



Cabaret Night ~ Wednesday 26th May

Please come and join us at our Cabaret night. This is a showcase where pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 will present an evening of Drama, Musical numbers and Comedy performances. The show includes excerpts from published plays as well as original sketches written by the pupils themselves.

This will be a great night of variety and a chance to see the ability of the younger years at BGS.

Tickets are still available for the Cabaret night. Although it is now too late to order a fish and chip supper you are welcome to bring your own food on the night and you will still be able to buy dessert and drinks on the evening.

Tickets are available, priced at £2.50, from the Finance Office.
Mr Otley

Expedition to Nepal

(An article by Didier Nuttall I2RPP)

Over the Easter holidays, I ventured to Nepal for the third time with the Scouts and Access Himalaya. This expedition was by far the most challenging! The aim of the expedition was to summit Tharpa Chuli, otherwise known as Tent Peak, which stands at a massive height of 5663m above sea level!

After a day of acclimatisation in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, we started our arduous 16 day trek. It took us 7 days to reach Annapurna Base Camp (purpose of my last trek in 2008). This was the easy part compared to what was waiting for us higher up in the wild mountains!

Soon after we set off from ABC camp, we were plunged in a very hostile landscape: we had to climb a 150m section of near vertical scree slope. One badly placed foot and you would slide to the bottom... to certain death in a glacier lake. We couldn't use ropes, as they would have knocked the hundreds of loose boulders onto the heads of our friends below. So, free climbing was the only way!

Luckily everyone got through the ordeal with merely cuts and scratches and we set up camp. All was not as good as it seemed though. Have you heard of the Acute Mountain Sickness which claims lives every year all over the world? AMS can be split into 2 different illnesses: HAPE and HACE. HAPE stands for High Altitude Pulmonary Edema: your lungs slowly fill up with fluid and you will eventually drown

yourself. HACE stands for High Altitude Cerebral Edema: the swelling of the brain will kill you in severe cases. If it doesn't kill you, you will be brain damaged.

These are of course the worst possible variations of AMS. Almost every person on our expedition came down with a mild form of AMS. Most of us suffered from the worst imaginable headaches. It feels as if your brain is too big to fit into your skull, you start feeling dizzy and get pins and needles in the extremities (fingers and toes) due to lack of oxygen. However these symptoms can quickly be cured with lots of hot drinks, garlic and rest!! If symptoms persist, the only solution is to go down the mountain.

The reason why I am saying all this is that indeed, none of us managed to summit Tent Peak. 11 out of 13 of us reached High Camp at an altitude of 5100m. Time was against us really: we needed four days of acclimatisation at High Camp to reduce the risk of AMS and we had one. This was not possible since we had arranged to meet up with the rest of the scouts' troop at Annapurna Base Camp 2 days later. We did so and finished our trekking 4 days later. A hot shower after 16 strenuous days was most welcomed!



I will never forget my trips to Nepal: 2006 was given "extra spice" since we had to walk in the middle of the riots in Pokhara. 2008 was actually trouble free. As far as 2010 expedition, it ended in rather tense moments because of the chaos caused by the Icelandic volcanic ashes. I am a huge fan of climbing and mountaineering and I would like to think that one day I will reach the Tharpa Chuli summit.

In the meantime, I am hoping to run the London Marathon on the 17th April 2011. If accepted, I will be supporting a children's charity.
Didier Nuttall I2RPP

Forthcoming Events

Monday 24th May ~ Parents' Association Meeting 7.30pm
 Friday 28th May ~ Year 9 & Year 10 Reports issued
 Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June ~ Half Term
 Saturday 12th June ~ Sports Day and Summer Fayre
 Monday 14th June ~ Day off in lieu of Sports Day

Year 7

Just a reminder to all Year 7 students that their exams are the week after half term beginning on Monday 7th June. These will take place during lessons and will form a good basis for their final report of the year. It would be a good idea to draw up a revision timetable this week to help with time management and to ensure that they are fully prepared. If they have any further questions regarding the topic areas in which they have to revise, please speak to their subject teachers directly. I would like to wish them the best of luck in their examinations.

Mrs Kemp

Congratulations to Karis Burke, 7HLE for reaching 50 merits and achieving a merit in this part of her diploma. Well done!

Congratulations also go to Felicio Lobo, Sophia Hou, Qian Qian Lucy Li, Lashan Mathivathanan 7HLE and Rhianna Radley 7MGL for successfully reaching 100 merits and achieving a distinction for this section of the diploma and Amy Dykes 7MGL who has reached a magnificent 200 merits and has also achieved a well deserved distinction for the diploma. Well done!

Mrs Kemp

Year 8

Well done to Adeola Sokunbi, Thulasi Srikanth, Sharon Omorodion, Toby Hazelton and Jonathan Sargent 8MPL who have all achieved 50 merits.

Mr Johnson

All students who have reached 50 merits or more will be entered into the draw for an iPod. This will be drawn at the end of the Summer Term.

Year 10

In a few weeks, 38 Year 10 students will be taking part in their drama exam on which they have been working hard for a good few months now. The rest of Year 10 wishes them the best of luck.

Year 10 students are also reminded that their science exams take place on 21st May (Biology), 26th May (Chemistry) and 28th May (Physics). Students are encouraged to undertake some

revision before these exams. Revision classes are being held and students should ask their teachers for further information. Good luck to all Year 10s with their upcoming exams!

Alex Davies (Year 10 Prefect)

Rounders Club ~ Every Monday after school, Year 9 and Year 10 students team up for this hugely popular game. However we have had a disappointing number of Year 10 girls coming to play.

We need more Year 10 girls to come along to show the Year 9 girls that we are better.

If you're interested just turn up and don't be scared!

Holly Baker

Notices

On Thursday 27th May there will be Parents' meetings for the trips to France and Japan as follows:

France in the Hall at 6pm with Mr Savage and Japan in the Sixth Form Centre also at 6pm with Miss Cox.

Academic Council

Year 8 and 9

The Academic Council is offering an exciting new opportunity to take part in some of the school's most important affairs. This unique opportunity will allow students to express their opinions on the teaching and learning that happens at BGS. The academic council plays a role in aiding and enhancing students' learning experience and can offer advice to help students reach their potential and get the best out of every lesson. Teachers will be selecting candidates to apply for this role whom they believe will contribute comprehensively to this aspect of the school community.

Library

An extensive variety of graphic novels has just arrived in the library, which are appropriate for all year groups. These novels give an exciting and unique insight to some of the world's most classic novels.