



French Trip



Ashley Rooke hangs on during the assault course

The last week of the summer holidays is fast becoming the "French Trip Week" and this year marks our fifth visit to the Chateau de la Baudonnière which was as successful as ever.

The party included pupils from Years 7 and 8 and we all spent a happy, productive and highly educational week in a French environment, learning and practising new skills.

The trip is extremely popular and it can now be said that over 90% of our current Year 8 pupils have been on a French Trip during their time in senior prep. The Château sits in a parkland setting and boasts a lake and forest in deepest Normandy. It caters for school groups and offers an all round activity programme which is combined with total immersion in the French language. Activities include photography, orienteering, bread making and the infamous muddy assault course. Excursions included a visit to the walled town of Dinan, with a clock tower that dates back to the 15th century, and Mont-Saint-Michel, a rocky islet with a famous gothic Abbey.

At all times we were totally immersed in the French language, whether in oral classroom sessions, communicating around the Château, during activities or at mealtimes. Our pupils had the assistance of "animateurs", who took every opportunity to engage them in conversation.

It remains for me to thank the staff who accompanied the trip, Mlle de Luis and Mr Gibbons. Merci beaucoup et à l'année prochaine! Mme Gassmann.



Kit Hollingsworth, Sophie Coates, Lucy Rowell, Saffron Wilford and Violet Taylor set sail for France

Science at Brandeston



Katherine Ridley learns the art of falconry



Becky O'Leary is shocked by how fun science can be

There have been many highlights this year for the Science department. Most notable were the Science Common Entrance results with 41% of pupils in Year 8 achieving A and A* grades.

Another important event of the year was Science week which included trips to Jimmy's farm, Colchester Zoo and the Science and Natural History Museum. Back at school we had visits from the 'Nite Owls' for pupils from Nursery through to Year 8; Michael Doy a local beekeeper gave a very informative talk on his passion for bees and Suffolk county council carried out recycling workshops for Years 2 - 4. In addition, Martin Rapley, the 'Bug man' arrived with his menagerie of snakes, toads, frogs, newts and lizards and introduced a 'hands on sessions' to all pupils.

There were also river studies, volcanoes and cola bottles exploding. Marble runs, spaghetti, marshmallow and straw tower challenges were battled out. Kaleidoscopes, clocks and foam gliders were constructed and nature art and slime made.



George Coulson and Oliver King make a new friend

And finally, in the Black and White Hall, we had chicks hatching out and growing at a quite phenomenal speed. All 11 chicks have now been adopted by 3 very excited Year 8 girls.

Forthcoming Events 2010

Open Mornings

Our Nursery 'Little Bears at Brandeston Hall' & Pre-Prep
9.30 to Midday, Friday 22nd January

Brandeston Hall

9.30 to Midday, Saturday 23rd January

If you would like to attend please contact Mrs Lucy Bryanton

Holiday Activities - Football, Badminton, Swimming & Cricket
15th - 19th February

Multi-Sport

29th & 30th March

Further details can be found under Activities on the website

Ready, Steady, Cook

On Friday 25th September pupils from Brandeston Hall took part in a version of the popular BBC television programme **Ready, Steady, Cook**.

Chartwells, the school's catering consultants, set up the cookery contest which featured two teams of three Year 8 pupils, together with a member of staff acting as their mentor. The pupils were given a variety of ingredients and had 15 minutes to prepare a main course in front of their friends. The Red team, led by Head Boy Charlie Green, produced a dish of chicken in a tomato ragu sauce with wilted greens and pasta. Meanwhile the Green team, who were captained by Amanda Birch, prepared a vegetable balti, Indian spiced potatoes and pilau rice. To help decide which way they should vote, a number of pupils were chosen from the audience and given the opportunity to be food critics and tasters. Throughout the presentation the emphasis was on eating a balanced and healthy diet, while demonstrating how much fun cooking can be, even at 12. The Red team were the winners by the narrowest of margins and the pupils were able to sample the two dishes which were served at lunchtime.

The verdict was a unanimous one - the food was delicious and everyone had learnt a lot about healthy eating and cooking.



