



Bearings end of Autumn Term 2009

From the Head...

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Another busy half term has passed at Sidcot and as I write, we look forward to the Christmas festivities at home after celebrating in many ways at school.

It was nice to see so many of you at the 'Dracula' performance in our new Drama Studio in November. This was a real 'tour de force' and everyone who experienced it said what a fantastic performance it was. The direction was superb, the casting and acting first class, the staging and costumes outstanding. Well done to all involved. I don't think it could have been any better at The Bristol Old Vic!

Following the huge success of the Dracula performances, came a sensational Sunday Concert. Many of our students were involved in both and deserve commendation for their commitment to the school. The level of musicianship was excellent and the variety of music from Fats Waller to Bach was a delight. It was wonderful to see the full range of choirs from both the Junior and the Senior Schools; Cantare, Cantabile, Crochettes and Bel Canto. The recently formed Sidcot Ladies Choir also contributed their performances with great aplomb. The joining of all the senior school choirs and the Sidcot Ladies Choir resulted in no less than 50 people singing together - 'Hallelujah'.

An extra treat, by way of a taster for next term's production of Grease, came as a finale; students singing, clapping and dancing the well known routine of 'We Go Together'. Rehearsals are now well underway.

A big thanks to Bev King, Stuart Phippen and all the music teachers for their hard work.

Events such as the 'Christmas Cracker', Nativity and Concert have made an enjoyable end to what has been a very long term for the pupils at the Junior School. We were delighted so many parents were able to share the occasions with us.

This term we welcomed Alison Carnall, HR Administrator, Yvonne Hawkins who joined the Junior School, Jennifer Pullen, who joined our boarding staff and Alison Human and Stephanie Lambert who joined our Riding Stables. However, we are very sorry our Spanish Assistant, Laura Manterola, had to return to Spain for personal reasons. We also say farewell to Tihou Messenger, our Boarding Assistant from New Zealand who is leaving us after an amazing year to go to university- he will be sorely missed by students and staff alike.

Next term we look forward to the National Children's Orchestra performing on 9 January, performances of 'Grease' between 10 and 13 March and the Quaker Schools' Choir in Reading at Easter. Further information on these and other events will be found in the next Bearings and the Spring Term Pupil Calendar. If you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

On behalf of all the staff at Sidcot, I wish you and your family a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours in Friendship,

John Walmsley, Head

Communications Development & Contacts

Please find enclosed essential information regarding the coming Spring Term. Please also remember to check our website for the most recent copy of Bearings, our weekly newsletter, the pupil calendar and pupil guide. In early 2010, the website is changing and will incorporate a new secure parents' section, more information will come in due course.

As mentioned in the recent mailing regarding parents' consultations it is imperative we have up to date details for you and your family. If you move house or change email address, please notify the school of these changes via info@sidcot.org.uk or on 01934 843102. If you have not given the school an email contact for yourselves please do so as soon as possible.

Travel Arrangements

Monday 4th January

9.30am approx

Coach departs Heathrow Airport - Terminal 3. A member of staff will be at the "Meeting Point" from 8.15am. We are hoping that students travelling from non-European countries will be ready to depart Heathrow by 9.30am approximately.

4.30pm approx

Coach departs Bristol Temple Meads railway station. A member of staff will be at the Station from 4.15pm to meet pupils returning on the 2.30pm train from London Paddington. The mini-bus will wait if the London train is late.

4.00 - 8.00pm

Boarders return

5.30pm

Evening meal

Boarding House emails:

School House Boys

shb@sidcot.org.uk

School House Girls (& Meadowside)

shg@sidcot.org.uk

Wing

paul.coates@sidcot.org.uk

Newcombe

alison.sinclair@sidcot.org.uk

Coombe

coombe@sidcot.org.uk

Academic Information: Reports

You will receive your child's report by mail if you were not able to collect it in person at Parents' Weekend, the following explains the type of report you should expect:-

- Full reports for Years 7, 8, 10, 12 and SFF
- Monitoring reports for Years 9, 11 and 13

Please note: if you did not collect your child's report at Parents' Weekend and you do not receive it in the mail, please contact Alison Barry in Reception as soon as possible, via alison.barry@sidcot.org.uk or on 01923 845241.

