



From the Headmaster

Welcome to the first Lamb of the Summer Term. Last Friday we enjoyed the Year 6 Debating Finals. I was very impressed with the boys' public speaking skills, as were our visitors, barrister Mr Alex Cunliffe and Mr Hilton-Dennis, Head of English at Merchant Taylors' School.

We enjoyed a visit from members of British and International Fencing with a full demonstration of the sport during a special assembly. I know the boys have enjoyed their first sessions this week.

Rehearsals for our Senior Drama production of A Midsummer Night's Dream are now in full-swing, and I am very excited to discover how Mrs Long plans to use the School grounds for this production. You can read all about it on page 16.

Year 2 have also been exploring our beautiful grounds, learning the names of the plants and enjoying the wonders of the natural world, whilst Year 1 have been busy putting the finishing touches to their dinosaurs. I was also able to buy some flowers from the Lamb's florist at a reasonable price!

Many congratulations to our Year 6 Mathematicians who have qualified for the National Quiz Club finals in June, alongside our General Knowledge Team.

Finally, I am delighted to see that our Cricket Captain and Vice Captains are already inspiring the boys with their enthusiasm for their sport. You can find their articles on page 17.

I wish you all a happy and successful Summer Term.



Debating Society Club Finals



On Friday 22nd April the Debating Society Club held their final meeting of the year, an event which celebrated the achievements of a committed group of talented public speakers in Year 6. All four participating teams demonstrated their ability to listen attentively and respectfully but also to speak convincingly and passionately to 'crush' the other side of the argument. This was done with the power of knowledge, the quality of research, the amount of preparation and the unfailingly united team-spirit the twenty Year 6 boys displayed. Many congratulations to Kyan, Kayhan, Aiden, Ayaan, Darsh, Druv, Vivek, Keshav, Alexander, James, Ali, Mehul, Ebi, Daanish, Otto, Ananda, Vineel, Ahmed, Hrishi and Harry. Both parents and teachers alike were proud of the boys' performance, especially as they were focusing on challenging topics such as "online privacy" and "technological progress and the environment". It is noteworthy that our external judges, barrister Mr Alex Cunliffe and Mr Matthew Hilton-Dennis, Head of English at Merchant Taylors' School, expressed the same enthusiasm for the boys' oracy. You can read more about this event on page 2.





Debating Society Club Finals cont...

We were honoured to have two distinguished guests at the Debating Finals last Friday. Mr Alex Cunliffe is a barrister with a wide career in the field of law but beyond it also, (Politician, Mental Health Mentor, Rugby Coach to name but a few.) He spoke to the boys about the significance of expressing approval or derision using key phrases that move the conversation forward and advised the boys how to research their topic in order to build a successful argument and surprise their opponent and the judge. Mr Matthew Hilton-Dennis, the Head of English at Merchant Taylor's School, not only

accepted our invitation to visit St John's for the first time, but also did us the honour of being our judge. Communication was the key message that Mr Hilton-Dennis highlighted – think about how a speaker can build a more effective bond with his audience was his main advice to our students. He took interest in meeting boys individually and commenting on their performances.

Special congratulations to the winners, Ali, Mehul, Ebi, Daanish, and Otto and to the runners up, Ananda, Vineel, Ahmed, Hrishi and Harry.





Welcome Miss Stevens

I've thoroughly enjoyed my first week here at St John's. Thank you for such a warm welcome from staff and pupils. The boys in my class (3L) have been friendly and helpful and have brought so much enthusiasm and energy to their learning so far. I look forward to spending the rest of the year with them and am particularly excited about our PGL trip together in a few weeks' time. I've also enjoyed getting to know my Year 5 maths group and have been impressed with their positive attitude to learning.



Eco Council's food waste assembly

One of the projects that the Eco council have been working on is getting boys to reduce food waste at school and at home. The boys put together an assembly on food waste that focused on all the impacts that it has; increased carbon emissions, increased plastic waste as well as being costly and a waste of resources. The boys talked about ways in which we can prevent wasting food at home, for example avoiding multi-buys, planning your meals carefully and being more inventive with leftovers. Part of the assembly also touched on lunchtimes at school and making sure you ask clearly and politely for the amount of food that you can eat and try to finish everything on your plate.



