

Hockerill News

Issue 10 Michaelmas Term 2007



Images from Boarders' Internataional Open Weekend and Christmas Celebration Concert - December 2007

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Principal's Column

What a term! We started with the "Comprehensive trounces Eton" headline in the national press as we topped the country's post 16 league tables and completed it with the Ofsted inspection which ranked Hockerill as "outstanding" on every single one of their 39 judgements.

I write this on the last day of term after our staff celebration this afternoon and after our final assemblies this morning. At final assembly I reminded the college that at the start of the year I offered the opinion that we currently had both the most talented students and the most talented staff in our relatively short history. This has been reflected in the term's activities.

Looking back on the term I recall some fantastic individual and team achievements in sport, a number of unbeaten teams, district champions, teams going well in the County Cups, but perhaps most significantly a very high degree of participation and enjoyment. I recall our continuing high productivity in doing things for others, not least Romania and Rwanda. I recall an excellent production of "Nursery Crimes", written, produced and performed by our students. Last weekend we had our International Boarders' Open Weekend - an excellent celebration of two of the key strengths of Hockerill, our boarding community and our internationalism. Additionally our musical activity reached its seasonal crescendo of excellence with the three night run of the Xmas Show, the showcase event at Stansted Airport and the Carol Service.

Two weeks ago I attended what is probably the largest educational conference of the year, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust Annual Conference at the National Convention Centre in Birmingham. The work, in languages, of our staff and students was showcased as an exemplar in a video shown to delegates to that conference and will be distributed to every school in the country next term.

When the culture of a school is right academic success will follow. A piece in the Ofsted report sums this up. "Students' personal development is outstanding. All students, including boarders, enjoy school and this is reflected in their exemplary behaviour, their mature and willing shouldering of responsibilities and the harmonious relationships between students and between staff and students".

The Ofsted judgements were a well deserved reward for the massive contribution of the staff here over a long period of time. At the end of this longest of terms they are currently exhausted but we will return next term more motivated than ever in pursuit of our world-class ambition for the College and our students.

On behalf of the staff I wish all students, parents and friends a healthy, fulfilling and prosperous New Year.

Dr R B Guthrie

Grandparents' Day

Following the success of our inaugural Grandparents' Day, 170 Grandmas and Grandpas went back to school one Saturday morning early in October.

They received presentations from both Dr Guthrie and Mr Ullmann and heard from six Hockerill students about their experiences at Hockerill.

These were followed by tours around the College from their own grandchildren and the event ended with musical performances from Hockerill students playing songs from times gone by! Many of the guests commented on what an enjoyable morning they had.

Hockerill Carol Service

Christmas does not begin for me until I have attended the Hockerill Carol Service. The demand for tickets was even higher than usual and this year's service certainly lived up to the very high standards we have come to expect from our Music Department. With the mix of traditional readings, beautiful singing from all of the College's choirs and outstanding musical arrangements, the evening passed far too swiftly. Thank you to everyone who took part - for me, the Christmas season has now officially started!

B Nessling



Well I wish it could be Christmas every day!

BAA Stansted were kind enough to donate £10,000 to the College for work on St Alban's Hall. As a thank you for their support, 55 musicians singers and technicians (many of whom fell in to more than one category!) took part in a three hour concert in the departures lounge, a unique experience for most if not all of us! It has to be said that there was some trepidation amongst the Stansted staff as the amplifiers were unpacked, many wondering how they were going to go about their normal day's work. After a few minutes of performance though, the seasonal magic of Paul Foulkes' brilliant arrangements and Hockerill students' fast developing musical and vocal skills put a smile on the faces and a spring in the steps of passengers and staff alike. The transformation was so complete that they asked if we could come back every day until Christmas. Fun though that would have been, lessons beckoned back at the College, so we had to decline but more concerts are scheduled in the new year.

£300 was raised for music projects in the community.

C Smith

Christmas Celebration Concert

Once again Mr Paul Foulkes worked absolute wonders with our growing band of talented musicians and produced a Broadway quality show to mark the Christmas period.

From *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* to *Fairytale in New York* to *Joy to the World*, a wide gamut of show-stoppers entertained the capacity crowd for three consecutive nights (6th, 7th and 8th December).

