



Founded 1656

The Haberdashers' Adams' Federation Adams' Grammar School

A Member of the Family of Haberdashers' Schools
Newport, Shropshire

Headmaster's News

Autumn Term Issue 2

25 September 2009

Another personal challenge ... or the lure of House Cross Country

This week we were presented with an assembly from our Deputy Head-Learning & Teaching, Mr Hickey. In a talk to the school that was full of honesty and candour, he delivered a speech reiterating the Adams' philosophy; that of continually challenging ourselves, and the need to support others in doing so. I would like to share it with you:

"My topic this week for the Assembly is Personal Challenge. We talk a lot at Adams' about always challenging ourselves and never being complacent. I have my own personal challenge coming up in a little over a week – I have mystifyingly allowed myself to be talked into being one of the staff to run the house Cross Country.

Now you may find this difficult to believe by looking at me, but I am not a natural athlete. I often say that I have in fact the body of a God. It's just unfortunate the God in question is Buddha. It will come as no surprise therefore to know that the thought of running over three miles fills me with dread.

*However, in the true spirit of Adams' I have set myself this personal target. I have also made a pact with Mr Jones in Design and Technology, who, he assures me, is astonishingly just as chronically unfit as I am. We therefore will be setting off **together** in a spirit of comradeship, mutual support, and steely determination.*

*On the day itself as you pass us (because I can assure you, you **will** pass us) I guarantee you we will be recognisable. Mr Jones will be running with his own personal team of paramedics, and I will be the one running with the portable oxygen tent.*



As you would expect of the staff at Adams' - support from our colleagues has also been forthcoming. When I told Miss Clayton last term that I would be running, she (as a very able and talented sportswoman herself) actually snorted with laughter and left the room, unable to speak. When I mentioned my intentions to Dr Pack, he proceeded to tell me of his own experiences at the cross country last year, where as a result of the running he sustained a stress fracture and ended up with a broken leg!

At the end of last term Mr Armstrong, who seems to be the sadist in charge of this event, asked me what time I intended to finish the race in. My answer was simple – my target is to finish the cross country sometime in the same calendar month that I begin it.

*Whilst running, it is more than likely that both Mr Jones and I will be towards the back. I don't want any of you to think that this is because we are in some way being charitable and supporting the less able runners. It will be simply because we **are** the less able runners, and as such will simply be trying to keep up. Or, more accurately, be simply trying to keep breathing.*

I am slightly encouraged though because according to Mr Mulhern, whilst running we will be in something called "The Zone". As a non-sportsman I have no idea what this Zone is; where it is; how on earth you get into it; and certainly have no idea of what to do once you're in there.

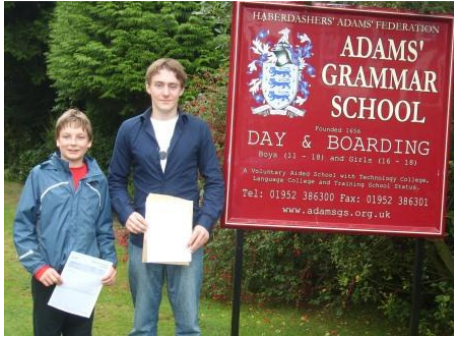
*So as you all cross the finish line, as you all no doubt will, in triumph, please spare a thought for the two lone figures somewhere behind you (for I can guarantee we will indeed be **behind** you). We will not I suspect be crossing the line as in the Hollywood versions – in some slow motion black and white film with our fists raised in glory to the accompaniment of an inspiring soundtrack. It will more than likely be the two of us falling over the line arguing about who gets the first go on the oxygen mask.*

As I say, for Mr. Jones and I this will be a significant undertaking. Great challenges for some are, of course, not necessarily challenges for others. Some personal challenges may seem easy for others. We heard recently of the Headmaster completing a section of the Tour de France which no doubt was indeed a mighty achievement for him ... but let's face it; he did get to sit down all the way. We however will be running, shoulder to shoulder, mostly upright, striding forward in the true spirit of Adams'. All the way to the end of the course. The course which includes, incidentally, an uphill sprint and then a leap over the ha-ha. (The ha-ha so called because that's what generations of Adams' pupils say when they see the state of teachers such as Mr Jones and I finally crossing the line).

