



## The Boats of Danson Lake

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Year 7 went on to Danson Lake in kayaks and 'pico' sailing boats; that was fun! It was a bright and sunny day and everyone was in the mood for some adventure - they got it! My group went to the Lake second. I started off with sailing. The affable tutors were well trained and helped us get going. But, as soon as we had set sail, we took to the water like, well, ducks!

We played some short games on the boats to help with our sense of control before having a race back to the jetty. Once we were back on land we swapped activities; we would now be doing kayaking. After a shaky start, everyone pulled themselves together and we got to play some of our new tutor's games. 'It' in kayaks was an exhilarating experience, even if it drained our energy. After another brief race (which I lost, again!) we all clambered back on to earth. We were drenched and we were laughing.

Everyone in Year 7 would like to thank all the PE teachers for setting up the activities and the tutors at Danson Lake for teaching us.

Christopher James Goring, 7APB



## Danson House and John Boyd

Year 8s recently visited Danson House with the History department. The 200 acre site is a mere 10 minute walk from the School premises.

The house was built in 1766 from the minds of John Boyd and his architect, Robert Taylor. In 1762 John Boyd made a transaction on the site, a year later his first wife passed away. Carrying on with his father's estate and with his second marriage to Catherine Chapone in 1766, he proceeded with the building of his new house.

Boyd was a successful merchant from London and owned a large house in the city but wanted an impressive show house with its own park and farmland. Even though Bexley is near to London, 18<sup>th</sup> century maps show it was a very rural place.

Boyd had travelled abroad at a time when most people never left England. Some of what he saw on his 'Grand Tour' of Europe and his work in the West Indies influenced the design of Danson House both inside and out in the architecture and decoration. How better to show off your wealth and learning?

"Boyd wanted to project an image of himself as a man of culture, learning and the arts."



(A Front View of Danson House - Boyd visited Italy and used the grand Palladian style houses he saw there as a template for Danson House. The Palladian style uses classical architectural styles from Ancient Rome and Greece such as carved pediments, dentils and scrolls).

## Modern Danson

After World War Two, an architectural stonemason had been willing to fix weak points in the house that needed repairing in exchange for being allowed to stay and work in the house. But he stole valuable things from the house,

such as the Fireplaces making them ready to travel abroad. Luckily, he was stopped and the objects were recovered. Years on and although frightfully delicate, Danson House remains a beautiful and historic part of the Bexley Borough. The house alone is very intriguing; the history behind it and the fight to keep it intact shows just how important it is to Britain.

Parmis Salem and Olivia Smith

### Year 8 River Darent Trip

Last Thursday all Year 8 pupils spent the day on the River Darent collecting data for a combined Geography and Maths project. The weather was lovely and pupils enjoyed the variety of tasks in beautiful settings.

The photos show pupils working on the banks of the river in Shoreham and a selection of invertebrates for analysis. Below is a write up from 2 pupils.

Ms Rock

On June 24<sup>th</sup> the whole of Year 8 went on a school visit to the River Darent. We were allocated different groups and sent to different parts of the river to analyse its properties. The tests measured velocity, depth, wetted perimeter and width. Everyone enjoyed wading in the river and getting wet. The surroundings of the river were peaceful and interesting. The weather was warm and everything, especially the velocity test, which used a dog biscuit, was thoroughly enjoyable. After the educational section we enjoyed lunch, a water fight and relaxing.

Martina Arandjelov & Lucy Chapman



### A message to all Year 7s

On Monday 5th July pupils of Year 7 will be allowed to wear non-school uniform and they will need to bring money (£1) for this privilege and for doughnuts and charitable giving. On this day there will be a 'Year 7s Got Talent' competition and a football tournament so you may want to bring a PE kit.

Tony Chamber 7LKS  
DoS for a Day Winner



### The Bexley Schools' Bike Event

On 17<sup>th</sup> June fourteen Year 8 students set off in the minibus for Erith leisure centre at about 8.40. We were all buzzing with excitement and curiosity about what we were going to do there. As soon as Mr Johnson had done the register and we had made sure everyone was present, we were off!

When we arrived we found that many other schools would be taking part. We were paired with Blackfen School for Girls for the day. As there were not enough bikes or time for everyone to do everything half of us chose to do the obstacle course and the other half did the time trials.