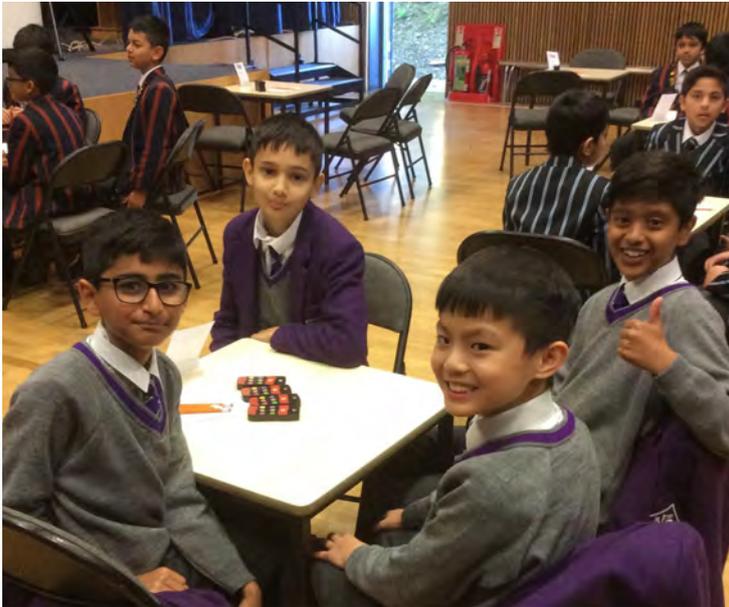


Year 6 Maths Quiz Club success

On Tuesday 26th April, eight boys from St John's took part in the annual Maths Quiz Club regional heats at Merchant Taylors' Prep School. The boys were all from Year 6 and were the top performers in selection quizzes which they had sat in class. They worked in two teams and competed against five other schools, who had also each brought two teams.

The questions were challenging as always, and answering times ranged from 15 or 30 seconds to 1 minute. The difficulty was reflected in the mark allocation, which was either 25, 50 or 100 points, resulting in teams regularly changing positions on the leader board throughout the competition.

Both teams performed extremely well, with the team comprising of Joshua, Ayaan, Harry and Rian finishing in a very creditable 9th place on 1156 points. However, the team made up from Aiden, Daanish, Arjun and Otto managed to hold off a strong Merchant Taylors' Prep team and finished as Area Heat winners on 1488 points. This means that they have qualified for the National Finals, to be held in London on 23rd June, where there will be 50 teams representing schools from across the country. An incredible achievement. An excellent performance all round and a quizzing experience which the boys thoroughly enjoyed.





En garde! Fencing assembly

Last Thursday, the boys in Years 3 to 8 were treated to an exciting and entertaining assembly by National Women's Coach Alex Beardmore, Megan (Member of the under 17 British World Championships team) and Atena (Number 1 ranked fencer in 2 weapons in Iran). See photo below with Eissa (Year 3) and Joshua (Year 6), current fencers outside of school.

We are very excited to add variety to our extra-curricular programme with the return of fencing, through the help of Inspion Sports. The team of British, European and Commonwealth champions at Inspion have created a

syllabus that not only passes down their fencing knowledge to the children but also aims to develop many transferable skills that they can use throughout their lives, skills such as discipline, performance under pressure, teamwork, respect, and accountability are nurtured. Win or lose, at the end of each bout, students salute and prepare to challenge their next opponent.

