



WELLOW-WISE

A Quarter-termly Newsletter from Wellow House School Wellow Newark Nottinghamshire

Vol 14, No 4

12 December 2007

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Mrs Cook, the rest of the Wellow House staff and I wish you a very relaxing and festive Christmas and New Year break. We thank you all for the cards and presents you have so kindly given us and trust they will help us all relax over the Christmas break and ensure we come back refreshed for the new challenges of 2008.

It was great to see Santa making his traditional visit to our highly successful Christmas Fair and I must here offer my sincerest thanks to WHSPA committee, especially Sally Broughton, for all their efforts in making it such an enjoyable event and also to Mick Scully for his construction of 'The Grotto'.

The School Christmas Dinner yet again expertly prepared by Jane Beardsley and her crew was the chosen scene for a presentation from staff to Christine Smith on her retirement after thirteen years at the school.

The children and staff have, yet again, put so much into this first term that they have certainly earned the opportunity to have a well-deserved rest over the next few weeks and hopefully clear up any remnants of illnesses that are starting to creep in.

The term was royally rounded off with impressive dramatic performances from the children in both the Prep and Prep-Prep; 'Spend it Like Beckham (produced by Mr O'Kane) plus an excellent play produced by Mrs Field gave the opportunity for a large number of pupils to show their talents and they certainly seemed to enjoy it – as did the audience! The 'Lucky Owl' nativity produced by the Pre-Prep staff was a wonderful performance with all the children exhibiting their confidence and talents. Parents and grandparents marvelled at the clarity of voice and the obvious enjoyment of the children on stage. The costumes were fantastic! Well done to all!

We wish **Harry Mead** all the best in his performances in the pantomime, Peter Pan, over the festive season and trust a number of you will get along to give him support.

These shows highlighted further the many talents that exist within your children and which have been so admirably brought to the fore by the staff throughout the term. I wish here to applaud all staff for the time, effort, energy and enthusiasm they have put into providing the wide range of extra curricular opportunities that are all part of the well-rounded education to be found here at Wellow.

Hockey results have again been outstanding – county honours being gained by Olivia Hodgkinson (U15), Zoë Buckland and Anna Hodgkinson (U13). Isabelle Buckland also trailed for the U15's. Progress in rugby skills and enthusiasm for the game at all levels continues to grow and so does their success and, more importantly their performances. The enthusiasm for Archery has not diminished thanks to the continued work of Edward Radley and Mr Forbes this term despite the demise of the Bloxham competition this term. Table Tennis popularity is still evident and the members have performed extremely well at the various competitions. The Cross-country squad has again put in some memorable and successful performances at the Witham and Bramcote meetings during the term and I look forward to seeing them perform again next term at the Worksop meeting. The growing advancement in Cross-country sees all the pupils keen to have a go; trying to beat their personal best time (Charles McQuilkin and Jack Whitfield knocking 4 and 3 minutes, respectively, off their PBs recently).

I would like to thank all the parents for their support at fixtures (especially with transport), on outings and at the various functions held throughout the term.

Mrs Cook and I are looking forward to an enjoyable and, I hope, relaxing skiing holiday, during the first week, with our tour party of 40 (27 children and 13 adults) in Italy. There has been plenty of snow (reputedly the best for thirty years). The tour party for January 2009 is well underway and we have 10 or 11 already signed up. If anyone is interested in joining us then please forward a £100 deposit as soon as possible.

PRIZE-GIVING

The end of term prize-giving was held in the Barn before the Carol Service on Wednesday 12 December. The following prizes were awarded:

Form Prizes

Year 3	Thomas Squires
Year 4	Martha Stone
Year 5RP	Harriet Lucas
Year 5SH	Jack Salter
Year 6BJ	Grace Brown
Year 6GM	Harry Mead
Year 7NF	Rowan Stone
Year 7DOK	Laura Weir
Year 8	Mary McQuilkin

Endeavour

Year 3	Matilda Linney
Year 4	Oliver Buckland
Year 5RP	James Ainscough
Year 5SH	Chloë Wood
Year 6BJ	Charles McQuilkin
Year 6GM	Reuben Gathercole
Year 7NF	Chelsea Rose
Year 7DOK	Brenna Horrox
Year 8	Olivia Hodgkinson

News Quiz

Year 5RP	Harriet Lucas
Year 5SH	Jack Salter
Year 6BJ	Siena James
Year 6GM	Rosie Radley
Year 7NF	Rowan Stone
Year 7DOK	Jack Linley
Year 8	James Naish

General Knowledge

Senior

Junior

Year 3/4

The Christmas card winners (announced in the last edition of *Wellow-wise*) were also awarded prizes.

