgraduate for a Masters degree in Historical Musicology.

In October, the school invited all students to show off their drama and vocal skills as auditions were held for the school's Biennial production. This year, the school staged a hugely successful production of the Ben Elton musical "We Will Rock You", starring students Joshua Zaré from year 11 as "Galileo", Tom Chesover from year 12 as "Kashoggi", Courtney Stapelton from Maplesden Noakes as "Scaramouche" and former pupil Elliot Seeds stealing the show as "Killer Queen". Providing the complex music for this production were Reuben Hazelby, James Martin and Tim Pennells on Electric Guitar, Alex Paul on Bass, Dennis Woodcock on Drums and Joe Bligh on Keyboard with Mr Lowen directing the music, as well as providing some extra piano support for the performers.

Our Autumn concert quickly came around, with the Wind Band offering a wide selection of light music such as "Phantom of the Opera" and

"Highlights from Chicago" as well as challenging arrangements such as Henry Woods' "Fantasia on British Sea Songs". It was also the Wind Band's last performance of the popular (if a little over-played) "Instant Concert". There have been reports from the Music Staff that the score has been burnt and the ashes scattered ceremonially on the school field. The school Orchestra performed Haydn's Symphony No. 101, which is popularly referred to as 'The Clock' because of its ticking rhythm in the second movement.

The music department have given pupils many chances to see great pieces of music to keep them inspired and excited about the world of music. In the Winter, several sixth form and Key Stage 4 pupils saw a production of Bizet's Carmen at Glyndebourne Opera House. The production was phenomenal and provided a fun basis for the Sixth Form's study of Opera the next term. Members of the lower school were invited to see the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela. The Orchestra was created to tackle Venezuela's social problems and transform the lives of some of the nation's poorest children by offering them free instruments and tuition to prevent them from committing crimes. The Orchestra is well rehearsed, as many members practice around 4-6 hours a day in order to keep themselves occupied, and large amount of practice has also lead to the Orchestra's best known feature; their stunts with their instruments. The Orchestra are well known for throwing their instruments into the air, spinning them round and even removing jackets at excessive speeds whilst playing! The evening was thoroughly entertaining and left many of the younger students with a new found thirst for Classical Music.

The School's three largest groups, the Orchestra, Wind Band and Jazz Band, took part in the preliminary rounds for Music For Youth's National Festival in November. The Wind Band and Orchestra performed the same pieces they did in the Autumn Concert, while the Jazz Band performed 'Brick House' by the Commodores which segued into 'Birdland' by Weather Report,

topped off with a version of one of Herbie Hancock's signature tunes, 'Canteloupe Island'. Unfortunately the Wind Band and Orchestra did not make it through the first round, but the Jazz Band went on to perform in Birmingham in July 2009. They performed the same set, but without music and including some (rather unorthodox) dance moves, at the BRMB urban beach and at the Music For Youth's main Jazz Stage at the Adrian Boult hall, part of Birmingham Conservatoire. The band were very well received and are awaiting results as to whether or not they will go on to perform at the Royal Albert Hall later this year.

The Christmas Concert this year was one of our most successful to date. It was the first outing of the Sixth Form Chamber Choir who performed a beautiful rendition of Tavner's 'The Lamb'. The Wind Band excelled themselves with a haunting performance of Gabrielli's 'O Magnum Mysterium' conducted by Mr Orchard. The Wind Band featured a separate Brass Choir to create an antiphonal effect in the church which made the piece truly stunning to listen to.

The Summer Concert was rather low-key this year, featuring mostly lower-school soloists. The standard of playing in the lower school has really come on in leaps and bounds in the last few years and each soloist gave an excellent performance, especially Miss Tomes and Mr Willis who needed no encouragement to show off their terrific vocal and euphonium skills.

Finally, many music students represented the county playing in the Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra, Kent Youth Wind Orchestra and Kent Youth Orchestra, all of whom performed frequently this year to an exceptionally high standard. Recently, the Kent Youth Wind Orchestra performed local Clarinet and Saxophone tutor Graeme Vinall's first Clarinet Concerto, written especially for the Orchestra. Maidstone Grammar School were also well represented in this year's Maidstone and Mid Kent Young Musician of the Year competition. Four of the Eight contestants were from Maidstone Grammar School; these were Joe

Atkin-Reeves, Helen Flasse, Tom Chesover and Michael Gibbs. Unfortunately none of our students placed in the competition, but they lost to a worthy opponent; an eleven year old 'cellist who is already in the National Children's Orchestra and has a truly glittering future.

All that is left is to say thank you to the music staff for being supportive and encouraging this year, as they always are, the prefect teams for keeping order every break and lunch and to wish Jack Chilcott, a prominent former member of the music department, good luck at his new school in Wimbledon.

Joe Atkin-Reeves
Music Senior Prefect







Rugby

Year 7 rugby A team season 2008-2009 report

Before I start I must congratulate the team as no person stood out as an individual. It was purely a team effort. Now I move on to the team achievements. The year 7 rugby team was characterised by intelligence, power, agility but most of all a MGS spirit to never give up. Our main achievement was to be the first year 7 rugby team in 15 aside to have an unbeaten season (first that Mr Restaric can remember anyway). This is an extract from the MGS v Gravesend match report, one of the most truly gripping matches we've played: "At half time we were in the lead. As soon as the game resumed the opposition scored. But our heads did not drop and we kept on fighting. The next phase was end to end rugby. But with a good pass out of the ruck by the scrum half, the backs were away. Cameron Laurenson was leading the charge up the wing. When finally he was brought down MGS had made up a lot of previously lost ground. We remained on their try line for a long time, raid after raid their defence remained strong. Then finally the forwards pushed through and scored. We were the better side from then on and when the game finished we were victorious. The final score was 41-5 to MGS." (22nd of November 2008). That was just one of the exciting games of rugby we played. Another staggering game was when beat Dartford Grammar, the only team that beat Tonbridge Judo (we did not play Judo).

The almost professional A team was; Giom Dumont(7ml), Sam Mason(7jn), Louis Frost(7si), Johnny Grant(7si), Alex Mead(7gd), Jordan Amos(7sh), Elyas Sadighi(7si), Tyler Oranu-Mills(7gd), Ben Ditton(7gd), Tim Dibble(7gd), Will Kelly(7si), Simeon Wentzel (the skipper 7sh), Ben Johnston(7sh), Alex Kidd(7ml), Cameron Laurenson(7si), Tom Alvis(7sh), Ali Fish(7dv) and Reece Skinner(7jn).

Simeon Wentzel



Yr 8 Rugby Report

After an encouraging season in Year 7, the Year 8 squad began full of confidence and enthusiasm.

