

General Knowledge

2006



The General Knowledge competition is such a part of the Lent term at Vinehall that pupils ask about the arrangements long before the term even starts. This year I was assisted by Mrs Cooper who stepped into the breach as the short and very busy term proved that GK organisation is no longer a one person job (was it ever that, I wonder?)!

This year we again decided to extend our activities beyond the school and enter the SATIPS GK quiz with a team of twenty pupils. We were also entered the South East IAPS John Bickmore Shield competition run by Sevenoaks Prep. The qualifying round was held at Yardley Court and despite some stiff opposition from Rosehill, Derwent Lodge, Yardley Court and Marlborough House; our team comprising Seth Maynard (Capt) Alex Moore, William Orr and Ben Crisford scored a magnificent 64, winning the event and qualifying for the final on May 18th. The Final held at Sevenoaks was very closely fought with the same team and we came third with 78 to Kings' Rochester with 79 and New Beacon with 81 beating Junior King's Canterbury (the highest qualifiers) and Wellesley House. We now have a target for the future!

This term the GK competition was brought to an end slightly earlier from the end of term to try to relieve some of the end of term pressure on the staff and pupils. This meant that the top scores were lower than normal but nonetheless proved an impressive commitment by the participants. The overall top scorers were for Juniors, Florence Williams with 33, Middles, Arthur Walsh 40 and Seniors, Richard Rogers 26. Richard had also found time to organise and lead the GK helpers this year and proved to be a terrific support to me.

The Final as ever was very closely contested and the result was not decided until the final round. This year the event was won by Paxton, with Ashton a close second. This result was most fitting as the Paxton team was captained by Edward Bridge who has been in the GK final every year during his time in the main school. He is the worthy winner of the GK cup this year!

My thanks as ever go to the staff for who so willingly prepare questions throughout the term and organise final rounds at the end; to the volunteers who mark and record during the term; to the technical team of Mr Bolt, Mr Harmer and now Mr Willard who takes over from Mr Bolt next year and not forgetting the expertise of the scorekeeper, Mrs Pickerill, who calmly counts away amidst the cheers and tension.

I hand over the lead of General Knowledge to the very willing and perhaps slightly insane Mrs Cooper (after all, she does know what she is letting herself in for!) and will retire to the sidelines as her hopefully not too bossy assistant.

The 2006 Finalists were

Ashton

Seth Maynard
Samuel Piper
Sam Buchanan

Paxton

Edward Bridge
Archie Todd
Anthony Dunn

Rushton

Alexander Moore
Frederick Williams
Charlotte McNally

Saxton

Jack Winchester
Robert Harvey
Alexander Cowan

Jo Dix