

# the avenue

summer 2010



## From the Head

Writing to introduce a new edition of *The Avenue* is always a pleasure as it prompts me to think back over the tremendous amount that the school, or more particularly, the pupils have achieved since our last publication.

Most vivid in my mind is a wonderful 'Friends and Families Day'. We were fortunate once again to have good weather and many parents, friends and Old Scholars enjoyed touring the school, watching cricket or drama or the entertainment provided by the Junior School children as they danced around their maypoles. As usual, they were quite enchanting. The highlights for many, however, are the speeches made by our outgoing Quartet. Each one of them spoke eloquently and wittily about their time at Friends' and what the school means to them. They represented their fellow students with distinction and we all wish them and their classmates 'good luck' for the future.

Other 'highlights' have included some inspirational art and photography exhibited as part of GCSE and A level, captivating open air performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and a 'Summer Soiree' which showcased the talent of some of our younger Senior School performers. Meanwhile, our Middle School Band entertained Saffron Walden residents at



the town's bandstand, giving a highly polished performance. We are also looking forward to hearing news from the music department's tour to Paris and Euro Disney at the end of term. Watch this space!

The tendency is to look inwards, towards our own achievements, but we are fully aware of the world beyond Friends' and of those needier than ourselves. This has been most evident at the Great Westgarth Run, our fundraising for Dalit children and our 'One Goal' campaign (which coincided with the World Cup!) to raise awareness of the 75 million children worldwide who still have no education. Individuals and groups have been passionate supporters of many other charities and I am extremely proud of the social consciences that our pupils show throughout the year.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Avenue* and the flavour of life at Friends' that it brings.

Graham Wigley

## Father Eric Stops By to Say Thank You

Father Eric, one of the founders of the Loyola School for Dalit children in North Karnataka, India visited Friends' this term to speak to a number of students about how funds raised by our students and staff have been used.

He explained how Loyola School was established to educate Dalit children who are viewed as 'untouchables' by their society. Pupils heard how the school seeks to build their students' sense of self worth and provide an all round education taught through only the medium of English. They also heard from Father Eric how the school provides a real opportunity for its pupils to escape the perpetual poverty trap, enabling them to look forward to a future where they can serve their communities.

Further events are planned to raise funds to sponsor children at Loyola School and to raise awareness of the Dalit's plight among our own students enabling them to share in Father Eric's mission.



## 1GOAL Campaign at Friends'

For the duration of the world cup tournament, staff and pupils have been adding their voices to the global 1GOAL campaign. A campaign that, by raising our voices all over the world, can make education a reality for the millions of boys and girls who remain out of school. On Friday 25th June, pupils and staff from Nursery to Sixth Form gathered in the sunshine on the school field to form a 'flashmob' (a sudden gathering of people who come together to participate in a preplanned activity, and then disperse in a flash). The organisation usually relies upon the use of e-mail and word of mouth. Our flashmob was in response to a request made on YouTube by the singer Shakira who asked supporters of the 1GOAL campaign to upload videos of themselves performing a special dance to her world cup anthem Waka Waka (this time for Africa). Year 7, who have been talking about government in PSHE and learning how important it is to make your opinions known to those in power, spread the word throughout the school and made sure that everyone knew the dance, the time and the place.

Our video will be available to view on YouTube via a link from the news page of the school website.



## New Friends for the Junior School

Fluff, Daisy and Isobel, three new residents for the Junior School, have been enjoying their new dwelling and making the most of all the recent attention. Year 2, as part of their animals and plants topic, have had the responsibility of caring for the chickens and collecting their eggs. They have also had the exciting job of incubating some of the chicken's eggs in their classroom, seeing them hatch and now watching the chicks grow. They proved a popular attraction on both Friends and Families Day and Grandparents' afternoon and an even more popular addition to the school's eco friendly environment.

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

This term saw our aspiring actors perform an open-air version of Shakespeare's, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Richard Smith, Head of Drama, and director of the play said, " We wanted to produce 'Midsummers' with a simple remit, those who wanted to, would. The uptake was so enthusiastic that we effectively had two casts over the two performances. It has been fascinating to watch the young actors working on Shakespeare and they have all developed their acting skills during the process."