The first match of the season was against Chislehurst & Sidcup School. A slow start and careless mistakes saw us go behind early on, Chis and Sid seemed to be more organised. By the second half, last years form was returning with the forwards securing the ball and setting the backs up. We eventually ran out 22-12 winners (Tries: J. Gibson, A. Healy, O. Gibson, J. Weedon. Conversions: J. Orsbourn)

Next up was Judd School. Always a formidable opponent. A slow start again, with an error from the backs, a pass was intercepted and we were behind. But with our usual grit we went in at half time 7-5 behind. The second half saw us with all the possession and moved ahead in the scoring, but another weak tackle saw one of these players run half the length of the pitch to score an uncontested try between the posts. This set back seemed to rally the team with several phases on their try line. But unfortunately we ran out of time losing 14-12 in a game that we should have won (Tries: L. Kiwanuka, J. Orsbourn. Conversions: J. Orsbourn)

Kent College was the next fixture, always a nice school to visit, we were comfortable winners here 43-0 (Tries. O. Gibson, N. Small, H. Davison, S. Vizard x2, H. Galligan, J. Weedon. Conversions: J. Orsbourn x4)

BETHS came to visit us in October, with quite a

Football

The best way to describe the 2008-2009 season for the MGS first eleven is one of transition.

Having lost the heart of the first team to university, this year was always going to be tough. Numerous year 11's were brought into the squad to cement the cracks that had been left by the departed, leaving the school team with a distinctly youthful feel.

As always, the year began early, and as always, fitness training was flavour of the month. After some punishing hours spent in the sports hall, and the dreaded 'bleep test', the squad were prepared for the opening of the season. A regular occurrence for the first game of the year is a meeting with an old rival Tunbridge Wells GS. After a close fought 90 minutes, the opposition came out on top with a 1-0 win. Trying not to appear too bitter, but it was not a goal! Sparing the details, but all the players felt slightly aggrieved at the crucial decision.

Despite a disappointing start to the season, the players slowly began to gel and results soon followed. Impressive attacking displays ensured big scorelines, whilst the defense ensured the opposition's attacking threat was limited. The improvement in form culminated in a thumping win over Darrick Wood, where everything came good in an 8-0 victory.

Whilst the final standing in the league table was respectable, the Kent Cup held a special attraction to all the school footballers, who were particularly disappointed with the overall performance in the competition. Chatham GS narrowly came out on top in the second round of the competition. Nevertheless, the members of that losing side can take solace in the fact that Chatham went on to comfortably win the competition.

Special thanks are once again in order to Mr Restarick for his management of the side, and his dedication to the coaching of the team. MGS schools football also says goodbye to the long serving year 13's who have left. Despite a slow season for the first eleven, next year promises much with the vast majority of last years squad available once again. With a few additions from next years year 11, both the league and cup will be in our sight.

Joe Green (Captain)

Football

MGS 2nd XI Football Team

A strong 2nd XI MGS team finished the season in 4th place in the league, as well as reaching the quarter finals of the 2nd XI Kent Cup. The team had both the potential and the ability to win both league and cup, but struggled with consistency as many players successfully broke through into the first XI. The first XI benefitted from players emerging from the 2nd team, however this often left an inconstant starting team for the 2nds, whom I must add always showed great determination and pride in representing their school.

An undeserved defeat of 2-1 in the first game of the season to title rivals Tunbridge Wells GS set us back and meant that we had to play catch up from very early on. The team bounced back quickly and well, producing a winning streak that saw us beat Harvey GS 2nd and 3rd XI, Dover GS, QES, Simon Langton and Borden GS. However vital points were dropped in a draw against Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI, and a loss to our local rivals Oakwood, in a 2-1 defeat. However, we felt a sense of unjust after the Oakwood game, as we had unfairly had a last minute goal disallowed.

Unfortunately it was also Oakwood also ended our cup hopes as they beat us 4-2 in the Quarter finals. Normal time had finished 2-2, and we had given all of our grit and determination to level the scores after having been 2-0 down, however in extra time Oakwood scored first, and then got a fourth on a counter attack after we had been pushing to equalise.

Without doubt the most exciting match of the season was the away game against Marlow College. We needed a win to stay within contention for the league, and managed to come out on top in a 7 goal thriller. After taking a comfortable lead of 2-0, we relaxed and gave Marlow a chance to gain momentum, which they used to take a 3-2 lead. The spirit of the team, and the never say die attitude was essential in turning the game around as we created pressure in the last 15 minutes, scoring twice to win the match.

Everyone gave their all over the season, and in particular Will Blakey (Captain), Andy Tappouni (Vice-Captain), Joe Kingston, Steven Pole and Mike Pateman, who in their last season for the school showed tremendous determination and pride in playing for the school. Also a further congratulations must be given to Will and Andy, as well as Max Williams and Josh Webster, who between the 4 of them, managed to win Dick of the Day most weeks, which helped to keep us amused as well as build team spirit.

A final thank you must be said on behalf of the team to Mr. Hall, who managed the team and made a successful season possible as he gave up his own time to sort out kits, transport as well as coach on match days.

I look forward to next season, and hope both 1st and 2nd XI have successful seasons.

Player of the Season - Max Williams
Young Player of the Season - David Mallard

Dominic Bailey 12Mn

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL TEAM

This year the year 8 football team has been very successful, winning the Maidstone football league for our group and winning the overall cup as well. This season, we are undefeated and have won every game that we have played. Our biggest victory of the season was a 15-0 win over the Malling school in our opening match. We then went on to beat Senacre and Oldborough 3-0, Cornwallis 8-4, Wrotham 10-0 and St Simon Stock 3-0. There were two leagues and we won our league and Holmsdale won their league. The two teams that finished second in the two leagues were Maplesden Noakes and St Simon Stock. We as well as these other three teams were drawn into the cup and we had to play Maplesden Noakes in a semi final. We beat Maplesden 4-1 and we progressed into the final. In the final we had to play Holmsdale. We comfortably beat Holmsdale 4-1 and won the Maidstone schools

cup as well. I would like to thank Mr Restarick for his great management that helped us win the league and cup. I would also like to thank the team members who played for the team as we have had a great season and hope to do even better next year.

Josh Whitcombe

Manager

Mr Restarick

Squad:

Oliver Gibson 8LT
John Luke Sorak 8LG
James Taylor 8EA
Josh Whitcombe 8KY
Ryan Cheek 8KY
Brandon Myers 8LG
Sam Davies 8KY
George Moon 8QN
Elliot Black 8LG
Mitchell Churnside 8LG
Joe Crampton 8KY
Josh Gibson 8LG
Henry Galligan 8LG
Ross Halon 8QN

Reserves

Kieran Wells 8LG
Dariush Kaladjh 8EA
Sam Devitt 8QN
Alex Beadle 8LG
George Atkinson 8LT



Cricket

U12 cricket review

This is our first summer at MGS and individuals met each other during the training sessions, this created a really strong bond between players. The side was coached by Mr Restarick and skippered by Ben Johnston. We had a very successful first game against Chislehurst and Sidcup at home. They won the toss and elected to bat first, to our disappointment. They batted well and set us a total of 76. We reached their total in just over 14 overs with the loss of just 2 wickets and 32 from Johnston.

We also performed well against Langley Park. Once again the opposition won the toss and elected to bat. They set a decent total of 86 off 20 overs with a good bowling performance from George Duggan, who managed 3-13.

We reached their score easily, only losing 2 wickets. The skipper and George Davis (the openers) set a steady base for the innings before the Captain was caught at mid-off with stunning catch. The rest of the batsman finished off the job.