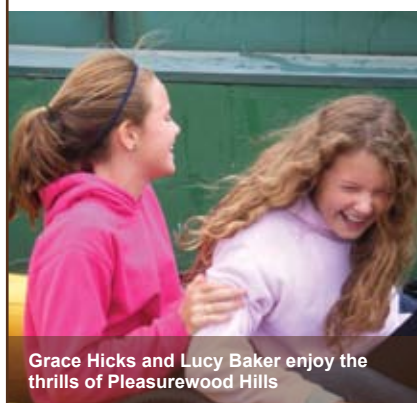
Bonfire Night

The torrential rain and gales that plagued the day eventually stopped and we able to go ahead with our annual firework display and massive bonfire. The event was well attended by pupils, parents, grandparents, staff and nearby villagers and we were overwhelmed with more than 70 pumpkins that had been carefully crafted by our young pupils. We just about managed to light all of the candles before the end of the evening.



Boarding at Brandeston Hall

The school is delighted to report that boarding is flourishing, with over a third of pupils from Years 3 to 8 boarding at some stage in the week. Weekends are as busy as ever with activities to suit everybody. Among the highlights has been a trip to Pleasurewood Hills to allow everyone to get to know each other; a mobile climbing wall that challenged us all; and a night under canvas in the school grounds. Congratulations must go to *Charlie Green, Sebastian Treacy, Roman Engelbrecht, Karen Li and Lilie Waring* who were appointed Ambassadors (Boarding Prefects) earlier in the term.



Grace Hicks and Lucy Baker enjoy the thrills of Pleasurewood Hills



Brandon Langridge scales new heights

Excellent standard set for new Poetry Competition

To celebrate National Poetry Day on October 8th, Brandeston held their first "Poetry By Heart" competition, which was organised by Mrs Vass. Every child from Years 5 to Year 8 entered for the chance to represent their year and become the reigning Junior or Senior Champion. The aim of the competition was to discover and celebrate the richness of the spoken word.

The contestants held the audience enthralled by superb recitals of their allocated poems and the judges found it very difficult to choose from such a high standard. After much deliberation, **Sophie Grose** was awarded Junior winner for her reading of Lear's 'The Owl and the Pussycat' and the Senior prize was awarded to **Kitty Dunham** for her moving rendition of Auden's 'Funeral Blues'.



Mrs Vass with Kitty Dunham and Sophie Grose

Skern Lodge 2009

Brandeston Hall has now been organising trips to Skern Lodge since 1987.

This year's trip was a roaring success, with the traditional activities which included kayaking, high ropes, climbing, abseiling, surfing and the bivi. Our usual bridge jump into the River Torridge had to be transferred to the quay at Appledore while the bridge at Bideford was closed for repair.

Staff member Mr Cullum was accompanied by the two Australian gap students Noni and Sammi who were a boon. Many thanks to them for their support and enthusiasm.

Thanks also go to Year 8 for a great week and a fitting way to round off their time at Brandeston Hall.



Ellen Hutson and Susannah Reid getting the hang of things



Pre Prep

The children in the **Reception class** enjoyed a trip to **Woodbridge Library**. They had fun extending their vocabulary by learning new songs and rhymes, followed by a tour of the library and were surprised to find you could borrow Nintendo games as well as books. At the end of the trip, the children were given the opportunity to help tell the story of 'The Animal Boogie' with the assistance of puppets.

We all had a fun-pack day at **Thetford Forest**. After our safety talk we got involved in various activities to stimulate our interest in the natural world, including looking at skulls, antlers, bats and various insects and minibeasts. We found colours within the environment to match the spots on the cards provided and did bark rubbings as well as looking for hidden camouflaged objects not usually found in a forest. Afterwards we enjoyed a picnic and played on the fabulous wooden bird and animal climbing structures.

In July, our young pupils from **Year 2** visited the **castle at Framlingham** for a fun picnic and an afternoon of activities organised by our Nursery Nurse, Selina.