Friends' 'Bring a Brolly Shakespeare' took place on the school grounds, as it did some 99 years ago, almost to the day. In 1911 students at Friends' School performed the same play on Coronation day. This time around the performance saw students from age 11 through to 18 take on Shakespeare's characters and the audience enjoy a picnic, good weather (on the Sunday!) and a wonderful atmosphere.

Special thanks to Abby Dwinell, our drama assistant who has helped enormously with the direction of the play and also to those sixth formers involved who have provided a huge amount of support and encouragement to the younger cast members.

## Fashion for Charity

Late April saw Friends' host a highly successful fashion show, superbly organised by Emma Taylor (6i), which raised in excess of £350 for The Rainbow Trust. Both students and staff modelled a wide range of clothes to a very appreciative audience.



## A Clear Majority at Friends'

Pupils celebrated a clear victory after their recent general election. Each of the five parties represented; Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, the Green Party and UKIP gave two presentations during assembly, one on the implications for young people and the other on their general policies. Pupils who were involved in the task ranged from Year 7 to Sixth Form with each group taking care to research their parties' policies and manifestos.

The polling station was busy with an 80% turnout of voters. The Quartet were returning officers and during the final assembly of the week, announced the Conservative Party had gained the majority of the votes. The representative for the winning party, Matthew Richardson (Year 7) was generous in his acceptance. The Liberal Democrats came in 2nd followed by the Green Party, UKIP and Labour.

The Junior School also ran their own election with four candidates, all Year 6, vying for the top spot. Zoe Kaye stood for the Liberal Democrats, Henry Wilson for the Conservatives, Oliver Northover was the candidate for Labour and Theo Wrigley represented the Monster Raving Loony Party, a small and relatively unknown quantity. Each candidate presented their case during a school assembly and with an 83% turnout a clear winner emerged.

Zoe Kaye of the Liberal Democrats was elected with a 41% majority, and dressed entirely in orange, thanked her public for their support. MRLP came 2nd with 28%, closely followed by Conservatives. Labour came in at 4th.



## A Trip to Constable Country for Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed an event filled few days at the Flatford Mill Field Centre in Suffolk. Among other things they followed in the steps of John Constable, attempting to sketch and paint in his style. The centre also offered an extensive science programme, which included pond dipping, small mammal trapping and mini beast tracking which were enjoyed by all. The good weather added to the experience, as did the delicious food and comfortable accommodation.



## Great Westgarth Run – a great success!



Over 500 participants arrived to sunshine and a fantastic atmosphere to compete in the 5km run, Murphy's Run (2.5km) or take part in the Walker's Stroll.

All who attended were thrilled to see Sue at the event, but none more than her past students who proudly wore a message written especially for Sue on their shirts.

Local and national representatives from the Motor Neurone Disease Association attended the day, which could not have happened without the support of local businesses and volunteers and also Friends' School extensive community. Many thanks to them all.

Funds raised totalled £15,000 and a cheque for this amount was presented to the MND Association at Graffam Water in June.



## A Visit to Wandlebury for Reception

Reception enjoyed a visit to Wandlebury on a warm fine May morning as part of their topic on Spring and minibeasts. It provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to explore the natural surroundings and also for them to take part in exciting activities such as pond dipping, a mini beast hunt and a very close look at a very busy beehive. The trip provided a valuable way of seeing their topic in action.



## Sports Highlights

### Cricket

#### U11

- Kwik Cricket - Friends' played well to beat Howe Green by 63 runs.
- Kwik Cricket - another solid performance v Fairstead House to win by, again, 63 runs.
- The first Kwik Cricket League match v Katherine Semar saw the closest of matches with Friends' winning the game on the last ball bowled.
- The first hardball match of the season saw a narrow loss to Felsted. It was a closely fought match with James Benstead and Alex Emsden batting well.
- The 1st team played RAB in the Kwik Cricket League. Friends' bowled and fielded well but narrowly lost by 13 runs.