Our third game was away at Eltham and once again the skipper lost the toss and the opposition elected to bat. Their number 3 put on a few runs and they finished the innings at 89-9.

The opening pair did well. George Davis scored a cracking 45 before being caught at deep extra cover, 3 (Alex Kidd) and 4 (George Duggan) finished off the game for MGS in a quick 15 overs.

Our fourth opposition was Oakwood Park, the local derby. As per usual the Captain messed up the flip of the coin and the opposition elected to field, which was a relief for the MGS team. Dom Smith (26), Cameron Laurenson (9), Tom Bonney (8), George Duggan (23) and Tim Dibble (26) put on a demanding 134 off 20 overs.

All the bowlers bowled consistently and immediately put Oakwood on the back foot. They scored well but only managed to reach 101-4.

We have had an unbeaten season so far and hope to keep it that way.

The Squad (in no particular order)

Kushal Patel	7Jn
Ben Johnston (C)	7Sh
George Davis (Wk)	7Si
Dominic Smith	7Dv
Tim Dibble	7Gd
Cameron Laurenson	7Si
Alex Kidd	7MI
Nicholas Vant	7MI
Jack Gwynn	7Gd
Will Kelly	7Si
Matthew Mustill	7Dv
Nathaniel Littler	7MI
Alex Mead	7Gd
Tom Bonney	7Jn
George Duggan	7Jn
Elyas Sadighi	7Si
Tom Lovegrove	7Si
Ben Ditton	7Gd

Ben Johnston

Cricket Report U'15s 2009

After the very promising end to the 2007-08 season, the squad looked forward to another season of successful cricket and enjoyable matches. After being quite optimistic about our chances of playing a lot of cricket in the season, these hopes were soon wiped away after the first training session was held in the pouring rain.

The season consisted of inconsistent results and the weather disrupting some of the games. We started with a Kent Cup game against a very good Rochester Maths team. I lost the toss and we were forced to bat on what looked like a bowling wicket. Our batting line up struggled to a miserable 70 all out. One notable performance was Joe Millen who managed 40 against a good bowling attack and helped the team to a defendable target. The team were slightly optimistic with good conditions for bowling and the light dimming. Jack Irwin-Smith opened the bowling up well picking up one wicket, but the runs were coming too easily for the opposition. Rob Adams then bowled 3 tight overs before Jordan Austin and Nathan Waite took full advantage of the wicket by taking eight wickets between them in eight overs. This reduced Rochester to 68-9 needed two runs to win with one wicket left. Unfortunately, Rochester managed to get the winning runs with two overs to go. Even though we had lost we took the positives from the bowling and fielding, and looked forward to our next game.

Our next game was a tricky encounter away to Chislehurst and Sidcup, a side we had beaten last year. Full of confidence we decided to bowl first. The Chislehurst batters started well but Joe Millen bowled well in the middle overs, and a run out put a partial stop to the run flow. Nathan Waite then took a wicket with a good piece a wicket-keeping from Liam Nally. The Chislehurst batters finally ended on 110 for 2. After both of our openers we dismissed for just eight but Joe Millen and Nick Luen to control of the match with 23 and 32 respectively. James Midgley then finished the game with the last ball allowing us to win by five wickets.

Nextly, we faced Langley Park at home. We

bowled first once again and Jack Irwin-Smith opened up well again taking one wicket and was later helped by Joe Millen, taking one off three overs, and Nathan Waite, taking four wickets off his four overs. This left us needing 133 off twenty overs. Once again the batting let us down with the top six departing for just 24. Jack Irwin-Smith and James Midgley then settled at the wicket before managing 49 between them. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to see us home and Langley Park won by 47 runs.

Our next game against Dartford was called off after all the players turned up at the school due to a rain downpour on the morning of the game. Lastly, we failed to play our great rivals Oakwood as they couldn't manage to get a team together.

The season was a mixture of wins, losses, and abandoned games but as a team we played well and look forward to another season of school cricket next year. I am sure that a number of our players will develop into first team cricketers and represent the school at the highest level. Thanks to all of the PE staff, especially Mr. Hall for organising teams, umpiring and taking us to the away fixtures.

Nathan Waite (Captain)

The Squad:

Robert Adams, Jordan Austin, Alex Davies, Matt Dibble, Henry Forrester, Robert Haggart, Pat Hill, Jack Irwin-Smith, Nick Luen, Neil Mackay, Matt Mills, James Midgley, Joe Millen, Liam Nally(WK), Sam Robinson, Nathan Waite.



World Challenge

EXPEDITION TO SIBERIA

JULY/AUGUST 2008

The enormity of the challenge that faced us felt similar to the size of Siberia – 5million square miles. 12 boys, 4 girls, one male teacher, one female and one indeterminate (Mr Lozano) were all sat on the sports hall floor late one evening last July. We had spent the last months working and saving for this expedition, as well as getting sufficiently fit and well researched to go. We had also had to endure the endless questions from confused relatives including ‘I didn’t know there were mountains in Serbia?’ and the most popular- ‘Will you have to live in Igloos?’ (and others to that effect). For those still confused – Siberia gets very hot in summer!

It didn’t take long for us to meet problems. I was all too keen to ensure our prohibited essentials were all in our main bags not hand luggage: nail files, tweezers, liquids, hand grenades.... Only when the grumpy security official explained that some may consider the sharp metal spade I had packed for on-board a ‘significant potential weapon’ that I realized my mistake. We would have to look for other ways of digging toilets in Russia!

A few days later we arrived at ‘Sunshine Camp’ – a camp that cares for local children – to volunteer for a week. Before this however, we had: raced across Moscow in a mad-dash for our connecting flight, tried to listen respectfully to our Russian guide on the bus while very odd Russian porn was playing on the TV behind her unaware!, endured multiple tyre explosions and experienced Russian hostels and cuisine.





For me, Sunshine Camp was the best experience of the trip, and one of the most rewarding things I have done to date. Some children spoke some English, some none, but all were incredibly excited to see us and make friends. During the day we helped the camp leaders teach English and entertain the children, and we were only too keen to get involved in their evening activities – which more often than not saw us get a bit carried away with the opportunities that cross-dressing creates! It was also here that we finally found out why Russians had been laughing at Akash for the past week – his name sounds very similar to the Russian swear word for excrement! Everyone made friendships quickly at Sunshine and it was difficult to leave – particularly as the 14-day trek awaited.

The trek was long (much longer than usual expeditions, I should proudly note!) and very difficult. 10 hours walking were ‘short days’ and the mountains were very steep. Any food we ate was carried on our backs, so clearly rations were small. Good for dieters (we all lost a lot of weight), bad for those walking up mountains! There wasn’t much bad about the trek though – horse trekking, white water rafting, walking across mountains with incredible views, camping by lakes, watching a full solar eclipse, climbing ice walls and walking across a glacier are among the highlights – all with an MGS sense of humour haunting us!

The journey to Moscow saw the team suffer from diarrhoea and some vomiting which struck at very entertaining moments – ‘STOP THE BUS!’ and my personal favourite- into the box the airport security woman politely asked Sean to put his shoes into. Moscow itself was our final rest – having completed the ‘challenge’ – an amazing city to finish off what is undoubtedly the best month I have ever had.

