



Spring 2013

TWYXCROSS HOUSE SCHOOL
TWYXCROSS HOUSE PRE-PREPARATORY SCHOOL

TIMES

Farmyard Tales

Chauntecleer and the Fox



Forms 3X and 3Y took to the stage last month to put on their traditional spring production. This year it consisted of four 'Farmyard Fables' specially written for them by Mr Neville Ellis: Chauntecleer and the Fox, The Reluctant Prince, What Big Teeth You've Got, and Houses Fit for Pigs. These were old tales but cleverly re-cast to keep the audience on its toes.

As always the children rose to the occasion and relished the chance to play a wide variety of characters: feisty dairymaids, royalty, rustic labourers and toffs. This year there was also a clutch of cunning wolves and foxes, hens and pigs - giving much scope for some dramatic growling, howling, clucking, huffing and puffing. Mrs Kirkpatrick had, as always, given her actors lots of practice in voice projection and moving round the stage. There were also some accents to master and little sketches which depended on comic timing - not easy when wearing a mask. All went well, however, and the cast thoroughly deserved the resounding applause at the end of the show.

Thanks to the seniors for support with lighting, sound and stage management and to the Form 3s for some great entertainment.

Mrs N. Lilley



What Big Teeth You've Got



The Reluctant Prince



Houses Fit for Pigs





Guinness World Record attempt



Thousands of students in over 150 schools united on 6th February to celebrate National Libraries Day and set a new Guinness World Record! On the day, students across the UK took part in "Parallel Universes", a story-writing workshop that attempted to break the world record for the most people simultaneously writing a story. Author Matt Haig wrote the start of the story, and then the students took over and finished it for themselves.

28 pupils enthusiastically used their lunch-time break to take part in this project, which appropriately took place in the school library. This event is part of a wider initiative to help maximise the use of libraries as an important resource. This was a wonderful opportunity to show students how reading and writing can be fun! Libraries are not just for book storage, but vehicles to drive a reading-for-pleasure culture throughout the whole school. *Mrs A Lington*

TUGBOAT Busk for Comic Relief

The Twycross Ukulele group made a marvellous £131.22 busking for Comic Relief on Friday March 15th. This performance introduced many new ukulele players. We were also very pleased to be joined by Charlie Psaras on the tea-chest bass and Warren Smith on the skiffle drum.

William Roche and Frank Burton composed a special song for the occasion and deserved their rapturous applause after playing it. William also gave a super solo rendition of the Jason Mraz classic *I'm Yours*!

TUG 5 played *Another Brick in the Wall* by Pink Floyd, while the gentlemen from Form 4, appearing as Wrong Direction, entertained the audience in assorted wigs strumming and singing *Hound Dog*!

A wide selection of music was played including *These boots are made for walking* featuring Christopher Lumb on verses. Several Lonnie Donegan favourites were tackled with great vigour, such as *The Battle of New Orleans* and the popular *My Old Man's a Dustman* with Jonathan Vening-Richards on lead vocal.

Thanks to the children who took part and of course to the many parents who came along to clap and empty their purses into the collecting tins rhythmically rattled by Emily Barker and Zoe Calder.....Well done to all! *Miss A. Molyneux*



Off By Heart

The annual poetry competition organised by Miss Molyneux and Mrs Alves produced some wonderful recitations from a wide selection of poems offered for selection. All the children in Forms 3 and 4 worked hard to learn a poem OFF BY HEART.



This year 'Alligator' by Grace Nichols was the most popular poem chosen.

The four Poetry 'Oscar' winners were as follows:

Simran Sandhu 4Y	Emily Barker 4Y
Michael McHale 3X	Molly Smith 3Y

The Poetry Pairs 'Oscar' was awarded to Nathan Wright (4Y) and Laura Wylie (4X).

All pupils received a certificate while the winners were also presented with book prizes.

Form 5 Trojan War projects

This term Form 5X have been studying the Trojan War in Latin lessons. As part of their homework, they were asked to choose any aspect of the Trojan War, whether it was their favourite part of the story or one of the characters, and produce a creative project based on it. We had a wide range of very imaginative projects, including posters, poems, a Lego Trojan Horse, lots of homemade golden apples and even a Trojan Wall made of cake!!

Mrs S Beavan



The School Library

Last September Mrs Audrey Lington was appointed as our lunch-time library supervisor and I think it is fair to say we got more than we bargained for! Working closely with the English department she has transformed the library itself, expanded into an adjacent tutorial class-room and come up with one creative idea after another. Needless to say, we are delighted with the result and the impact it has had on the children's use of the library. Mr Holder, who missed his vocation as a bespoke cabinet-maker, has made a beautiful book-case to house the extra books we have been able to add to our stocks.

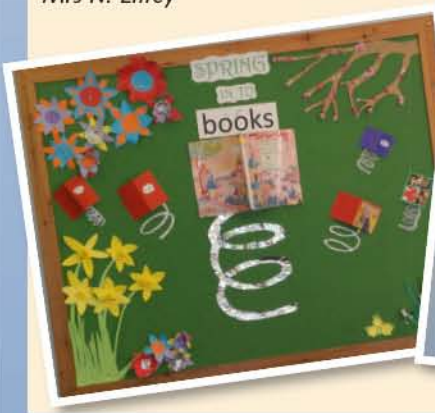
Several of the seniors, notably Darcy Bridgwater, Polly Bill, Georgia Wilkinson and Lucy Slater of S1X, regularly help Mrs Lington with her wall displays and themed events. The snake-puppet workshop, timed to coincide with the Chinese New Year, proved very popular.

