Senior School Newsletter
16th October 2015

The Sixth Form Open Evening was held this week. This was a great success and a large number of students attended the evening. It was good to welcome our current Year 11 students alongside a high number of external applicants. This evening gave prospective Sixth Form students a chance to consider their Post 16 options by exploring the range of courses on offer. All departments hosted subject stalls and current Sixth Formers were on hand to give further insight into the courses. The school will be offering A levels as well as Level 2 courses and BTEC level 3; full details of which can be downloaded from the school’s website: http://www.sibfordschool.co.uk/about-us/sixth-form/ (Cate Mallalieu-Needle, Head of Sixth Form)

Guest speaker Ginette Wheeldon gave Sixth Form students an informative talk about the Banbury Young Homeless Project. Further information can be found at: http://www.byhp.org.uk/

During the summer term 23 Year 9 and 10 pupils took part in the Royal Society of Biology’s online “Biology Challenge”. The challenge is designed to assess pupils’ understanding of both curriculum Biology and Biology in the world around them. It rewards those pupils who read biological news stories, watch nature programmes and who show a genuine interest in the fauna and flora around them. Sibford once again achieved some excellent results. Harri Barnden, Iain Monaghan, Alex Sabin, Elliot Davies, Ben Bentley, Rowena Cochrane and Sophie Hills were all ‘Commended’. Jack Rigby, Ed Goundrey-Smith, James McCullough, Oliver Keers and Will Edmonds were all ‘Highly Commended’. For the first time in Sibford’s history in the competition we had a Gold award! This is the highest level that can be achieved, and it went to David Chen (Year 10). Congratulations to all the pupils who took part. (Felicity Dyndor, Science Department)

As part of their induction to Year 7 pupils, their Tutors and Maggie Guy, Deputy Head, have enjoyed two days of team building and exploration of Quaker ‘values’ at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Selly Oak, Birmingham. They have spent time together learning more about each other and what it means to be a pupil in a Quaker school. Of course, whilst in Bourneville they sampled the delights to be found at Cadbury World, a Quaker founded business. Undoubtedly, this will help them understand Quaker business methods! (Maggie Guy, Deputy Head)

Pupils wore hats on Friday for ‘tip your hat to Nepal’ day; their donations will be sent to the Mary Ward School in Nepal.

All tutor group charity representatives received a shoe box this week, so that their tutor group can join together to fill it and wrap it up for the Trussell Trust Christmas Box Appeal. Further details are on the FireFly Charities page. If you would like to make up more boxes please do, so long as you have them in school by the 16th November. http://www.trusselltrust.org/christmas-boxes (Zoë Connor, Charities Coordinator)

Sixth Form Drama students attended a National Theatre Live screening of Hamlet starring Benedict Cumberbatch at Chipping Norton Theatre. Year 8 pupils gave an outstanding performance of A
Midsummer Night’s Dream at Chipping Norton Theatre on Tuesday evening and at school on Wednesday evening. The will be a final performance on Friday evening. (Neil Madden, Head of Drama)

Year 8 spent a morning outside with members of Lord Robartes Regiment (Parliamentary soldiers) of the Sealed Knot as part of their studies of the English Civil War. Pupils were able to talk to muskeeters, pikemen, cavalry and officers to gain an understanding of the nature of warfare in the Seventeenth Century. They also learned about food and cooking in the 1640s. The session ended with a cavalry demonstration and musket firing. (Anna Jo Lawrence, Head of History)

A reminder that as part of our commitment to green environmental principles, we collect unwanted textiles, clothing and shoes in our textile recycling bank at school. The school receives a small sum in return which is used to support other environmentally-friendly initiatives. Batteries and old mobile phones may also be put in the recycling boxes in the Hall foyer. Please send your child in with items to recycle when you are next having a clear out, thank you! If you have any suggestions as to how we can further develop our commitment to sustainability please do let me know. (Simon Baker, Environment Group Coordinator)