Clearly there is so much more I could write about but space has run out, albeit just enough to squeeze in some advice to the next challengers – enjoy every minute, it goes so quick.

Jon Bardsley

TRIPS

ROME



In June this year 31 students and 3 staff (Miss Johnson, Trip Leader: Mr Coltella and Mrs Cook) enjoyed a week-long trip to Italy, visiting both Rome and Naples. The trip began well before the crack of dawn, with exhausted students assembling at 3am on a Saturday morning for the coach ride to Heathrow Terminal 5. We somehow managed to stumble our way through check-in, security and shopping before jetting off for Italy!

We arrived in Rome refreshed and were soon on our way to the highly swish Hotel Archimede, our home for the next few days. We quickly began our first tour of Rome taking in the Spanish steps, the fabulous Trevi Fountain, and the “best gelateria in Rome” (according to Mr C). Our evenings in Rome were spent at the Termini train station, exploring the multitude of shops across three floors.

Our second day saw us visiting the enormous Villa Adriana and the absolutely stunning Villa d’Este, for many of us the highlight of the trip. The third day brought our grand tour of Rome, starting at the Vatican and taking in the Castel Sant’Angelo, Piazza Navona (complete with American girls), Pantheon, Vittoriano, Roman Forum and ending at last at the Colosseum. This day was hot, tiring and immensely rewarding, even causing us to positively relish the rain at the end of the day.

Our fourth day began with an early start and a very long coach journey to the Bay of Naples, the lack of air con making it nigh unbearable. We were thus delighted to reach Herculaneum: this extraordinarily well-preserved site gave us a real insight into what an ancient Roman town felt like, and a welcome break from the sweltering coach. After another hour’s journey we reached the vicinity of the hotel, where apparently, and I quote Mr C: “we have a short walk up the road, less than a hundred metres”. The reality however was very different and after a mile of walking with heavy bags Mr C did what no man has ever done: he asked for directions! Luckily we were on the right track and soon reached the hotel. The afternoon was spent relaxing after a long day at a nearby café with spectacular views of the bay.

We enjoyed nightly walks in the centre of Sorrento, with an hour to explore the

picturesque town square and back streets, smart designer shops and tourist stalls. These were much enjoyed by all, particularly for the souvenir shopping and large adorable quantities of ice cream!

The next day we visited Pompeii – this iconic town buried by the ash in 79AD was hugely impressive, with visits to the House of the Fawn and the Villa of the Mysteries handy for the Class Civ Students among us. The Naples Archaeological Museum rounded out the day’s activities, allowing us to see the amazing statues and artwork recovered from Pompeii, and of course the Gable Segreto a gallery of Pompeian Erotica

Our last full day in Italy saw a more relaxed pace as our trip came to a close. The villa at Oplontis, built by the Emperor Nero for his second wife, was very impressive, resplendent with beautiful fresco and an absolutely vast swimming pool! We then sampled the best of Italian pizza at the Pizzeria brand birthplace of the Margherita in the 19th Century and still just as good today. Our final visit was to Solfatara, the crater of an extinct volcano, its unbelievable smell certainly lived up to its name!.

Our final day saw us travelling home again first by coach and then by plane back to sunny (or more accurately rainy) England. Final group photos were taken, and after a minor emergency involving bags and baggage halls and an individual who shall be known only as Big Bird was resolved, we drove back to MGS in one piece all glad to have taken part in a truly fantastic trip.

Alex Field and Rob Ledniezky



TRIPS

BOSTON

With ears still ringing from the flight, we arrived at the Sheraton Hotel Boston, Massachusetts. To call it a hotel doesn't do it justice so much as skyscraper. Boston isn't a city of half-measures by any means, being home to Harvard University, the birthplace of the American Revolution and for just a weekend, the host to 3500 contestants from all over the world, ready to fight out their position in international debate for the Harvard Model United Nations.

The premise goes like this; as MGS, we were a team of 12 representing the Democratic Republic of Congo with each other school attending the conference also representing a country. We are then divided into groups of one or two for each committee, each of which was debating a different issue. These debates would take place over a course of 6 committee sessions, each between 3 and 4 hours long and went by certain rules as laid down just like with the real UN, each delegate speaking for under a minute at a time. The Harvard Model United Nations, or HMUN, was holding its 56th session with schools from 21 of the 50 US states and 19 other countries. We were the only school from the UK so had a lot to live up to, representing not only the school but the country.

My committee was the legal committee, debating the definition of terrorism. It might sound like there's an obvious answer. Perhaps to our British minds, there is, but consider how the definition varies by culture. As the saying goes, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" and certainly there was a strong divide between cultures where the use of violence for freedom is more widely accepted. With DR Congo's recent turbulence, my position was to be firmly for the inclusion of freedom fighters as terrorist. Initially the debate was a



bit mundane, with most of the first session spent debating whether or not the definition should be international or whether we should compromise on different definitions for different regions. I was very jetlagged but eager and so decided to risk raising my card proudly emblazoned with "DR Congo". After a few attempts, I was chosen by the chair to speak in front of around 150 people. "The Democratic Republic of Congo wishes to point out that as the most serious terrorism is international, a regional definition will not work and invites other countries to detail what these regional differences would be. I wrote all this down but with that, my 30 seconds speaking time was up, hands still restless and shaking my notes from nervousness. It did get gradually easier to speak as you become better acquainted with the other delegates and their personalities. I spoke 14 times in all, my confidence increasing more and more, especially with all of Team MGS receiving a lot of ego-boosting adulation of our English accents!

These were just my experiences and some particularly special mentions must go to Alex Field, whose rousing speech about the arms trade in Africa received a standing ovation from the committee. Not only this, but the co-delegation of Tim Boobier and Tom Chesover managed to create a resolution based on gradual nuclear disarmament and protecting poorer countries unable of defending themselves, signing up no fewer than 148 other countries to their proposed bill.

It is surprising how passionate you become about your country's position, but after all, we had been in school late on Fridays and on the odd Saturdays researching our position. This included a visit from Luca, a priest living locally but coming from Katanga province, who answered our queries on his homeland and as cliché as it sounds, I felt like I had adopted the Congolese cause. On one occasion I found myself uncharacteristically launching a small attack on the USA's delegation for their

stubbornness in accepting the African Union's bloc position or religious revolutionaries. These alliances were formed in "unmoderated causes" where mingling without the restraint of formal debate was possible. It became something of a team sport with a bloc led by South Africa and the USA wanting a universal definition going head to head with another led by Iraq and the UK, desiring regional definitions. There were other blocs, like the African Union group and another led by Afghanistan and Kirgizstan which fought for having no definition at all.

I can see the point of view that this might sound like a lot of bureaucracy and not a lot of fun. That couldn't be further from the truth.

When you mention a country in HMUN, each one is really a personality and the number of amazing people you met was staggering. Four months on, I still keep in contact with a delegate for Macedonia, actually from Wisconsin. There were some great opportunities for socialising, including an evening of complementary ice cream and what can only be described as the legendary delegate dance on the Saturday night, enjoyed by all.

