

General Knowledge 2003/4



General Knowledge Quiz

The General Knowledge competition haunts me as the end of the Autumn term approaches and I had the same annual dilemma with the compilation of the Christmas quiz. Just how hard should it be? This year I am very grateful to have had more help with the questions for the Middles and Seniors to add to the guidance given by the Year 3 teachers for the Juniors. I know the Senior section caused much head scratching and I applaud your efforts!

My helpers once again were absolutely marvelous; reliable, cheerful and willing to give up valuable break time to help mark and record the results. The teachers took on their weeks with surprising enthusiasm and the buzz around the results boards each day welcoming the new questions proved once again that the human brain is inherently curious despite some evidence to the contrary during late classes in mid winter!



And suddenly the final loomed! In a short term, it is a bit of a rush to determine the finalists and even more so this year since most of Year 7 were away in France. As a result, the semi final couldn't take place fully until they returned. All the pupils who qualified for the semi final had put in a great effort throughout the term showing creditable perseverance and organisation skill. However there has to be a winner and the finalists were eventually selected.

The morning of the final was very intense. The theatre had been so busy with plays and science talks that we could not set up until the morning and we were due to start at 0930! My heartfelt thanks go out to all the staff who helped set up especially Mr Harmer, Mr Bolt, Mr Farley and Mrs Callard. Even more thanks are due to Mr Ingram and Mr Casselden who had completely remade the buzzer system during the term after the demise of the old one last year. Nor should I forget my very willing helpers from the term and also the reserves who worked like Trojans to help us be ready. Hugh Cooper independently ran the lighting box and sound and he will be sorely missed next year as he moves on to his next school.

Yet again, I was amazed at the knowledge of our pupils and the business-like, confident way that they took the strain of the questions in their stride despite the lights and gaze of the whole school. I was also immensely grateful to the ingenious staff who set the questions. The power point displays projected on to the stage this year worked so well.

The winners were Saxton. This gave points to the house competition and this year for the first time, the extra points gained that did not quite earn a good copy were counted up and added in the house totals. Well worth remembering for the future. But really the result is the least important part. What matters most is the combination of team work and the numbers of pupils who take taking part. We are blessed with so much good will at Vinehall that the seemingly impossible seems easy and the resounding three cheers at the end of the contestant for all of the teams said it all. And so to next year.....

List of Finalists 2004:

- Ashton - Seniors: Christobel Edgar, Iona Edgar (reserve)
Middles: Hector Fraser, Eleanor Hazael (reserve)
Juniors: Freya Maynard, Oliver de Montfalcon (reserve)
- Paxton - Seniors: Charles Bridge, William Wheeler (reserve)
Middles: Toby Crisford, James Floyd (reserve)
Juniors: Archie Todd, Alex Archer (reserve)
- Rushton - Seniors: Max Weston, Sarah Rose Ellis (reserve)
Middles: Alex Moore, Alistair Bremner (reserve)
Juniors: Freddie Williams, Lily Prendergast (reserve)
- Saxton: Seniors: Sam Gilbert, Arun Sau (reserve)
Middles: James Mannion, Alex Cowan (reserve)
Juniors: Robert Harvey, Alex Pugh (reserve)