#### U13

- Many of the team are new to the game but have been improving steadily because of their commitment to training and fixtures.
- A narrow Loss to SWCHS by 9 runs despite strong performances from Ben Winfield (50 not out) and Matt Peet (19 runs). Wickets: Ben Winfield 2, Matt Peet 2, Toby Harris 2 and Alex Van Enis 2.
- Loss to St Mary's by 3 wickets. Friends' made 75 for 6 off 20 overs while St Mary's 77 for 7 off 15 overs. Again, well done to Ben Winfield (36 runs) and Matt Peet (19 runs). Wickets were shared between Aunik Hussain, Zac Deller (2 each) and Ben and Sam Winfield.

#### U15

- Friends won against Stoke by 26 runs. James Taylor (29) and Callum Riley (31) batted well while Tom Linney (3 wickets) and Josh Greenwood (a hatrick-3 wickets) bowled superbly.
- A loss to SWCHS for Year 9. Friends' made 88 for 7 off 20 overs while SWCHS made 89 for 4 off 19.1 overs.
- The Year 9 team won against the Year 10 team for the second year in a row. Stephen Douglas (3 wickets) and Will Eve (50 runs retired) both put in a strong performance.
- An exciting win against Newport by 8 wickets with 3 balls to spare. Archie Baron bowled well with figures of 4 for 32.

### Girls' Rounders

#### Year 7/8

- Performed well against Leventhorpe. The A team won (15-5) as did the B team (12-4). Well done to Libby Taylor who batted well to score 5 rounders.
- Two more excellent performances against Stansted Mountfitchet (12-9) and Stoke College (20-7).

#### Year 9/10

- A 15-10 loss to Freman College. Annie Scholfield batted and fielded extremely well.
- A draw against Leventhorpe with Poppy Greenwood batting well to score 5 rounders.
- Year 9 won against Hockerill 10-7. Libby Whitfield and Minnie Folland both took excellent catches.

### Girls Hockey and Netball Tour to Holland

The Girls Under 15 Hockey and Under 13 Netball tour to Holland at Easter was a great success. The standard of coaching received by both hockey players and netballers was extremely high and helped the girls improve their individual skills and game play. The hockey team won 1 match, drew 3 and lost 1. As well as sport, the girls took part in a number of excursions and activities, with the theme park at the end of the tour being the highlight. Thanks to all staff involved.

Jen Allwood

### Top Level Training for our Athletes

A group of our talented athletes received a day of coaching from the former British decathlete, Darren Hattan. He provided insight to the finer techniques involved in sprinting, hurdling, high jump and javelin. Students were given the opportunity to improve their athletic skills as they practised these top-level techniques alongside Darren. They also enjoyed the chance to ask questions about representative competition and Darren's participation and performance at the Commonwealth Games.



## Sports Day 2010

We were again blessed with beautiful weather for this year's sports day.



There were a number of excellent races with extremely close finishes. We were delighted with the spirit in which pupils competed, supporting each other and celebrating each other's successes.



The field events saw Libby Whitfield beat the 1987 shot put record, Callum Riley and Jed Hunter beat the 'new' long jump and shot put records respectively in the Year 10 boys events.

On the track Hannah Irwin was outstanding, especially in the longer distance events. She beat the 1986 800m record and the 'new' 1500m record. The Year 9 girls flew round the track with Annie Scholfield breaking the 'new' 100m and 200m records, Libby Whitfield the 800m record and Kate Rawlings the 1500m record. Jocelyn Jarman broke the Year 10 800m record.

James Cochrane just missed breaking the 'old' Year 10 800m record but set a 'new' record with a fantastic run. Callum Riley rocketed in the Year 10 sprints beating both the 100m and 200m times.

Congratulations to Mennell House who won with 900 points. Tuke came second with 852 points followed by Lister with 830. Well done to all those students involved in what was another successful sports day.

### Junior School Sports Day

After the washout of the previous week, Friday 18th June dawned overcast and chilly but this did not deter the athletes at Friends' Junior school. The Infant Sports Day began promptly at 10.30 and was a triumph of organisation with children and parents getting involved in the mixture of athletic events including such favourites as the parachute games and hurdle races. In the afternoon the Junior competition was intense and after two hours of activity the houses were neck and neck. At the end of a very successful day Fry were victorious with 526 points, only two ahead of Cadbury with Penn a very close third.



Friends' School  
Saffron Walden  
01799 525351  
admin@friends.org.uk

Friends' Junior School  
01799 525351  
adminjs@friends.org.uk