We also got to see a lot of Boston and did a lot of shopping in the run-up to Christmas, Macy's has to get a shout for giving me \$20 off a \$35 t-shirt just for some reason or another to do with my nationality.. I just didn't question it really. We also took part in a re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party too, with many people dressed up in eighteenth century uniform. There was the opportunity to read out some cards given to us, taking parts of various people giving their say about the proposed revolution. Mr Coltella himself delivered an epic loyalist address to the roar of a sell-out crowd in the Old South Meeting House.

HMUN was an amazing experience and it's difficult to over-exaggerate just how much my horizons have been broadened by taking part in debates and meeting so many people from around the world. Huge thanks go Mr Coltella for organising the trip and Mrs Lumutenga for her support. Thanks also to the Sheraton Boston Hotel and the team of students behind HMUN.

If you're in the lower years of MGS all I can do is to command you: if it's offered to you, go on this trip. That is all.



CCF

CONTINGENT COMMANDER'S REPORT

Former members of the CCF Army Section, both officers and cadets, will surely remember Penhale Camp near Newquay in Cornwall. It has not changed! This was our annual camp for July 2009. Bedded down in a two tier bunk in a barrack room for eight with one adjacent wash basin and toilet, and one shower that could loosely be described as 'en suite' for seven, listening to the rain and wind – awaiting the arrival of the next severe weather warning – brought back memories of a previous century. And this was the adult accommodation! The cadets had a slightly better deal! Despite this it was a great camp with very good, demanding and stimulating (but fun) training packages on the whole and professional performances by the Cadet Training Team staff. On the one day that the sun did shine and there was no rain all day, the Contingent enjoyed a beach package including surfing lessons – it was a great day. How fortunate was that? We left camp as third week runners up in the Orienteering competition (including an individual silver medal for James Robinson) – despite the fact that orienteering is not a widely practiced component of our training. Even better was being overall winners of the week three Penhale Challenge Cup at both over 16 and under 16 level. A scratch team of mixed age and mixed sex (allow we all knew who was which) allowed our two female cadets to participate and this team narrowly missed medals by coming in fourth.

On the wider front, the CCF at Maidstone Grammar School has continued to provide a valuable opportunity for the education of our young people in terms of developing leadership, teamwork, comradeship (in particular looking after fellow cadets) as well as developing self confidence and transferable life skills.

Some evidence of the qualifications gained in the last two years can be gleaned from the facts that officers have obtained 22 qualifications over a range of disciplines, whilst cadets have attended over 25 courses involving over 120 cadets at the time of publication of this report! BTEC 1st Diploma in Public Services completions over the two year period number 19 along with 4 partial completions and 21 cadets working towards a qualification. Two candidates have achieved the prestigious Distinction * grade.



Recruitment:

Recruitment of cadets has been extremely successful for a voluntary activity run outside school hours. Whilst the academic year starting Sept 2007 saw a large intake of recruits with approximately 50% of the year eight students opting for the CCF, in 2008 the intake rose to 120 recruits from a year group of approximately 180 (i.e.67% of the year group). This was the highest known figure on record. September 2009 looks equally as promising. How we are going to clothe them all is just the first problem!

Staffing Changes:

Regrettably we shall lose the services of Lt Cdr Colin Stratton-Brown as a commissioned officer in the RN Section but I am delighted to say that he has offered to continue as a civilian instructor in sailing subject to the incoming Headmaster's approval. Colin has devoted many years of loyal service to our CCF in many rolls whether Naval or 'roughing it' with the Army Section on an overnight weekend exercise, or indeed as a former Contingent Commander. I would like to pay tribute to all the input that Colin has had to our CCF which has allowed it to thrive over many often difficult years and I thank his wife for the tolerance and support she has shown that has allowed this to be.



New on the block: I am delighted that Mr Paul Highway has opted to join the Army Section (having already proved his worth at summer camp) and Ms Katy Day has also accepted the Queen's shilling and is to join the RAF section. Mr David Martin has applied to join the RN Section. There is a promise of further support to come from new members of staff in September. This will be very welcome since out of the 14 officers on strength we still rely on 5 who are not employed by the school. These officers help with training outside school hours but all 5 of them are limited in the time that they can give.

Whilst the situation appears reasonable, some young members of staff may not remain at the school long term as moving on is a feature of gaining promotion in the teaching world. Yours truly, and the SSI WO1 Wadsworth, are also sadly approaching that time where someone else will need to step into the breach! Anyone out there with a desire to help our young people in developing their life skills and learning to look after others as well as themselves are welcome to make themselves known to me at the school. Despite the problems, the commitment of the overstretched adults and the enthusiasm of the cadets have enabled the CCF at Maidstone to perform extremely well in terms of cadet training and achievements.

Contingent Competitions & Successes Jul 2008 – Jul 2009

Army	Summer Camp 08 (Wathgill - Week 3). Drill – 3rd, over all three weeks 4th. Orienteering – 4th, overall over all three weeks 6th. March & Shoot - 1st, over all three weeks 2nd. Obstacle Course – 2nd, over all three weeks 2nd. Best Contingent on Camp for Leadership.
RAF	Ground Training Competition 2009 – SE Region – Winners (8 Feb 09)
RAF	Ground Training Competition - National Finals – Winners – this is the 8th time in 13 years of the competition that MGS has won this award. The RAF Section was presented with the Air Squadron Trophy in June 2009.
Army	Not to be outdone, the Army Section took part in the 4 Division Military Skills Competition in 2009 and were placed overall second across all disciplines, in competition with other school CCF teams and Army Cadet Force teams selected from the talent of whole counties. The real triumph however was to be the overall winners of the March, Obstacle Course, and Shoot Competition Shield – a much coveted trophy.
Tri-Service	National Signals Competition Easter 09 – 3rd place.
Army	Summer Camp 09 (Penhale - Week 3). – see opening comments to this report.

Training:

Training has once again remained very active and competitive with keen, but friendly, section rivalry. Progress through the Training Syllabuses of all three Sections has been very good. The year has witnessed a lot of varied activities. Field Days remain very popular for training exercises or visits. The Biennial Inspection took place in May 2009. The inspecting officer was Major General Murray Wildman CBE, Chairman of the Combined Cadet Force Association. He inspected the Contingent in school and at Mereworth Wood. His report was very complementary and encouraging; it was a great pleasure to have him as the inspecting officer and to witness his obvious interest and enthusiasm in speaking to the cadets and observing their training.

Participation in local and national events, competitions, courses, and camps over the year was once again maintained at a high level with successful outcomes. The RAF Section was triumphant over 11 other schools in 7 different disciplines emerging as Champions in the National Ground Training Competition in March 2009 after winning a Regional Competition earlier in the year. This was the eighth time in the thirteen years of the competition that Maidstone has won this award and our twelfth appearance in the thirteen years of the national finals. The section was presented with the Air Squadron Trophy and cadets were given the opportunity to fly in a variety of aircraft owned by members of the Air Squadron.