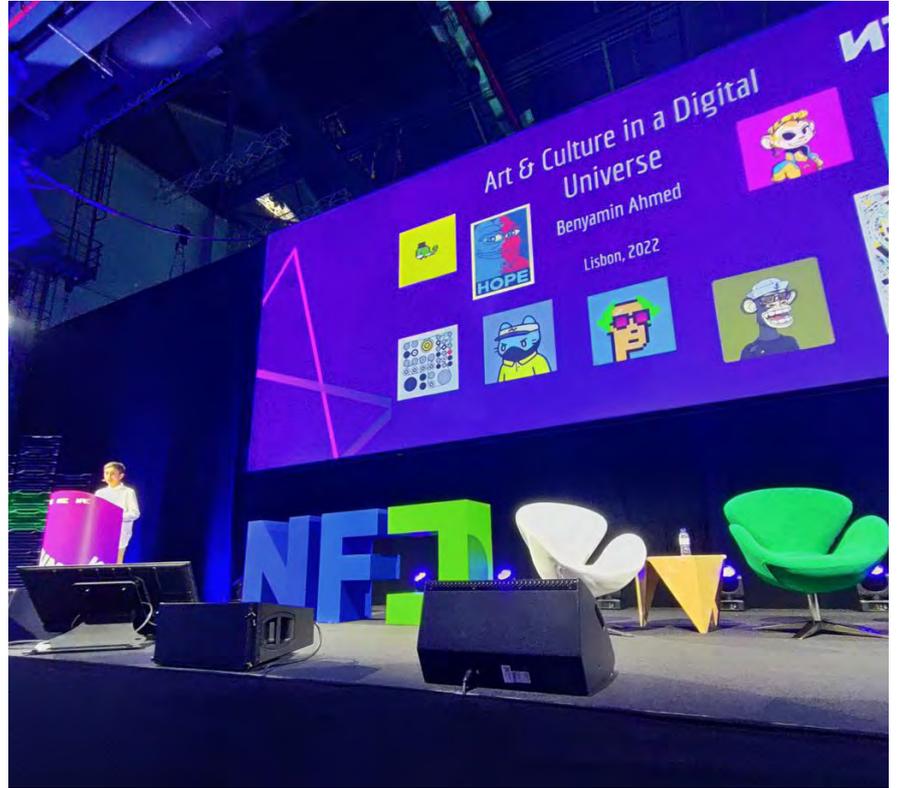
Fencing provides an exciting way to improve ones' physical literacy, such as agility, strength, coordination, and balance. This new sport has already proved popular, with many boys signing up to the club on Monday or Friday. *Mr Krüger*





Benyamin spoke at the NFT Conference in Lisbon

During the school holidays Benyamin in 8J travelled to Lisbon, Portugal where he spoke at an NFT conference attended by over 2500 people. His speech explained how he analysed the NFT industry and created his own successful project entitled “Weird Fish.” As one member of the audience reported, “his presentation was the clearest and simplest explanation of the nascent blockchain industry I have ever heard. To be frank, I was blown away. It was inspiring to see such knowledge, competence and humility on display from the youngest generation. The future is bright and open-minded. We would be smart to listen!” As he waited in the customs queue at the airport, Benyamin noted that if airline tickets were NFTs it would be superfast to get through customs. He said “an airline ticket is a perfect example of an NFT, it is specific and unique. No-one else can use the ticket unless the owner transfers the ownership.”



Get Ready for Walk to School Week 16th to 20th May

During Walk to School Week, boys will be rewarded for walking, cycling, scooting or park and striding to school. This year we are focusing on the benefits to our health, as well as that of the environment by abandoning our cars. Look out for more information next week and start planning your journeys.



Year 2 enjoyed a wonderful nature walk

This term, Year 2's Science topic is 'Nature'. We went on a nature discovery walk around our beautiful grounds. Badgers checked in on trees planted by boys about five years ago in the Nature Trail. They found part of a label, could this tree have been planted by someone you know? We also saw the effects weather had on our plant life – we think the fallen tree may have been caused during the very windy weather we had a few months ago. Eagles went down to the beautiful oak tree and then checked in on plants growing in the new allotment. Boys enjoyed discovering colourful plant life and finding out the names of plants and trees. The beehives were buzzing with activity. We're very excited to be making new discoveries in our extensive school grounds this term.





Year 2 nature walk cont...