When I popped in recently I found some boys designing book-marks for a national competition. They had already spent the prize money on their chosen novels which they showed me in the Library Suggestion Book! Some junior girls were busy making an Easter Egg in shiny collage ready for a wall display, while others were finishing off some paper flowers for a 'Spring into Books' extravaganza. Another group was rearranging the foliage on the Poet-tree: pupils are invited to write a poem on a leaf-shaped piece of paper and add it to the branches of the tree.

Meanwhile in the quiet of the 6th form library A-level students were browsing through the extensive range of books which are a valuable resource for reading around the subject. They had decided to ignore the internet access in the corner in favour of 'friendly books with a reassuring smell'.

The photographs here illustrate the range of events and enticing displays put on throughout the year so far. It is lovely to see the children beating a path to the library every lunch-time.

Mrs N. Lilley



Sikh Gurdwara trip

This term Form 5 have been studying 'Holy Places', so to help with our learning we visited a Sikh Gurdwara.

As we parked the minibus we recognised the Gurdwara because of the Nishan Sahib - the Sikh orange flag. Inside the hall we had to take off our shoes and put our scarves and handkerchiefs on our heads (scarves for the girls and handkerchiefs for boys) to show respect.

When we got inside the Gurdwara we sat down on the floor and were told about praying, giving offerings and readings from the Guru Granth Sahib.

The Granthi is in charge of the Guru Granth Sahib and he holds a chauri made of yak hair. We went behind the canopy and took pictures of the Granthi and Guru Granth Sahib.

Afterwards we went through to the langar (kitchen) where we had biscuits and a cup of squash!

We thanked the owners of the Gurdwara for letting us experience what it was like inside. Our favourite part was watching how Sikh people pray. Anyone is free to enter a Gurdwara and witness a service; whether you are Sikh or not, everyone is welcome. We learnt a lot from this experience and would recommend others to visit.

Hannah Brayer and Esme Hunt, Form 5X



WIRE SCULPTING

On Friday 8th March S1Y students tried their hand at making decorative wire boxes with the artist Sue Clews. They used different coloured wires, beads and feathers for their creations, some of which made timely presents for Mother's Day.



Plenty to Talk About

On the evening of 24th January our Intermediate Public Speaking team was again braving the cold and travelling to Leicester Grammar School for the district semi-final. The competition was of an extremely high standard and our team performed very well. Unfortunately the team comprising Tom Bryan, Connie Holman and Tom Moghadam was not chosen to go through to the next round, but I would like to thank them for all their hard work. Thanks also to the families who supported the students throughout.

Public speaking was also the order of the evening on 20th March when younger students took part in the Rotary Club's Junior event at Ashby.

Seven students from Twycross House took part: Ethan Hart, Christopher Lumb, Isobel Morgan, Hannah Roberts, Ethan Tebbutt, Jonathan Vening-Richards and Jessica Whetton.

The evening was very enjoyable and we learned lots of new facts from the various talks. The children showed great poise and confidence and all presented very well on the evening, having thoroughly prepared their speeches.

Thank you to all the students for their efforts, to Mrs Alves for her work in rehearsing the talks and to the parents for their support.

Mrs M. Cartlidge





S1Y pupils celebrate German 'Karneval'

On Thursday 21st February the pupils of S1Y recreated their own version of carnival time in Germany. The pupils had previously researched the origins of this German festival and were intrigued by the weird and wonderfully indulgent celebratory activities which last one week leading up to Lent. Pupils donned wigs, masks and brightly coloured costumes – the 'onesie' was a popular choice of outfit for a number of pupils - and they then participated enthusiastically in activities associated with this tradition. They sang two famous carnival songs, linked arms, swayed and chanted loudly 'Alaaf!' 'Helau!' as is customary.

Our carnival Prince, Fiona Simpson and Princess, Billy Roberts led the group in various processions and our jesters, Georgia Hargreaves and Edward Blackman, did a wonderful job of entertaining the group by telling jokes and by engaging the pupils in reciting tongue-twisters in German. Our special guests were HMI Inspector Joanne Harvey, Mrs Lilley and Mrs Powell, who awarded the prize for best costume to Curtis Smith. Our Sixth Formers Jake Everson-Crane, Beth Parkes, Kate Mortiboy, Cleo Henry and Katie Boam also helped make the event a success.

The pupils of S1Y particularly enjoyed the tradition of the children receiving sweets! Everyone had a most enjoyable time.

Mrs M. Cunningham



Comic Relief Raffle

Members of Senior 3X got together to create a raffle for Comic Relief. The members of the group were Tariq Pathan, Will King, Simon Wright, Chris Vero, Will Thirlby and Cameron Swan – with some extra help from Sam Everson-Crane.



Raffle tickets were supplied by Simon and each member of the group paid for, brought in or used unwanted unopened things as prizes. These included a Giant Amazing Gnome, which caused a lot of excitement and persuaded people to pay either 20p a ticket or £1 a strip.

This was a very good experience and, as well as enjoying it, we were also helping children in need of care. We raised a grand total of £103 for Comic Relief.

Thank you to everybody who supported the raffle by buying tickets or helping the group.



Rainbows Presentation

Last term Rebecca Chastney and Abbie Lynch organised a money tree and raffle and raised £600 for the Rainbows Hospice. They are pictured here receiving their certificates from the charity. Many congratulations!