End of Term Departures

We are still experiencing a number of very early departures at the end of term from our boarding students. We accept that a couple of days may be necessary but any more than that is not in the best interests of your child. Please could we ask that formal letters requesting early departure are addressed to John Walmsley, Headmaster.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4 January

8.45am Staff CPD, Meeting House

Boarders Return

Tuesday 5 January

Term Begins

8.35 – 10.00am Uniform Shop open

Thursday 7 January

8.35 – 10.00am Uniform Shop open

Saturday 9 January, Duty House: School House Girls

1.00 – 4.30pm National Children's Orchestra – Meeting House

January Sales: Cribbs Causeway

Indoor Hockey Competition

Sunday 10 January

Pool Party

Monday 11 January

9.00am – 5.00pm GCSE/GCE Exams

3.00pm U12 X1 – BCS (H)

Tuesday 12 January

8.30am – 5.00pm GCSE REP Trip to Buckfast Abbey, Devon

8.35 – 10.00am Uniform Shop open

9.00am – 5.00pm GCSE/GCE Exams

6.30 – 8.30pm Life Drawing Classes Start for Pupils, Arts Centre

Wednesday 13 January

9.00am – 5.00pm GCSE/GCE Exams

2.30pm U15 XI – Millfield (A)

6.30 – 8.30pm Life Drawing Classes Start for Adult Learning, Arts Centre

Thursday 14 January

8.35 – 10.00am Uniform Shop open

9.00am – 5.00pm GCSE/GCE Exams

Friday 15 January

9.00am – 5.00pm GCSE/GCE Exams

Saturday 16 January, Duty House: Wing

10.30am 1ST XI – Warminster (H)

2.00 -4.00pm – Wookey Hole Art Group (art workshop with Catherine Knight), Arts Centre

Karting Trip, Pool Doubles Competition

Sunday 17 January

Trip to Bath

Library

The autumn term has been busy and exciting.

On 19th November Margaret Pemberton spoke to students in Years 9 and 10. Last year she shadowed and will be chairing the panel of judges for the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Book Awards 2010. Students in Year 10 who shadowed the awards this summer were able to find out more about the judging process. Year 9 students who will be reading the books on the shortlist in the summer term were able to find out how the books are selected for the shortlist.

The highlight of this half term has been the visit by Marcus Sedgwick. He spoke to years 7, 8 & 9 about his research on vampires and writing.

Plans for World Book Day 2010 are not yet finalised. More news on the arrangements will be published in the New Year.

The staff/6th form reading group will be reading Five People You Meet in Heaven – Mitch Albom, The Cellist of Sarajevo – Steven Galloway, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas – John Boyne and The Little Stranger – Sarah Waters over the Christmas holiday. We will meet to discuss the books in January.

Congratulations to students in J6 and Year 9 who entered the World Book Day short story and poetry competition. The winners of the internal competition won books and vouchers for the Scholastic Book Fair which will be held in the library at the end of January.

The library continues to sell a range of stationery at reasonable costs.

Foxtrot: the 2009 Southern Schools' Quaker Pilgrimage

One of the most important events in the school's Quaker calendar took place again this September with the advent the 2009 Southern Schools' Quaker Pilgrimage.

This is an annual event, bringing together a group of 6th form pupils representing the southern Quaker Schools, in a 4-day exploration of the historic roots of Quakerism in the mid 17th century. The group of 26 pupils and staff travel to the Northwest of England to share in a unique mix of historic field-trip and community living experience, set amongst the Lakeland backdrop of some of the most stunning scenery in England. Students and staff alike learn about the first Quaker, the extraordinary George Fox, and his 1652 journey around the Dales and Fells that transformed an outcast group of dissident religious seekers into a thriving new religious movement.

We visit many of the key sites important to the story of Quakerism, such as Pendle Hill, Brigflatts, Firbank Fell, finally arriving at what would become the home of Quakerism, Swarthmoor Hall. Pilgrims return from this intensive experience tired, but understanding more about how and why Quakerism began - and just as importantly, having been thrown together with complete strangers, now converted into new friends. Read on for an account from Ben Cox, one of the students who attended this year's Foxtrot.

Rik Sinnett- Quaker & Maintenance Manager at Sidcot

A Quaker Experience by Ben Cox

I am, and believe that I always will be, an Atheist. From early in my school education, I was presented with many ideas about God, stories of the Bible and was preached to by the local vicar every Friday morning. We learned about the various cultures and religions and I was reasonably interested in their varying beliefs and practices but nothing really caught my attention, until now.

