

15 July 2010

Dear Wilson parents,

Once again I am writing with news of sporting and other successes in Wilson at the end of a busy summer term and a fulfilling academic year. In sport, success came to both seniors and juniors, with the older age group securing victories in swimming and tennis while the cricket and athletics were won by Wilson's juniors. I would like to congratulate all those who have tried so hard, working and competing so well in all that they have done. This term has been dominated by public exams and all those from the sixth and fifth, and some from the fourth form, now have a tense wait until the results are published in August. During the examination period, the atmosphere in Wilson was one of calm studiousness, so I hope all those concerned will be confident and that the wait is not too painful.

One of the first major events of the term was the House photograph and if parents still wish to order online, the link and relevant access codes are below:

www.tspc-shop.co.uk

Blue triangle

Username: 2itGsNPd

Password: PkG8MEkx



In addition to the House photo and as part of the continued 150th birthday celebrations, two whole-school photographs were taken. The link and relevant access codes are below:

<http://www.tempest-groups.co.uk/collections/login/ZXZlbnRzL3Nob3cvMTc3/177>

Password: Bloxham

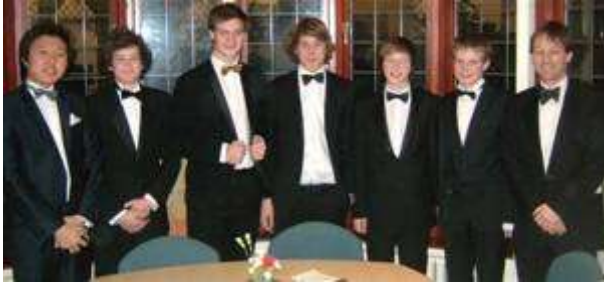


The highlight of the term was Bloxham's 150th year Founderstide celebrations and it was good to see so many of you in my garden at Briar Cottage for lunch. For the sixth year running, we were lucky with the weather and once again we were treated to some fine musical accompaniment from some of Wilson's talented musicians.

I have included below photos taken last term at the 150th celebration ball. It was a delight to see the whole House turned out in their black tie outfits.







In sport, it was disappointing that Wilson lost their first match in this year's senior inter-House cricket competition and did not get to the final. However, things improved for the second match and it was good to get a win against Egerton and finish third overall.

In the swimming sports, we congratulated Martyn Collins and his junior team, who did well to come second. However, pride of place went to Jamie Walker and his senior team, who almost repeated last year's feat of winning every race; every race except one was won and the cup was successfully retained. Performances worthy of note were Dom Albans's and Jamie Walker's victories in the breast stroke and free style respectively.

In the inter-House athletics, once again we congratulated both junior and senior teams on their performances. The seniors came second under the guidance of captains William Powell and Tom Pick. Notable performances were Paddy Kellett's win and second place in the 200 and 100 metres respectively, and Will Powell's two victories in the long and high jumps. On this occasion, pride of place went to the juniors and we said well done to Adam Gilmore and Max Marshall, who captained and coordinated the juniors to a splendid victory in their competition. Of particular note were Louis Toyne's wins in the 200 metres and high jump and Adam Gilmore's wins in the 100 metres and long jump and second place in the 200 metres. It is worthy of note that both juniors and seniors won their respective relays.

In sailing, Jack Gee, Ollie Godwin and Alex King achieved fourth place in this year's inter-House regatta.

This year's junior inter-House cricket competition was a drawn out affair; a round-robin with matches taking place at various times in the term. In the first match, Chris Commins and his team bowled out Crake for 74 which appeared to be an easy total to reach. It was not straightforward, but was achieved with eight wickets down. Top wicket takers were: Dominic Craven 2-12, Will Richards 2-15, Chris Commins 2-10, George Baker 2-22. Top scorer was Will Richards, 12. Unfortunately, the next match, against Seymour, was lost but there were some high points - Chris Commins 2-19, Will Richards 2-23 - while the highlight was Martyn Collins getting a hat trick in his only over of the day, ending up with 3-0. Will Richards was once again top scorer with 27 while Alex Carvell was the only other batsman to reach double figures, scoring 10. Seymour won by 12 runs. With no team emerging with two wins after the second round, the competition could still have been won by any one of the four Houses. A victory against favourites Egerton would secure a victory for Wilson and so it was. Egerton, batting first in the final game, posted a disappointing score which Wilson achieved quite easily with the loss of very few wickets and we were crowned victors.