Duke of Edinburgh Bronze

In anticipation of their Bronze practice and final expeditions Senior 4 have completed much of their training including a navigation walk and first aid CPR. They return next term to complete their route cards for the practice expedition in the second week of term.



Maths Challenge

Congratulations go to twenty-seven of our best mathematics students in S5, S4 and S3 who recently took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, organised by the UK Maths Trust based at Leeds University.

Gold certificates were awarded to:

Sebastian Allen (S5)
Jennifer Mortiboy (S5)
Joshua Jones (S4)
Euan Tebbutt (S3)

Silver certificates to:

Andrew Simpson (S5)
Helena Everson-Crane (S5)
Toby Marshall (S4)

and Bronze certificates to:

Henry Jowett (S5)
Amber Morgan (S5)
Amy Potts (S5)
Kieran Wordsworth (S4)
George Thomas (S4)
Sophie Randle (S4)
Alexandra Osborne (S4)
Matthew Bartrick (S4)
Mimi Henry (S4)

The challenge consists of questions that require lateral and logical thinking together with the normal mathematical knowledge expected for this age group. The reward for being good at maths is always to get more maths to do and Joshua Jones and Euan Tebbutt did sufficiently well to be entered for the next stage in the mathematical Olympiad. Who knows where this will lead them? Well done, boys!

Mrs M Padgett

Raising Money with Water?

On the 28th February five boys from Senior 3X (Amman, Euan, Oliver, George and Jamie), with additional help from other members of the school, washed 20 cars in the school car park and raised £142.24. We also did sponge throwing. The money went to the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA). We chose this charity because it's not a very well-known charity and some members of the group had family members who had suffered from the disease. Thank you for all of your support.



Society of Biology Competition 2013

The competition coincides with Science and Engineering Week and was given the title Invention and Discovery. Unfortunately there were only two competitors from Twycross this year, but what we lacked in quantity was certainly compensated for by the quality of the entries.

In the senior section Mark Page from Lower 6th produced an essay discussing the recent genetic work involved in the identification of Richard III. This was a bold undertaking because the department in the forefront of the work hosted the competition and so Mark needed to be absolutely sure of his research.

In the junior section Phoebe Hunt from S2Y produced a superb poster on prosthetic limbs which was both eye-catching and extremely well researched. Several judges quizzed the students on both content and application of their chosen topics.

While the judges deliberated we were entertained by a fascinating talk from Dr Turi King who was one of the team leaders in the Richard III investigation – no pressure, Mark!

The winners were finally announced and to our delight both Mark and Phoebe were awarded second place in their categories. The judges stated that Phoebe "demonstrated knowledge of her topic far beyond that expected from someone her age". Mark was praised for an essay that was of "undergraduate standard". These were excellent comments from a highly academic judging panel.

Thank you to the students for all their hard work and to the parents who acted as supporters and chauffeurs on the day.

Mrs M Cartlidge



Heartbreaker

A name of a song indeed, but also reality for S5 biologists. Pictured are just a couple of our heartbreakers who are busy dissecting sheep hearts as part of their GCSE transport topic.

We are no longer required to carry out animal dissection in Biology and we are as a department committed to preserving living things wherever we can. However, occasionally there may be an opportunity within a topic to look at the structure of an organ. We think that it is important for students to gain an overview of how systems work in practice and see the actual structure which aids that process. There is no compulsion for a student to take an active part, but our heartbreakers in the photos are obviously fully immersed in their task.

Mrs M Cartlidge



Entente Cordiale!

First Twycross Visit for Maison Claire Fontaine



On a beautifully sunny Thursday at the end of January we were delighted to welcome two special visitors from France for the day. Both Alex Hardy and Elodie Lahmar are members of the team at Maison Claire Fontaine, which as many of you will know, is the educational centre in rural Burgundy that Senior 3 have visited for the last few years during the May half term break. Alex and Elodie spent the day looking around school and popping in to lessons, managing to introduce themselves briefly to some of the Senior 3s who will be visiting the centre later on this year. In the afternoon Elodie, one of the centre's French teachers, even got the chance to lead some activities with the sixth form classes. I would like to thank all the students involved for the very warm welcome they gave our visitors and the enthusiasm with which they took part in the activities.



Athens Trip

Six dedicated classicists – Cleo Henry, Sophie King, James Makin, Katherine Moncur, Rahki Pathak (U6) and Andy Simpson (S5) – visited Athens for five days at the end of term and proved wonderful company for their teachers Mr Assinder, Mrs Stogiannari-Pallett and Mrs Lilley. Our tour guide was Dr Semele Assinder, then based in the city.

On arrival we explored Athens extensively on foot and ended with a challenging climb up Mount Lykavittos for a breathtaking view of the city and the sea as the light faded. The next morning we beat the crowds to the Acropolis and marvelled at the architectural and engineering subtleties of the Parthenon temple before visiting the 'agora' and the Pnyx, scene of so many crucial political debates. The National Museum elicited one gasp of admiration after another as we got up close to some of the iconic treasures of ancient Greece. Of special note was an extraordinarily sophisticated astrolabe retrieved from a shipwreck – a sort of predictive astronomical computer comprising layers of cogs.

