

THE PYTHON NEWS

N°



8° March 2009



THE POETRY COMPETITION

In this edition of the Python News you can read the poem by **Jacopo Dosi Delfini, Year 11**, that was awarded the second prize in our annual Poetry Competition.

It's always great to see a new member of the school community get involved in established events – and particularly rewarding when their efforts are recognised in front of the whole student body. Jacopo's entry for the annual Senior Poetry Competition is as effective in its printed form as it was when he read it out at the whole school assembly at the end of term. A huge "Well Done!" on a thoroughly deserved Second Place in the 2009 competition.

Heroes and Heroines

We will take everybody down
 Destroy the dusty and cobwebbed pillars of history,
 Tear the shards of old culture to floating,
 Meaningless shreds.

For we are heroes

We will affront the world of adulthood
 And thrust down the laws
 That have chained us long from the elders top
 Of outdated power.

For we are brave

We shall flee and never turn back
 There will be no need of writing
 We can remember this.
 It does not matter where
 But we must go on now

I'm sure this is right

Nobody will get at us
 Nobody will nag us
 We shall be free as ever.
 We shall do what we want
 Whatever we ever, ever want

That's what I've been told

One day we will do that . You wait!
 We will do it as soon as we have the time,
 We shall drop homework,
 Forget whatever we were doing
 And go.... Just you wait.
 And yes, mum, we will be home
 Before tea.

Jacopo Dosi Delfini

Duke Of Edinburgh Trip to Lecco

On Saturday, February 6th, eighteen students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award went on a day walk in the Lecco area. This was a training day, enabling them to improve their map reading and orienteering skills. We needed volunteer teachers for this walk, preferably someone who could help explain the basics of navigation (map and compass) as the students are still learning. This involved walking with a group of 4 to 6 year 10 students for around five hours and it was indeed a great learning experience. Many thanks to **Vicky Verani, Mike Heseltine** and **Paul Ingram** for volunteering.

Justin Clements



Marathon to help Haiti

On 21st February I had hoped to run the Verona Marathon but had to put this effort off because of illness until the Brescia Marathon on 14th March. I am running to raise money for Haiti Emergency Relief, with **Save the Children** (<http://www.savethechildren.org/countries/latin-america-caribbean/haiti.html>), a charity which is helping to provide emergency medical and food supplies, shelters and clean water. I have already been promised 424.60 euro in sponsorship thanks to 29 very generous teachers and student donators!

I am now writing to ask you to support another staff sponsored run for those who didn't hear about my fundraiser. Ms Lee, Ms Barbian and Ms Doegar, are running the 10 kilometer race in Milan on March 21st also to raise funds for Haiti, this time with UNICEF. Knowing that they are helping people far away, who are fighting to rebuild their lives and their country, will certainly help to keep them going but it is no small feat what they are doing. If you would like to sponsor them, they can be contacted by e-mail at the following address: lauren.barbian@sjschool.com mala.doegar@sjschool.com and katy.lee@sjschool.com.

Gareth Gorst

Jazz at Sir James



On the 19th of November we were privileged to welcome the internationally known '**Kevin Harris Project**' into school to do a series of workshops and give a concert. The *Kevin Harris Project* is a jazz trio from Boston consisting of piano, bass and drums. Kevin Harris himself, who played the piano, is both a wonderful musician and a keen educator, believing

profoundly in sharing and experiencing music together no matter what our age. In the morning students from Year 6, Year 9 and musicians from Years 10-13 took part in practical workshops exploring different types of music including blues, Latin and jazz. During lunchtime Kevin and the trio engaged in a jam session with students, and in the afternoon they gave a concert for **Year 8 students**, musicians from Years 10-13 and parents.

It was clear that all the students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such skilled and enthusiastic musicians. It was also a first encounter for most students of Jazz as a live experience. My thanks to Mr. Dillow for supporting this initiative, and my thanks to the *Kevin Harris Project*. I hope to see them here at Sir James again in the future.

Amanda Patrick



ART news

What is Art?



Year 12 students have enjoyed producing a ToK Art exhibition in the Upper School this week. Each student created a piece of art work, ranging from sculptures to photos to paintings and then evaluated each other's works of art in light of the work they have been doing on Aesthetics recently. The students proved to be insightful and perceptive critics and produced some impressive works of art in an attempt to answer the big question: What is Art?

Katy Lee & John Plommer



The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music says the following about itself. "To build on our 120 years inspiring generations of musicians, we provide charitable donations, scholarships and sponsorships, as well as acting as an advocate for music education. We do all we can to give music a voice in public life because we believe it has the power to change people's lives." ABRSM benefits from links with four leading UK conservatoires: [Royal Academy of Music](#), London; [Royal College of Music](#), London ; [Royal Northern College of Music](#) Manchester; [Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama](#), Glasgow. Over 620,000 candidates take ABRSM examinations each year in over ninety countries. The ABRSM was introduced at the Sir James by Gregory Wright when he was the Director of Music in 1976. We gained the status of being the Centre for the Board for the North of Italy at that time. St George's in Rome acted as the centre for the south of the country. Our students are prepared by a team of professional teachers and examined twice a year in Performance and the Theory of Music. The examinations are highly regarded and now form part of the National Qualifications Framework. Grades 6 – 8 also attract points for entrance to University in the UK. Students from the Sir James regularly achieve some of the highest grades on the International circuit. Visit the website for more detailed information.