The Army Section achieved notable successes at annual camp at Penhale as well as in the 4 Div Military Skills Competition in 2009 as recorded above. Cadets of all three sections have attended a large and diverse number of

courses; this is particularly true of the RN cadets who enjoy the wide variety of courses available through the RN (CCF). The much anticipated and eagerly awaited Adventure Training in Snowdonia 2009, after massive organisational preparation by the SSI, fell foul to numerous administrative problems culminating in the accommodation available for cadets being nullified by a last minute non availability of accommodation for adults! We hope 2010 proves to be more fruitful.

The Contingent continued its contribution to a presence in the local community with its representation at Remembrance Day in Maidstone town centre. For the past two years, members of the Contingent have given up an evening to contribute to the running of Poppy Appeal Charity events at Aylesford Bulls rugby club helping to raise over £2000 for The Royal British Legion.

The Contingent tri-service BTEC cadets in the academic year 2008 – 2009 have been very successful with the award of a distinction star grade along with many others gaining distinctions and merits. Our distinction star cadet is SSgt Jake Seeds who has been publicised as an example of achievement in the BTEC world; additionally he has been awarded an Army Scholarship along with one of our sixth form girls LCpl Leah Bertram who only joined us one year ago. Unfortunately we shall lose her to Wellbeck College in September this year. A significant number of RAF cadets have gained gliding and powered flight qualifications over the last two years.

Support:

The excellent support given by 2 Bde and the Army Administrative Assistant has been invaluable. In particular, 7 Cadet Training Team have given excellent support for Military Training, Adventurous Training, and MOI training. With the services of the Armourer at 1 RSME, the Range Staff at Hythe, 18 Sqn. Transport & Movement at Shorncliffe, and the (operationally limited) support of 36 Engr Regt at Maidstone we consider ourselves very fortunate to be able to call upon this support for many of our activities.

The future:

The Army Section needs more full time officers who are members of the school staff. With the continuing success of the CCF and the rising number of cadets, there are challenges to meet from many directions.

Despite the difficulties, MGS CCF continues to provide very valuable extra curricula education for our young people. The current Headmaster is now to retire in the summer of 2009. Mr Turrell has taken a genuine interest in his CCF and has been invaluable in his support whilst appreciating the achievements that the CCF has brought to the school. On behalf of the CCF we wish him well in his new role and look forward to him exploring the possibility of a CCF at his new school in Singapore – a task to which we would be only too willing to offer our assistance!

This voluntary CCF remains very popular and demonstrates a great spirit of purpose and achievement amongst the cadets and the adults. Once again it has been a privilege to see the development of character, leadership, comradeship, and personal skills within the cadets of this CCF. Hopefully in the years to come this will continue, thus enabling MGS CCF cadets to be enriched in their preparation for life in the world outside school.

L Smith

Lt Col

Contingent Commander



CCF

ARMY SECTION



with friends

did some archery; even Lt Col Smith and Mr. Wadsworth took part in the activity.

Our under 16 team consisted of Cdt Barton, Cdt Robinson, JCpl Arscott, LCpl Buggs (that's me again!)

Once all the other annual competitions had finished, we were preparing for the main event that our CCF Army Section always wants to win: 4 Div Military Skills. Before the competition started we had at least 6 weeks training which was hard and tiring. At the competition we had an A team which was LCpl Buggs, JCpl Arscott, LCpl McDonald, LCpl Wright, Cpl Rackham, Sgt Nutt, Sgt Stuart Hill, and SSgt Seeds. On the first day we had to go through many different, difficult, challenging and demanding military stands, which I think we all 'aced' perfectly. The next day was the march and shoot competition which involved a 3 mile run with all our webbing and rifles up and down many, many hills. As we were running McDonald promised me to stop calling me fat if I completed this and we won! Fortunately I completed the run, but forgot there were the assault course then a shoot at the very end! Once all teams had finished, every school was paraded ready to see if they would claim a trophy of, best CCF, best overall, or the March and Shoot shield.

At the end the MGS A team claimed the March and Shoot shield (which you can now see in the school reception area), second best CCF, and second best team overall. Every person in the team was proud and happy to receive medals and the March and Shoot trophy, and to be members of the group that won it since the previous time in 1999.

After a packed year with a massive number of recruits, each and every person in the cadets can be proud of their achievements, from promotions to winning competitions, gaining qualifications and overcoming their fears. As I know, the CCF brings out the best of its 'soldiers'.

Cpl Jonathan Buggs

* cadet skill at arms meeting



CCF

ROYAL NAVY SECTION

From September, 2008, the Royal Navy Section continued to improve on the number of new recruits it had enrolled the year before. The Royal Navy Cadet Force has increased in skill and self-confidence as a result of improved recruitment. Thursdays, on which CCF is held, signal enjoyment, the opportunity to learn new skills and hone old or newly acquired skills. The activities that the RN Section has held are positively the most enjoyable and unique out of all the sections. Our activities have included sailing, kayaking, knots, and field craft activities (the latter through merging training with the Army Cadets).

A pleasing aspect of the RN Section this year was Recruits Camp and the Weapons Handling and Safety Tests were passed without much hassle and no hiccups in the procedures, resulting in the cadets being as qualified as many of the senior cadets. Later on in the year, the cadets took their AB Rating Tests, in which the vast majority passed first time, resulting in a good natured, and thankfully, short burst of cockiness as they were of the same rank as most of the senior cadets.

The HMS Bristol field day was a day of interest. After leaving the school, we took a long coach drive which stopped at the floating form of HMS Bristol where we unloaded our luggage and transported it inside.

Owing to a combination of hard luck and my own foolishness in thinking of the top bunk as a novelty I ended up situated amongst the ceiling pipes in which I nestled in order to sleep. In my groggy state I managed to bang my head against the ceiling pipes, often in the evening as well as the morning- resulting in myself becoming more wary and less pleased with my choice of the top bunk than the majority of the other cadets.

Throughout the following day, we took a trip on

a harbour ferry which was rather fun and fascinating as we bobbed up and down on the waves. After that, we visited HMS Collingwood, which was the highlight of the day, as HMS Collingwood was not a ship, but a training centre, and we spent the rest of the day in virtual simulations of being at sea, manoeuvring virtual ships and being inside gun towers as they fired. Another noteworthy event that was organised by Mr Tismer through the RN Section was that of a visit from a real Royal Marine, Mne. Ricardo Montanari. The arrival of the Royal Marine sparked quite a stir as he walked through the school grounds in his blue uniform and Green Beret, and a number of people came to watch his presentation.

Also, towards the end of the year the CCF prepared for Biennial Inspection Day, for which we practiced considerably in the weekly session beforehand. The Biennial Inspection Day resulted in the mixing of the CCF sections. Each group was given certain tasks for the



preparation of the Inspection. These tasks were rather interesting in finding out more about the other sections activities. For example, my group's task included carrying (and holding together) a makeshift life size dummy kitted out in the Army (CCF) clothing. Also, those cadets who stayed behind in school to welcome the Inspecting Officer impressed the General who inspected them just as much as those that had gone to Mereworth Training Area and spent the whole day showing off their drill, teamwork and capability on the Inspection activities - thus resulting in a pleasing day for the entire CCF. All in all, it's been a cracking year for the RN Section, which seems to improve every year, and I await another thoroughly enjoyable year in the RN Section.

