



Victory in Portugal...Again!

The end of November saw our Under 19 football squad in action in Portugal, as defending champions in the International Schools' Mediterranean Cup. This year the competition came from all around Europe and even North Africa.

As the reigning Champions, EIC soon learnt that their scalp was one of the most prized possessions of the whole tournament. An opening 1-1 draw, a 0-2 defeat to International School of Milan (who I must thank for their gleeful and elaborate post-match celebrations which formed a central theme to all our subsequent pre-match team talks), and, worse still, it took goalkeeper Lukas Noritzsch to blast in a top corner penalty to rescue a point in a 2-2 draw with IST (Morocco) on a dismal first day. Clearly the team needed a 'few words'.

The performances on day two were unrecognisable from the previous day's debacle. It is easy to play in a team playing well and even easier to captain a side in top form. However, my thanks to Andrea Filippa (Captain) who permeated confidence and work ethic throughout the team. 4-1 and 3-0 victories soon followed, permitting our progress to the semi-finals. The lunar eclipse and the assassination of a US president are unforgettable, once in a life time moments. I, too, am now able to say I have experienced such an event. It was Billy Blackwell, resolute defender

and tenacious tackler, still carrying the monicker 'jigsaw' for his ability to go to pieces in the opposition box, who began to dribble the ball from our own area. As he passed the half way line a slight nose bleed ensued; as he entered the penalty box we all feared for local passers-by and dog walkers as the traditional ballooned shot was coming. Defying both the odds and the gods, Billy calmly rolled the ball under the keeper to secure a now deserved place in the final. As traditionally as the leaves succumb to gravity in late Autumn, hearing Omar complain of a debilitating injury is as expected as it is ignored.



I must apologise, along with his team mates, for cajoling 'injured' Omar into playing for the team in the final. The fact he was to play with such confidence and conviction, with a broken bone in his foot, owes more to the EIC character and his own mental toughness than my own poor powers of medical diagnosis. The American School of Tangier were worthy opponents in the final, however, two individually fine goals from Robert Scott and Jamie Bett, and some fine last minute saves by goalkeeper Lukas Noritzsch, resulted in a final score of 2-1 in our favour. Champions again! Congratulations to all the Under 19 Boys and to Andrea who was deservedly awarded the player of the tournament trophy.

Alastair Gibson



Toastmasters International

With the year of public speaking upon us Toastmasters International were invited to EIC for a four week workshop with Key stage 4, Year 10 & 11 students were introduced to the art of making speeches in public. The Toastmasters used various 'games' to reduce the trauma of standing on your feet in front of peers, with expert feedback and insightful tips to help those still suffering any wobbles. Videos of memorable speeches were analysed and students delivered their own three minute speeches to graduate as Toastmasters. Our thanks to all the Toastmasters for helping to improve the public speaking skills of our Key Stage 4 students. Toastmasters are currently helping to prepare our debating team for a forthcoming competition ... Thank you. News on this in the next edition.

Alastair Gibson



Polar Bear Challenge

Dawn on the 19th December broke to reveal the brave, some say foolhardy, participants of this year's Polar Bear Challenge. The PBC consists of a cross country run followed by a length of the swimming pool, at 8 o'clock in the morning, in December. Brrrr!

Surprisingly there were plenty of volunteers: teachers, parents and students all leapt at the chance to spend Christmas in bed with pneumonia. All proceeds from the event (yes they even have to pay for the 'privilege') go to charity.

Alastair Gibson



Lifeguards Ahoy!

Congratulations to Sophie Ainsworth, Laura Ainsworth, Gary Carter, Billy Blackwell, Leo Hogan and Jessica Cole, who completed over 32 hrs of training and an assessment by a visiting moderator, to be awarded the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification.



Years 6 and 7 Ski Trip

Friday 14th of December saw another packed bus of Year 6 & 7 students heading to Sierra Nevada for a full day's skiing or snowboarding under expert instruction. This trip is designed to nurture the skills and experience in our youngest students, to hopefully promote a life-long passion for Alpine adventure. All students and staff had a fantastic day, with Taylor Arnold receiving special praise for his natural snowboarding ability which had instructors in disbelief that this was his first ever visit to snow-covered slopes. With over 30 students going to Switzerland, it is clear this trip continues to stimulate interest and confidence in one of the most enjoyable pursuits available in Southern Spain.

Alastair Gibson



EIC FAMILIES' BIG HEARTS

Inspired by our caring and dedicated PTA, we collected a fantastic number of food and baby items which we donated to the Red Cross for local families in need at Christmas time. All of the 2,137 items were set out on the stage for the presentation to Red Cross representatives at the end of last term. There was a competition between

teams in the primary school and houses in the secondary school to further encourage students to donate. Primary winners were Green team with 895 points; secondary winners were Dali with 218 points. Secondary need to up their game next year when we plan to make another Christmas Red Cross collection!

Sara Montagut Mondéjar from the Red Cross expressed their thanks:-



We have just finished sorting all the food and I cannot thank you enough for what you have done. My colleagues and I are thrilled. Thanks to you we now have much more food to hand out at this special time of year and I am sure we are going to make many families very happy. My colleagues who were with you this morning have returned delighted and impressed with the way you organised the event. It has been a pleasure meeting you and I wish you all and your families a very happy Christmas.

Well done everyone who made the effort and the financial sacrifice, including one EXTREMELY generous parent, (who, in this publication, will remain nameless). We certainly made a difference.

Yvonne Stevenson

Christmas Concert

On the 17th December an enthusiastic audience filled the hall for the traditional EIC Christmas Concert.