Other highlights included a day at the harbour, Peiraeus, with its fascinating museum and an opportunity to see the recent reconstruction of a war trireme in dry-dock. The new Acropolis Museum was a miracle of light and space which showed off the Parthenon friezes to brilliant effect, and the Kerameikos quarter gave us a poignant lesson in attitudes to death, the after-life and memorials. The visit to the Panathenaic Stadium was a nostalgic one for the Assinders: scene of basketball glory for one and the welcome end of the Athens Marathon for the other. Our attempt to trot up and down all the hundreds of steps in the stadium was eventually halted by an officious attendant, but not before we had a good number under our belts!

I could mention Team Twycross's foray on 'fun cycles', which brought fear to pedestrians and stray dogs; the moments of illumination as exam texts sprang off the page; the expansive meals; the warmth of the spring sun; the relaxed companionship ... However, it was the ancient city which will stay with us, so brilliantly brought to life by a tireless Dr Assinder to whom we all once again give our warmest thanks.

Mrs N. Lilley





Twycross Has Talent!

'Have you got the Twy-factor?' read one of the posters launching our spring arts event. The answer was a resounding 'Yes!' particularly from Swallows Hill.

The thirty or so individual or group entries were allocated to volunteers from S4 and S5, who lent their organisational skills, artistic advice and general support! Gym mats, i-pad speakers, music stands, capes and wigs were rustled up; rehearsals were held and last-minute nerves settled. Finally, in a series of three lunch-time concerts, the full force of Twycross Talent was unleashed upon a hall packed tight with pupils of all ages and their teachers. Guitar, piano, harp, ukulele, cornet, recorder, song and dance, karate, gymnastics, poems, sketches and magic – all were beautifully performed and enthusiastically received.

Many thanks and congratulations to all those who participated in any way.

Winners of the Twycross has Talent poster competition were Isabelle Chastney, Alex Coles, Phoebe Hunt, Alex Milner, Emily Negus and Archie Potter.

Mrs N. Lilley



Kennis Chan

Some of you may remember the talented artist Kennis Chan who has continued to excel in art since leaving Twycross House School. She is now in the final year of her course at Lancaster University studying Fine Art and has recently had four pieces of work selected for a prestigious exhibition at the YY9 Gallery in Hong Kong, where she will be exhibiting with three other artists. In addition, she has recently been offered a place to study for a Masters degree at the Royal College of Art where competition was extremely high for one of the forty places on the course. We wish her all the very best in her future career as an artist.

Comic Relief Cake Sale

Swallows Hill pupils entered enthusiastically into fundraising for Comic Relief with a cake sale and raffle. On the morning of the sale the generosity of the parents was overwhelming as Swallows Hill kitchen groaned under the weight of all the fantastic cakes. 'Red accessories' were worn for an additional donation to the cause. Pupils supported the fundraising effort by designing advertising bunting, selling raffle tickets, organising the sale and, of course, by buying and eating the cakes! The total raised from the fundraising activities reached a fantastic £309.20. Many thanks go once again to all the parents who supported us in our fundraising. *Mrs Bray*





Geography field trip 2013

The Lower Sixth geography field trip to Cromer was a great success. The trip is designed around field work studies that are essential to the geography skills paper the students will sit in the summer.

The group left Twycross in high spirits and the 4 hour journey to a rather grey Cromer didn't dampen their attitude as they enthusiastically undertook groyne profiles and beach transects. Mr Morrell kept an eye on the ominous rain clouds that seemed to have stalled about 100m off shore while the group worked on pebble analysis and bi-polar surveys.

The evening was filled with data input and data analysis, followed by quite an energetic game of hide and seek. The following day saw more beach profiles, looking more closely at beach management, pedestrian counts and fish & chips. A rather quieter bus returned with the group exhausted from two days of hard work. *M Beavan*



ICAEW BASE Competition at Coventry University

BASE stands for Business Accountancy Skills Education. The Institute of Chartered Accountants organises the competition to allow sixth form students to experience situations that improve employment skills. Six members of the Upper Sixth who are all intending to study a business, economics or finance related degree at university formed the team from Twycross House School.

The competition tested skills in problem solving, teamwork and presentation to an audience. The students were asked to study three scenarios, analyse the information given and then suggest the most appropriate business plan. Team members finally presented their conclusions to an audience and panel of judges. The event was quite an intense experience for the students and provided a challenge in data manipulation as well as ethical considerations.

We were the only school present that had not entered the competition in previous years, but as usual Twycross students rose to the occasion and performed well. Thanks to Josh Baker, Phillip Collie, Harry Grabham, Jonathon Gwynn, Piers Nicholas and Alex Springall for their efforts on the day. *Mrs M Cartlidge*



Snow Fun Like Snow Fun!





Rebecca goes for Gold!

Rebecca Chastney has continued her training this season at the British Ski Academy, based in the Chamonix Valley in France. After an intense period of training over the Christmas holidays, she has taken part in a number of Alpine races.

She has had a good season so far, racing in the under 12 category. She won her first Gold medal in a slalom race in Champéry, Switzerland in January, and then went on to win Silver the next day in the Giant Slalom.



She is now looking forward to the remainder of the season, training daily on the Les Houches pistes. She will race again in March at Villars, and then on behalf of Twycross House in the Inter Schools competition in mid-March, before racing in the British Championships in early April. Rebecca will then be looking forward to a well-earned rest.

Twycross Ski – Sauze d'Oulx 2013

Taking 40 teenagers on a skiing holiday may not be everybody's idea of fun – especially as this entails a 1500 mile round trip to Italy by coach! However the students from the Lower Sixth, Senior 5 and 4, were great travelling companions, and the staff were delighted to observe how well they supported each other, regardless of age, throughout the week.