Peter Fockema 10Tr

RAF SECTION

Last year began for the RAF with a host of new faces, as we enjoyed a record intake of recruits. This was to prove a good omen for a highly successful year, although it seemed a little daunting at the time. Luckily however for our new OC, Flight Lieutenant Coltella, the recruits and some of the NCOs were placed into the newly formed Recruits Section, allowing him space to find his feet and them the chance to get to grips with the basics. Under the leadership of Flight Sergeant Bidewell the RAF also got down to business, making a good start on PP2 and PP3.

After a successful Remembrance Parade and Recruits Camp we moved towards the traditional winter Weapons Handling and Safety Training weekends. The recruits received the opportunity to train with the L98A1 Cadet GP Rifle, and also to try live firing. Congratulations must go out to all the NCOs involved in these highly successful weekends, and also to the recruits for whom this was the culmination of their training.

As we returned after the Christmas holidays the RAF was finally united with its new cadets, and after division into four flights (named Tornado, Typhoon, Hurricane, Harrier and Jaguar) we got down to the business of teambuilding before continuing with training. For the Year 9s this meant the beginning of PP1 and their RAF specific training. The seniors however were now focusing on the rapidly approaching Ground Training Regionals.

Our practice had begun early in the year and the postponement of the regionals 'til after Christmas meant we arrived in astounding form. After a slightly nervous start to the day, the Ground Training Team consisting FSgt Bidewell, FSgt Evington, Sgt Entwistle, Sgt Field, Sgt Robertson, Sgt Smith, Sgt Tatham, Sgt Thomas, Sgt Williams, Cpl Arscott, Cpl Cairney, Cpl Jenkins, Jcpl Jillians and Jcpl Kingston put in an astonishing performance, placing either 1st

or 2nd in every single event and taking victory by a mile. A particular highlight for us all was the Drill competition, where Bidewell's booming voice and our nigh perfect performance impressed not only the Warrant Officer inspecting and the other schools but also regular army units preparing to parade at Buckingham Palace two weeks later!

After such a success we immediately began to look ahead to the national finals, due to be held at RAF Cranwell. After travelling up the night before and enjoying an ... interesting ... meal at ASK in Grantham we woke up bright and early for the day's events. The stronger competition we had witnessed throughout the day left us feeling nervous at the finish. Whilst we came 1st in Command Tasks we did not seem to place in the top 3 for many other events, and the continued success of another school left us feeling certain we would leave disappointed. Hopes of 3rd or 2nd place were dashed, and we were resigned to leaving empty handed when suddenly we heard the words 'And in first place, Maidstone Grammar School'. Disbelief turned to absolute hysterical joy as those words sank in, and Flying Officer Kennedy even began to cry!

We discovered that our victory was due to consistent placing in the top 6 in every category, pulling us ahead of other schools let down by individual events. We returned to MGS triumphant and ready to celebrate in the traditional way, loudly singing the school song outside the headmaster's door! This represented a special victory for us, the second in a row and all the sweeter for our lack of expectation. Medals were later presented to the victorious team in front of the entire school at Junior Speech Day, and the team's return to RAF Cranwell for Air Squadron Day and the presentation of the Air Squadron Trophy was a fantastic experience for all those who attended (myself and Flt Lt Coltella unfortunately missing out due to being in Italy at the time!).

Our involvement in the contingent Biennial Inspection was also highly successful. The RAF formed the main body of the colour party on parade in the Big Hall, and several of us then went on to join our compatriots at Mereworth Woods for the rest of the day's events. Cadets took part in section attacks (including blank firing and myself, taking the role of the enemy, hiding behind a tree stump being shot at...), leadership tasks, signals exercises and obstacle courses. The entire contingent was congratulated for its performance throughout the day.



Summer brought the prospect of Summer Camp, this year a joint effort with Judd at RAF Scampton. Accommodated at RAF Kirton-in-Lindsey we had daily visits to RAF Scampton, RAF Coningsby and RAF Waddington. Whilst there was unfortunately no flying we did get to take part in a wealth of section visits, including E3 Sentries, Eurofighter Typhoons and RAFAT, better known as the Red Arrows! The camp was brought to a fantastic finish with a large-scale night exercise taking place across the majority of RAF Scampton. Encompassing movement in the field, aircraft recognition, RAF knowledge, first aid and fitness the evening culminated in a mass test of teamwork and leadership in front of the old officer's mess! Planned and run entirely by the student SNCO team (who loved exercising their creativity and "borrowing" skills...) the evening was a tremendous success, a true highlight of the camp and a perfect conclusion for FSgt Bidewell to his year as Section i/c.



Thanks must go out to FSgt Bidewell and FSgt Evington for their leadership and organisation of the section, and to all the NCOs for their invaluable contribution to the training and growth of the RAF. Many thanks also to Flying Officer Kennedy and Flying Officer Adekunle for their assistance throughout the year, and especially to Flight Lieutenant Coltella who added the role of OC RAF Section to his already astonishing workload and produced stunning results. Further thanks are due to our ex-headmaster Mr Turrell who continued his huge support and encourage for RAF throughout his final year. Now all we have to do is carry our success over into the new year!



Cadet Sergeant Alex Field

CCF

Being a Recruit in the CCF

Perhaps the feature of Year 9 that most of my classmates and I were looking forward to was the CCF. For a long time, many of us wished to don the smart uniforms of either the Navy, RAF or Army. Year 9 was our chance to join and enjoy all the challenges and excitements that lay before us with the CCF.

I, as undoubtedly many other recruits did, spent a long time to decide which section to join. As soon as I thought I might join the Army section, my mind diverted to the Navy, and then I was thinking of joining the RAF - but still was not definite in my choice. The choice was very difficult due to the fact that each section offered its own fantastic events, courses and activities. Such a brilliant range of these adventures made the choice incredibly hard!

We were the first year to test out the new 'Recruit Section' scheme that was organised by some very eager officers, particularly Flt. Lt. Coltella; who took on the appointment, 'Officer Commanding Recruit Sections'. The idea was to train us as a year group first for 3 terms before departing to our respective sections. The

advantage of this new scheme bonded us cadets as a year rather than to unify us inside only our own sections. This will mean that we can easily work well together during tri-service training rather than work only inside our own sections and hence improve the basics of teamwork.

Many of us were also pleased to be a part of one of the biggest recruit intakes in the history of MGS CCF. Such an enthusiasm for joining reflects the brilliant progress of the CCF in making exciting adventures for all its cadets.

Joining the CCF has opened doors for me including the possibility sailing in the national Regatta in a few years time, and regularly attending a shooting club. In June there was an overnight tri-service exercise for year 9s to experience the aspects of 'sleeping rough military style' between all the action that took place on Saturday and Sunday.

Despite the demands of training, many of the Year 9 cadets are still in the contingent and we are all eagerly waiting for yet more adventurous events and courses that the CCF is all too pleased to provide.

Crispin Field 9 Ae



I am pleased to report another successful year for the Library Team and I hope to enlighten you all to the events of the past year 2008-2009.