Sports Awards

Wells Trophy	Outstanding Rugby Player of the Year	Daniel Buckland / Oliver James
Bailey Trophy	Junior Rugby Player of the Year	Alexander Buckland
Sansom Millennium Cup	Outstanding Girl Hockey Player	Olivia Hodgkinson

Major Awards

Morris Trophy	Highest House Points Scorer	Mary McQuilkin
Trinick Cup	Consistent Endeavour	Felicity Earnshaw

Congratulations to all the prize winners.

Nick Forbes

MY PETER PAN EXPERIENCE 2007

This experience has been amazing for me. I have met Deborah Stevenson (x-Coronation Street) who plays Peter Pan and John Challis who plays Captain Hook - (Boycie from 'Only Fools and Horses').

On the audition day all the other boy's nerves were so jittery that you could feel them going round to everyone including me. As I entered the auditorium my nerves were shaking me so much that I almost forgot my lines when I got up onto the stage.



When the director came up to us he announced that the following boys had to stay behind. When he had finished the list I went back to my mum and screamed out, "I GOT THROUGH". My mum burst into tears & hugged me!

The first couple of rehearsals were really fun. When I got to meet the full cast I was amazed at their beautiful powerful voices which were so excellent I just couldn't stop listening to them.

When we approached the choreography stage I met Chad (the dance teacher) who is a really funny guy. Don't get on the wrong side of him or he'll start

dancing circles round you! I got to see the stage sets including the tree house and the pirate ship, I was overwhelmed by their sheer size, realistic wood and great colours.

I have been rehearsing almost every day since the 28th November, and boy!! I can tell you I'm shattered some nights when I get home well past 9.30pm.

Overall this experience has really boosted me up in confidence and really shown me how people put in so much hard work to bring out truly great performances.

Hope I'll see you all in the audience and have a lovely Christmas!!

Harry Mead (Year 6)

WELLOW HOUSE CHESS

For the first time in more than a decade Wellow House Chess team made an appearance when we played against Ranby House School. The fixture was kindly arranged by Mr Paige, who taught me chess thirty five years ago. We hope to make it a regular fixture.

Even though we lost five nil the team played very well and a special mention must be made of Delwyn Nagra who played board one at very little notice.

Next term I hope to set up a chess ladder to encourage more children to take up this exciting and stimulating sport. There are not many sports that offer the social side of chess and also allow people of all ages to play against one another. Over the coming months I hope to raise the profile of chess in the school and would suggest that a chess set is as excellent Christmas stocking filler. There are also many superb chess programs available free on the internet.

Finally, if there are any parents who would like to come in and play chess with the children during club times they are more than welcome.

Adrian Bardsley

LETTERS HOME FROM THE TRENCHES

Dear Mum,

Yesterday we played a game of football; we lost but we had fun. When we got back into the trenches we where confronted by all the Officers and Generals. One of them had a letter in his hand. He read it to us it, and it was then that I realised Lord Kitchener was mad at us. He said that there was going to be no more of this unwarlike behaviour.

There was silence for a while, but then it was broken by heavenly singing from the German Trenches. They were like angels; their voices brought peace into every soldiers heart. But then the harmony was broken by sleigh bells and a fat man loomed round the corner with a box. At first we thought it was artillery and ammo, but then we soon discovered it was food and letters from the king himself. The food was not as nice yours but it was something, something that made me feel warm and a little bit at home. It was like the Christmas we had last year - all right with food, people singing and just the slightest bit of protection.

I may be relieved soon so I will hope to be home by January. I may not make it but at least you know I am all right at this moment in time. I will try to make it through but if you stop loving me I am sure to die.

Love from your second son

Jack (Linley – 7 DOK)

Dear Mum

25th December 9:28am

Its Christmas morning here and the Jerries have invited us to a game of football, I'm not sure what to do but the war has stopped and there's no gun fire. This is a dream come true, I'M PLAYING FOR ENGLAND!!!!!!

29th December 4:17pm

It's a living hell now, we have been ordered to stop playing football and the Jerries have been relieved so we've no chance there's non stop gunfire skimming my hair and more than 100 men of ours have died. What's Spencer doing now Peter has kicked him out? I'd love to be at home but word is, I might be relieved soon.

31st December 7:44pm

I've been hit and these may be my last words so God help me even though I never believed in him. I wish I was at home with you instead of sitting in these filthy trenches being mocked by German gunfire. There are people screaming and pleading for help in No Man's Land and I can't get any sleep I don't think I'll see you again, but I have good news, I got a letter from the King saying I'll be relieved on the 3rd of January and if I make it I'll be home by the 5th. I can't wait to see you again and get out of this murky mud so I can finally get a shower.