Our base for the week was the Hotel des Amis in the small hamlet of Jovencaux, conveniently situated next door to the ski hire shop and a 500m walk from the chair lift up to the extensive pistes of the Vialattea ski area.

On the first morning the skiers were sorted into groups and took to the slopes. It was good to see that the beginners, who had completed ski lessons at the Snowdome, were off quickly onto the main pistes after a morning on the nursery slopes. There were five hours of tuition each day, and the pupils could 'free ski' on some of the easier slopes when not under instruction. The standard of tuition throughout the week was superb and the instructors worked their skiers hard. By the end of the week even the beginners had skied on the most difficult slopes. The week culminated in the downhill slalom ski race where all skiers completed the same course for bronze, silver and gold medals awarded to the winners by their instructors.

The evening sessions were preceded by the eagerly anticipated daily ski awards for such events as 'the best fall of the day' or to someone in the group who was 'the most improved skier',and what unmentionables would be in Mr Beavan's auction of mislaid items from students and staff.

Probably the highlight of the evenings' activities was the 'Talent Show', with everybody taking the stage to sing, dance, dress-up and eat cinnamon? Even the staff donned white tights and tutus for their version of Swan Lake's 'Cygnet Dance' – although perhaps nobody recognised this. Each talent was commented on and scored by the judging panel – Mrs Walliker, Len ('my name is Len therefore I'll score this a sevrerrrrn!') and Daffy (our coach drivers) – and filmed by Mr Walliker!

After a week that passed quickly in a blur of activity, it was with some relief that we settled on the coach for the long trip home with weary limbs and tired bonesand thoughts of the next Twycross ski trip 2015.





Junior Netball

The junior netball players have been very busy this term with the Form 4 league, tournaments, house matches and a seven-a-side fixture to end the season.

Form 4 played in the local Nuneaton Primary Schools' league. The B team had to play three games in the pouring rain and well done to Amy Nugent for helping them out. The A Team finished in fourth place and the B team in eighth.

The Form 4 tournament saw our team win one game against Stockingford 4:0, lose heavily to Milverton 6:1 and play their best game of the season against the eventual winners of the tournament St Joseph's, losing 1:0. If the girls can play like this in Form 5 they have the makings of a strong squad.



Form 5 played their tournament on one of the few sunny spring days that we have had. Some superb shooting from Jennifer Lington, Isobel Morgan and Abbie Lynch helped them to beat St Nicholas 10:1 and Croft 9:0 and qualify for a place in the semi-final. Having won through to the round-robin final, they eventually took second place on goal difference. Many congratulations to the Form 5 girls who were runners up in both their league and tournament this season.

Junior inter-house netball has seen all the Form 4 and 5 girls compete. Scott came first after winning both their games and Hillary managed to sneak into second place by beating Drake 5:4.

The last Tuesday of the term was exceptionally busy on the netball front. Three U9 teams came over from Stoneygate in Leicester to play Form 3 in their games lesson. The pace of the games was hard and fast and despite losing all three games the girls competed well. There is a lot of potential in Form 3 and there will be a lot of competition for places in the years to come.

The final game of the season was a seven-a-side fixture against St Joseph's with no boys, in preparation for senior netball next year. Form 5 played brilliantly, despite there being lots of new rules and positions to take on board, and both their A and B teams won.

Once again, well done to all the junior netballers for their effort and commitment to both practices and matches. *Mrs J Thomas*

U18 Football

The U18 football team have had a fantastic season and have remained unbeaten throughout the year. They have had some impressive wins over Princethorpe, Repton, Polesworth and a double over local rivals Dixie. The team has been helped by the enthusiasm of the Upper Sixth and regular extra-curricular 6-a-side football, as well as the senior football tournament. Many of the players will remain for next season but a special mention goes to Antony Parkes, Matthew Evans, Ashley Barnwell, Bill Arnold, Tom Dormand, Tom Dwyer, Rob Bentley and Luke Maxted who will all be leaving this year. Well done, boys. *Mr C. Perry*

Junior Cross-Country

Twycross Juniors competed in the third Nuneaton Primary Schools cross-country race on a cold, damp February evening. There were some superb performances with Hannah Brayer achieving her hat-trick of first places and Esme Hunt her hat-trick of third places. Jessica Whetton and Jennifer Lington also came in the top ten at fifth and seventh places. Ethan Tebbutt improved on his previous performances finishing in fifth position. The Twycross girls finished in first place overall. Well done, girls, on a superb team performance from those already mentioned and also Rebecca Chastney, Aliesha Dhaliwal and Abbie Lynch.



Eleven runners had now qualified for the next race against the Bedworth and Atherstone areas. This race was in the half-term break and only six of our runners could make it. The course at Kingsbury Water Park was exceptionally wet and muddy. Hannah Brayer became the Northern Inter-Area champion by finishing in first place and Esme Hunt once again took the bronze medal. Ethan Tebbutt came home as number eleven. Congratulations also to Jessica Whetton, Alfie Hytch and Frank Burton.

The Northern Area Trials was the next race at Woodside Primary School. This was a highly competitive race as the top twenty would qualify for the Warwickshire County Race. Whilst running through the woods Hannah Brayer lost her trainer on a very muddy path, which saw her finish in second position. Esme Hunt was third again and Ethan Tebbutt moved up to seventh position. Jennifer Lington and Jack Negus also competed in this race.