The year started with the addition of me and another prefect to the Library Team. Our Senior Team consisted of Greg Hill as senior prefect, with Claudia Hadji and Alex Priestley as joint deputy senior prefects. With Greg as an excellent example of a senior, an efficient timetable of duties was quickly established. His efficiency to coordinate a large team meant that order and civilization was maintained in the library at all times.

The library itself was open for the annual 11+ open evening and the 16+ open evening. With regards to the former, there was an excellent reception with many parents very much interested in our library facilities and services we have to offer. At both events, many parents were impressed by the library and its team of prefects, ultimately reinforcing the importance and status of the library in the school community.

Not long after was the annual success that is the library book sale. As usual, this was received tremendously well by not only the boys who participated in this event but also newer members of the school in Year 7 and 12. The event itself took place over three days throughout the week where the majority of the team were more than willing to participate and help raise funds for the library.

Approaching the festive season the library joined in the Christmas celebrations by holding the annual Christmas party. In contrast to the traditional affair where a prefect was able to invite two members of staff along we opted for a more informal arrangement by gorging on pizza and mince pies and subsequently burning calories playing games on the Wii.

Also this year we have been very lucky as to have been able to acquire many new DVDs, which the students would be able to borrow for two days, not only to aid study but also for enjoyment. I believe this is a valuable contribution and help to make the library more accessible in general to students around the school.

As ever, at the end of the academic year some of the team will be leaving. The seniors are leaving to attend university and will be dearly missed. TSB is going on to assume the position of School Captain and with this we wish him the best of luck. We look forward to another successful year in the library and as this years' Senior I hope not only to strengthen the team but also the role of the library within the school.

Emily Birstonas 12BP



Art and Poetry



Conjunction

Ben Trangmar 7SH

The bridge between two lovers,
That briefly holds them apart,
But can never be far away,
For they rest in each other's heart.

The bridge is but a bank of mud,
But too tall for them to cross.
But that bank is sinking,
With the leaves and moss.

The two can jump and see each other,
As they pass over the rocks,
They are jumping, leaping, soaring for
each other,
Watched by a deep red fox.

Finally the bank has come to an end,
The parts together create their
function:
To leave this behind hand-in-hand,
To leave the old conjunction.



Dracula

Terry Shambler 8Ky

Waiting in the dark,
Until sun set.
Like a famished shark,
The blood so wet.
As he wants to drink,
From this victim's neck.
His teeth beginning to sink,
Into their flesh.
Waiting in the dark...



Untitled

Ben Barnes 10Ws

M.A.D.

That which only
Machiavellian mad men
see
On the mind of every
soldier like a camouflage
flea
Sacrifice millions to the
media propaganda
tyranny

W.A.R.

Standing with a shotgun
like a superstar
Survive all your friends
and you'll go far
Wallet filled with oil, heart
as black as tar

G.U.N.

Munching on a million
macabre men
Denote the egg to feed
the hen
Be proud of the
bloodletting butcher, Ben

S.K.Y.

Filled with missiles,
'fashioned' for you to die
Did we ever consider if it
was all a lie?
Nothing matters now,
we've all said goodbye

G.O.D

If I kill all my brothers, will
my father love me?
Heaven's reserved for
heroes, all I wanted to be
Was a glorious saviour
with a pistol, a divine key.



Heathrow Airport: New Terminal

Greg McAusland

The noise of the plane,
Its worse than heavy rain.
At night its like a boom,
Then a zoom, zoom, zoom.
Polluting all the air,
Like they don't care.
They prefer money than the
Earth
But is it worth?
They don't care about us
Nobody does.
People don't realise what its like
day by day,
They, are just going on holiday.





The Fairground

Ben Braybn Year 7

The fairground,
Dodging and splodging and lodging and
Twirling and swirling and whirling and
Spinning and winning and singing and
Screaming and gleaming and leaning and
Waving and raving and craving and
Sucking and mucking and tucking.
But now I've got a headache!





TRUE LOVE

IS IT BETTER TO HAVE LOVED AND LOST--
THAN NEVER TO HAVE LOVED AT ALL?

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

FIRST Romance

ROMANCE

magazine

SHOULD I KEEP MY LOVE A SECRET?
OR COMPETE WITH... *My Rival*?

Sausage Cartoons Presents:
"Not Far From Home - A Romantic Tale"
Written & Produced by
Tom Pounds, A.K.A. 'Sausage'
Aided by M, N & O Pounds

Tom Pounds

Starring: George, Jess, Suzie, Erik, Joe, Dennis & Slater





Applied Learning Centre

On the 9th July 2009, after 10 months construction work, the new Applied Learning Centre was opened by outgoing Headmaster Neil Turrell and the Mayor of Maidstone. This new state of the art building, which overlooks the playing field and pavilion, replaces the old prefabricated huts that were fast approaching the end of their working lives. It is a custom built, three classroom building that has been specially designed for the teaching of the National Diplomas that were launched at MGS in September 2009. The building is fully networked, equipped with the latest ICT and audio-visual equipment and the Media Studies room has 4 dedicated editing suites.

Edward Seymour
Applied Learning Coordinator

My Family

Tim Dibble Year 7

My family is like a Rugby Team,
My Dad is one of those lanky wingers,
Who is only on the team with us
because their was no one else.
My sister is the full back,
Because she is very lazy and is only
here because we're related.
My brother is one of those cocky, all
mouth, no action fly halves,
And only thinking about the girls.
My Mum is one of those coaches who
knows all the theory,
But has never played the game in her
life.
I'm one of those scrumhalves,
Those who everyone wants to shut up
and had characteristics not far off
those of a gnat.
If we weren't like this...
I wonder if we would be as good.



QUOTE / UNQUOTE

- Mr Willis** *To his wife* - "Don't expect any fun tonight; I've got essays to mark."
"You two are devil children!"
"Pornography is not a job giving industry!"
- Mr Stone** "Tim, keep your hands to yourself."
- Mr. Stone** "Excuse me, I just need to get some chocolate"
- Mr. Willis** "If you keep prodding him, I'll prod you"
- Mr. Dorofeyev** "Student: When the sun was shining in your eyes it looked like you wanted to take a bite out of me!"
- Mr. Dorofeyev** "I do want to take a bite out of you"
- Mr. Stone** "George! Stop playing with that ruler and Tom! Yes George, we can embarrass you if we need to!"
- Miss Tomes** *(talking about her bra in German)*
"It's an over the shoulder boulder holder"
- Mr Meigh** "Its coursework hand in day, but the second coming of Jesus is likely to come before most of your work is in!"
- Mrs Carter** "Life is a sexually transmitted disease with 100% mortality"
- Mr Walker** "Patience is the difference between rape and seduction"
- Mr Redmond** *To Nik Gray* - "If you become the king I'll personally apply for voluntary euthanasia in Switzerland or somewhere".
- Mr Redmond** ****the messenger boy walks in with big round glasses****"Ahhh, it's the Milky bar kid"
- Mr Restarick** "A level PE is probably the hardest A level you can take"....."it's not easy, it's not like you can just send off for it on the back of a cereal box"
- Mr Redmond** "Don't put your clothes back on, we haven't finished yet!"



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