



HEADMASTER'S NOTES

What News?

Nearly 80 years have passed since the 6.30 p.m. Good Friday BBC Bulletin in April 1930 when the news opened with the announcement: There is no news today. An unlikely scenario for the 2009 news and also for any school. But, as things go, there is still an air of anticipation about the term before the larger events unfolds, so thin gruel this week.

Meetings and Greetings

There were three gatherings during the week and the opportunity for parents of boys in Years 4 to Reception to meet their appropriate class teachers was taken up with alacrity. This was a chance early on for everyone to meet and to exchange ideas about the year ahead. It occurred a month or so before more formal meetings of the same year groups. The evening ended with a short presentation by Charlotte Hunt and Tania Sewell, who introduced themselves as the new faces of POW and by Ruth Henson introducing herself as the Director of Liaison between parents and staff. Parents of the Choristers also met to consider plans and there is talk of a tour sometime later in the year, not transatlantic, but maybe mid-European and also for services to be sung by the Choir in St. Mary's, Merton and possibly a cathedral trip to Guildford in the spring. On Tuesday evening, there was spirited and vigorous debate at the first Governors' Meeting of the year held in the History Room. Marcus Tattersall attended the meeting as the staff representative and a number of practical issues were discussed, which should bear constructive fruit shortly.

Strictly 7C

The first salvo of the celebrations for the 125th came with Class 7C's presentation in Wednesday's Assembly. They retold some of the early anecdotes of the school in Putney, sang an original school song from Willington in the era of King Edward VII and, demonstrating the typical activities of the day, took to the dance floor. Ed from Dundonald Church gave an excellent presentation of the life and career of C.T. Studd, a contemporary of W.G. Grace, who played cricket for England and was immensely rich, but who threw wealth and sport away to promote the gospel in the Congo. Ruth Henson has now identified her hero for the term as Moses, still early in his career travelling in a wicker basket. By way of contrast, Monday's Assembly was about US automobile licence plates and the intriguing story behind the rather forbidding Missouri motto: Show me.

Opening Moves

So predictably for an English autumn, rain greeted the first day of the football fixture season and, in the eyes of King's Junior, the downfall was sufficiently heavy for all four matches to be cancelled. With the crowded calendars of our schools nowadays, these fixtures cannot be rearranged. However, the day dawned brighter on Wednesday for the Priory fixtures. Our Head Coach writes: There was a bumper crowd at Drax on Wednesday to enjoy the annual curtain raiser to the season against Priory. The 1st XI, containing a sprinkling of Year 7 boys making their debuts, started nervously, but won admirers with their quick and fluid passing game. If they had been more clinical in front of goal, the 3-1 final score would have been greater. Special mention to Nattie Tong and Devon Chinyamakobvu. There will be tougher tests along the way, starting with the Parkside 7s tomorrow, where the balls pulled from the bag have matched us with neighbours Rokeby and Shrewsbury House. The 2nd XI had their shooting boots on and there were many pleasing performances in their 10-0 victory, suggesting there is strength in depth in the reserves.

Varia

Published this week are the successful names of the Company that will perform *Azincourt* next March. Next Tuesday, Year 7 are off on a Gamelan Workshop. There are more fixtures against Priory and Surbiton Prep. Year 1 are visiting Bethnal Green Toy Museum. On the pitch, the U13s have again been invited to put out a 5 aside team in the annual Northcote Lodge Tournament. The autumn is gathering momentum.