Thanks to all those who came along and showed their support, along with some wonderful feedback. Comments ranged from "outstanding", "uplifting" and "a privilege to be there". Well done to all those who worked so hard to make these concerts such a success.

OFSTED

We were delighted with our OFSTED inspection report and being ranked as outstanding on all judgements.

Here are some extracts from the report:

"Hockerill Anglo-European College is an outstandingly effective school that is fiercely ambitious for its students"

"It is a dynamic place to work"
(Member of staff)

"A great place to be" (Students)

"They really believe they can achieve anything they set their minds to"
(Parent)

"Students' personal development is outstanding. All students, including boarders, enjoy school and this is reflected in their exemplary behaviour, their mature and willing shouldering of responsibilities and in the harmonious relationships between students and between staff and students."

"Hockerill has sustained and improved exceptionally high standards over many years."

"Teaching and learning are outstanding."

"Leadership and management are outstanding."

"The provision for sixth-form students is outstanding."

Boarders' International Open Weekend

On December 8th we opened our doors to 250 boarding parents for our most ambitious programme of events to date. It was a great success and a fantastic time was had by all those attending.

On Saturday evening, following tours and consultations, guests were treated to an International Exhibition from around the world before the wonderful Christmas Buffet, Fireworks and Musical Show.

A jazz brunch kicked off Sunday's programme which also included a most generous and fascinating wine tasting hosted by Mr Baer and afternoon receptions in the boarding houses.

We are extremely grateful to those parents who came along, some travelling great distances by air and road, as well as all those others who worked so hard to make this event a success.



Thames House Dinner

The students and staff residents of Thames House enjoyed a terrific night out at our local Chinese restaurant for their annual Christmas dinner. The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the rigorously judged Thames House Oscars. Always a great source of amusement!

Interact News

Interact continues to work hard to raise money for charity and we would like to make an appeal for items to go into an Aquabox, which is a box containing water filtering equipment ready to be sent anywhere in the world there is a crisis. Rather than send an empty box it can be fitted with items such as toothbrushes, soap, cotton wool, kitchen towel, pencils, string and children's small toys (ball or fluffy toy). If you would like to donate something, please leave in Reception clearly labelled 'Aquabox'. Thank you in anticipation for your continued support!

Congratulations to Aishah Coyte in Year 13 on gaining a Young Leader's Award from the Jack Petchey Foundation. Established in 1999 the Foundation gives grants to programmes and projects that benefit young people aged 11-25 in London and Essex. In addition, Aishah has won a prize of £200 for her guide troop. Well done.

J S Chalmers

Design Technology News



I am pleased to inform you that funding has become available to restart the [Joinedupdesignforschools](#) project set up by the Sorrell Foundation. Previous Year 13 Design Technology students were involved in the redesigning of the College refectory. This project has now been officially handed over to current Year 12 students to take forward and hopefully provide a new facility with a much needed upgrade. They have already met with the architects and now have the opportunity to work as a team with true professionals on a real project that will hopefully benefit the whole Hockerill community.

The newly installed CNC milling machine has brought new interest to the department. Years 11 and 9 students have been using it extensively in their lessons, whilst students from all years have watched, programmed and used it during Mr Dinwiddy's daily lunch time clubs in the workshop. The experience that the students are gaining from this is immense and in particular gives them a valuable insight into the experience of CNC design. Our thanks go to our parents for continuing to support the department through the Technology fund.

The first Year 7 MYP cross curricular day in October was an exciting and enjoyable day for our newest students. A team of students worked in Food Technology to make gingerbread people and very delicately iced the 'tummies' with the various flags to

represent their nationalities. They showed real dedication and commitment to the task. The students were determined to make their gingerbread stand and hold hands and worked extremely well together supporting the biscuits as they delicately stood them up in rings of fondant icing. Another group were involved in constructing bugs. These battery powered bugs went into battle as the finale of the activity.

On 14th November our Year 12 Design Technology IB students enjoyed an interesting visit to Lotus car factory in Norwich. They were given a most interesting tour which was crammed full of data with all the latest technological information. The highlight of the day was being shown the latest Lotus car model that is presently under design and testing before manufacture. The group felt very privileged to be part of this unique tour.

Year 11 students are currently working on their individual coursework projects and are developing very interesting products which we will look forward to inviting you to view towards the end of the summer term.

