



Absent Friends

25th June 2021

ISSUE
no. 33

At times the Senior School has been eerily quiet this week since we have had up to four year groups on residential trips.

Year 8 have been at Skern Lodge in Devon, Years 5 and 6 have been in York and Year 4 spent two nights in Flatford.

There will (no doubt) be many tales to tell on their return and these will form the bulk of future bulletins. In the meantime please feel free to peruse the Twitter handles below – they certainly give a flavour of 'THS on Tour'!

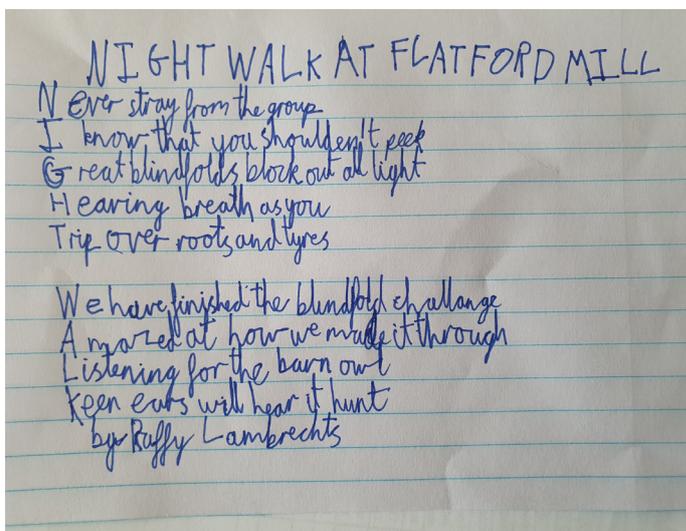
<https://twitter.com/THSBoysSkernY8>

<https://twitter.com/THSBoysGeog>

<https://twitter.com/THSBoysSport>

<https://twitter.com/THSBoysArt>

<https://twitter.com/THSBoysYear4>



As always our collective thanks and respect goes to the accompanying staff – 24/7 care of large groups of pupils is exhausting and they have earned the right to put their feet up this weekend.



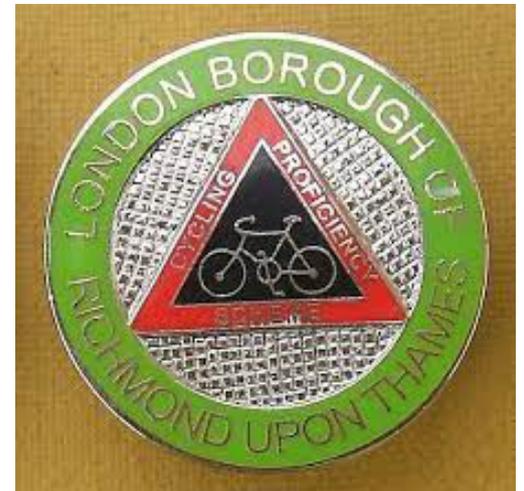
IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BADGE!



Some badges are more iconic than others – but, is there any badge more recognisable than the Cycling Proficiency one?

Whilst others were spending some time away from SW14, Year 7 were given expert tuition from the Richmond Bikeability Training Team on how to maintain their bicycles and how to ride them safely on the road.

The visiting instructors were very complimentary indeed regarding the boys' skill sets and behaviour. After five days, practical and written tests were taken and everyone passed – well done!





This week, Year 2 had a very special visitor. Tristan's grandad who was evacuated twice during WWII came to speak to the boys about his experiences. Although he was very young at the time, he remembers a great deal. Mr Branch spoke about how the war started, and the boys learned about the Battle of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain. He spoke about his experiences of having to wear a gas mask, the Anderson and Morrison shelters in his home and showed us photographs of his family. Thank you so much to the Branch family for researching and creating a lovely and informative activity for the boys!



ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

It has been a slow news week for pupil sport; but a THS parents cricket team took on a side representing The Old Vicarage – this was a hotly contested affair if the (comprehensive) report from Tom Singlehurst is anything to go by.

Honour upheld!

THS vs. OVS Match Report

Despite the weather forecast looking decidedly mixed, the THS Dads XI took to the field against our fiercest rivals: the massed ranks of the Old Vicarage School Dads who had the early psychological edge having turned up 30 minutes early to 'warm up' in the nets. Having heroically won the toss for THS, Tom Singlehurst elected to bat and before long openers Brad Shulman and Sevi Rixson were striding out to the square where the going was 'good to soft'. Despite the damp ground making for an uneven, bounce Shulman and Rixson started purposefully exchanging singles before Shulman pulled to square leg and was caught. 4 for 1 after just one over.