Robins and Squirrels Grow Potatoes

We have been watering our potato crop regularly. Now that we can see the leaves it is time to cover them. This will encourage the potatoes to keep growing. We need to be gentle and crumble the soil with our hands. It is important for us to wash our hands thoroughly afterwards.





It's never static in Year 4

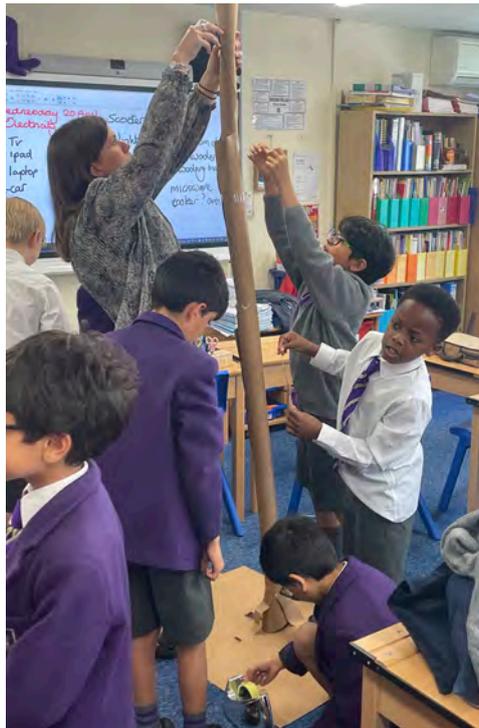
Year 4 have just begun their topic on electricity and started by looking at the effects of static electricity. There was a great deal of hilarity as well as thought as several boys managed to create enough static electricity to make balloons stick to their heads, the wall and their jumpers. Mr Smith was particularly helpful in sticking balloons to the ceiling. Then Mr Lawrence brought down the Van der Graaff generator and allowed all the boys and Miss Little to try it. The results were hair raising.





Team building in Year 4

The term got off to a terrific start as the boys undertook a team building exercise. They worked cooperatively and almost everyone kept smiling almost all the time. The boys listened to each other, reflected on their ideas and learned to keep the occasional frustration to themselves. The results were some terrific paper towers and more importantly a focused and friendly start to the term.

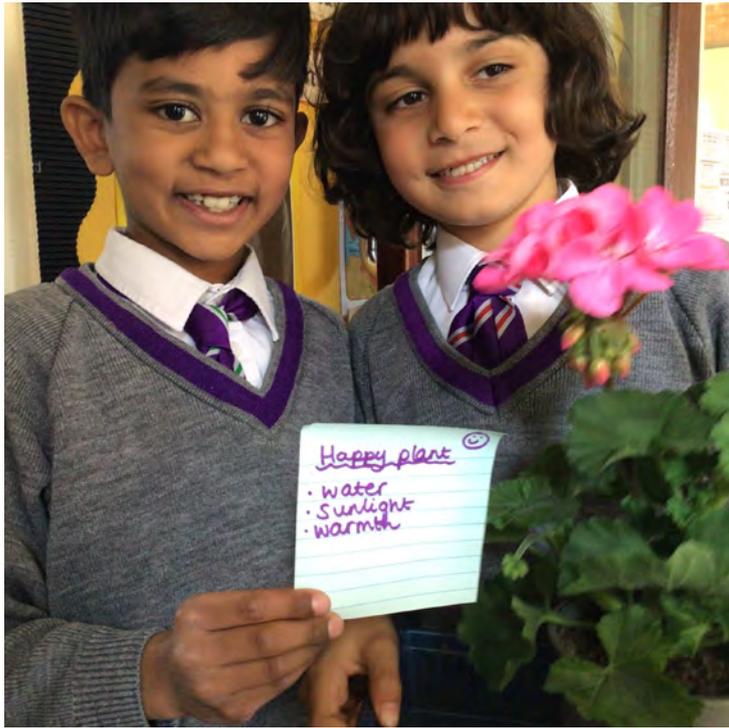




JUNIORS

Green fingers in Year 3

Year 3 have carried out an experiment this week to find out how plants behave under different conditions. We put one in the fridge with water but no warmth or sunlight, one on the windowsill with light and warmth but no water, one in the cupboard with water and warmth but no light, and one happy plant on the windowsill with light, warmth and water. The children made predictions and will watch them for a week and observe what happens.