I came to Sidcot in 2006 on the 5th of September which was, coincidentally, my birthday. It was scary of course, having never boarded before, being thrust into a house with 24 other boys some of whom were a good deal bigger than me and had been there considerably longer. The things I remember mostly though are the questions from home. These generally started with; how are things with you? And ended with;

So what is this Quakerism all about?

The first of these questions was easy, I was having a great time, but the second was a little trickier. "Well it's a denomination of Christianity, which was started by George Fox, you know the guy on the Quaker oats packet" was generally as far as I got before they realized I didn't really know. There is a certain amount of apathy in the young mind. Of course there are those individuals who, from an early age, strive to achieve and understand but at the age of 15, I was not one of them. I decided that I would have to wait for Quaker week which might give me some insight into this religion that was new to me.

Quaker Week at Sidcot is designed to incorporate fun activities with learning about the heritage of the early Quakers as well as educating the students about various World issues. The activities that these themes are centred around include informative talks by well read people, a concert from Ben Okafor: a singer who campaigns against the injustice of Child Soldiers on a global scale, and games which were from the sound of it, boring. The talks were interesting and the debates on environmental change even more so but still, even after

the week was up I couldn't put a finger on exactly what it was that Quakerism was all about. I could tell my parents where it had originated from and that we sat in silence for extended periods on a Wednesday morning, which was something that was bearable but nothing that they didn't already know. I think they began to wonder whether their investment in my education was worth it, considering I hadn't yet discovered what Quakerism was.

I am now in my final year at Sidcot and therefore have been exposed to Quakerism for the last four years but it was not until the beginning of this School annum that I discovered Quakerism. Sidcot offers the chance for 4 students to take part in an activity that has commonly come to be known as the Foxtrot. It is essentially a Quaker Pilgrimage, taking the students to the spiritual home of Quakerism in Cumbria and Lancashire, visiting many of the places in which George Fox's original ideas developed and became a reality in the 17th Century. It would also look to inform the students about who Quakers really are and their role in today's society.

This struck me as the perfect opportunity to answer my parent's questions as well as my personal curiosities about the Friends, and so, much to the surprise of my peers, I put my name down.

We were joined by members of the other Southern Quaker Schools making us a party of 25.

The trip itself surpassed all my expectations.

To be with a group of like minded motivated individuals was a truly liberating experience and to be together, learning about a subject that influenced all our lives made the occasion even more compelling. The most shocking revelation was the fact that the beginnings of Quakerism were not as I had previously assumed.

George Fox is well known to be the founder of Quakerism or The Society of Friends as it is formally known. However it was not to my knowledge that he was anything other than a kind, well mannered pacifist who would not carry a sword as it suggested he was willing to duel. However it was Ben Pink Dandelion, a leading Quaker historian, who advocated that Fox was rude, arrogant and forceful in his manner, and spent extended periods of time languishing in irons. He proposed that the early Quakers would have little in common with the average Quaker of the present day. This is the part that really caught my attention.

Quakerism is constantly evolving. It has become more of a way of life than a religion as some modern Quakers are Atheists. At Sidcot we are not constantly reminded of its heritage but it is an ever present in our day to day life, in the principles the school upholds and the way it expects its students to behave. Quakers move with the times, from being some of the first individuals to oppose the slave trade to combating environmental and social issues in the world today. Nevertheless, even at Sidcot there are certain stereotypes of Quakers; they are silent, old and boring. I admit that I used to associate all of these things with Quakers but now, as I have matured, I have begun to appreciate how they play a vital role in the world around us, unobtrusive yet active.

Quaker week 2009 gave me the opportunity to channel some of my new energy for Quakerism towards the rest of the Sidcot community. I enjoyed and appreciated everything, the informative talks, the Ben Okafor concert and undoubtedly the games.

The week culminated with a Meeting which lasted half an hour. In previous Quaker Weeks it has become common for students give ministry with thoughts about, "How great it is that we can stand up and say what we like", which admittedly is needlessly pointing out the obvious, but was better than others who say, "Thanks everyone for my great time at Sidcot" and promptly sit down. In 2008, I had been outraged at these tedious outbursts that only occurred once a year. However, this year, I sat listening to the predictable voices of the lower years and I began to think. This week had enthused the masses, at the end of Quaker week all these students had been moved to speak out, whether to say something irrelevant or to voice a real concern, never the less, they had. There was energy in the room, energy for change, to be involved, all influenced by Quakerism. I found myself on my feet, talking about this, my heart thumping, giving the first ministry of my life. I talked of change, the energy in the room and how it gave me hope, how the School would benefit from pupils who had had the courage to speak out and how they represented the modern Quaker.