I hope to see you soon

Rex (Helley – 7 DOK)

1ST XV RUGBY

The second half of the season has seen a dramatic change in the performances of the team, aided by the return of Joe Chessman before his departure to the sunnier climes of Australia. Joe is a prolific tackler and acted as a great catalyst to the rest of the forwards, especially in their defensive roles.

v Lincoln Minster (H) Lost 10 – 38 (HT 0 – 19)

We had a dreadful start against a Lincoln side composed of all Year 8 boys. After they quickly romped to a 24 point lead their coach kindly removed their wingers and this galvanised our boys into a revival. They then held out until the dying minutes of the first half before conceding a further try. At this stage Lincoln decided to switch their forwards and backs round which further encouraged our boys to come out of their shells and develop a little more self-belief in their abilities. The forwards were more than a match for their backs in the tight situations and the backs found more space running against their forwards. After two tries Lincoln quickly reverted to their initial formation but by this stage the side had grown in confidence and competed with tenacity and enthusiasm for most of the second half until Lincoln managed to score a breakaway try right at the end. The side was bolstered by the return of Joe Chessman who remained with them for the next few weeks until he left for Australia. His tackling and general game awareness added another dimension to the team and gave it more solidity.

v Bramcote Lorne (H) won 24 – 19 (William Langley, Daniel Buckland, Conversions 2x Oliver James)

The confidence gained from the Lincoln Minster match encouraged the team to compete with great spirit against a physically stronger and bigger Bramcote Lorne team who exhibited speed, power and commitment. Bramcote started strongly and due to weak first up tackling they powered their way through; or in one case used great pace to run round a shaky defence.



Joe Chessman, Daniel Buckland and Charles Wilson were very much to the fore in the tackling department and helped the team to keep the score within reach at half time with the prospects of the slope in the second half. Some sound field kicking from Oliver James, more cohesive work by the forwards and slick interplay between the backs got the team back into the frame at 17 – 19 with the final scrummage to play. A penalty was awarded and the easiest kick of the afternoon was turned down in the excitement but the brave decision was rewarded through a well-worked try in the corner, converted from the touch-line by Oliver James.

William Langley and James Naish played strong roles in the forwards with some dynamic runs from Charles

Broughton, even if a little lateral at times.

James Atkin and Luke Lyons punched beyond their size and grew in stature as the season went on.

v Witham Hall A XV Lost 0 – 27

This was the best match of the term so far. The team played very much as a team with all committing themselves to tackling and supporting each other. They kept their width in defence without over-committing too many players to the breakdown. The scrummage and rucking worked effectively, securing first and second phase possession. The backs and forwards inter-handled with growing confidence and Oliver James had one of his best positional kicking games.

William Langley played a full part in all aspects of the game and was supported by some excellent tackling and running from Luke Lyons, at full-back, and James Atkin on the wing. Joe Chessman was a major force in the tackling department supported by Daniel Buckland, Oliver James and James Naish (who had one of his most dynamic and telling performances to date).

It was good to see Harry Stubbins take the field and come off elated that he had made his first tackles of the season. He is certainly a player for the future, with sound football ability. Jack Linley, Rex Helley and Jonathan Mills all played their part in this memorable team performance and gained a lot from the experience.

1ST XV RUGBY continued

v Hill House (A) Won 31 – 17 ht (21 – 0) (Try: William Langley x4, Luke Lyons ; conv Oliver James x 4)

A much improved performance, built on the outing at Witham Hall the previous week. Sound support play and inter-handling between backs and forwards saw Luke Lyons weave his way through the defence to score the opening try. Some strong running throughout the game saw Will Langley cross the line on four occasions, with Oliver James converting 4 of the 5 tries.

The side started the second half a little too loose and were passing standing still rather than while moving forward. This gave Hill House the initiative and they quickly raised their game, scoring three tries to get themselves back into the match, before the team got their act together and responded with two second half tries themselves.

