



Tenax et fortis

Summer Term • 2007

Newsletter

BRAMDEAN SCHOOL EXETER • KINDERGARTEN, PREPARATORY AND SENIOR SCHOOL

A Tomb with a View

Evil plots and cruel, devious schemes in the basement: no, not maths homework, but the senior school production of the comedy chiller, 'A Tomb with a View!'

The cast of eleven from classes 5A2, Remove and L6 threw themselves into the malevolent machinations of the plot with great relish, as every character was gradually bumped off in increasingly outlandish ways. Whilst Adam Duce as the dishonest solicitor Penworthy planned to steal the Tombs family fortune, the sinister siblings Marcus (Bader Al

Rasheed), Lucien (Matthew Gibbs), Dorian (Oliver Bird), Emily (Ashton Snow) and Marian (Isabella Dudley) conspired to kill off their unexpected guests, Guinevere Touché (Esther Bateman) and Perry Percival (Fletcher Dobinson). Only the kindly nurse Anne (Danielle Face) seemed to offer any goodness in the household - but was she all she seemed to be? In a final surprise twist, Lurch the butler (Tully Reynolds) triumphed to inherit a vast fortune, renaming the family estate Lurch Manor!

Set in the atmospheric vaults

below the school, the production proved so popular that additional performances were held, with the general consensus that 'A Tomb with a View' was wicked fun!



Junior Maths Challenge

- Best In School: Robert Bird
- Silver: Robert Bird
Lydia Jim
Sephfi Fawcett
- Bronze: Ben Hughs
Bethany Jim
Alex Evens
Omar Attia
Keri Blake-Burke

Donkey Sanctuary

Form 3 had the pleasure of meeting some donkeys on the school fields one sunny afternoon this term.

The setting was idyllic and the children loved meeting their new found friends Dixie and Jill. They spent some time learning about what donkeys eat and how to care for them. The children even had the opportunity to groom the animals and take them for a walk.

The school is thinking of adopting a donkey and the children will then be able to make regular visits to the



Headmistress Diane Stoneman (left) with Sara Al-Sadoon and Form 3 children

Donkey Sanctuary and find out about their animal's progress. It was such an exciting, fun visit! Here are some of the children's thoughts and comments:

was older than Dixie. Jill is 30 years old. Dixie is 17.

Grace:

"Thank you so much Donkey Sanctuary. It was fun!"



Ben:

"The donkeys like to eat grass, hay and carrots."

Millie:

"I liked Dixie because his nose felt so silky. Jill was a very sweet donkey."

James:

"I led the donkeys and then groomed the donkeys with a brush."

Theo:

Jill was the smallest donkey but she



The Pony Centre

Kindergarten and Form 3 were very lucky with the weather when they visited Dartmoor this term. On a sunny June day they enjoyed meeting the animals at the miniature pony centre, Mortonhamstead. First the children met the tiny ponies and brushed and petted them. Some of the ponies were no bigger than a large dog! Next a visit to Pets Paddock proved very rewarding and the children met a mouse, a rabbit and a fluffy guineapig, all very tame and friendly.

After a yummy packed lunch in the café the children had great fun bouncing and playing in the indoor play area. Lastly they learnt the value of £2.00 as they bought small toys and gifts from the shop!



The children were very well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the day!

Mrs C Fouracre

Biology

Amphibious Adventure And Insects That Pray!

Springtime is always so exciting! Warmer temperatures and increased daylight hours bring the trees around the Bramdean grounds into full leaf and the gardens are a picture with a colourful array of flowers enjoyed by all. Invertebrate life flourishes and returning house martins and swifts soar above the cricket square catching insects on the wing, their distinctive cries heralding the changing seasons.

Up in the laboratory the boys and girls have continued to follow the metamorphic progress of our frog tadpoles. On our return from the Easter break we observed that front limbs were growing, tails were shrinking and our first froglets were emerging onto the rocks ready to assume an amphibious lifestyle. With great enthusiasm our brigade of conservation volunteers including Luke Tayler, Clair Skinner, Tom Wheeler, Tom Murrin, Maisey Shepherd, Keri Blake-Burke, Isabella Dudley, Fletcher Dobinson, Iman Attia, Robert Bird and Tom Hunt carefully gathered up the froglets, releasing them into and around the school pond.

