

## Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze Level Qualifying Expedition, June 2009

The Year 11s must have been relieved to get to the end of June. Revision? All done. Exams? Finally finished. Surely all that remained was a relaxing week of fun in the sun before departing Moor House for the final time?

Well, not quite...



Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June saw nine students from Year 11 take on their toughest Duke of Edinburgh challenge yet - the Qualifying Expedition! Okay, so there was fun in the sun, but I doubt anyone would call the weekend relaxing, exactly. The students had to navigate themselves (and their rucksacks, which weighed a tonne) up and down the mini-mountains in the Box Hill area - all this on the hottest weekend of the year.



While the happy memories of being with friends under blue cloudless skies will hopefully endure, I also hope that the horrors of sweat drenched T-shirts and the fetid stench of well walked in shoes will fade given enough time!



Both Alpha Team and Bravo Team did incredibly well, and this is no exaggeration. This being the Qualifying Expedition the students were not allowed any adult support at all - they had to

plan their route, work as a team to follow their route, get lost, get un-lost, set up their tents, cook their evening meal and breakfast the following morning, organise their own entertainment, get through a night in the woods, pack up camp and then get to the departure point - without any adult intervention at all.



And they did it. Not only did they successfully complete all of the above, including the journey which was 12 miles over hilly terrain, they did it all with good humour and teamwork, showing a maturity and independence that was heartening to see. They have set the bar high for the students that follow the Duke of Edinburgh in years to come.



Well done to all of the students who took part and who made it a weekend to remember.

Staff members on the trip were Laki Lee (Unit Leader), Jane Davies (Assessor) and Nick Hart (Supervisor).

Thanks also to Pat Crowhurst, Kim Hodge, Leanne Boyhan and Ivana Hooper for helping at checkpoints.



Please note, the above photos may give the impression that the students went into tribal mode in preparation to sacrifice a staff member for the abomination that is powdered milk. I am

pleased to report that this is not the case, as in fact the students were performing a campfire Haka. Mr. Mackwood, see what you have started!

Many thanks are due once again to the parents, staff, families and friends who support PSA fundraising events, and also to the PSA for organising the events and meetings. A funding contribution from the PSA enabled the school to purchase six new tents for use on the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, which were very much appreciated by the students. The funding also helped to pay for the satellite tracking systems which enabled staff to monitor the students progress and maintain safety.



Your kindness really does make a positive difference to the students and these are just a few examples of the way in which your generous donations are used. Please do continue to support the PSA!

Our thanks also go to the Catering department who provided an excellent selection of snacks and drinks for the students to take with them on the expedition.

Report by Mr. Hart.

## **SPORTS DAY REPORT**

This year's sports day started nervously as the weather threatened to spoil the day for our students. However the rain stayed away and the weather was instead humid and warm.

The programme was very similar to last year but with some slight alterations. We held the athletic events next door at Holland track. These ran until morning tea. By this time, the house competition had started to hot up. Ken Suzuki-Layhe was dominant in the sprint events again, as was Charlotte Parkin in the senior girls events. For the juniors, it was slightly more competitive with Sebastian Smith, Shaid Coventon-Webb and Will Gell all performing with distinction. The scores as we entered the football matches showed red house leading blue and green whilst yellow chased the pack.

The football events are always popular with the students and it proved so again. The juniors play in the sports hall while the seniors with age priority are given the field to play on. Parents can watch all events from either the mezzanine of the sports hall or in the now sun-baked sports field. The final points showed that blue and green were superior in both junior and

senior matches. Red struggled to field enough players in the senior competition, as did yellow in the juniors. This was to prove significant in the final placing later in the day.

Music provided by Charles Morton provided the backdrop to a lazy lunch, enjoyed by all in the beautiful British sunshine. But all good sports days must continue, as the fun events began.

These events are primarily for the junior students, but seniors are allowed to participate. Blue house certainly took advantage of this opportunity when selecting their teams. The students tried their best to win points for their house before the final event of the day, the notorious tug of war. It was here that Blue house showed their might with a clean sweep of Green house in the final to retain reinforce their dominance of the tug of war competition. The final points were then added up.

Whilst the points were being tallied, each house performed their haka against one another. This is a native war dance from New Zealand that all students learnt as a part of dance in the PE curriculum. The words were modified to reflect Moor House School, and most students relished the opportunity to perform it. Blue house with their vociferous staff were ferocious. Yellow were united in their line of attack. Green were house were brave despite their small numbers and Red house were defiant.

The final scores were received and the places were as follows;

1<sup>st</sup> – Blue  
2<sup>nd</sup> – Green  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Red  
4<sup>th</sup> – Yellow

It was another successful and enjoyable sports day. My thanks go to the staff who helped out all day, and also the parents for their support. The highest praise however must go to the Moor House students who were once again the stars of sports day. Not even the weather could affect their day. And it was clear to all, that with or without the sun, the students from the 4 house teams of Moor House School did all the shining.