So some support then please next week. A cheer or two perhaps on the day. Maybe the odd encouraging clap as we go by. We would also not refuse the occasional offer of a piggy-back.

Mr Hickey

Individual Achievement



Jonathan Newey pictured with mentor Fergus Cooper

Jonathan Newey (10T) achieved a pass in one module of Geology A-level in the summer at the end of year 9. Not only that, Jonathan achieved a grade A. The module was Global Tectonics, which is one of six modules in the Geology A-level syllabus. He undertook this through one and a half hours of tuition weekly (one lunchtime and one after school) with last year's U6 form student Fergus Cooper and his own reading/research. This is a tremendous achievement. Jonathan will now continue in year 10 with two more modules. He will be joined by Luke West (10T) and also Laurie Meldon (9D) who will undertake one module in a similar fashion. Ross Cowie, David Greenwood and Haydn Haynes (Lower Sixth) will take on the role of mentors, together with Dr Dolding. By the end of year 10 all boys should have completed the three modules necessary for a full AS level.

Religious Studies

On Friday 11th September Year 7 pupils received a presentation from the Gideon's Society.

Representatives of the Society, Mr and Mrs Watkins, informed the pupils about the history of the organisation, the role that it has in society and work that it does with young people. Each year the Gideons present a copy of the New Testament to all Year 7s in the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin LEAs. Mrs Watkins also briefly explained to the pupils how to use their copies of the New Testament and where they could seek advice.

Each pupil, who wished to receive a copy of the New Testament (and a number did decline for a variety of reasons), was presented with one at the end of the assembly.

Miss Bowater was very impressed with the behaviour of all the year 7 boys and the politeness that they demonstrated to our visitors. Mr and Mrs Watkins remarked on this too.



Polish Exchange 2009

This year's fifth exchange to Poland was the largest yet with seven boys from Years 7-9 taking part in the return leg to Rzeszów. For most, it was their first trip to the country so it included sightseeing and brushing up their Polish language skills. There were excursions to places of historic interest in Rzeszów such as Łańcut Palace and merchant's cellars up to 13m below the Market Place. Further afield there were trips to a Beekeepers' Museum, a 19th century pharmacy and Hitler's bomb proof train shelter where he met Mussolini in 1941.

Much fun was had during a football competition. Three mixed teams of Adams' and Polish boys played against each other one evening. After that there was also volleyball and table tennis for those still not tired enough, followed by cooking sausages on a wood bonfire. If it had not been for the midges the activities would have continued all night.

Our return was from Kraków Airport so there was an opportunity to visit the World Heritage Site of Wieliczka Salt Mine. Then Wawel Castle and Cathedral in Kraków where Polish kings were crowned and many have their final resting place. This beautiful historic city with the largest market square in Eastern Europe was truly imposing. The group so greatly enjoyed the exchange that a return is already being planned.

Library

Pupil Library Assistants

Another set of students have completed their service in Big School Library and are to be presented with their Certificates. They have spent many breaktimes and lunchtimes over the whole of last academic year helping their fellow students to make the most of their school library. They have produced booklets and displays encouraging others to read books, both fiction and non-fiction. The Librarians have found their help invaluable in choosing resources, processing new books and generally keeping the rooms tidy and inviting.

Certificate of Achievement - **Timothy Ince 11T**
Tom Parsons 11D

Shropshire County Council, School Library Service,
Library Assistant Training Scheme Level 2 Certificate

-**Nicholas Gee 9D**

-**James Mayer 11T**

-**Andrew Murray 11T**

(winner of the **Bibliophile Prize**)

Big School Library is now recruiting Pupil Library Assistants from the present Year 9.

Music

Twenty three pupils have enjoyed success in music examinations this summer. Congratulations to them all.

Zak Christie	8T	Oboe	4	Pass
Jack Burrowes	8D	Trumpet	3	Pass
Thomas Harrison	8T	Trumpet	2	Pass
Jordan Crook	11W	Piano	3	Distinction
Joscelin Dent Pooley	9D	Violin	5	Merit
Joshua Barratt	8D	Violin	5	Merit
Charles Rowlands	11W	Violin	6	Pass
Bhalraj Chima	11C	Violin	6	Pass
John Henry Obi	8D	Clarinet	2	Pass
Harry Mason	10W	Saxophone	3	Pass
Tom Doherty	11D	Voice	6	Distinction
Oli Snelling	U6SD	Voice	7	Merit
Bolu Coker	8T	Drum Kit	1	Merit
Rahul Bhogal	10W	Drum Kit	1	Merit
Ryan Cullen	9C	Drum Kit	1	Pass
Roshan Bains	8C	Drum Kit	1	Merit
Will McCartney	9T	Drum Kit	1	Distinction
Harvey Moseley	8C	Drum Kit	2	Pass
Patrick Shanahan	11T	Drum Kit	1	Merit
Harry Redwood	9T	Drum Kit	1	Merit
Edward White	9W	Drum Kit	2	Pass
Fred Thomas	Left July 2009	Piano	Diploma	Dip ABRSM
Tom Wright	Left July 2009	Piano	8	Distinction

Car Parking at Longford

You should all have received my letter, e-mailed separately this week, referring to traffic arrangements during the current season of sports practices and activities after school at Longford. Because of the increased level of traffic at this time, in the interests of safety and smooth functioning we ask you to support us by parking in the lower car park at the bottom of Longford drive on the left and then walking up to spectate and to meet your sons.

(The exception to this is parents of boarders or day boarders, who are either dropping off or collecting their sons from Longford Hall.) Please enter the car park through the main entrance but leave through the smaller gate at the other end of the car park. This should all help to minimise congestion and bottlenecks. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Adams' Grammar School Society (AGSS)

The committee would like to warmly welcome all new parents to the School.

We are a dedicated group of parents who aim to raise funds to provide additional resources for all the students at our school. During the academic year 2008/09 we provided £16,000 of extra funding.

All parents (new and existing) are welcome to join the committee and if you are interested please come along to our AGM on **Wednesday October 7th** - Performing Arts Centre Foyer @ 7.30pm.

If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like to know more about our activities please contact us via our e-mail address agssociety@hotmail.co.uk

Regards

Jan Griffiths Louise Taylor (Joint Chairs)

100 Club Winners for July

1st	£110	no 140	L Farnsworth, Crudgington
2nd	£75	no 227	M Haynes, Telford
3rd	£50	no 268	L Scriven, Cheswardine

100 Club Winners for August

1 st	£110	no 007	F Hawkins, Telford
2 nd	£75	no 119	P Wright, Pendeford
3 rd	£50	no 311	C Perry, Ranton

Charities



Earlier this week Mr Richardson came into school in his capacity as Chair of Newport Rotary International. He was presented with a cheque for £216 by U6 student **Adam Coomer**, Chair of Adams' Charities Committee. The monies have been raised by the sale of Little Traveller dolls, which have been made by crafters at the Hillcrest AIDS Centre in South Africa.

This initiative, which got off the ground in 2005 at the University of Manitoba, has grown significantly since then and highlights the plight of the crafters, all of whom are affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as others whom the staff at the Centre work tirelessly to help. The initiative raises money by selling the Little Traveller dolls. A photo competition has also been introduced, the dolls being snapped in all manner of locations far and wide. Little Travellers 'Chapters' have emerged all over the world as the initiative spreads. Now Mr Richardson hopes that a similar Chapter can be set up in Newport. If you would like to know more about the charity please have a look at the website. www.littletravellers.net/



Glad's House is a charity which funds housing, shelter, education and sport for street children in Mombassa, Kenya.

John McGlassen from the charity visited us in School last term and received a cheque for £670 as a result of a mufti day fundraising initiative. www.gladshouse.com.



Stop press: we are also celebrating some tremendous sporting successes at the beginning of the season and will be reporting on them in a separate issue.

Adams' Grammar School
Tel: (01952) 386300 Fax: (01952) 386301
Email: enquiries@adamsgs.org.uk
www.adamsgs.org.uk

With my very best wishes
M J Barratt
Headmaster