The Warwickshire County Race was held at Stratford. Under very wet and cold conditions the three Twycross pupils who qualified to compete did very well. Hannah Brayer was crowned Warwickshire U11 County Champion, Esme Hunt was fourteenth and Ethan Tebbutt eleventh. Congratulations to all three children and many thanks to all the parents who have supported the school throughout these events. *Mrs J Thomas*

Grace Dieu Cross-Country

Early in February, nine Form 3s were selected to represent Twycross in the annual U9 Cross-Country race at Grace Dieu Manor School. After working hard on improving their cross-country times throughout the term on a very boggy course during games lessons, they were all very excited about the prospect of competing with other schools and, for some, the prospect of their first trip on the minibus was even more exciting! All our runners ran very well, despite the tough conditions and freezing weather. Special mention should go to Tara Wylie for her top 10 finish. *Mrs S Beavan*



Football Report 2012/13

In spite of the awful weather latterly which has led to the U11 and U12 league season having to be extended into the summer term, eleven more matches than last season have already been played with at least ten more still to come, thanks to the assistance of Mr Morrell and Mr Beavan and the enthusiasm for football in the school. The 11-a-side results have generally been very pleasing with the U18s the most successful team, having won all their matches, the U16s beaten only once (in the quarter final of a national competition), and only the U15s losing more games than they won (by the odd match).

All teams have played some excellent football, despite often losing players to injury, and the goalkeeping master-class run by Mr James Dormand has helped develop the skill level of a fine crop of goalkeepers led by Toby Marshall and Oliver Burrows. There has been welcome coaching involvement from Andy Simpson, Dedan Cartwright and Henry Jowett and the excellent Ethan Tebbutt has been joined by the enthusiastic Tanatswa Kubara as a junior referee.

Whilst the U18s have been the exceptional team, at each age group certain individuals have been outstanding - Seb Allen U16/18, Rory Oliver U15/16, Bradley Pugh U14/15, Angus Osborne, Max Lee and Luke Williams U13/14, and Tom Leyland, Ethan Morrell and Euan Barlow U12/13. The Upper Sixth team won every game to win the Senior Football Tournament but were pushed all the way by the teams from the Lower Sixth, Senior Five and Senior Four.

The U9s have been the pick of the junior teams with the A team winning all their matches bar one and looking in a strong position to retain the postponed Kirkpatrick Cup.

However, the involvement level at U11 has been outstanding, with all the boys regularly attending practices and being rewarded with competitive opportunities. They also enthusiastically supported the Junior Football Tournament which saw Sebastian Hart's team winning all their matches to claim the winners' medals. A consistent and robust level of performance will be required from all the junior teams next season, particularly from next year's U11 team who have said farewell to Will Roche, one of the school's most promising goalkeepers.

Next season's U18 team should be at least as strong as this year's side, barring injury to key players currently in the Lower Sixth, and the prospects look bright for all the other 11-a-side teams given the terrific level of skill and performance they have produced this season as they have continued to 'punch above their weight'. Mention must also be made of the U11 girls' team that came second in the District Tournament and of Charlotte Heggs, playing at the Leicester City Academy, who has helped to increase the enthusiasm for football amongst the girls in the lower half of the senior school.

The House Competition, run over five age groups, saw Scott (who were never less than runners up) triumphant, Hillary in second place and Drake third. The senior matches were held as 11-a-side matches on a full pitch for the first time in some years, and produced some highly entertaining football and full-blooded contests, if not always by fully manned teams!

Mr C Perry

Emily Negus



Congratulations to Emily Negus who has completed an excellent cross country season.

In the West Midlands Young Athletes' Cross Country League she finished 2nd out of 146 competitors.

She won the Warwickshire County Championships and qualified to represent Warwickshire in the Inter-County Championships.

She represented Twycross House at the Warwickshire Schools Championships and in the snow and biting cold conditions came 2nd over a distance of 3200m. This qualified her for the National Schools Championships where she was the first Warwickshire girl home in 65th place out of 333 athletes.

The results are a great achievement, as in many of the races she has been competing with athletes a year older.

Hockey

The U13 girls are Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Hockey champions! In an exciting evening of hockey our girls remained composed and strong as a team. With Emily Negus and Anna Benton producing confident midfield and defensive performances, the rest of the team quickly settled to their roles and responsibilities. Joanne Copson was also strong in midfield, creating an attacking link between defence and attack. Her powerful passing and the team's focus provided opportunities to attack and score goals in all games. Some excellent clearances from Charlotte Heggs in goal ensured a clean sheet throughout the tournament. Player of the tournament was Isobel Chastney who listened, focused and scored her very first goal! Twycross beat both Ash Green and Etone 4-0, Polesworth (A) 2-0 and Polesworth (B) 3-0.

The U15 girls took on Polesworth in the final of their Nuneaton and Bedworth Schools Area Tournament and both teams played a good flowing game with confidence and pace. Mara Ollerton had a fantastic game, creating outstanding links to the midfield and attacking players, and truly deserving recognition as player of the match. Natasha Bate and Sophie Randle played well but it took a strong clearance from Maisie Ryan to Georgie McGregor to score the first goal. Isobel Sinclair as goal keeper made some amazing goal line clearances and an outstanding Charlotte Lynch helped the team to a 7-2 victory. Well done to our U15 Nuneaton and Bedworth Area hockey champions!