Performances from the Orchestra and Wind Ensemble were superbly executed and the new EIC Choir thrilled the audience with their superb harmonies. Soloists also held the audience spellbound as they not only played with precision but also communicated the intentions of the composer elegantly. It was also a great pleasure to be able to announce to the audience that three of our Orchestra members achieved excellent marks on their ABRSM Grade Exams so congratulations to Merel, Frank and Elliot. More on this to come! Another highlight of the evening was the Junior Choir who, although slightly depleted, gave an excellent performance. With quality like this in the Primary School I see exciting times ahead for the Senior Choir. As the last of the audience exited the hall which was still ringing from the descant to O Little Town of Bethlehem one member was heard to comment "What a great concert, it really put me in the mood for Christmas." What more could we have desired?

Simon Horsey



Featured Musician

Frank Huisman is our featured musician this month. Frank has just passed his Grade 4 saxophone and has been a key member of the EIC Orchestra for several years. He has lessons with Mr Napier. I caught up with Frank to ask him about his playing, what he hopes to achieve and any advice he has to give to other potential musicians.

When did you start learning the saxophone?

5 years ago, but I only started because my sister Merel started playing first. I thought that it was an astronomical instrument!

How do you manage your practice time?

I hardly watch TV, plus I don't have Facebook so I get time for my homework and my music normally. I play half an hour a day, in between work or when I feel I need some relaxation. Sometimes I don't play saxophone but I play the bass or drums to use up some energy!

What are your favourite pieces to play?

Probably jazz, but now I have heard my Grade 5 pieces I found out I quite like rock-style tunes. There is also a really nice slow song which I feel I can really put my emotions into.

How did you get on in your Grade 4 exam?

I achieved 117 marks. THE pass mark was 100 and I was just 3 marks away from a Merit. I guess I could have done a bit better in my scales!

What advice do you have for others play-

ing an instrument?

Try to play what you feel like. If you don't want to practise something still do it, but try to play some other pieces as well which might suit you better.

Once I hadn't practised what I was supposed to during the summer but I came back playing it better than I did before because I had been playing other stuff over the holidays. I wouldn't advise this as a general rule though! As long as you remember to practise everything you should be all right. To quote an unknown author, "Everything will be okay in the end. And if it is not okay, it is not the end." I take this to mean that if I make a mistake in something, even in a performance, I can go back and practise it more to make sure it doesn't happen next time I play.

What are your aspirations for your playing?

I want to carry on playing but mainly as a hobby. I know that if I get to Grade 6, 7 or 8 before I apply to university I will get UCAS points to help support my application.



China - Year 9 Geography

On the 17th December I was invited by Mr Long to share my experiences of China in a Year 9 Geography lesson. As the class had been studying issues about the changes in China, I decided to talk about my five years in Beijing where I lived with the problem of pollution on a daily basis, and migration as I travelled extensively around the country. I also gave them a taste of the Chinese language and Chinese cuisine. The class was full of enthusiasm and had some challenging questions for me. For me it was an interesting insight into teaching Key Stage 3 Geography students and I am looking forward to sharing more of my experiences in the upcoming Chinese club that I will be running for this term.

Miss Salvi

北京中國



Public Speaking

As part of the many developments taking place in the EIC Year of Public Speaking, Academic Principal Mrs Stevenson



led an assembly entitled "Rhetoric". Famous speeches were examined and various oratory techniques such as tricolon and anaphora were explained. The

Senior Debating Team featured as did Head of English and Classics, Dr. Clare Morris, whose rendition of Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman" speech will be remembered by us for quite some time.

Stevie Black and Louize Frazer won the competition by identifying the tricolon in Abraham Lincoln's Gettysberg Address. ("government of the people, by the people, for the people") Well done!

Yvonne Stevenson

Primary Christmas Shows

Our Christmas productions this year were AMAZING! The children and staff worked extremely hard to entertain the audience.

The Key Stage 1 and Foundation show was 'A Snowman at Sunset' and the Key Stage 2 show was 'The Pied Piper'. Everyone had a great time and left full of Christmas spirit.

Mrs Follett



Letters to Santa

At the beginning of December, in plenty of time to avoid the Christmas rush, the children in Reception each wrote a letter to Santa, giving him a list of what they would like for Christmas. They then went to the nearest postbox and posted the letters. On their way back to school the children collected some twigs, acorns and pine-cones from the woods to use for their Christmas crafts week.



What a fun morning they had!

The Reception Team

Year 6 Get an Eyeful!

The Year 6 children spent the afternoon in the lab under the careful 'eye' of Dr Walker and her pink piggy friends. They were enthralled, although some were slightly bemused, by the exploration of a pig's eyeball. It was a great opportunity for the children to reinforce the theoretical learning which they have been doing in class. It's fair to say that we have some budding biologists on our hands! Thank you to Dr Walker for organising this memorable investigation.

Miss Harriet and Miss Victoria



During the first week in December Year 3 had a fantastic Roman Day! We didn't let the rain get us down - we spent the day making Roman shields, swords and helmets. We also marched like a Roman army and had a catapult competition, which was won by Olly and Tilly. We all had so much fun!

Miss Gail & Miss Laura

Victorian Day – Year 5

On the 30th November, Year 5 children, and teachers went back in time to the Victorian era. They experienced what life was like for Victorian children at school by following a typical school day. It all began with registration using their new Victorian names, before they went outside to complete *drill*. After that they returned to class for still life drawing and handwriting practice. After that first hour of hard work they then ate some Victorian style food before being allowed out to play. The day ended with the children making their own Victorian inventions. They all thoroughly enjoyed the day!

Miss Nicola and Mr Nicholas



Fencing Success

On Saturday 19th January a team from EIC, consisting of Hamish Kamaie and Samuel Slate from Year 6 and Oliver Simmons from Year 5, won the Primary section of the Schools' Fencing competition held at the Club Internacional de Esgrima de Estepona, well done lads!