Y11 History Trip

In September 2009, after months of anxiously waiting, the London trip was confirmed: a Year 11 "History exclusive". On October 5th we were all very excited to catch our plane. We had a lot of waiting to do as the tube ride from the airport to the hotel was about as long as the plane ride! We all thought we would be sleeping in the following morning, but **Mr. Murgatroyd**, Miss Fenton and **Mr Plommer** had other ideas as we all had to buy lunch before 9 am to take to Bletchley Park. Our visit there was very enjoyable. We learned about the code breakers in W.W. II - and even got to crack some codes of our own - as well as using the Enigma machine. We then had some time to get a "personal experience" of London (aka free time) and later on in the evening went to an Indian restaurant. The following day was busy. We went to the British Museum in the morning and



we were surprised that there was even a Beatles exhibition. In the afternoon we were able to enjoy the view from a 33 storey tower! It was amazing to see London from above, especially the East End, where we were about to go for the

Jack the Ripper tour. We were all glued to the windows! The Ripper Tour was fun (despite the pouring rain). In the evening we went to see a marvellous West End play called "War Horse" which ended very late. The next morning, our last in London, we visited the Imperial War Museum, which had cool activities such as a real trench to walk in (even if it smelled like earth and sea water). We then went on a guided tour of the Winston Churchill war cabinet bunker at Whitehall. This had interesting documents such as his school reports. After this it was time to leave. We flew back to Milan, tired but happy. The London trip was great fun and I'd like to thank everyone for making it a memorable experience. (Team Murgatroyd was, of course, the best!)

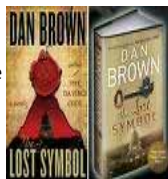
Y11 Student



RECOMMENDED READING

The school said goodbye to **Anna Lillie** at the end of February. Ms Lillie spent two years at the Sir James during which a corridor developed into a library and IB Centre that was recently admired by a visiting inspector for the **Cambridge Examinations Board**. The project was created by Mr Wright but came alive under the close supervision of Miss Lillie. The Python News thank her for her 'Reading Updates' which appeared in every edition.

Lost Symbol – Dan Brown: Have you read the last few Dan Brown books, do you want to read the new one – set in Washington. Robert Langdon is asked to deliver a lecture last minute in the Capitol Building. Just after his arrival there is an object with 5 symbols gruesomely encoded beckoning him towards a long lost world which has remained hidden until now!



Alumni News

Niccolo Avanzo graduated from the Sir James in the summer of 2008, gaining a place to read Economics at Royal Holloway University in London. As well as doing very well on his course, Nick has been successful in gaining an internship for the summer at Credit Suisse in London after a very competitive application process involving six interviews! Nick is hoping to impress his bosses at Credit Suisse as there is the potential of a permanent job there after graduation should he do well on the internship. Well done, Nick!

BLACKBIRD DAY 28th January

By Caleb Negron

"In Charity there is no excess." Sir Francis Bacon

Within Italian folklore there is a legend of a white bird and her chicks that have taken refuge in a chimney while waiting for food being collected by father bird. Upon his return he found his family were black, all covered in soot. It is said that since that time blackbirds were always black and the last three days in January, which are often the coldest in the year, are called Blackbird Days.

This local legend gives us the opportunity to reflect on the needs of the poor and all those who suffer from cold and loneliness especially in this season. This time of year the school commemorates the legend with a contribution to the poor and needy in our community. For the charity **Opera Cardinal Ferrari**, a day centre for people in need, the students had the chance to take part in helping the less fortunate and collected woolies, hygienic products and non-perishable foods.

Students who have contributed on this Blackbird Day should be proud and know that someone in need is feeling better outside and on the inside because you cared enough to help. *Friends* too are very proud of the students and the outcome of this effort.



On Thursday, 11th February, we had a very special visitor to the school, **Antonio Stanzone**. Many of you will still remember Antonio I'm sure but for those of you who have just joined the school, Antonio was one of the Sir James bus drivers in the days when the school was the proud owner of two large yellow buses.

When we sold the buses and began to outsource the service to Eurocar, Antonio joined the 'Premises Management Team'. One day, as he was making his way to school, he was knocked down by a car on a crossing in via Feltre. He was injured so badly that a helicopter was called to the scene to take Antonio to hospital. Antonio has made a miraculous recovery but unfortunately has suffered serious brain damage among other things.



In the next issue:

- U14 Girls Football Trip to British School in Paris / Y12 Geography Field Trip / 9 - 11 Feb Upper School Swimming Gala / 24 – 25° Feb Lower School Swimming Gala / Y9 Trip to Rome - 5-8 March Music Trip to Luzern - 17° March LS Book Fair - 22-23 March LS Book Week