

ROSSALL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Monday
23rd January 2012



Headmaster

The school is awash with small scholarship candidates, presenting us all with delightful challenges and parents with consequential choices. I am particularly aware that at Rossall decisions about whether to make awards and how big they should be will have an extraordinary effect on the lives of the children. We try to make sure we have enough evidence to enable us to make a good choice, but it isn't an exact science. We are getting better at tracking the subsequent performance at Rossall of children to whom we did and didn't make awards, but as I must have said before the main contributor to success in an arena where any child could do well if it really tried is the character of the child: determination, postponement of gratification, focus. Less time with the mobile phone and the excitements of it, and all its brood of sisters---ipads and tablets of various kinds, games consoles---and we might have more academic direction. I spoke last week of e-safety regulations and guidance----at least one reader of these dreary letters was thrilled, because she had been involved in drafting the policy----and noted with some anxiety a suggestion that "mobile phones, ipods, and other personal electronic devices should be switched off and stored securely during the school day. They may be used in lunch times and in boarding houses after school". Whenever I read policies of this kind I think of the army of supervisors which is required to enforce them. Of course, it's possible that these machines are helping boys and girls to become entrepreneurs. This interests me a lot. One of the founders of the Carphone Warehouse, educated at a distinguished school in Rutland, put in a bid, when he was 14, for the contract to supply carpets to the school. It was professionally done, and in due course he received an invitation to discuss his tender with the Bursar. These schools have always been bastions of inventiveness. One of my correspondents, a gentleman of mature years and long experience, reports how in his boarding house at Rossall in the 1950s a couple of boys decided to keep hens in their study in order to sell fresh eggs to their housemates. They did not produce any saleable eggs because they did not realise that the hens needed grit in their diet so the eggs had no shells and fell through the floor of their battery cage. One evening---this reminds me of the wonderful story Sredni Vashtar by Saki----their suspicious Housemaster, a man of weak constitution and poor eyesight, decided to carry out a study inspection at midnight, when all was quiet and dark. He entered the study and turned on the light. The hens, startled, squawked and flapped their wings from underneath the rug which was concealing them. Convicted of this crime the two young men decided to catch shrimps and sell them on but the rest of the story is too horrible to tell. I mention all this because a girl was reported to me for saying that she was depressed because your schooldays are supposed to be the happiest days of her life and if this was as good as it was going to get she was unimpressed. No doubt I shall now be bombarded with horrible stories from the distant past, but at least I shall be spared the series of excruciating puns generated by the story of the Plaice in the car park (Why was the Plaice in the car park? Cod knows, said one correspondent; and another, when I pointed out the ramifications of the story, replied I don't think that haddock urred to me).

Well, we travelled a long way in that first paragraph, but I think the entrepreneurial idea is worth remembering, because we have multi-millionaires among our Old Rossallians and when I mention their names to people who knew them I am often told that their abilities were honed in studies round the Square. I've been in the Square rather too much. On Wednesday we had Stargazing, and our very own Nick Lister spoke to 600 eager starwatchers in Big School. BBC Radio Lancashire came for most of the day and one of their stalwart anchormen, Gilly, was in the Square for most of the time between 1:00 pm and 10:00 pm interviewing pupils and teachers and even the Headmaster (it stays on the Lancashire BBC website for a week if you want to listen). I was thrilled with the success of the event. Big School will also be the venue

for a Chinese New Year celebration this weekend and for a Burns Night Ceilidh next Saturday (a few tickets are still available for those who love the sound of the pipes and a dish of haggis and neeps). I have to be away supporting my daughter as she plays her accordion, but I have been to the Burns Night over the past two years and it's been fun. Another event meticulously planned by the Friends of Rossall, our greatest supporters. We are grateful to them.