Edward Radley had a number of strong runs up the field and Harry Stubbins and Jack Linley made telling contributions, after spending much of the season on the bench.

v Grace Dieu (H) 17 – 29 (Charles Broughton, Luke Lyons, Edward Radley conversion Oliver James)

Another excellent team performance saw them run this solid Grace Dieu side to the wire. They had one centre who scored all five of their tries due to his pace and power. They also had a number of other sound players to complement him (especially their fleet footed fly-half). Despite being 0 – 24 down at half time the team played with a greater sense of urgency and purpose at the beginning of the second half and were soon rewarded with two early scores. This put Grace Dieu on the back foot and we continued to kick accurately for position, through the boot of Oliver James, which was complemented by some sound chasing and tackling; pinning Grace Dieu again back in their half. We again managed to cross the line and at 17 – 24 the pressure was on. Unfortunately, with seconds to go Grace Dieu managed to work the ball to their key centre and for the first time of the second half he managed to break the tackle of Luke Lyons, who had closed him down (assisted by Oliver James) incredibly well after his early successes. This resulted in the final try of the match but a performance to be proud of.

v Bramcote Lorne (A) 10 – 29 (Pen + Try + Conversion Oliver James)

The side missed the presence of Joe Chessman to a degree, but all raised their games to accommodate and played for each other throughout. William Langley had one of his best matches of the term, playing for the full fifty minutes and making a very telling impact. After conceding a couple of tries late in the first half and another at the start of the second, the team worked themselves back into contention with some great driving play and slick inter-handling and support between backs and forwards; plus a penalty kick from Oliver James. A couple of missed opportunities in the latter stages of the match gave Bramcote enough breathing space and they managed to produce a further try towards the end of the match to take the honours.

v Oakham U12 (A) 17 – 17 (HT 0 – 10)

(William Langley, Edward Radley, Luke Lyons, Conv Oliver James)

The boys certainly saved the best until last and, after a quick session on our new scrummage machine on the Monday, we travelled down to Oakham to face an Oakham Under 12 team who had only lost one match all term.

We started well with some strong drives but could not convert the possession into points as we were too far out from their line and each time we got close we managed to drop the ball. After weathering the early storm Oakham regrouped and started to get a good percentage of possession and exhibited some sound, low driving ruck play which earned them a lot of second phase ball; this possession led to two first half tries. After a quick team talk to regroup the side and ensure they focused on the basic skills they came out with more focus in the second half and despite conceding a further try the side soon started to gain



The 1st XV squad at Oakham

1ST XV RUGBY continued

territorial advantage. The pressure eventually saw Will Langley drive over in the corner and Oliver James convert from the side-line. Edward Radley then went over in the corner, following some improved support play. Luke Lyons then employed his silky, elusive running skills to evade the defence and score. Oliver James only just missed the two conversions and the match finished in an honourable draw. A great performance to finish the season and one which saw the whole squad improve in all departments of the game.

To those leaving at the end of the year, thank you for your contribution over the past two years and for those here again next year, we need to build on the performances of this year and, with the help of the senior pros in the U11 squad, we should have a strong squad – there will be rugby sessions during the spring and summer terms so be there if we want to be even stronger next year!

Congratulations boys on a superb season!!

P 14 W 3 L 10 D 1 F 223 A 413

Colours have been awarded to: Daniel Buckland (repeat from last year), William Langley, Oliver James (repeat), James Naish, Charles Broughton and Charles Wilson.

We look forward to taking a squad to the **Small Schools' Sevens** competition at **Oundle** in March (keep **Sunday 16th March** free if you are keen to be in the squad and let me know now if you are going to be unavailable). There is also an **U12 (Year 6 & 7)** and **U10 (Year 4 & 5)** competition on **Sunday 2nd March** at **Oakham** so please put it in your diary.

I thank those parents who along with WHSPA, contributed to providing a new scrummage machine, which will be invaluable in aiding the players development. I must also thank the ground staff for preparing the pitches so well and the kitchen staff for providing us with such nourishing fare to replenish our body and soul after the matches.

The Headmaster

SWIMMING GALA v BARLBOROUGH HALL (A)

Despite the swimming pool being closed for most of the term, we took a group of 16 U9 & U11 children to swim against Barlborough. All the pupils acquitted themselves with some very close races. Those managing first place were Fergus Polglase, Jasmine Krishan, Harry Mead, James Poppleton, Zoë Buckland and the girls U11 freestyle & medley races.

Pupils representing the school were:

U9 Girls	U11 Girls	U9 Boys	U11 Boys
Flora Brown	Zoë Buckland	Owen Taylor	Fergus Polglase
Jasmine Krishan	Olivia Black	Joshua Potts	Harry Mead
Eleanor Black	Harriet Lucas	Edward Bousfield	Reuben Gathercole
Alice Huddleston	Grace Brown	James Poppleton	Frasier Cutt

Ray Pedley

BOARDING

Numbers and interest in occasional boarding for both boys and girls is flourishing. With so few girls' beds it is important, to avoid disappointment, that we receive early notification and that it is cleared with Mrs Dryden, to ensure we have space; we are now basically full on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (girls).