Mr D Mackwood

### **LEAVERS DAY**

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July students and staff of Moor House School bade a final farewell to our Year 11 students. Everyone assembled in the sports hall for a celebration of the achievements of these students who have grown into confident and successful young adults who should feel very proud of the excellent progress they have made whilst at Moor House School.

Many compliments were paid about the work of the School by the parents and everyone was able to share in the wonderful atmosphere of the day.

Many of the students made a personal and often moving address and the self confidence they all showed in speaking to such a large audience was a wonderful to see.

At the end of the assembly the traditional 'circle of friendship' allowed each member of the school community to say a personal goodbye to the leavers, shake their hands and, in some cases, let the younger children give them a hug. After a lovely lunch in Northanger, the students and their families left in a cavalcade of cars flanked on either side of the drive by student and staff waving and cheering them off. All the departing students are invited to the fete in 2010 and we wish them all the very best of luck and success in their new ventures.



### **VISIT FROM COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER**

Helen Townsend, the local youth police community support officer, visited MHS to tell students about her job. She then talked to the Key Stage 3 students about keeping safe. She will be back to talk to the Year 11s in September.

### **EDUCATIONAL VISITS**

3F, 3E and 3H visited the London Docklands Museum on the 25<sup>th</sup> June. It was a sweltering day which started by getting the train to London Bridge and then on a tube to Canary Wharf. Getting off the tube into Canary Wharf was like arriving at an imaginary world of huge glass.

buildings alongside smaller old stone ones. We walked to the museum which wasn't far and on the way stopped to see an amazing piece of art that was drawn on the pavement and when viewed through a special lens looked 3D. It was of a waterfall and looked very realistic. The museum itself was very small. The staff were very friendly and showed us around. There were a lot of other schools there. The Moor House children were very well behaved in amongst them. We looked around the Sugar and Slavery exhibition and learnt how black African slaves were traded for sugar or other produce such as cotton or tobacco. We saw some amazing pictures of some very old black African female slaves who were all over 100 years. There were lots of paintings of black slaves which showed how poorly they were treated. It was an interesting but short exhibition. We spent the rest of the time looking round at other exhibits there and eating our lunch in the sun. Mrs. Clarke even bought us all an ice cream by the River Thames!

Report by Mrs. Lee



## **Year 10 Camp Out on the School Field**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July students in Year 10 had the option to camp out on the school field. The idea originated in the mind of a Year 10 student who saw what the Duke of Edinburgh students in Year 11 had been doing on their Bronze Level expeditions, and who wanted to do something similar on a smaller scale for the Year 10s as an end of year treat.

Clearly, this is an example of how having a good idea and putting it forward in the appropriate way can get results!

Most Year 10s (12 out of the 15 that were in school) took part in the activity which began at 6pm with setting up the tents. This was followed by a tasty barbecue dinner served on the lawn outside Northanger, cooked by Mrs. Lee who volunteered to help for the evening.



At around 8pm the majority of the school returned into the school building, leaving the school field open for the Year 10s to enjoy themselves with impromptu games of 'manhunt' and 'cops and robbers' as the sun began to set. As the temperature dropped, students were glad to have a warm campfire to sit around while chatting and toasting marshmallows, before one final game of manhunt in near darkness.

Students settled into sleeping bags and tents at around 10.30pm although quite a bit of chatting and giggling was heard for the following hour, clear evidence of a fun time being had!



The following morning dawned with beautiful weather, with most students waking to the glow of sunlight on their faces. Although Nick and George were the early birds, rising at 6.30-ish, many students slept so well that they actually needed to be roused from the comfort of their sleeping bags at 7.15-ish to ensure that they would be ready for their final day of Work Experience. It seems to be true that teenagers are pretty good at sleeping in almost any set of conditions!

Many thanks are due to Darren Heine for agreeing to join in and sleep out on the field, to Mrs. Lee for the cooking and for the loan of her megatent for the staff, to the Residential Care Department for their flexibility in allowing the event to take place, to the catering department for providing the food, to the PSA and those who contribute to PSA fundraisers for the tents that the students used, and to David Uren who had the idea for the evening.

Report by Mr. Hart

## **TRASH WEEK**



The final week of the Summer term was devoted to 'Trash Week', a week long series of workshops and fun activities based upon the theme of Recycling. Each teacher ran a dedicated activity which all students were able to participate in. These included paper making, 'water rockets', toy making, a fashion show, Morris dancing and a musical stomp amongst many others.



For each activity recycled materials were used, including clothes from the local Oxfam shop.



We were also fortunate enough to have the services of Rob Luck from Tandridge Council and the 'Recycling Robot' who gave us all some important messages about recycling and kept the children suitably entertained.



In addition Cas Holmes, a freelance artist, showed the students how to make beautifully patterned prints using ink and twigs.

The culmination of all this hard work and creativity was a most fantastic assembly on the Friday, attended by many of the parents, which showed off the skill and ingenuity of our students.

Congratulations go to all the students and our thanks to all staff who worked with and supported them.

However, our very special thanks must go to Mrs Bridgette Greig, who conceived the idea and coordinated it with such drive, energy and professionalism. Without Bridgette's commitment to the whole project, it would not have been the resounding success that it was.