I am, and believe that I always will be, an Atheist. I am not a Quaker, and still to this day could not give you a concise definition much to the annoyance of my parents. For me, it is about my relationship with Quakerism. It has influenced me to take pride in my work, to pursue activities which benefit others and to live my life adventurously. Its morals and guidance profits every student that attends Sidcot or any other of the Quaker schools, the periods of reflection in meetings a unique experience shared together. I know Quakerism is something that is now part of my life and I hope to keep it that way.

Ben Cox – Year 13 IB student and Charities Office Holder

Maths Department

The Intermediate Mathematics Challenge, open to all students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will take place on Thursday 4th February 2010. The Intermediate Challenge is aimed at the top third of pupils in each year group. The paper is one hour long and is taken in school then returned to the UKMT for marking.

The papers contain 25 multiple choice questions. Of these, the first 15 are more accessible whilst the final 10 will provide more food for thought. Gold, silver and bronze certificates are awarded to 40% of participants nationally and the most successful participants at each level are invited to enter follow-on rounds which require full written answers.

We have high hopes for the Intermediate Challenge after Sidcot mathematicians emerged victorious from the regional heats of the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge which was held in November at Taunton School. The Sidcot team beat off stiff competition from ten other teams from the South West of England, and will now go on to represent the region in the national finals which are being held in London on Tuesday the 3rd February. The four students are eagerly preparing for the challenge, where they will face fifty teams from across the UK. They are hoping to be amongst those to be presented with a prize from top mathematician, and presenter of BBC 4's "The Story of Maths", Professor Marcus du Sautoy.

The Challenge is organised by the Further Maths Network and the UK Mathematics Trust, and is a team competition for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 testing mathematical, communication and teamwork skills. Each team must consist of four Year 11, 12 or 13 (or equivalent) students with no more than two from Year 13.

SW Senior Team Mathematics Champions

Well done to Gordon Gan, Edd Saunders, Julija Kezina and Jason Li for winning the finals and a big thank you to Christine Uglow who has dedicated much time in training the team and promoting the initiative within the school.

Music Department

Year 11 Coursework Deadlines

The 4 part choir has now been given a copy of the Verdi Requiem to have a look at through the holiday. Rehearsals will start for this on a Wednesday at 1.15pm. The performance will be in late March at Leighton Park School, Reading.

The Grease performance will be every evening from Wednesday 10th through to Saturday 13th March 2010. All rehearsals will be on Friday 4pm - 6pm. Rehearsal schedule will be given out next term. Cast please learn your words before you return - Thanks

Year 10 and 11

As the Christmas holidays draw closer both Year 10 and 11 have realised how quick time goes. Year 11 students need to spend quality time over the holiday period preparing for their Mock examinations. Using the planner recently given out, all deadlines should have been entered and exam dates written up, thus making sure that each and every pupil is aware of when and where examinations and coursework are due.

Year 10 have the exciting time of finding appropriate Work Placements, please don't wait too long as all the best areas will be taken.

Modern Languages

Brittany Exchange: We are disappointingly short of participants. This Exchange has run successfully for the past three years and many Sidcot pupils have benefitted from the experience. We always receive a very warm welcome from our hosts in St. Pol and it really is a beautiful part of France. I do hope more pupils sign up. They do not have to be studying French since I can find a placement where the family speaks English.

Dear Parents of Senior School Modern Languages students,

As you may know, we have had to make a number of teacher changes for some Modern Language classes in the last twelve months. In March 2009 Rebecca Riddy went on maternity leave. We were very lucky to be able to appoint Nicola Preece to cover her classes mid year. Nicola is qualified to teach French and Spanish and has proved to be a popular addition to our team. Rebecca Riddy is due to restart teaching in January 2010.

Katrina Mousley, who also teaches French and Spanish, then also went on maternity leave in July. Laura Manterola changed from part-time to nearly full-time time in September to help us with this. In November Laura Manterola informed us that she would need to return home to Spain for good at Christmas due to serious illness in her family. We are enormously sad about this since she is a much-loved teacher and colleague. Even so we have managed to find a way to continue to cover Laura's and Katrina's lessons with our existing and trusted staff. We are pleased that we have been able to ensure continuity and quality of teaching and learning for all of the classes affected, but particularly the exam classes.

Because there are two languages involved we have had to make several changes in order to achieve this. Nicola Preece will continue to teach full-time exclusively in the senior school, including the Year 11 Spanish class. Lynne Field will teach both Year 11 French classes.