After this we were ushered over to a workshop about cycle maintenance on how to repair punctures. We listened to the WPC from the Met Police Bike Unit explain what to do then we rushed to work. Firstly, we had to blow up the tyre and locate the puncture, then mark it with some chalk so that we would not forget where it was. Then, we had to sand the area around the puncture down and place a puncture patch on the puncture with some glue. We then blew it up again to see if it worked. It gave us a good experience of what it would be like if you were stuck on your own with a puncture and the Police gave us good tips on what to carry on our bikes.

The next activity was getting to ride on all kinds of crazy bikes, which Miss Slater and Mr Johnson enjoyed as well. There was a huge variety of weird bikes, including tricycles, choppers and tandem bikes. It was brilliant fun. We did three laps of the track on each bike so we all got a turn on all of them.

We were then taught a lesson about Road safety and wearing helmets, demonstrated by an egg with a helmet on. Our Bexley bike team also completed 2km time trials around the track and challenging obstacle courses; George Luck in 8MJR sprinted round the track and got one of the fastest times of the day. Well done George!

Then we made some smoothies with fresh fruit and

blended by bike power, a healthy and economical way of eating!

At the end of the day, prizes were given out for the fastest times and we all came back in our minibus, bursting with excitement and wanting to share our views of the day with the rest of the school!

Alex Bird and Rachel Gordon 8PKS



## Deaf Awareness Week

When you hear the word 'Deaf' what do you think of? For most people, an elderly relative immediately comes to mind, but did you know that there are nearly 9 million Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the UK alone, and around 2½ million of those are between the ages of 16 and 60? Last week was Deaf Awareness Week, so now is the ideal time to challenge some ingrained preconceptions about Deaf people.

Firstly, there is much more to deafness than hearing loss; the Deaf form an exciting, interlinked network known as the Deaf Community, with its own culture and belief systems. Sign language is a language in its own right and at the moment it is very fashionable to communicate using pictures. There are also many famous Deaf people, such as Beethoven, the globally renowned classical composer. In fact, it is commonly remarked that his work grew more intense as he lost his hearing. Helen Keller is another well known name; as a woman who was both Deaf and blind, she broke through communication barriers to become a prolific pioneer in Deafblind communication, as well as a successful writer and political activist. This is a brilliant example of someone with a disability not letting it ruin their life. What's more, this is only a taste of Deaf and Deafblind achievement. All week, Year 12 students have been raising awareness of the Deaf and Deafblind in Year 7 classes, but if you didn't catch them, why not visit the website for the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, at [www.rnid.org.uk](http://www.rnid.org.uk)?

Calum Bradbury-Sparvell, Year 12 BSL Student

## Year 8 Rounders 2010

This year I have been lucky enough to be a part of the Year 8 girls' rounders team. There are currently teams running for Years 7, 8 & 9. So far we have played matches against schools, such as Townley Grammar, Blackfen and Trinity, and we have definitely shown more enthusiasm and determination than other schools!

We train together every Monday and Thursday, whenever a match is not on, from 3-15 to 4-30. Every year we have a strong team and this year has not been any different, we hope to see many new faces soon, wanting to join the teams. It's great fun and no one is left out, no matter your ability!

Sarah Lasoye 8JR

## Merits

Congratulations go to Jemima Itang and Emily Wang 7MGL for reaching 100 merits. Katie Marsh 7MGL has worked extremely hard to reach an impressive 150 merits. A fantastic effort by these girls. Well done!

Mrs Kemp

## Ski trip 2011 - February half-term

After the successful ski trip to Les Arc in Easter 2010, I am pleased to offer the 2011 ski trip to Montgenevre, France. We are travelling at half-term this year when the snow conditions should be better than Easter. Pupils from all year groups and all abilities are welcome. If you are interested, please collect a letter from the PE Office ASAP. Numbers are limited and places will be given on return of deposit.

Mr Rosenthal

## Thank You

We would like to express our thanks to all parents and staff for the contribution of Sainsburys vouchers. We have collected more than 10,000 vouchers which will help with new PE equipment and resources for September. If you have any more vouchers, please can you hand them to the PE department before the end of the week, as we hope to send these off at the start of July so equipment can be ready for the start of the new academic year.

Many thanks.

PE Department

## Forthcoming Events

- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July ~ Year 7 Diploma Celebration Evening
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July ~ Speech Day – Early closure
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July ~ Year 8 & Year 12 Reports issued
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July ~ Year 7 Reports issued
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July ~ Last Day of Term – Early closure