Junior sports special

Eissa in 3L (right) has been fencing for a year at his Fencing club. He has recently been moved up to fencing group two, metal foil. His coach often asks him to judge the sparring and he is gaining really good experience at interpreting the rules. Eissa says, *“fencing is a fun and unique sport in which you use your mind as well as your brain. It requires strategy and agility to compete. I enjoy it because it is challenging and fun!”* Well done, Eissa.



A great end to the rugby season for Oliver and Teddy in 4H. It was rugby from start to finish last weekend for Oliver as he finished his season on a high. It started with him and his classmate Teddy playing in an U10 tournament at Rosslyn Park for Ruislip RFC. The boys adapted very quickly to the U10 rules which they had never played before and soon got the hang of rucks and 3 man scrums. A great performance from both boys. Sunday morning began with an U9 tournament at Twickenham and the weekend finished off with a trip to Saracens to see them play Exeter. Oliver was lucky enough to meet the players and at the end of the match was allowed down onto the pitch to throw some balls. What an experience!



Rahul in 4L (below) has received his cap for his place in the U10's Hillingdon Borough Cricket Team. Many congratulations Rahul!

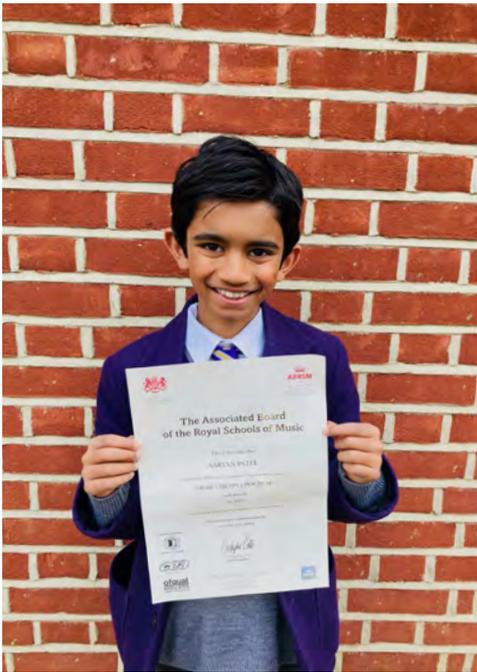




More music success for our boys

Huge congratulations to our musicians who have recently taken external music exams and participated in competitions - we are very proud of all their efforts and successes!

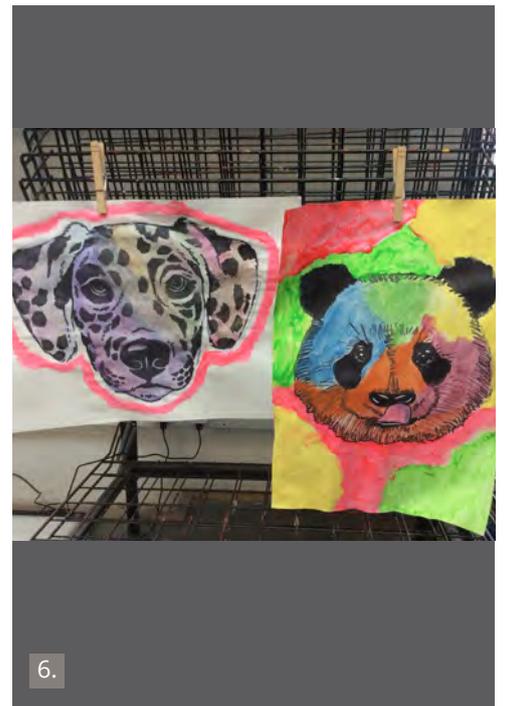
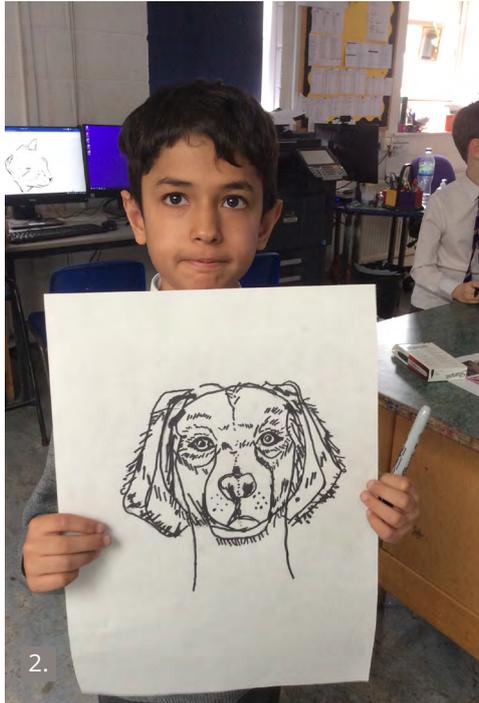
Next week we have our Summer Concert on Wednesday 4th May at 7pm in the Norman Hall. All the boys have worked very hard in the lead up to this exciting event and we are really looking forward to sharing our music-making with you.