Rebecca Riddy has agreed to teach more than she had planned. We are delighted about this since she is a very experienced teacher and, with Katrina Mousley, launched the IB Spanish and French courses at Sidcot in 2007. The Languages results in the summer exams were exceptional.

Consequently we have every confidence that all our students will achieve their potential in the Summer 2010 exams. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. My school email address is: lyn.field@sidcot.org.uk

I hope that you have a restful and enjoyable Christmas,

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Field
Head of Languages Faculty.

Operation Christmas child

Again, a big "Thank you" to all who filled shoeboxes for this worthy cause. Hope you saw the feature in the Cheddar Valley Gazette.

Julie Green, Head of Year 7

Textiles

If you are interested in craft and activism, you may be interested in an exhibition at the Arnolfini gallery in Bristol. Craftivism starts on 12 December and runs until 14 February. Look on the Arnolfini website for information of events that are happening in conjunction with the exhibition.

Julie Green, Head of Textiles

Textiles Clothes Show Live 2009

On Monday 7 December 30 students accompanied Julie Green and Cathy Pink to Clothes Show Live 2009. An amazing time was had by all, viewing fashion shows, looking at clothes, searching out higher education courses at the UCAS stand and looking at college work by students of fashion and textiles. The highlight of the day was the main fashion show which was an extravaganza of clothes, lights and music. Looking forward to next time!
Julie Green, Head of Textiles

Textiles work

- Year 8 Please obtain a polyester filled cushion pad 46cm square for the project this term.
- Year 10 Information about the Year 10 Spring term project will follow in the Spring term. Fabrics will need to be purchased in the Spring term.
- Year 11 Students should be ensuring that their coursework design folder is up to date and any fabrics and components are purchased or sourced.
- Year 12 & 13 Students should be working on their coursework and/or personal Studies over the holiday. All students have discussed work to be achieved with Julie Green.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

During 2009 over 50 pupils have completed either the Bronze, Silver or Gold awards. This is the first time that this total has been achieved in a single year and is a clear indicator of the level of enthusiasm and commitment shown by the pupils currently following the award.

In the first weeks of the term we staged final expeditions in the Black Mountains and the Quantocks with 84 pupils successfully completing routes in fine weather. Since then they have been busy completing the Service, Skill and Physical recreation sections and this has resulted in a bumper crop of awards completed.

In the second half of term we have enrolled new starters and there have been two training days for Bronze organised by Graham Hartley and one for Silver. Some of the year 10 pupils who have started Bronze have not returned the enrolment forms. Please could they be completed quickly.

Dates for next term are listed below

Sunday 24th January: Dof E Training Day for Gold award. Silver training for those who started this school year.

Sunday 28th February: Training day for Dof E Silver award training for those who started the award this school year.

Saturday 6th March: DofE Bronze training day.

Sunday 14th March: DofE Gold training day on Dartmoor.

Parents should contact Jim Scott if they have any questions about the award scheme. Expeditions will be organised for all participants during the summer term. For these trips pupils must have walking boots with good grip and ankle support, a sleeping bag and full waterproofs (jacket and trousers). Waterproofs can be purchased from the school shop.

Arts Centre

We have had a successful Autumn term in the Arts Centre with a range of new adult evening classes starting, two art exhibitions on display, and a successful Dracula Performance Week.

The Drawn In exhibition opened on Saturday 5th September and ran until 23rd October. The exhibition was a result of an open submission and celebrated the National Campaign 'The Big Draw', which tries to encourage those of any age and ability to get drawing. The aim of the exhibition was therefore to present drawing using a diverse range of media and techniques and exploring the actual notion of drawing. We would like to thank Art Teacher Catherine Knight and Friend of Sidcot Jess Woodrow for all their generous help in organising the exhibition. Over the course of the show we had well over 300 visitors, with over 60 visitors attending the free 'Big Draw Day' on Saturday 10th October. We also saw a piece by Dawn Van Gerven sold to a visitor from Woodbrooke Quaker Centre.

Heads, Hands and Other Obsessions, a retrospective by Ray Hopley opened on Saturday 31st October and ran until Sunday 6th December. This exhibition by local Wrington artist Ray Hopley was an instant favourite with most of our pupils and visitors. A range of large scale sculptures filled the spaces of the Arts Centre which left many in awe. Ray was often on hand to answer questions and work with our art classes to understand the ideas behind his work. Ray sold over four pieces from the show to visitors and a member of staff!