The Nuneaton schools' hockey league has been held every Wednesday at Etone to allow teams to play competitive matches while being coached. Each week a different age group takes to the astro with competitive games played as a weekly round robin. Twycross girls have used this astro time to enhance their passing and team play, and have dominated their matches against Polesworth, Ash Green and Etone.

Mrs H Williams



Senior Netball

The spring term started with some fixtures cancelled because of snow, but we soon began in earnest against Etone with decisive wins for the U13 and U15 squads (even though we were one player short for the U13s and playing against an older team!)

Next Market Bosworth School tested the attacking play of Senior 1 on a bitterly cold evening to prove just the stronger side, but the U13 team won their match with excellent team play – especially Anna Benton who was determined to get the ball to the shooters even if she fell over! The U14 team also played Market Bosworth with a lot of support from Anna, Emily Negus, Emily Lightfoot and Charlotte Heggs to lose narrowly in the final quarter.

Our match night against Dixie proved the greatest success so far, especially for Senior 1 who pulled out a great victory with some brilliant team play in both attack and defence – as their opponents were heard to say: "They're fast!"

We have also had a team playing in the Area Tournament or the Area League every Tuesday and Thursday since the start of term and all teams have produced some excellent netball and great results. The U12 and U15 teams both finished a commendable 3rd in their Area Tournaments; the U15s should be commended for toughing it out on the most miserable, cold, wet evening and still managing to play some excellent netball and achieve the closest results we have had with the top teams this year. The U14 team have had an excellent term and have played some really fantastic netball, finishing as runners up in their Area Tournament as well as coming 2nd in the Area League. All teams should be congratulated on some great performances throughout the year. Well done!

Mrs R Sharrott and Mrs S Beavan



Ultimate report



It has been a frustrating season for the school ultimate teams. The Indoor National Championships took place in Wolverhampton and in U14, U17 and U20 we finished 3rd. However, the standard of play is improving each year and all our teams competed competitively in every match. The U14 A team only lost their semi-final and with the whole team drawn from S1, they will have another chance next year to improve on their position in this division. The U14 B and C teams also played amazingly well to finish 8th and 9th respectively. To have 3 teams in the top 9 was a fantastic achievement and a credit to all the effort each player has put in.

The U17s came the closest to the final with a very tight, sudden death semi-final lost to the eventual winners. The team played unbelievably well all weekend and a special mention must go to the attitude and leadership, as well as outstanding play, shown by Seb Allen and Dedan Cartwright. The B and C teams also played well finishing 14th and 20th but with the majority of these players being in S3, it means they have another 2 years to play and improve in this division.

The U20 Championship saw another semi-final exit, this time being out-classed by a very good Arthur Terry team. The first team rallied to take 3rd, with the second team finishing 11th, the third team 17th and the fourth team 22nd. Again recognition must go to all the hard work the players have put in: at each tournament they have been a credit to the school both in terms of performance and sportsmanship.

Four of the players have been selected for the U20 Great Britain teams which will be competing in the European Junior Championships in the summer. Congratulations to Amelia Cartwright, Natalie Milner, Piers Nicholas and Callum Wordsworth. We also have 11 U17 players attending GB trials over the Easter break.

Mr M. Beavan



Volleyball Warwickshire Mini-Power League

The Senior 1 and 2 girls returned from the Christmas break refreshed and full of vigour, and have made their mark on the second half of the volleyball mini-league.

Team Flash, Joanne Copson and Sophie Manion, decided to attend during half-term so as not to miss a week's competition. This was a great decision as they played some of their best and most confident volleyball to take 4th place overall. Congratulations to Joanne on being nominated the most valuable player of the Mini-Power league competition out of 65 players!

The girls' mini league consists of 13 teams and our final league positions in our very first season of competition are exceptional:

Little Volleyers (2nd), The Blues (3rd), Flash (4th), Team GB (5th) and PJ (10th).

Although the mini-league has now finished, the girls are still playing volleyball every Thursday lunchtime and after school.

The opportunity to participate regularly in this competition has not only allowed our girls to enhance their physical skills but also to develop an understanding for the rules through taking a turn at umpiring. They have also formed friendships with other teams, particularly Queen Elizabeth School in Atherstone, who visit Twycross for regular fixtures and a chat over tea. It is worth reflecting that sport provides young people with the opportunity to be rivals on court and good friends off it. *Mrs H Williams*



Basketball

It was another busy term for Twycross Basketball which brought success at more than one age group.

The U13 boys completed their English Schools pool with narrow defeats at home to Alcester Grammar 62-57 and away to St Bedes 64-53, but then finished on a high, defeating Heart of England 40-28 which meant they came 2nd in the group and narrowly missed out on qualifying. This group really have improved over the season and they showed this with comfortable friendly victories over Hastings and Landau Forte in February.

The U14 boys won the Nuneaton Schools tournament with victories over Ash Green, Hartshill, Coleshill and Higham Lane and progressed to the county finals where they found the step up in quality a bit too much, losing all their pool games to Laurence Sheriff, President Kennedy and Arden. This disappointing end should hopefully spur them on to better things next season.

The U15 boys continued their English Schools pool with defeats at home to Sandwell and Heart of England, which ended their participation in the cup. They then came of age in a great match at home to Friary where they won by 1 in a see-saw match where they showed poise and heart in the latter stages to come out victors.