In the inter-House tennis competition, the juniors were congratulated for their close 3rd place, 6 points behind Crake and 4 behind Egerton. The seniors, however, took pride of place. With one game to go, Seymour and Wilson were tied on 23 games each. Chris Fox, serving against Crake in the final game of the whole competition was 0-30 down. He dug deep and managed to secure victory and therefore win the trophy for Wilson. Paddy Kellett had been promised six colours points if the

team won. He was duly awarded his six points which took him past the vital one hundred point mark and I was therefore delighted to be able to award him his 100 tie.

At junior sports day, an inter-House competition for first, second and third formers, Wilson were second overall in the third form part of the competition, the highlights being Kyle White's 1st in the long jump and 800 metres and 2nd in the 100 metres, Ollie Breslin's 2nd in the 400 metres and James Chamberlain's 2nd in the 800 metres. We congratulated Ollie Breslin, captain, and George Baker, vice captain, for organizing the team.

After all the sport had been completed, points were awarded, and in addition to Paddy Kellett passing the 100 point mark, both Patrick Hunter and Grant Scrase passed the magic 24 point mark and I was pleased to award them with their colours ties. We made special mention of Kyle White's achievement of winning more points in his first year than any previous pupil. We noted that he could be in line for the fastest ever House colours tie.

In addition to all of this House sport, we said well done to Tom Gurney who was selected for Northamptonshire U17 cricket team. This was an excellent achievement, as he was competing against lads in the older year group too.

In music, we congratulated Chris Price who successfully passed his Grade 8 piano with a Merit; a remarkable achievement as this is the equivalent to an A level.

In drama, we said well done to James Chamberlain on his performance in Mr Atkinson's third form production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was a production in which we also commended Leo Coucher and Chris Bastable for their cameo performances.

At the end-of-term barbecue, we congratulated George McCloghry on his appointment as next year's chairman of the debating society and we also said well done to Kyle White who won the 3rd form award. Other prize winners were: Kieran Howard - Physics & Electronics, Chris Price – Music, Alex Watkins - Economics, Max Heaver – Biology, while star of the show was Sam Prior, winning Drama, Marsden Public Speaking, Theatre Studies and the Leaf Personal Development prizes. In addition to commending the Wilson successes, we were sorry to say farewell to three 5th formers and the U6th who have been a fine group.



Two hardy U6th at the leaver's barbeque



This year's departing U6th in their leaver's jackets

We also said farewell to Rob Hastings and his wife Sarah, who have been resident in Wilson for four years. The whole House serenaded them with that classic McFly song, *It's All About You*. Many of you will remember him and me performing this song with much audience hilarity at Wilson's last concert. As Assistant Housemaster, Rob has been a fantastic support to me and he is going to be greatly missed. Sarah and Rob are moving into their Victorian house that they have been renovating in Banbury, and Rob is being transferred as a tutor to Egerton; Wilson's loss will be Egerton's gain.



Sarah and Rob Hastings

We were delighted to be able to present Rob and Sarah with a number of gifts including a cheque from parents. The very generous contributions from many of you will be put to good use, as Rob and Sarah intend to buy something for their home to remind them of their time in Wilson. Rob asked me to include this by way of thanks:

May I say many thanks to all of the Wilson parents for their support over the past four years and to those who so kindly donated to the very generous cheque at the end of term. It has been a huge amount of fun acting as assistant to Mark and it is a shame to leave but I will keep a close eye on all in Wilson over the coming years.

*Kind regards to you all,
Rob*

Next year's House Captain will be David Bletsoe-Brown and Assistant House Captains will be Charlie Cox and Jamie Walker, all of whom are School prefects. George McCloghry will be next year's House Sacristan.

Two dates for your diary are:

- the House Concert in the week before the October half term break.
- the House Dance, on 5th February 2011, when we will expect a good turnout from parents and that a lot of fun will be had by all.

I would like to wish good luck to all those expecting results in August, and also good luck to all of the leavers, whom we will miss. I wish you all a good summer and look forward to the boys' return in September when they will be relaxed and ready for the challenges ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Skevington.