The drama department performed its first production in their new Drama Studio, with the very successful Dracula Performance Week in November. Sold out nearly every evening, the outstanding performance by the pupils and hard work by the Drama Department ensured a first class production.

During the term a range of adult learning classes started. Photography, Sidcot Ladies Choir, Life Drawing, Glass Course, the Saturday Oil Painting workshop, and Art Lectures, were all popular events. The Sidcot Ladies Choir even performed at our School Autumn Concert alongside our School Choir in what was a wonderful concert organised by our Music Department .

A range of adult learning classes and art exhibitions will be starting again after the Easter holidays, our new arts centre website which will go live next term, so watch this space. Adult learning life drawing classes open to all, will continue during next term from 13th January. If you would like to join the life drawing class please contact Alexis Butt on 01934 845228 or email alexis.butt@sidcot.org.uk.

PE Department – Sports Report

Boys Autumn Sports Report 2009

The 2009 Rugby season has been another good one for the students of Sidcot School. The increasingly high standards of performance set for the students are being met with gusto and it has been a delight to see both established players and those new to rugby showing a willingness to play the game as it was meant to be played. Perhaps the biggest compliment that has been paid to these players is that our local competitors field increasingly strong sides against us.

The school has fielded seven sides this season, ranging from the Under Elevens from the Junior School to the six sides leading up to the 1st Fifteen in the Senior School. All sides have improved over the course of this term and this has led to some fine performances on the pitch. However, the appalling weather during the second half of term has led to several fixtures falling by the wayside.

The results are as follows:

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DRAWN	CANCELLED
1st XV	4	1	2	1	1

U16 XV	5	4	1	0	1
U15 XV	4	2	2	0	2
U14 XV	5	2	3	0	1
U13 XV	4	3	1	0	2
U12 XV	2	2	0	0	3
U11 XV	4	3	1	0	0

May I take this opportunity to thank all the boys who have represented the school on the rugby field this year, not only those experienced players but also those who have happily filled in due to absence or have newly taken up the game. Rugby continues to go from strength to strength and I have every confidence that next season will once again exceed expectations.

Thanks are of course due to Joe Patrick who has captained the First XV this season superbly well, not only as an outstanding playing member of the Senior Side but also in the splendid way he has organised his players on match days. The school will be sorry to see this stalwart leave but I am sure that whatever his next port of call is, he will quickly make his presence known on the rugby field.

Students receiving colours are as follows:

Year 7: Cameron Smith

Year 8: George Michael, Harry Charalambous, Tom Melvin

Year 9: Andrew Wheller, Owen Seagar, Jamie Armstrong

Year 10: Rostik Khoma, Alfie Cunningham, Alex Michael

Year 11: Sam Coates, Jo Eloassi, Josh Hullah and Matt Townsend

First XV: Julian Mueller-Herbst, Rob Wells and Fabian Lutz

Autumn Term Girls Sports Report 2009

The term has, as usual been a busy and successful one.

Year 7 Netball

The Year 7's have made a really good start to their netball careers at Sidcot, they are a keen and enthusiastic bunch and the vast majority have represented the school at some stage this term.

Regular practice has paid dividends and from a start that saw them struggle against some strong local opposition, they have gained in strength, experience and skill and have progressed to win their last three games.

Names to mention must be Abi Evans and Emma Patch for most regular attendance at practice, also Abi is the player felt to be the most improved.

Their tournament takes place after this report is due in – but we look forward to further good endeavour and results.

Games Played: 6

Won: 3 Lost:3 (Cancelled: 3)

Colours

Indea Lucas

Caroline Green

Emma Patch

Year 8 Netball

More than half of the girls in this year group have regularly represented the school in fixtures this term and even more have attended practice sessions on a Monday after school. As a consequence they have all developed a better understanding of the game, especially so in their spacing throughout the court their timing of movement. The most pleasing aspect of their progress this year has been the girl's willingness to adapt to playing different positions and working together more efficiently as a team. They have been a real pleasure to teach and they deserved perhaps more success on the netball court, than they actually achieved.

Games Played: 5
Won: 3 Lost: 2 (Cancelled: 2)
Tournament: 3rd in pool

Colours
Camilla Dolman
Jess Cope
Lydia Guest

Year 9 Netball

Again over half of the year group regularly attended netball practice throughout the term and many of the girls not only grew in confidence, but developed more strength and understanding of the more tactical aspects of the game. Noticeable was their ability to work the ball more effectively down the court, as well as create more space for each other in key areas. It was unfortunate that the diversity of interests amongst these girls meant that there was always a clash of activities, where not all the team members could attend practice. Taking that into consideration the team performed remarkably well during the term and deserved the victories that came their way.