The children enjoy the opportunity of spending some quality time with their friends and gaining the experience of staying away from home in an environment they feel comfortable. Older pupils are happy to receive assistance with their preps and have no problems getting down to them as everybody else is doing it at the same time and there are no peripheral distractions such as radios, stereos, computers or TVs.

Please remember that you need to take a form from the office to register for boarding, 24 hours in advance, so that we can ensure we are not over booked and we have time to prepare the beds. Could I also remind you that if a bed is cancelled within 24 hours the payment will still stand as we may already have had to turn another pupil down who wished to board.

The Headmaster

UNDER 11 RUGBY

A Team

W 21-7 v Bramcote Lorne L 0 – 42 v Witham Hall W 21-0 v St Mary's Lincoln L 7 – 19 v Hill House L 0 – 21 v Grace Dieu W 24 – 0 v Bramcote Lorne

Our rugby has improved no end since half-term, with some impressive performances, in which our ability to draw a man and give to a supporting player and use the width of the pitch, has finally come to the fore.

Even in defeat, we showed signs of improvement against Witham, but came unstuck in one horrible five minute period of missed tackles. St. Mary's were defeated impressively, with the pack playing as one and rucking the opposition off every loosed ball. At Hill House, we were two key men short and without a reserve (due to illness and a B Team game), so injuries in the warm-up cost us dear. Grace Dieu Under 11s are undefeated in 4 seasons and 52 matches, but felt that their toughest match both this year and last year had been against us. (They play Ranby and Witham Hall too.)

The Bramcote home game saw a tough physical encounter, in which the off side and ball killing offences of the opposition that we came up against at their place were reduced by a different ref. This allowed us to capitalise on an impressive forward effort and create some good tries, from the vision of Xander and Frazier.

B Team

L 45 – 48 v Witham (team photo below) W 55 – 10 v Grace Dieu

These games have given our less physical, but undoubtedly skilful smaller players the opportunity for some real match action; and they have grasped the chance with both hands! Freddie Ridings has captained the team in both games. In the former, they ran in some cracking tries and were only pipped in the last minute; in the latter, they had improved visibly and used the ball very intelligently. Freddie starred at Witham with 3 tries; Jack Whitfield in the Grace Dieu game with 4, but all who played were impressive. Well done!



The matches against Barlborough (L 0 – 12) and Hymers (L 0 – 42) were really rather unfair, since our first ten picks were elsewhere at Derby or unavailable. I had warned the opposition about this, but I hear they came pretty heavily 'tooled up' anyway! Mr Pedley assures me that we were not humiliated against these teams and he said that the pack deserved special mention for shoving both opposing packs repeatedly. Sam Lawrence was apparently the star!

U11 B Team (left to right) Photo Phil Mead

Back Will Farr Jack Richards Freddie Ridings Jack Whitfield Sean Lightbody **Front** Harry Brackenbury Charles McQuilkin Charlie Mead and Tristan Weir

1st VII

W 55 – 0 v Fairfield W 10 – 0 v Derby Grammar D 10 – 10 v Smallwood Manor L 0 – 10 v Grace Dieu

The 1st VII travelled to Derby Grammar's December tournament with high hopes after recent improved performances in the 12-a-side games. Sadly, we lost Rive Malik to a damaged finger and Harry Mead to

rescheduled rehearsals the night before we played, so two-thirds of the first choice pack was gone – so much for planning!!

This meant that Reuben moved into the pack, with James Ainscough propping alongside Fergus at hooker. The final pick was a close call between the skilful Charles Naish and the combative Harvey Gombos, but Harvey got the nod, as Mr Pedley and I decided we needed 4 forwards and 4 backs to travel.

The rugby we played all day was the most ferocious and at times skilful that I have seen from a Wellow team. I have had more talented individuals in previous years, but never a more never-say-die attitude (except Chuckie Wilson's boys against Grace Dieu last year) and better support running. I would go as far as to say that the rugby we played to demolish Fairfield and beat a tough Derby side was as good as anything a team of mine has produced anywhere. Well done to all. Special mention on the tackling front must go to Xander and Frasier, who were ferocious.

Conceding a try in the last seconds against Smallwood meant that (although unbeaten) we came second in our group by one try and faced Grace Dieu in the semi, rather than the final. They were outstanding and we did superbly to compete so well. Grace Dieu then beat Smallwood in the final by the same margin so we can rightly claim to have been the joint 2nd best side of the eight there. Well done, lads!

Those who played – James Ainscough, Fergus Polglase, Reuben Gathercole, Harvey Gombos, Jack Salter, Alexander Buckland, Frasier Cutt and Sam Trotman.