After a quick stewards enquiry into the nature of the playing surface, the game was restarted on the astro strip which simultaneously provided less risk of a broken ankle for the bowler and a more even and predictable bounce for the batsman. Rixson didn't take long to capitalise, hitting three sixes on the trot and effecting his own 'dismissal': forced retirement on 25 off 11 balls (a strike rate of 227).

Thereafter his batting partner, James Howard-Vyse provided a more metronomic approach to the scoreboard, running literally every single one of his 25 retired (a more pedestrian 78 strike rate), outlasting a succession of batting partners. Nick Hill looked promising before being caught behind on 2, Gareth Earl (in only his second ever match) scored a solid 12 off 15 balls before being caught LBW by the opposition skipper whilst diving for cover. Martin Beaumont was unlucky to be caught and bowled on 3 just as he was getting his eye in.

Continued on the next page....



Tower House School

The Year 2 duo of Matt Hughes and Alex Pitchford helped steady the ship piling on the runs in the middle third of the innings with Hughes retiring on a flourish with a 6, taking his total to 29 (the top THS scorer on the day). Pitchford, meanwhile, put together a handy 14 off just 9 balls.

In the tail, Davids Walsh (3 n.o. off 3 balls including one of the highest top edges anyone had ever seen) and George (5 off 5 balls) kept the scoreboard ticking over while Singlehurst preyed on some loose bowling to add 15 runs in the last over taking the THS total to 154 for 6.

The OVS innings started ominously with their opening pair hitting 14 off the first over (roughly 2x the required run rate of 7.7) but Rixson again provided a steadying presence, picking off one opener in his first over (LBW) and getting the number 4 (caught expertly behind by David Walsh) in his second.

It is fair to say there was some fairly loose bowling in the middle third of the innings (Singlehurst, 2-0-18-0; Hill 2-0-25-0) but even with that OVS were fairly pinned down by the end of the 13th over at 84/6 thanks to a

handy spell from Gareth Earl, maintaining the 'one-wicket-per-over' consistency that has become his hallmark (2-0-19-2), and David George with a stunningly parsimonious economy rate of 2.5 (2-0-5-1).

It was therefore surprising to see OVS seriously pick up the pace into the final third with some wonderful batting from their returning number 2 (Ed Gay, who ended up on 42 not out) and number 5 (Fahad Durrani who was tricked in the end by a deceptively straight off spin from Walsh). With one over to go, OVS were within reach but a tight spell at the death by Howard-Vyse left OVS 14 runs short at 137/9 at the end of the 20 overs delivering THS's fifth consecutive victory in this enduring classic

What did we learn? That the Apple weather app is not infallible - there were even pockets of blue sky by the end of the game providing a fantastic backdrop to prize giving (Rixson being THS's player of the match) and celebratory drinks. That catches don't, in fact, win matches - much to Martin Beaumont's relief. That after almost 18 months locked up indoors, it is wonderful to be playing cricket again, seeing old friends and making new ones. Yes, THS emerged the victor in this particular fixture, but cricket was the real winner.





FORTHCOMING EVENTS

| | | | |
|----------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Mon 28th | - | Junior School rehearsals at Christ Church No Year 3 PE/ No Year 1 games | am |
| | - | Year 6 health-related fitness trip to Locker 27 | pm |
| | - | Junior School online parents evening | 3:45pm |
| Tue 29th | - | Junior School rehearsals at Christ Church No Year 2 PE/ No Reception games | am |
| | - | Junior School online parents evening | 3:45pm |
| Wed 30th | - | Year 8 play and Skern Lodge presentation (hall) For Year 8 parents. Two seats per family only | 6:00pm |
| Thur 1st | - | Performance 1 of Junior School Summer Celebration For Reception and Year 1 parents only (two seats per family) Reception and Year 1 children to go home with parents afterwards Years 2 and 3 children return to school for normal collection | 2:00pm |
| | - | Years 4/5/6 summer barbeque at Home Guard Boys only. Collection from school at usual time. | Early pm |
| | - | Years 7/8 summer barbeque at Home Guard Collection from Home Guard at 4:20pm | Late pm |
| Fri 2nd | - | Year 8 Post CE cycling activity Boys to bring bicycles to school | am |
| | - | Reception and Year 1 summer barbeque at Home Guard Boys only | early am |
| | - | Years 2 and 3 summer barbeque at Home Guard Boys only | late am |
| | - | Performance 2 of Junior School Summer Celebration For Years 2 and 3 parents only (two seats per family) Years 2 and 3 children to go home with parents afterwards Reception and Year 1 children return to school for normal collection | 2:00pm |



We'll leave you with some photos of next year's incoming Reception class who spent Friday morning with us!



Have a lovely weekend!