The boys and girls have observed the progress of four stunning little newt tadpoles. Newts are particular favourites of mine, so thanks to Matthew and James Liggins for bringing them in from their own pond. Newt tadpoles have feathery gill head adornments giving them a striking appearance. To me these mini-predators have a dragon-like quality - a mythological beast lurking in the shallows! As soon as they had taken their first steps out of the water, we released the newts around the pond to join the froglets. Let's hope in future years all will return there to breed

One of the highlights this term has



arrived courtesy of new student Jack O'Hara. Recently he returned to the UK from Spain with his family and with some specimens collected in his garden. The specimens were presented to me during the Easter holiday - three brown, roughly spherical structures each about the size of a gobstopper with a paper-like texture. These were oothecae, the egg pods of praying mantids. Fantastic! Each pod contains dozens of mantid eggs. One afternoon, just after the start of term, I noticed a frenzy of activity around the pods. The eggs had started to hatch! Amazing! Each mini mantid scurried around quickly, stopping for a moment, then resumed rapid running. In the wild, this strategy serves them well as it enables them to find cover away

from predators and away from each other - mantid siblings will eat each other given half a chance! We have separated them to avoid the problem and we will observe their development over the coming months. Let's hope that when they reach maturity we can get them to breed on and that we will be able to observe their fascinating reproductive behaviour.

Finally, keep an eye open for the peregrine falcons. One chick only this year. You should be able to see them on, or around, St Michael's Church, Exeter, where they nest each year. The chick will have fledged by now but all should still be viewable. Superb!

Have a great summer everyone and keep watering the sunflowers!

Andrew Gibbs

T-Shirt Designs

In Design Technology, Form 3 have been designing and making a "Summer Holiday T-shirt" - fashion for the beach!! In Science we have been finding out about 'minibeasts' and the children have been drawing insects on the computer hoping to incorporate this into their design after the tying and dying process. Great fun was had by all.

Mrs Al-Sadoon

The evidence for little green men

On the the biggest issues facing the world today is the slow but relentless increase in the global temperature. The planet is experiencing wild weather regularly and we hear rumours of England becoming the best wine-growing region in Europe. The gardens are blossoming earlier every year and some birds don't even bother with the winter migration anymore. As we all know, we are to blame for it. We enjoy a lifestyle of ease and luxury, fuelled by burning fossil fuels in ever increasing quantities. We love our 4X4 vehicles and our cheap flights to the sun. All this causes an increase in the carbon dioxide level in our atmosphere, from roughly 0.02% before the Industrial Revolution, to about 0.04% now. This means that more Infra-Red light is reflected back to Earth rather than being radiated out to space, which in turn causes the planet to warm up. Just like a greenhouse.

The question is, who is to blame for the rapid global warming experienced by the planet Mars? According to NASA scientists, Mars has warmed by about 0.5C since the 1970s, just like earth! In fact, its southern polar ice cap has been seen to be shrinking from its previous size for three consecutive years, and is apparently in danger of disappearing altogether, and on a much shorter timescale than here on earth.

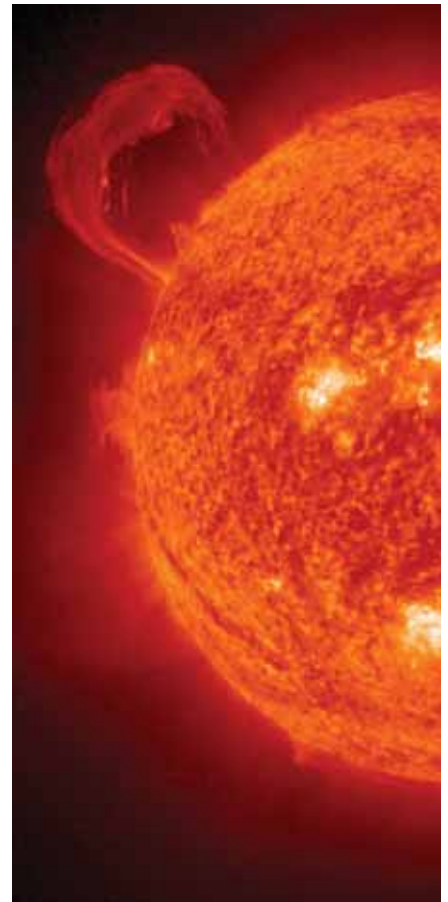
There are similar reports about Jupiter, where climate change is much more drastic than here. Over a seventy year period, Jupiter's equatorial temperature is expected to rise by up to ten degrees Celsius. Even Pluto, our nearest ex-planet, seems to be warming up.

It seems peculiar that so many planets in our solar system would

be undergoing the same phenomenon at the same time, unless there is a natural explanation. This is apparently not the case, however. Several scientists and especially politicians have assured us that the problem here on Earth is not natural; it is man-made. Which leads me to my question: Who is responsible for the global warming on the other planets? Little green men, perhaps? Maybe they are not so green after all!

Do you believe in global warming? Do you believe we are causing it? Should we do something about it? Write an essay, or design a series of posters with a friend to illustrate your points of view. The best essay handed in after the holiday will win a ticket to the movies, and the best poster (maximum two authors) will win two movie tickets.