B VII

D 0 – 0 Bramcote Lorne A (a) L 17 – 21 Bramcote Lorne A (h)

The B VII has had a double header against Bramcote, home and away. At Bramcote, they were exceedingly unlucky not to win, as the opposition was allowed to kill the ball repeatedly when our tough pack of Sam Lawrence, Will Linney and Reuben Gathercole had won it.

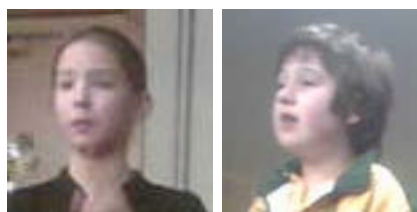
At Wellow, Bramcote A team was reduced to 5 players by illness and injury, so we loaned them Freddie Ridings and Harry Mead to make it an even game. This worked very well, with Sam Trotman leading our team into a 3 try lead, only for some poor tackling in the last five minutes to give them the game on conversions scored. A very worthwhile game. Well played, all!

Dan O'Kane

SPEECH AND DRAMA – give your child an advantage

Speech and Drama lessons will be available at the School on Wednesdays from 5pm to 6pm starting in January.

- Pupils learn how to:
- Speak clearly and distinctly
- Project their voices
- Use expression and emphasis effectively
- Maintain eye contact
- Converse fluently



Matthew Badcock and Mary McQuilkin gave a good demonstration of their Speech and Drama skills last Saturday morning.

Pupils learn these skills by working from a wide range of fine poems, plays and novels. The use of classic and contemporary literature is an essential feature of the LAMDA programme. The lessons will be taught by Don Dryden RBC Dip, a highly experienced freelance Speech and Drama lecturer and Director of Drama.

To book a place, please contact Laura Field on 01636 704134 or 07793 812364.

PHONE NUMBERS AND ILLNESS

Winter is with us again and the coughs, colds, sickness and diarrhoea the season seems to bring have also arrived. I would like to advise you that if your child is away from school **OR SENT HOME** they should remain at home for at least **48 hours**. I am finding that some children are being returned to School the next day and are still far from well.

Also, on a few occasions contact phone numbers have been found to be out of date, especially mobiles. Please would you keep the office informed when these numbers are changed.

Many thanks for your co-operation in these matters.

Lyn Dryden (Matron)

SPEND IT LIKE BECKHAM

This pantomime by Wellow House School follows Becks and Posh on their round-the-world trip to spread football to the USA and then find David's missing magic golden boot in time for England's crucial qualifier against Germany (it ought to have been Croatia, I suppose!). This crucial bit of kit had been stolen by the evil villain, Mr Nasty Nick Numpty of Evil Eakring FC, as part of his attempt to put his club at the top of world football.



Mary as Posh

The children did a magnificent job. Pantomime is not the easiest medium for youngsters, with all the audience participation, physical farce and ad libbing that it involves, but these 9 to 13 year olds pulled it off like seasoned pros. I always write my scripts with the most easily bored dad in the audience in mind and so I packed it full of some quite mature jokes. Not one was lost, as Posh (Mary McQuilkin) and Becks (Ollie James) spoke out with clarity and created a wonderful rapport between each other – she guided here poor, naïve husband through the trials of his life – and with the audience.

Sparkles, David's style guru and friend of the audience, was portrayed with confidence by Izzie Buckland, who drew all the required emotions from the packed audiences on both nights. Our villain Nasty Nick (Matt Badcock) encouraged a booing bonanza, as he swaggered on stage to the tones of Darth Vader's Imperial March; and the young Becks (and later Prince William, who found the missing boot in a polo field) was played by the tuneful and cheeky-faced Dan Buckland.

There were all manner of excellent cameo roles, from Health and Safety Officers (Jack Linley) to weathermen (Jack Whitfield); and from Spanish dancers (Becca Blow, Harriett Hawkins and Liv Hodgkinson) to various TV reporters (Beth Gathercole, Xander Buckland and Tara Polglase) but the whole could never have been produced without a strong cast throughout, both front and backstage. The was that they organised themselves in some very complex free kick and crowd routines epitomised their commitment to perfection, but most of all fun!

It ceases to amaze me how the children one encounters every day in ordinary situations can transform on a stage into soaring performers, filled with an amazing confidence and control.

Dan O'Kane (writer and producer)

Here are Year 8's feelings about their own stunning performances:-

This epic adventure got going when Nasty Nick (Matt Badcock) stole Becks' magic boot....it made it more exciting when the audience was asked to join in....Mr O'Kane made a great show and I hope he will make another just as good. In my opinion, I thought it was a real success (as are all his plays) but I could understand this one better than usual!