The U16 boys easily won the Nuneaton Schools tournament, defeating Ash Green and George Elliot in an eye-opening event where a couple of fights broke out. Our boys conducted themselves impeccably and rose above the bedlam around them! They progressed to the County Finals where they were drawn against Sir John Henry Newman in their pool. They narrowly lost to them in the group stage, being out-gunned by their one man show (England player), but then did beat Barr's Hill and Ash Lawn to come 2nd in the group and progress to the semi-final against Arden. In their best performance of the season they won a close game 16-14 to reach the final and another shot at Sir John Henry Newman. Again their England player was on fire and they were defeated 18-9 but were worthy runners up. In the English Schools they completed their pool with victory over Kingsley College but missed out on qualifying by coming second to Sir John Henry Newman. It has been a great season for the up and coming U16s, only losing to one team (but 3 times!) who are in the last four in the country. They ended their season with a comfortable victory over Rawlett 57-17 in a friendly.



The U17s progressed to the last 16 in the country and were meant to play a basketball Academy in Southend-on-Sea, but Twycross were unable to travel and had to concede the game when 3 of the starting 5 turned up to school on the day of the game suffering from injury from rugby matches over the weekend.

The U12 boys started their basketball careers with easy victories over Landau Forte, Hastings and Rawlett. They benefited from their key players gaining experience in the year above and look as if they could be a great team over the next 6 years. Great things are expected from them.

The U14 girls were reeling from back-to-back defeats before Christmas and were focused on putting that right. In the Leicestershire league they completed the regular season with victories over Hamilton, Thomas Estley and Samworth Enterprise College, meaning they came 3rd in the league and were matched against 2nd place Mount Grace in the play-offs. The girls felt they owed Mount Grace after losing in the league and they played really well, especially in the 3rd quarter, and came out on top 29-12 in a highly tense game. In the final they were up against Sir Jonathan North who had not lost in Leicestershire for 3 years. Again the girls were totally focused and came into the game strong and determined. They shot out to an early lead and easily hung on to win 36-23 in what was the best performance of their short careers.

In the U15 English Schools the girls completed an undefeated pool, winning 53-42 over Sir John Fisher and setting up a 'last 32 in the country' match against St. Martin's from Brentwood. Here the girls did meet their match with a 97-57 defeat, but they learned a lot in playing against a very good team. They took this experience into the U14 West Midlands tournament and despite a slow start managed to win their group by defeating George Salter and Thomas Telford. In the final they were up against Sir John Fisher and the girls started strongly and ended up easily winning 38-16 to become West Midlands Champions, progressing to the last 16 in the country in English Schools with a home game after Easter.



The girls should be proud of their achievements this season and have the chance of creating history and becoming one of the premier girls' teams in the country, despite there being only 19 girls in the year and 10 of them playing in the team.



Overall it has been a very successful season for Twycross basketball; we have played the most games ever and had the best winning percentage (70%) since I took over. We have had 3 teams progress to the knock-out stages of the English Schools and were Leicester League play-off winners, West Midlands Champions and County runners up.

Mr D Morrell

Form 3 Volleyball Festival

Form 3 had the opportunity to try their hand at volleyball this term. A coach from Warwickshire Volleyball came into school for 5 weeks at the start of term to coach both the girls and boys for an hour of games each week and there was some excellent improvement shown by all. At the start of this term, 4 girls and 4 boys were chosen from the year to represent Twycross in the Year 4 Volleyball Festival held at Etone Sports Centre.

They spent the afternoon working on skills with the Young Sports Leaders before taking part in a mini-tournament. Each team of 2 got to play several times and there were some great games and excellent results. All eight players showed real improvement throughout the afternoon and they all enjoyed the chance to test out their new skills and compete against other schools in the area. *Mrs S Beavan*





1st Years

The children in the first year had an exciting time finding out all about water. The activity they enjoyed most was when they made ice lollies and then tasted them – some children wanted to repeat the activity! They were also very good scientists and carried out an investigation to see what happens to various materials (coffee and washing up liquid) when they are added to water.

We were very lucky this Chinese New Year. The children dressed up in traditional Chinese costumes and James Liu and Michael Li taught us how to count to 10 in Chinese. Even the teachers learned to do this – with extra help!

For Comic Relief we found out about a little boy called Robert who lives in the slums of Nairobi in Kenya. We decided to raise money to help him and other children less fortunate than we are. On the last Friday of term we all made and wore Easter hats. We looked fantastic and raised over £100 for Comic Relief!





2nd Years

Pushes and Pulls

As part of our Science this term we have been looking at 'Pushes and Pulls'. We started by designing our perfect play park and building it out of playdough so that we could investigate how the equipment worked.

Another activity involved choreographing a group dance to help us understand the different forces we use to make ourselves move. The children worked really well together to design and perform their dance to an audience.

We rounded off the topic by staging our own mini-Olympics in the Sports Hall. Hoop rolling and bean bag throwing were two exciting events!



Around Our School

This has been one of our favourite topics so far, culminating in the building of a model village in the hall. Each child, with the help of willing family members, constructed a model of their own house. The children loved creating a village with all the stunning properties and enjoyed acting as estate agents to interested viewers. The rest of the school came to view, admire and ask questions. We are very proud of all the children and a huge thank you to everyone involved in the construction process.





3rd & 4th Years

Time in the third and fourth year means...



...time to explore



...time to visit



...time to create





...time to experiment



...time to learn



...time to have fun





The Hollies

The money raised by the 'Easter Bonnet Parade'
raised £140 for Comic Relief - thank you!

Happy Easter from The Hollies!