Dr Eloff



Origins of the Imperial measuring system

The Imperial units or the Imperial system is a collection of units, first defined in the Weights and Measures Act of 1824, later refined (until 1959) and reduced. The units were introduced in the UK and its colonies, including Commonwealth countries (though most Commonwealth countries are officially metric) but excluding the then already independent United States of America. Systems of Imperial units are sometimes referred to as foot-pound-second, after the base units of length, mass and time.

Although the measurements in the metric system are derived from scientific principles, the English unit measurements (and the subsequent USA and Imperial measurements) are based on nature and everyday activities. For example, a league is based on the distance that can be walked in an hour. Sailors would drop a weighted rope into the water, lowering it by lengths (where each length was measured by holding the rope between their outstretched arms) until the weight at the end of the rope touched the seabed. This led to the definition of a fathom as the distance from the fingertips of one hand to the fingertips of the other when the hands are held straight out to the sides. A grain (used to measure small quantities of precious metals) is the weight of a grain of wheat or barleycorn.

by Keri Blake Burke

Fine Art

This is a reproduction of a painting in oils by Emily Kwong for her final piece at 'A' Level, entitled 'Surveillance.'

This is what she says about it:

"I had a very experimental idea; I made a cage and then I can feel what it feels like being trapped. Even though it was just an experiment, I was very nervous at the feeling of being watched. When I was in the cage there were a thousand things that went through my mind in each second. I was a bit embarrassed and confused, a very awkward feeling. In my painting I wanted to try and express this feeling."



The Performing Arts



unusual assembly; by 4A who sang in perfect German; and Remove who plugged the must-have DVD of the month, complete with impressive electric guitar solo from Jared and Henry's guitar side.

Kindergarten, Form 3, 3A and 4A held us mesmerised by their singing and dragon dance.

The concert wound to a dramatic close, Alice's stunning solo, the Chapel Choir and the School Choir - plus one enormous and highly colourful Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

Brilliant! A big thank you to all who took part and to all who helped.

The end of term Performing Arts Summer Concert was yet another standing-room only event, great entertainment and full of fun. The programme offered something for everyone, reflecting a variety of work undertaken during the year and showing off the huge bank of talent amongst our pupils.

Will and Fletcher performed the dance that very deservedly won them a place in the National Finals; Christina, Alice and Bryony sang like angels; whilst Luke and Timmy made playing the oboe and flute sound

easy. We had a variety of great instrumentalists - James on trumpet, Lydia and Laurence on violin, Bryony on clarinet, and not least, the precision drumming of Danielle, Sam and Matt on snares. Form 5 had us laughing in our seats, as did Shani, Danielle and Ashton, who were the perfect nonagenarian gentlemen.

We are used to high quality singing from our renowned Concert and Chapel Choir, who performed superbly as always. They were, however, ably assisted by 5A1 who lead the singing for Fletcher's rather

Dr Marino



5A2/Remove visit to Morwellam Quay

At the end of June Mr Gibbs, Dr Eloff and I went with 5A2 and Remove to Morwellam, a working Victorian Village near Tavistock on the river Tamar. We went down the George and Charlotte Copper Mine, spooky and dripping; worked as 'Bal Maidens' and 'Bal Boys' breaking ore on the 'dressing floor' and taught our lessons at the

school. The group dressed in Victorian clothing, complete with crinolines and top-hats, and made rope that could be used on the Ketch 'Garlandstone' tied up in the

harbour. Although the inclement weather meant that jumping about between the raindrops was the order of the day, everyone enjoyed their experience in the world of 19th century Cornwall.

K Taylor



Boys' Games

The Summer Term has seen a lot of cricket played despite the atrocious weather in June. The U/12's performed well throughout the season and recorded notable victories over St Lukes School, Uffculme School and Kelly College. The U/11's reached the regional finals and beat St Michaels of Tavistock, Exeter Cathedral, Kelly Prep and Stover in an encouraging season. It was many of the U/9's first experience of competitive cricket and they have thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills and progressed well in their four games.

Since Half Term, the pupils have been working hard on track and field athletics (when the weather allowed!) and achieved an impressive 92 indoor and outdoor awards at Key Stage 2 and 3.

As a reminder, Opro mouthguards will be visiting the school on September 7th. If anyone would like their child to participate in this fitting please inform the school office.

Girls' Games

This term, due to the very rainy weather, all but two of the girls' rounders matches were cancelled. The under 13 team

played and lost to Cathedral School and the Under 8 team, Mrs Priors' class, had a very close match against St Margarets School and won by 15 rounders to 12.

On a terrible rainy afternoon in June, the Under 11 cricket team played in a tournament at Exmouth Cricket Club. The girls did well in monsoon conditions, beating Witheridge and Newton Poppelford to win two of their three matches. Special mentions should go to Yasmin Hodge-England, Abby Hodgson, Bethany Jim, Ella Virgo, Persephone Fawcett and Phillipa Spring who were all soaked through by the end.