Will Langley

The David Beckham we know so well was played by Oliver James, who portrayed this role with ease....the most outstanding part was the song sung by Prince William, played by Daniel Buckland. His phenomenal singing voice was worshipped by the audience (NB. Just the audience, Liv ?)

Olivia Hodgkinson

Charles Broughton gave a phenomenal light display from his deck; the scene changes were manoeuvred by Ed Radley and Will Langley; and Mr O'Kane was just within running distance of the different parts of his sound system.

Matt Badcock

The most effective parts were the crowd scenes because they created a great atmosphere, especially with all the cheering and clear speaking - my favourite part of the play was when the dog (played by Toby Trotman) came on stage and went to the toilet on Nasty Nick (Matt Badcock) before running off with his golden boot. (NB That was put in to please the Year 3s, James, but whatever makes you laugh!! – DOK)

James Naish

The evil villain Nasty Nick was played by the tip top actor Matt Badcock, who very bravely encouraged the audience to boo him - not to forget the adorable Becca Blow, who stole the night away with her Spanish dance.

Mary McQuilkin

My favourite moments in Spend It Like Beckham were the crowd scenes with everyone singing and the audience joining in with the lyrics....there were some fantastic newcomers, who had never been in the spotlight before, like Tara, Daniel, Ollie, Charles W, Rex, Freddie, Fergus and Will Farr. *Izzie Buckland*

The soundtracks were inspiring: Nasty Nick was played in with Darth Vader's Imperial March, creating a sinful atmosphere.....Izzie Buckland played a star role, as Sparkles, David's personal dresser.....the whole cast performed extremely well to make this the best pantomime in Nottinghamshire! Maybe the inspiration will spread to the West End – 5 stars and beyond!

Charles Broughton

This play was a comedy so the actors had to do strange things: when he lost his boot, Becks started to behave like a little baby, who was just beginning to explore the world! I think that the best part of the play was the weather forecast, when the storm was about to hit the studio – well done, Jack Whitfield!

Sasha Rudnik

The scenery worked well for a small stage: all you needed to do was flick over some sheets to cover or uncover the scenes, when some big theatres spend thousands of pounds on their scenery.....Mary played Victoria Beckham and her accent was brilliant. She was partnered by Oliver James as Becks, who was not supposed to be very bright, so they were very effective when they were put together.

Ed Radley

The strong Cockney accents gave the Beckhams a headstart with the audience. Jokes, carried off one after another, put the play on another level....by Friday, laughter and cheers flew from the audience so they cheered us at the end. The well-performed scenes, dances and acts drew a large number of people to watch us on the last night....after doing the play, you knew that (just like Mr O'Kane told us beforehand) no one will remember if you made a mistake; but after doing it you feel a little spark inside that is telling you that you have pleased someone else.

Harriett Hawkins



Dancers in the Panto

U9 RUGBY

v Bramcote Lorne (A) Lost 25 – 0

In their first match after half term the U9's played some very good rugby, particularly with our handling and passing, but up against a much bigger team we were unable to break through their defences.

v Witham Hall (A) Lost 45 – 0

Unfortunately in this game we did not give a good account of ourselves. We ran too laterally, dropped the ball too much and gave them easy tries through lacklustre tackling. Oliver and Owen tried valiantly to penetrate their defence, but without much success.

v Highfields Lost 25 – 0

Despite some good forceful running from Jordan, Joshua, Edward, Owen and Oliver, once again we were unable to run through a much bigger team. We either need to eat more porridge or the school needs to invest in a stretching machine!

v S Anselm's (A) Lost 45 – 15

Another long journey and tough match for the U9's. Once again we passed the ball well but found it difficult to gain much possession when the ball was on the floor. Owen, Oliver and Jordan scored tries for us and Owen made a fantastic diving tackle to deny the opposition a try in the corner.

The following boys have represented the school this season:

Edward Bousfield, Dominic Harris, Joshua Potts, Connor Shaw, Thomas Squires, Oliver Buckland, Jordan Cooling, William Goodall, James Poppleton, Matthew Pickering, Owen Taylor, Sam Whitfield and Michael Wright

Ray Pedley

MR JONES'S KNEE REPLACEMENT

As you may well have heard, Mr Jones, has at last managed to get a date for his knee replacement operation, which will be at the beginning of next term and this will put him out of action for the first half of the spring term. I am busy at the moment sorting out cover, via a replacement teacher and a possible rearrangement of the present timetable but this will all be in place for the beginning of next term and will in no way affect the history or English education your child receives.