Heritage Apple Tree Orchard - In order to replace the two apple trees in Holly Tree Field that have come to the end of their natural life we are going to plant a new apple orchard. This will consist of 16 trees of varieties that have all originated in the local area. A parent of a pupil in Year 7 has kindly offered to supply the trees at cost price (£12 each). If any staff or parents are interested in sponsoring a tree please let me know (anewbold@sibfordschool.co.uk) Only 16 trees are available at £12 each. The students in the Year 11 Horticulture group will be planting the trees (weather permitting) on Tuesday 3rd November. The trees will be individually fenced the cost of which will be covered by the money raised from the school clothing bank. The following varieties will be used: Bampton Fairing (Oxon. Ripens at time of Bampton Fair); Broad-Eye Pippin (South Northants, N.)
Girls’ fixtures

With two changes made to the previous weeks team Sibford travelled over to Heyford Park to be tested on a grass pitch. Sibford were dominant for the majority of the game and only on two occasions did Heyford venture into the Sibford half. The first goal resulted from a Sophie Hills shot being deflected into the home goal by a defender. Phoebe Edmonds joined the score sheet with a comfortable shot beating the keeper. The change of ends at half time was the only difference from the first half as Sibford pushed and with a slight change in attacking positions Tilly Kannnan was able to knock in the third goal in at the backpost. Sophie Hills finished off her busy match with a long range effort that bobbled and beat the keeper low and to the left.

Player of the match: Sophie Hills.

(Matthew Brock, Head of PE)

Year 9 christened the new AstroTurf this week to help embed the sand. They all thought it was fantastic and said it was an asset to improving both their skills and game play. (Claire Ferley, PE department)

Boys’ fixtures

U12 Boys Rugby vs BGN. Lost. Player of the Match: Joe Weaver. A slow start to the first half gave the opposition the early advantage in the league decider. A much improved second half display saw Sibford win the second half, but unfortunately, they had left themselves too much to make up.

U15 Boys Rugby vs BGN. Lost. Player of the Match: Harri Barnden. It is very difficult to write a match report for a game where the team did everything right, showing great skill and passion but still lost due to ‘external factors’. An outstanding team performance throughout; they deserved a better result than they got. (Richard Ferley, PE department)

2nd Team vs Warwick. Lost. Player of the match: Carl Wallis. Despite our best efforts Warwick ran out comfortable winners this year. Ben Hohorst and Will Morley-Cotterell carried the ball well and Josh Mulhearn captained the side well. Tylor Davis scored an excellent try running the ball in from inside his own half.

U14 vs Warwick. Lost. Player of the match: Louis Wigington. A missed conversion was the difference in a very closely contested game. Sibford started slowly conceding three early tries but fought back strongly winning the second half comfortably. Ian Monaghan scored twice in the second half; James Wouters and Harry Shemmell were excellent. (Simon Chard, PE department)

Michael Goodwin read the following sections of Quaker Faith and Practice in Meetings for Worship this week:

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.
Are you alert to practices here and throughout the world which discriminate against people on the basis of who or what they are or because of their beliefs? Bear witness to the humanity of all people, including those who break society’s conventions or its laws. Try to discern new growing points in social and economic life. Seek to understand the causes of injustice, social unrest and fear. Are you working to bring about a just and compassionate society which allows everyone to develop their capacities and fosters the desire to serve?

When we descend from our towers, and come out from our sanctuaries, and take our place in ordinary homes, and workshops, and are surrounded and jostled by our fellow-creatures, we find that our sensitive souls shrink from some of these contacts: that this man humbles our pride, and that one offends our aesthetic sense: that this woman takes our words amiss, and that one misconstrues and resents our actions. It is so much easier to feel enthusiasm for humanity, than to love our immediate neighbours. (Phyllis Richards, 1948)

True Godliness don’t turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavours to mend it: not hide their candle under a bushel, but set it upon a table in a candlestick. (William Penn, 1682)

Consider which of the ways to happiness offered by society are truly fulfilling and which are potentially corrupting and destructive. Be discriminating when choosing means of entertainment and information. Resist the desire to acquire possessions or income through unethical investment, speculation or games of chance.