Games Played: 5
Won: 2 Lost: 3 (Cancelled: 2)
Tournament: 3rd in Pool

Colours
Annabelle Smith
Lizzy Yapp
Alice Buck
Huyen Tran
Alex Melvin

Year 10 and 11 Hockey

Although we have predominantly fielded a combined team in these age groups, the under 15s have played two matches, one of which they won and the other they lost. At the North Somerset Tournament at Priory they performed very well. Two players made debuts; Askild and Boanne, and both made good contributions. Although we did not progress through from the group stages, the girls should certainly be congratulated.

Games Played: 2
Won: 1 Lost: 1 (Cancelled: 2)
Tournament: 4th in Pool

Colours
Kate Patch
Alice Dingle
Rosa Brandon
Chloe White

The Year 10 and 11 combined side is a good solid squad of keen girls. They have a strong defence; Harriet, Alice and Kate all tackle well and make good decisions when distributing the ball. The mid field of Jade, Chloe, Kloe and Libby work hard and support both attack and defence. The various strikers run well to create space and scoring opportunities. Matches have been of a good standard and competitively fought, with some very close results. They played well in the North Somerset Tournament but did not succeed in progressing from the group stages.

Games Played: 6
Won: 2 Lost: 4 (Cancelled 2)

Colours
Harriet Hodge
Jade Smallwood
Libby Coates

Weston and District Netball

This has been both an exciting and challenging first half of the season for the girls, having gained promotion to Division 1 back in September. Now playing longer games against far more experienced players, it is with great pleasure that I can report how well the girls have applied themselves. They have not only raised their own level of performance, but they have on most occasions made the more senior teams work extremely hard for every one of their goals scored. The Sidcot squad now boasts 10 players from Yr 10 to Yr 12 and even includes our stalwart captain, Kate Cromwell, who left the school four years ago!

In every game played they have developed more confidence in their ability to compete at this level and their speed and determination has been a key factor in many of their winning matches. With still half the season still left to play the girls are certainly looking forward to gaining revenge against some of the teams just above them in the league.

Games Played: 8

Won: 3 Lost: 5

Colours

To be awarded next term

Swimming

The standard of girls swimming has really improved this year. Much work has been done in lessons and also at Swimming Club. Our results, in matches against Clifton High School has confirmed this progress. The North Somerset Swimming Gala takes place after the deadline for this report but we are confident of good performances at this event.

Year 8 and 9 girls have been learning Personal Survival skills and many have achieved either Level 1 or Level 2 standard and certificates have been awarded.

Next term sees our Senior Swimming Gala and it seems inevitable that records will be broken.

Cross Country

We have again been successful in this area, and, following practise and trials around the school grounds and Axbridge reservoir, teams and individuals were selected to take part in the North Somerset Cross Country Championships at Blaize Castle in Bristol. We had a number of successes; the Junior boys team achieved a 6th place overall (there are 11 schools in North Somerset). Our best three finishers have been selected to represent North Somerset at the Avon Championships on the 9th January and these students will be awarded colours.

Colours

Olivia Smith

Lydia Guest

Jonny Tam

Indoor Athletics

This is an area in which we have achieved considerable success in recent years and this one is no exception, as we have again had another run of super results. At the various age group Championships, our Year 7 girls and 9 and 10 boys finished 2nd, our Year 9 and 10 girls finished 3rd, Year 7 and 8 boys, 4th. The Year 8 girls won the event and go forward to represent North Somerset on December 16th in Bristol.

It seems highly probable that a number of individual athletes will be invited through to Avon trials.

House Matches

These again proved to be competitively and enthusiastically fought.

	1st	2nd	3rd
Year 7 (Netball)	Nansen	Shackleton	Scott
Year 8 (Netball)	Scott	Shackleton	Nansen
Year 9 (Netball)	Shackleton	Scott	Nansen
Year 10 (Hockey)	Shackleton	Nansen	Scott
Year 11 (Hockey)	Scott	Shackleton	Nansen

Overall, this resulted in Shackleton taking first place over Scott who were pushed into second.

General Information

Drop off and pick up

Parents are reminded not to use the Meeting House car park as a drop off and pick up point for their children. This is the local Quaker meeting car park. Please use the top playground or main car park for drop off and pick up.