I look forward to hosting the Rotary Club 'Young Chef Competition' in early March. 2 teams, each of 3 students, from Year 10 Food Technology will be representing Hockerill and will be competing against other local schools. Whilst practising for this competition at the start of next term the students will develop skills, team spirit and overall will have fun.

F Whiteley

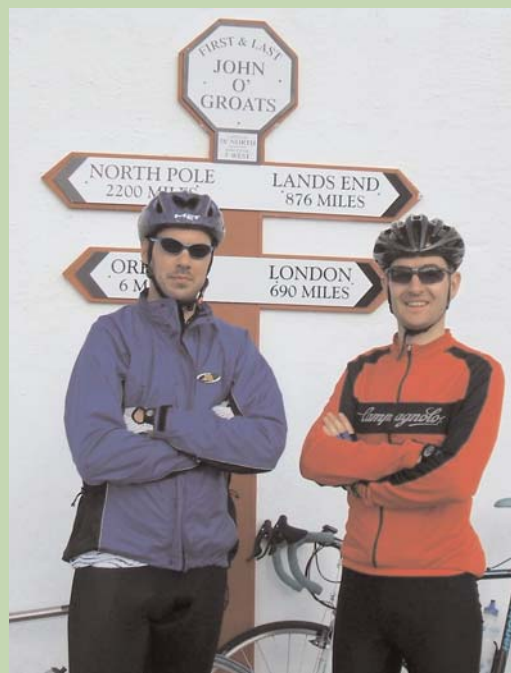
Diary Dates

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| February Half Term | 9th - 17th February |
| End of Lent Term | 20th March at 12.30 |
| Summer Term Start | 8th April |
| Summer Half Term | 24th May - 1st June |
| Speech Day | 29th June |
| End of Summer Term | 1st July at 12.30 |
| Start of Michaelmas Term for: | |
| all new students and Year 12 | 3 September |
| all other students | 4 September |

The long and winding road... Mr James and Mr Gdula's charity ride from Land's End to John O'Groats

1,000 miles in 10 days on 2 bikes. It seemed like a good idea at the time. And after a year of hard training and immaculate planning, what could possibly go wrong? We were due to set off from Land's End at sunrise on August 9th, but at sunrise on August 8th the newly-wed Mr James was still sitting on a Boeing 747. At least I was actually in the country, but the mother of all traffic jams on the M25 meant that by the time I got to Slough, Mr James wasn't far behind! Somehow we made it to the start line on time, and lined up on a crisp summer's morning full of excitement, nerves and, in the case of Mr James, enough caffeine to earn immediate disqualification from the Tour de France.

100 miles is a long way on a bike, and covering this distance everyday for 10 days is hard. But we made it to John O'Groats. A lot of pain, a lot of laughs, one puncture and some great views will be the over-riding memories of the trip. I am also now very well acquainted with the back of Mr James' head, as he is with mine. We managed to raise £3,500 for our two charities, and a huge thanks to everyone who supported our efforts.



Rotary Youth Technology Tournament



On Tuesday 20th November I took twelve KS3 students to the second annual Rotary Youth Technology Tournament, held this year at Birchwood. Hockerill hosted last year's tournament and won the Junior Section so the pressure was on to match our previous accomplishment. This we did in spectacular fashion, once again winning the Junior Section, with another Hockerill team coming in a close third.

There were six local schools competing and a total of eleven Junior teams. The task, to be completed within three hours, was to produce an electric car capable of travelling down a half pipe as quickly as possible. Marks were awarded for a portfolio folder and logo as well as the design and speed of the car.

Each of the three teams of four students was a credit to Hockerill and they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our second team to test on the day sped down the half pipe in record speed and took the laurels by a large margin. All students can feel exceptionally proud of all the hard work that they put into a very successful day.

The winning team members were: Tayo Obi, Lucy Black, Ollie Palierakis, and Alex D Evans with special praise going to Laura Warbrick, as the only Year 7 on the Hockerill team, and thanks going to Mr S Smith for his additional encouragement on the day at Birchwood.

G Dinwiddy

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot to Paris

Originally billed as a foregone conclusion, England's final group match against Tonga in the Rugby World Cup proved to be a tense, gripping affair that made a trip to Paris for 33 Hockerill enthusiasts all the more memorable. Boarding the coach at 05.30 in the morning, the party set out for Calais decked in the colours of our national team. England's erratic form in the group phase, combined with the flair and gritty resilience of the Tongans, added an unexpected sense of anticipation to what for many was a first taste of international rugby. For generations the home of French rugby, the Parc des Princes in Paris was packed with nearly 50,000 spectators, making for a vibrant atmosphere. However intense the rivalry though, or how significant the result, the camaraderie in and around international rugby grounds is invariably good natured, rich in culture and light hearted banter. Succumbing to an early Tongan lead, England fought back with innovative rugby and opportunistic try scoring, securing a 36-20 win over their plucky opponents.

The next morning, the majestic French capital was resplendent against the pale grey sky and embellished with rusting autumn leaves. A coach ride took us on a tour of historic landmarks: the Eiffel Tower, l'Arc de Triomphe, the Sacre-Coeur and the Champs Elysées.

With Australia looming in the quarter final, one doubted how much longer the English rose would continue to bloom on Englishmen's chests. "You won't be cheering next week," our Celtic and Antipodean colleagues were swift to jibe. As it transpired, the subsequent demolition of both Australian *and* French dreams could only be matched by the spectacle of Mr Gillmore's face as he took delivery of news that the Welsh had fallen victims to Fiji....

J Hill

Snap Happy!

Photography is increasing in exposure at Hockerill. After the Christmas period there will be two clubs for Black and White photography and the subject has been strongly represented during the recent MYP year 8 and 9 days. By the time you read this, in the Gothic entrance, there will be a revolving exhibition which features the strongest work by the College photographers. Below, is Black and White work (processed and developed in the art department darkroom) by Amber Blackaby and Elizabeth Davis. Sebastian Trevisick captured the amazing wildlife photograph during a safari trip to Kenya at half term.

The interest in photography is so strong that we are in need of further equipment. If you have any old SLR film cameras, which you would be happy to donate to the college, please contact me (Mr James) at the college. Any gifts would be greatly appreciated by the students to whom the equipment would be loaned.

Finally, can I remind students and parents that we have art kits in stock. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact me for further details.

J James





Language College

Community

The Language College got off to a typically busy start this year.

There are currently seven after-school primary classes (in French, Spanish, German, Japanese and Italian). In addition, three members of our staff are providing or supporting 9 primary schools with their French lessons. There have been some very comprehensive training sessions for primary schools including a highly successful two-day visit from Carole Nicholl of the Language Factory.

Our French drama specialist, Thierry, has given some wonderful training to our local primary teachers including a long weekend in France.

We continue to have three master classes for primary children and top linguists from Herts and Essex and St Marys in French and in German. There is also a well-supported class for Year 7 and 8 parents.

To generate income we have started offering adult classes at Hockerill. There has been an excellent take-up for the French, Spanish, Italian and EFL classes.



Trips and Exchanges

This term we have welcomed a group from Germany – the Münster students who did Work Experience here, and the annual exchange from Aix en Provence. Year 13 students from Hockerill went to La Coûme on a study visit and other students went on exchanges over the October half-term – one group to Tokyo on our annual Japanese visit and a group of 26 students and staff to Iasi (pictured above, Romania some on the Exchange and others to work in the Special School. Again a huge amount of renovating took place and a total of £3,000 which had been raised over the year in Hockerill was used to improve the quality of life for the children and staff of the School.

In September we welcomed the first group from our partner school in Gisenyi, Rwanda following our successful trip in June and July to Rwanda. Everything went well until the last day with a variety of interesting activities, the absconding of six Rwandan students was naturally very disappointing. We shall however continue to support our Rwandan friends through funding new projects in the school and the local community and send groups out without welcoming students at Hockerill. Over £11,000 has already been raised for Rwanda in the last 15 months.

We continue to benefit enormously from our centre in the French Pyrenees at La Coûme. Primary teachers with three Hockerill facilitators visited in October for another superb training weekend and we are sending 3 groups there next year. We have had some very productive videoconferencing sessions.

On November 1st we welcomed the world famous linguist, Professor David Crystal.

We are constantly receiving visiting teachers from various institutions in the public and private sector including visitors from Highgate School, Wellington College and Cheltenham Ladies College.

It is quite difficult to catch ones breath in the Language College at the moment.

M Ullmann

Development Fund

We are incredibly grateful to all the support received from parents and friends of the College by way of their contributions to the Development Fund.

Our total amount raised has now reached nearly £80,000. This has resulted in significant contributions to the development of the music and sporting facilities as well as some smaller projects on the campus

Very, very many thanks. **Dr R B Guthrie**

Science News

Visitors to Hockerill may have noticed the building work going on behind Thames House. We are soon to have two new laboratories there. They should be fully functional at the start of the Lent term, providing some much needed extra space in the Science faculty, and allowing the temporary chapel to return to its original use.

In October six members of Year 11 spent a whole day at GlaxoSmithKline in Harlow on a Science Day. Below is a report from Maya Davies. It was interesting for the students to see the many different types of jobs that exist in such a large organisation. Many thanks to GSK for organising such a worthwhile activity. All of the students enjoyed the day.

J S Chalmers

"My visit to GlaxoSmithKline was an interesting, fun and informative trip. It taught me how Science is used in business, what other skills are needed in business like GSK and how they pick out employees from application forms. I spent the morning doing the project management and ICT workshop. To improve our project management skills we had to design and build a Lego house to a client's specification. This was both challenging and fun and showed everyone doing the activity how little we understood about carrying out a project.

During the afternoon, after a very delicious and filling lunch, I did a Chemistry workshop. We did a variety of chemical experiments ranging from making paracetamol to separating coloured mixtures by chromatography. It taught me how industrial laboratories work and what is involved in working as a chemist in a pharmaceutical company. As well as it being a great trip, it taught me a lot about business and job applications and different jobs that use science and gave me good work experience."

by Maya Davies Year 11

IB Middle Year Programme News



This term has been a tremendous term for the Middle Years Programme (MYP) at Hockerill. Moving into our third year, all students in Years 7 to 9 have had the opportunity to experience the holistic nature of the MYP. The first cross curricular day was for Year 7 students early in the term and involved a celebration of Who am I? Prior to the day, students worked on family trees, constructed human bodies (thankfully models!), wrote up family stories, produced self portraits and considered statistical data of themselves and their friends. On the day itself, we had exhibitions, musicians, actors, linguists, technologists and singers all coming together to celebrate their individuality, their family and their role in the global community. I was amazed by the commitment and enthusiasm of our 'new' students and by the range of talent on show.

The cross curricular day for Year 9 took place later in the term, 'Communication, Collaboration and Teamwork' provided the students with the opportunity to work with BT facilitators on a global schools project. They explored the importance of communication and teamwork while working on a 'real' task involving the setting up of a new academy in Manchester. Three students were required to present their recommendations for this future school live to the Project Director in Manchester in just 60 seconds! Results of this day can be found on the internet at www.easicop.org. I thank BT for supporting this event and for providing prizes. The names of our three winning students will be announced early next term.

Media & Sports provided the backdrop to the Year 8 cross curricular day. Working as journalists, film crew, publishers, photographers and musicians the students filmed the Year 7 equipe matches and then produced a TV show complete with presenters and themed music, a tri-lingual newspaper. This was supported by professionals from outside the College and I thank everyone for making this day such a success.

Next term we look forward to exploring Tudor London, Human Rights and Celebrating the 20's and 30's as well as welcoming an IBO representative to look at our MYP as a whole. Lots to look forward to!

The MYP has at its core the individual student and the belief that every student should have the opportunity to achieve their potential. This term has certainly provided the students with the opportunities and I am proud to say that achievement, celebration and success have all been evident. I thank the students for their humour, the teachers for their commitment and of course you the parents for supporting this exciting programme.

D Sinclair



Celebration of Achievement

Mr Grant, our College's caretaker of 23 years next April (making him one of Hockerill's longest serving members of staff) first joined the armed forces aged 17 in 1962. As part of the Anglo-Malayan defence agreement, Mr Grant was drafted out to Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo and Indonesia to help the country fight for its independence. Serving until 1966, Spike saw some amazing and some terrible things during his time as an Artilleryman.

Now, some 45 years after Malaysia finally achieved independence, Mr Grant's courageous efforts have been recognised by the Malaysian government. He has been issued with a Service to Malaysia medal for "Chivalry, Gallantry and loyalty in service". Mr Grant who as well as receiving this medal sports 3 further medals including a Veteran Star, was very happy to have been given this latest medal. Through the armed forces, Mr Grant was able to see the world and experience different cultures from a young age, and was surrounded by a great many like-minded young men who became his friends as well as colleagues.

Mr Grant's efforts and the fantastic way in which they have been formally recognised by the Malaysian Government merit the highest congratulations from the College's staff and students alike.

W Smith





Watersports in Narbonne

At the time of departure, it was hard to perceive that just 24 hours separated us from the Mediterranean, sultry heat and warm sand beneath our feet. As Britain lay submerged under the wettest July for decades, heavy rain clouds gathered to bid us farewell from the cliffs of Dover. One overnight coach ride later and we were in Narbonne, 37 students, 5 staff and the exuberantly youthful team from Acorn Adventure.

Catamarans, dinghies and inflatable bananas were among the aquatic highlights of a week's vacation that nicely took the edge off a hectic round of summer term pressures and pageantry. More demanding of our energies were windsurfing, raft building, orienteering and a high ropes assault course, whilst an introduction to the ancient art of dragon boat racing stirred reminiscences of Britain's exhausted Olympian rower Steve Redgrave's immortal words: "If you ever see me go near a boat again, you have my permission to shoot me..." A high octane day at the Aqualand water park neatly punctuated mid-week; the sun shone, the water glistened and regular pilgrimages to the ice cream kiosk did much to enhance the entente cordiale. Evening entertainments included skating, bowling and visits to the nearby resort of Narbonne Plage, where residents were seen closing shutters and battening down hatches as news leaked out that our Year 8's were queuing for pedal-driven hire cars. To cap it all, our two Australian gap students received warning of their impending World Cup humiliation as our girls shimmied and swerved on their way to the try line in games of beach rugby.

It was not all pleasantries. Cockroaches the size of ping pong balls accompanied trips to the shower block whilst a gust of wind demolished the canopied roof of our dining area. Overall though, a thoroughly good time was enjoyed by all and our thanks go the Vernons for another meticulously planned excursion.

J Hill

District Championship Round-Up

There have been various District Championships held this term, namely Hockey, Rugby and Cross-Country. In the Rugby the U14 boys successfully retained their title, with the U13s unlucky to lose in their final. The U12s and U15s both finished a creditable 3rd in their respective tournaments. There have only been two age-group district tournaments in Hockey so far but the U15 girls (pictured below) were triumphant in theirs' and the U14s had their best results by getting through to the semi-final stages. 64 Hockerill students represented the College in the Cross-Country District Championships. The senior girls finished 3rd in the team event but individual honours went to Joe Humphreys (Year 8) who finished 1st out of 90 boys competing in his age group.

G Hodder



Hockey squad: Holly Lohmeyer (Captain), Jess Pugh, Eleanor Treadwell, Amber Wilson, Chloe Pepper, Hayley Brookhouse, Kelly McCarthy, Alex Ballard, Katie Vrylandt, Jen Lowe, Amy Goldsworthy, Lucy Davidson, Jess Easto.

Hockey Match Statistics

| | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 | 1st |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| played | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| won | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| lost | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| draw | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| goals+ | 0 | 16 | 0 | 15 | 10 |
| goals- | 7 | 1 | 12 | 4 | 13 |
| gd | -7 | 15 | -12 | 11 | -3 |

Rugby Match Statistics

| | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 | 1st |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| played | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| won | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| lost | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| draw | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| points+ | 61 | 179 | 118 | 120 | 121 |
| points- | 45 | 41 | 12 | 84 | 20 |
| pts dif +/- | 16 | 138 | 106 | 36 | 101 |

Scuba Diving Club News

During the term, 7 students (including Mr Dinwiddy!) have been working towards their Padi Open Water Certificate and on Wednesday 5th December they successfully completed their confined water aspect, ready to head to the blue waters of Sharm el Sheikh during the February half term break. After Christmas the advanced divers will have the opportunity to demonstrate their underwater skills before the club leaves for a week of underwater exploration at some of the best dive sites in the world. Keep making bubbles.

D & S Sinclair