Class RRL with Miss Leeks and Mrs Hitching



Lily Reader, Year 1, matches spots in the forest

It was a beautiful day and the trip was much enjoyed by everyone. This special treat was the final reward for filling the Merit Pot with tokens for good, kind and thoughtful behaviour towards each other.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Remembrance Day

Brandeston Hall has the unique privilege of being a living war memorial bought by the Society of Old Framlinghamians in remembrance of the 250 boys and masters who lost their lives in the two World Wars. The Headmaster, Major Myers-Allen led the service in front of the old hall and Sergeant Major R Witham brought a ceremonial quarter guard of senior cadets from the senior school. Saffron Wilford played the bugle with great confidence and our prefects laid a wreath at the parish church whose service for the villagers took their timings from ours.



Maths Workshop for Parents

In September, parents of pupils in Years 3 - 6 were given the opportunity to learn how written calculation methods were taught in mathematics classes at Brandeston Hall. This was a 'hands-on' workshop with parents being shown the methods first, before actually trying a few sums themselves.

It was a very enjoyable evening with lots of laughter!



Sports Report



U9 Netball and Hockey

Both the Brandeston Hall Girls' Under 9A Netball team and the Boys' Under 9A Hockey team have built themselves a rather impressive reputation with their victories on the circuit over the past couple of years.

The boys are on an unbeaten run of 16 matches while the girls are close behind with a 12 match winning streak, with neither team having lost a match since 2007.

For the second year running both teams won their respective competitions at the Brandeston Hall Under 9 Netball and Hockey Tournaments. Captained by *Kit McCausland*, who was in particularly good form for the boys, *India Ball* and *Lottie Summers* led the way for the girls, inspired no doubt by the achievements of *Amanda Birch*, *Karen Li* and *Lucy Ashby-Hoare* who have been selected this term for the Suffolk Development and Suffolk Satellite Academies.



Susannah retains her County Title

Earlier this summer, **Susannah Reid** represented the East of England at the National Prep Schools Athletics Finals in spite of being unwell and came away with a bronze medal. In the younger age group, *India Lawson* claimed the title for the Under 10 High Jump and *Jolyon Summers*, competing a year young, won the 800 metres.

More recently Susannah started the cross-country season in spectacular form by winning the Suffolk Schools' Junior Girls' Championships for the third consecutive year.

SPORTS TOUR 2009

Almost 60 pupils participated in our annual rugby and hockey tours in Norfolk, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire and were accompanied by 8 members of staff.

Witham Hall, Beeston Hall and Grace Dieu Manor were not only strong schools, but excellent hosts and our matches were close. We are delighted to report that the Girls' 1st XI and the Colts A team (both pictured) returned home undefeated.



Off the pitch there were plenty of activities including a cinema trip to see 'Fame' for the girls, while the boys watched Moseley RFC in a titanic battle against Plymouth Albion.

The tour was a wonderful experience and a chance to make new friends and face fresh challenges.
Well done one and all!

Cricket and Rounders



The 1st XI cricketers had an excellent and unbeaten season. This talented and determined side grew in confidence as the season unfolded and recorded 6 wins out of 10, including notable victories over both Gresham's and Felsted.

The side were expertly captained by Kristian Williman who topped both the batting and bowling averages and scored 462 runs (including 2 centuries) at 57.75 and took 34 wickets at 9.8. Kristian was well supported by Tom Ridley as his opening partner and by Andrew Skitch who proved to be a hard hitting number 3. In the quick bowling department, Andrew and Charlie O'Neil between them claimed 30 wickets.

Not to be outdone, the girls fielded a very young 1st IX Rounders team and were captained by Lucy Ashby-Hoare, who has played at county level in tennis, hockey and netball. The team also recorded an unbeaten season with 5 wins out of 5!

Triathlon Success

Jack Stewart, Jack Gawthrop and George Welsh (pictured L-R) represented Brandeston Hall in the triathlon at Saint Felix at the end of September and were placed second overall.

The triathlon thoroughly tested them as they were required to jump fences on horseback, swim and then run. In addition, Emily Lewis entered a mixed school team which also achieved second place. These are excellent results and our thanks go to Mrs Gawthrop and Mrs Welsh who successfully acted as team managers.