Annual Entrance Assessments for Years 7-10 to enter in September 2010

The Annual Entrance Assessments will be held in the Library (Trevelyan Centre) on 30th January from 9.30 am – 12.45 pm.

Admissions will be writing to all parents of children in Junior 6 shortly. If you require any further information regarding the Annual Entrance Assessments please contact Valerie Kennedy at the school.

Parents' Weekend

Parents' Weekend will take place from Friday 12 March to Sunday 14 March 2009. Parents' Consultations will take place on the Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and the following Wednesday afternoon. The precise times will be enclosed with the half term mailing along with details of how to make appointments. A careers consultant from Connexions West of England will be available for some of this time for consultation.

Saturday morning will be a smart casuals morning and parents/guardians will be invited to bring their children into the Sports Hall to take part in the consultation along with the teaching staff if they so wish. Lunch will be available for all.

Uniform Shop

Did you know?

This term Sidcot Uniform Shop has sent 109 pairs of children's wellies to 'Feed the Children'; but they need more.

You can also recycle outgrown children's clothing through the Uniform Shop. It will be used by 'Feed the Children' as part of their emergency aid in 32 countries.

Outgrown Sidcot uniform can be donated to the Uniform shop, or sold in the shop on a 50% (to parent) / 50% (to SCPTA) basis. Even unsuitable garments raise money by being given to a charity, to be sold as rags. Nothing goes to land fill.

Health Centre

The School Doctor will shortly be seeing pupils in Year 10 for a routine medical examination. If you have any medical concerns about your child that you feel we should be aware of please write to the Health Centre. The first medicals will be at the beginning of the Spring Term. Please can we remind parents that they should not be sending their child to school if they are unwell.

Lost Property

Lost property is on display in the window of the Uniform Shop in the Sports Hall Foyer. It can be collected from the Uniform Shop every Tuesday and Thursday from 8.35 – 10.00 am during term time or other times by arrangement. It is very difficult to return unnamed Lost Property, please ensure that all belongings, including shoes, are clearly named.

**Sidcot Community Parent Teacher Association (SCPTA)
welcomes parents of children in all years to join them in
2010**

Being a member of the SCPTA is a fantastic way of meeting other parents, and of making a valued contribution to Sidcot life. SCPTA relies on the help of parents in order to continue as a thriving PTA, and as a result are holding a special meeting on Monday 11th January at 7.45pm in the Drawing Room. This is an informal evening where you will be able to find out more about SCPTA, what achievements have been made and how to get involved. The SCPTA is a valuable resource and a brilliant way to support Sidcot, its students and new parents, there is no obligation and you can choose how and when you can help. It is also an important forum in which to provide parental opinion on school developments. Please come to this event to see what you can contribute and enjoy an evening with other like minded parents. Refreshments and nibbles will be provided.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank former Chair of SCPTA, Karen Goswell, and former Secretary, Kate Baldock, for all their hard work in the last few years.

Bonfire & Fireworks Night

Bonfire night was again one of the best evenings of the school calendar and we were so lucky with the weather! Everyone pulled together for this night with our Sixth Formers working with maintenance and housekeeping to make sure it was set up through the week. Staff and Parents pitched in on the night running the barbecues and toffee apple sales. Thank you to all who helped and to all who came- this event just gets better and better. Over £1,100 was raised on the evening with £350 donated to the students' charity of choice.

Coffee and Cakes

The more-or-less-monthly schedule of Coffee and Cakes socials in the Small Meeting House continues, providing a relaxing venue for parents to meet and chat with other parents, junior & senior schools together; with teachers between lessons and with other adult members of the school community. We have been particularly pleased to welcome more Friends this term. Fairtrade coffees and teas are served, cakes devoured and the conversation is usually lively. If you are in the area when Coffee and Cakes is scheduled, do drop in – you will be very welcome.

Family Rambles and Swims

The Family Rambles that took place this term were much enjoyed. Jim Scott led us as always on beautiful walks to explore the ever-changing countryside around the school. Saturday Family Swims at the Sports Centre have also been very popular. We thank Sophie Pittaway as always for single-handedly organizing the swims and we look forward to more next term.

Participating in the SCPTA is a great way to be involved in the life of the school, to meet other parents and often to have fun. We have tasks to suit all tastes and time commitments, o if you would like to do something, please just let us know via the school office. Everyone is also always welcome at any SCPTA Meeting.