Mr Jones is busy preparing all the work for the replacement member of staff and we wish him all the best with his operation and best of luck for a speedy recovery.

The Headmaster

CHRISTINE SMITH'S RETIREMENT

It is obviously the end of an era for Wellow with the retirement of Christine Smith from her role here at Wellow. She has been the first charming, welcoming and informative voice that all parents will have met on their introduction to the school. Her organisational skills, cheerful demeanour, and her ability to keep Wellow very much in the eye of the press throughout her thirteen years here at Wellow have been her trade mark.

We will all miss her in-depth knowledge of Wellow and the area – she is always ready and able to give parents or staff advice on where things can be found in the locality and I suspect we will be on the phone to her in the not too distant future picking her brains.



A fuller tribute and message of appreciation to Christine's contribution to the success of the school will be published in our next edition but felt I needed to wish her all the best as she moves on to give her husband, Andrew, an even greater helping hand organising their flourishing business, 'Barn Bacon'; besides I hope allowing her to play even more golf and get her handicap down.

The number of donations and tributes flowing in from past and present parents are testament indeed to the amount Christine has touched and been a part of so many lives during her time here at Wellow

I know you will be keeping a watchful eye on us and I trust will join us on many occasions in the future.

Best of luck for the future from all here at Wellow!

KIT, UNIFORM & PRESENTATION

We have been working hard this term to remind pupils about the standard of dress that is expected and we will be having an even greater push over the next two terms. They should have pride in their presentation and it is important that we, the school and home work together to ensure that they adhere to the guidelines. It is expected they arrive from home in the morning correctly attired – shirts tucked in, cuffs fastened and socks up.

Staff do spend an inordinate amount of time in the changing rooms trying to ensure that the children put their uniform in their bags before they go out to games, have a shower when they return and then put all their kit back in their bags and zip them up. Please remind them of this and ensure they have all their kit when they come to school, especially a towel, and that it is all named. White ankle socks appear to be the main items that remain, unnamed, after we attempt to clear all the kit from the changing rooms at the end of a term.

The Headmaster

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Wed 12 Term Ends 1.00pm after Carol Service
Sat 15 Ski Trip departs
Sun 23 Ski Trip returns

JANUARY

Mon 7 Term Begins 8.45am

CHRISTMAS POEMS

At Christ mas t ime, choir singers sway wit h
t he blowing t rees;
Children play and feel t he cold winter breeze.
It's t ime to say goodbye to Easter Bunnies
and Summer warmth;
But now we welcome t he special t ime when
Christ was born.
It's gett ing very near to a great New Year,
So spread t he news with plenty of cheer;
Snuggle up close to t he blazing fire;
Listen to t he gentle voices of t he doorstep
choir.
This t ime of year you spend wit h t he ones
you love;
Villages wat ched over by t he white Christ mas
dove.

Harriett Hawkins

Snow falling on Christmas Eve,
Children hoping for a white Christmas;
All the lights and glitter overwhelming
Small children into a trance.
Midnight and the only sound
The pitter-patter of snowdrops on the
window.
Christmas Day, Christmas cheer for
miles around.
Children laughing and cheering,
But when the day ends,
So do the snow and the fun.

Toby Trotman

Stars twinkle like priceless diamonds,
Wishing everyone a joyous New Year;
The world is full of love and peace;
Carol singers jump and cheer.
I stare into the velvet night sky,
Daintily iced with snow;
Then I let out a happy little sigh
As I hear a distant Ho Ho Ho!

Mary McQuilkin

*The fields of solitude lay with lives that have
been taken,
The joyous spirit lurks beneath their hearts;
Some dig deep enough, but others can't let the
spirit out.
It has shattered, like a bauble dropping off the
tree.
Their only hope is with others, praying for them.
Children's giggles just round the corner
But are never to be heard.
We pray for the heroes of our country –
Your turn to celebrate:
We hope our gratitude is enough.*

Olivia Hodgkinson

Get out of bed.
Go to the reindeer in the shed.
Have a runny egg and bacon,
Help load the last Playstation.
Get my gear on the best I can.
Oh dear, I am a fat man!
Get a frost-bitten nose;
Jump down small chimneys,
Delivering girls' clothes.
Get my present from Mrs. X;
Get in bed and tomorrow's the 26th.
Where has the Christmas spirit gone?

Laura Weir

BRASS LESSONS

Brass instrument tuition is available at the school. Some trumpets and a trombone
to pupils who would like the opportunity to learn to play these instruments.

Mr Leeder is a very experienced teacher in this field and would be pleased to
interested and give them an initial trial. Please contact Mr Thorpe for more information.



are on offer

see anyone who is

The Music Department