Learning from the masters

Year 5 has been learning about the American artist Dean Russo. Russo paints with bold, bright lines and patterns to create eye-catching portraits of animals. Here are the Year 5 boys in action. 1. These boys are using the light boxes to transfer their image. 2. Laksh has chosen to draw a dog. 3. Dhilan has painted a triceratops. 4. This cute pug has been painted by Theodore. 5. Aary is drawing patterns on his dog portrait. 6. Aarush and Maximilian have painted their animals. NB House Art competition winners will be announced in assembly on Monday 16th May





Senior Drama: save the dates

On 20th and 22nd June, the school grounds will be transformed into an enchanted forest for our Senior Summer Drama Production of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Although Mr Corin, Mr Russo and I began making plans for the play about three weeks before, the casting process began back in February, just before half term. Since then, there has been a real sense of joy and tangible energy during rehearsals and team meetings, which have taken place very regularly during breaks and after school. One of the aspects that the boys have most enjoyed is the collaborative process, generating a sense of teamwork and belonging. Boys from across the year groups (Years 5-8) will contribute to our production, supported by many versatile backstage crew volunteers, who will be working hard behind the scenes to ensure a smooth-running show. Over the forthcoming weeks, we will focus on position and placement when moving on and

off the outdoor stage, so the backstage teams will be vital in helping actors with costumes and setting up props in exact places. The music team will be responsible for sound checks and keeping track of musicians and instruments. To generate an immersive atmosphere during the performance, boys will shortly be invited to become either Courtiers, Entertainers or Servants within the Duke's court. A group of Ushers will also be tasked with the important duty of moving the audience on to the set of each scene.

It has been very rewarding indeed to work with these talented boys, especially as this is my first production at St John's. Many other members of staff have invested a great deal of their personal time, so it will be very gratifying indeed to see the separate elements finally come together in the show at the end of June. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to the finished production.

Mrs Long.





Our Cricket Captains and Vice Captains

Hi, my name is Hamza and I'm really excited to be this year's 1st XI Cricket Captain. I first picked up the bat when I was four years old, and the following year my parents enrolled me at Rickmansworth Cricket Club, which is where I continue to play and captain the U13 team. I also represent South Hertfordshire Area and train with the County Development Squad. Cricket is my number one passion and my friends often have to put up with my non-stop cricket-chat. Cricket being a team sport, I always try to be approachable on and off the field, as well as strive to be a role model to younger players. I thoroughly look forward to working alongside Kian J, Ahaan and the rest of the team to achieve success and make cricket enjoyable for everyone. I would also like to wish all the cricket teams in all age groups the best for the upcoming season. My advice would be to go out and enjoy it and give it your best shot! Hamza 8J.

I am very proud to be helping lead the 1st XI for this season. I know Ahaan, