



DownsMatters

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOWNS SCHOOL

WINTER TERM 2011



Christmas at The Downs



The Chamber Choir celebrated the festive season in style with performances in Cabot Circus for the Ronald McDonald charity as well as the annual Carol Service in Bristol Cathedral. Christmas Lunch with its attendant games and other attractions was as popular as ever with everyone (and Mr Gunn especially one suspects!). As well as all this, the Pre-Prep thrilled packed houses with their Nativity Plays as the real meaning of Christmas came once more to The Downs School in 2010.



Carol Service in Bristol Cathedral



Christmas Lunch and our Nativity Play





What a Knight!

And what a night it was! Despite the problems caused by cast illness, the boys and girls of Years 5 and 6, aided and abetted by ubiquitous gap student Vicky Henderson, put on a splendid show for three packed houses at the end of November. And what exactly happened on the night? Suffice it to say that the villainous Black Knight was suitably thwarted in his schemings to steal Excalibur and take over Camelot by the combined endeavours of some wonderfully dysfunctional knights plus the odd princess or four and a dragon. Watt Cobblers! No, honestly, it was really good!



The Changing of the Year

One of the wonderful things about being a member of The Downs community is the privilege of marking the changing of the year in our wonderful grounds. This year one of the most stunning autumns in living memory was quickly followed by a magical (if rather cold!) beginning to the winter. This aerial view of the school was taken just as the trees began to turn. Bereft of leaves by December, the same trees turned into a winter wonderland.



Sporting term hit by weather

For the second year running the girls' hockey and boys' rugby seasons came to a premature end. Last year it was the flu' that battered these seasons into an early submission; this year the frost was the culprit, effectively wiping out the last three weeks of the season. One major casualty was the Under 12 hockey team who, having been crowned as West Champions at the Prior Park tournament, were, temporarily, denied the opportunity to represent our area and compete in the National IAPS finals at Queenswood. This tournament will now take place in February.





Autumn Bazaar

The annual Autumn Bazaar proved as popular as ever with pupils and parents alike. Nails were painted, gooey stuff went all over the place and, most importantly of all, we were pleased to raise over £1300 for the Charlton House hospice from this event.

New Play Equipment

Pupils of all ages were pleased to see the first parts of the new woodland play equipment arrive in November. More is on its way for the spring!



Visit of Lord Rosser

The school was pleased to welcome Lord Rosser to Wroxall. Lord Rosser gave a very interesting talk to senior pupils about the workings of the House of Lords and its relationship with the House of Commons.



Year 3 in the woods

Our beautiful woodlands are a fantastic place to take pupils out to learn about all sorts of things. These members of Year 3 were out and about writing poems about bonfires – and enjoying the odd toasted marshmallow into the bargain!

Associated Board Music Examination Results

Katie Meredith	Piano	Grade 2	Merit
Charlotte Pavay	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Ellen Cooke	Piano	Grade 3	Pass
Chloe Wedlake	Flute	Grade 5	Distinction
Thomas Marshall	Alto Saxophone	Grade 1	Merit
Katie Meredith	Clarinet	Grade 1	Distinction
Bethan James	Singing	Grade 1	Merit
Katie Meredith	Singing	Grade 1	Distinction
Daniel Pitt	Piano	Grade 1	Pass
Melissa Rowlands	Piano	Grade 3	Pass
Abigail Gane	Piano	Grade 2	Pass
Melissa Rowlands	Trumpet	Grade 3	Pass
Chloe Wedlake	Descant Recorder	Grade 4	Distinction
Rosie Sewell	Treble Recorder	Grade 3	Distinction
Max Levy	Clarinet	Grade 5	Pass
Rosie Sewell	Singing	Grade 4	Distinction

Harvest Festival



Nailsea Festival 2010 Speech and Drama Results

The Nailsea Drama Festival took up the energies of many of our budding actors this term. Twenty six of our entrants were placed in their classes with lots of them having marks of over 80! Very well done to all of them.

Class 69 Solo Verse Speaking Year 3

1st	Lawrence Nemi-Clover	85
2nd	Ben Manson	84
3rd	Jason Phillips	83
3rd	Max Coetzee	83
3rd	Ellie Kennedy	83
3rd	Samuel Morgan	83
3rd	Milo Tuke	83
3rd	Cameron Davis	83
	Alicia Gerardi	82
	Joseph Chadwick	81
	Miriam Hathway	81
	Toby Milne	81
	Olivia Lixton	81
	Holli Thompson	80
	Archie Grayson	80
	Matt Thompson	80



Lawrence Nemi-Clover proudly shows his certificate and medal.

Class 70 Solo Verse Speaking Year 4

2nd	Marcella Holt	86
	Sophie Isaacs	84
	Jacob Thomson	83
	Augusta Arron	82
	Willem Cole	81
	Peter Leith	80

Class 71 Solo Verse Speaking Year 5

1st	Alexander Hann	86
2nd	Harry Vyvyan-Robinson	85
3rd	Lloyd Wotton	84

Class 72 Solo Verse Speaking Year 6

2nd	James Dickerson	84
3rd	Matthew Cherry	83

Class 73 Solo Verse Speaking Year 7 and 8

2nd	James Buck	84
3rd	Fraser Gough	83

Class 75 Poetry Duologue Year 3 and 4

	Sophie Isaacs & Augusta Arron	82
	Peter Leith & Willem Cole	82

Class 76 Poetry Duologue Year 5 and 6

2nd	Harry Holder & Jack Collard	85
	Francesca Holt & Olivia Dunn	83
	Matthew Cherry & James Dickerson	83

Class 77 Solo Drama Year 5 and 6

1st	Thomas Cain	85
3rd	Lucy Birnie	83
	James Dickerson	82
	Jessica Turner	81

Class 78 Solo Drama Year 7 and 8

1st	Rosie Sewell	86
2nd	Charlie Chadwick	85

Class 80 Drama Duologue Year 5 and 6

1st	Harry Holder & Jack Collard	86
2nd	Alexander Hann & Harry Vyvyan-Robinson	85
3rd	Henry Weston & Sam Chadwick	84
	Caitlin Wring & Isabella Wynn	82
	Zoe Sewell & Olivia Dunn	82
	Lloyd Wotton & (Alexander Hann)	81

Class 89 Reading Aloud Year 5 and 6

1st	Thomas Cain	86
2nd	Zoe Sewell	82