I can't keep up with all the games but I am glad to see that the Winkley curse has ceased to operate: my presence at a games fixture was thought to be the kiss of death (Do you mind not coming this afternoon, sir? My Winchester boys used to say : we are rather hoping for a win). At Uppingham I once appeared at the end of a tennis match : our first pair were 5-1 up in the final deciding set of the deciding match, and when I left the set had been lost by seven games to five. But at Rossall the opposite happens. I watch us score a goal or two, reckon things are all sorted, sneak off to write the Newsletter, and on Monday get the news that after a good start Rossall were unfortunate to lose 10-3. Our Ladies hockey team are being presented with a new strip this weekend (a kind gift from parental sponsors) so there are positive feelings around, though our indoor hockey boys were unfortunate last weekend in the National Finals. The eventual winners were Cranleigh, where I started my teaching career forty three years ago. Another world!

Dr Stephen Winkley, Headmaster

SPORTS ROUND UP

WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 16th January 2012

Boys' Hockey

Wednesday 18th January

Rossall 1st XI 5 King's Chester 3
Rossall U16 4 Merchant Taylor's U16 3
Rossall U16 1 RGS Lancaster U16 1

Saturday 21st January

Rossall 1st XI 1 Denstone College 1st XI 1
Rossall 2nd XI 0 Denstone College 1st XI 3
Rossall U16 0 Merchant Taylor's U16 4
Rossall U15 1 Merchant Taylor's U15 0
Rossall U14 2 Merchant Taylor's U14 1
Rossall U13A 1 Denstone College U13 A 7
Rossall U13B 3 Denstone College U13B 6
Rossall U12A 1 Denstone College U12A 0
Rossall U12B 1 Denstone College U12B 0

Basketball

Rossall U19's 55 Bury Grammar School U19's 53

Football

Rossall 1st XI 0 Arnold 1st XI 1
Rossall 2nd XI 1 Arnold 2nd XI 2

Netball

Rossall 1st VII 5 Sedbergh 1st VII 27
Rossall 2nd VII 0 Sedbergh 2nd VII 13
Rossall U15's 8 Sedbergh U15's 3
Rossall U14's 9 Sedbergh U14's 11
Rossall U13's 8 Terra Nova U13's 16
Rossall U12's 2 Terra Nova U12's 29

Events	Week 3	
Monday 23 rd January	9.00 am 1.45 pm 3.25 pm 4.00 pm	Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 Scholarship auditions, trials and interviews Student Council Meeting CCF Hockey -v- Bolton: U13 (h)
Tuesday 24 th January		Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 Scholarship auditions, trials and interviews
Wednesday 25 th January	12.30 pm 12.30 pm 12.45 pm 2.00 pm 5.30 pm	Year 10 pupils Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations (Depart) Basketball -v- Xaverian College, Manchester:U19 (a) Golf -v- North Cestrian (Depart) Hockey -v- KEQMS: U14 (a) (Depart) Netball -v- Queen Elizabeth's, Kirkby Lonsdale: 1st, U15, U14 (a) Boarding Council Meeting (Sumner Library)
Thursday 26 th January	4.30 pm 6.00 pm	Lower Sixth Careers Talk - "Applying to University" (by UCLAN) - Sumner Library Year 9 Academic Parents' Meeting
Friday 27 th January	1.45 pm 3.30 pm 6.30 pm	Art trip to Glasgow and Edinburgh Confirmation class for Senior School (Chaplain's Office) Inter House Sport: Boys' Swimming Farrell Society
Saturday 28 th January	8.00 am 10.00 am 2.00 pm 2.30 pm 2.30 pm 2.30 pm 2.30 pm	Art trip to Glasgow and Edinburgh Depart, Netball -v- Austin Friars: U15, U13, U12 (a) Hockey -v- KEQMS: U13/U12 (h) Hockey -v- Sedbergh: U14, U13 Depart, Hockey -v- Sedbergh: 1st XI, 2nd XI (a) Basketball -v- Sedbergh: U19 (h) Fives - v- Sedbergh (h) Football -v- Sedbergh: 1st XI, 2nd XI
Sunday 29 th January	3.00 pm 5.15 pm	Boarders Trip: Cheshire Jets -v- Leicester Riders (Basketball) House Concert, Spread Eagle