



Science

2003/4



SCIENCE WEEK

Science week fell towards the end of yet another incredibly busy Lent term, and so the usual full week of activities had to be fitted around, or make way for, the General Knowledge competition and an all day Music competition.

We managed nevertheless to fit in a variety of events. One of our most illustrious Governors Philip Lebrocq kindly judged our crystal making competition and the winners were Peter Overall, Hector Fraser and Robert Harvey. The ever popular and awe-inspiring mobile planetarium, Skylab, returned this year and all the children in years 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed the marvels of our solar system and the stars and galaxies beyond.. The Head of Chemistry, Johnnie Gilbert, and Head of Biology, Chris Corfield came from Eastbourne College at the end of the week with four of their sixth form and amazed and engaged the senior pupils with an interactive lecture on temperature and energy change.



LITTLE CANADA

We have travelled to Osmington Bay for the last 8 years for our Year 6 field study and activity week, so decided it was time to try out the sister field studies centre at Little Canada on the Isle of Wight this year. And what a good idea this proved to be.

We were housed in delightful wooden chalets grouped together around a lightly wooded play area. The new field study activities proved to be every bit as stimulating as those on offer in Dorset and we were able to participate in our long-time favourite activities of aeroball, abseiling and rock climbing. A fantastic new venture was dragon boat racing. We had two teams and the reds came first in all their races. Both Vinehall teams beat all the other opposition!



The science department is very keen to get the children out into the field, for this is how the children learn best, and remember most, about the environment. Mini-beast hunting in pond, woodpile and woodland provided us with lots of new ideas to use back at school now that our own pond area has been extended and made even safer in order to meet the very latest health and safety guidelines. For our session on the rocky shore the incoming tide would not wait for us, but we were still able to find a huge range of crustaceans, coelenterates and molluscs in the upper tidal zone of the rocky shore and learn about adaptations, food chains and inter-tidal zoning in this ever exciting and stimulating habitat. The stream ecology session was equally enthralling and provided the children with the opportunity to measure width, depth and velocity of the stream at two sites, and to examine the contrasting invertebrate life found. The expertise of our enthusiastic leaders meant that the whole experience in the field was tremendous fun and hugely worthwhile. The power point presentations that the children produced as follow up work were impressive and have graced the walls of the science department all summer term. The geography department were also pleased with the work the children did on coastal formations and oh and we managed a disco too!

It was a pleasure for the staff team to take this exceptional year group away. Hardly a cross word was said and much fun was had by all.

Thank you Year six!



The new school pond was finally commissioned and will hopefully prove to be a valuable and safer resource than we had before. We have also established a 'mini-beast' area. Both of these were given added impetus after seeing the facilities at Little Canada and Osmington Bay.



Year 8 Trip to the Lake District 2004

"Ducks and pigs and geese better scurry...." Year 8 are on a trip!!

Rarely have I seen 44 children of an "impressionable" age show so much enthusiasm and pleasure in the countryside as the year 8 showed on our trip to the Lakes this year. They were in awe of the magnificent scenery and revelled in the opportunity to experience this part of Britain.

Rarely have I seen 44 children enjoy each others company so much for 5 days and work together in their groups to get the jobs completed even the washing up was done cheerily with a song or two (the lyrics were occasionally suspect but they were in tune!)

As school trips go this ranks as "one of the best" and we would like to congratulate all the year 8 for the magnificent way you responded to this trip.

Admittedly there were a few cross words especially when I got my leg burned by bacon fat on the first morning (still bear the scar!) but overall I think the pupils had a fantastic trip and enjoyed the activities.

Gorge Scrambling proved to be favourite for some whilst others preferred Canadian Canoeing on Lake Coniston (isn't that an alliteration?) . For some the hike to the foothills of Bow Fell proved to be memorable. Regrettably for the second year running we were unable to scale Bow Fell due to low cloud and poor weather. However in the lee of the mountain we enjoyed a not too rugged walk to Mickelden where some well earned bathing, dam building and general "chilling out" took place.

In the evenings at the Youth Hostel "wheelbarrow cricket", football and general preening were interspersed with a modicum of work and duties.

I am sure that the trip will be a Vinehall Highlight for many of the year 8 but this would not be possible had it not been for the staff "Team". Thank you all!

Sadly we had to say goodbye to Mrs Humphry-Baker who has been an enthusiastic and inspiring teacher in the department for 14 years. We will greatly miss her and thank her for all she has contributed to the department during her long stay at Vinehall.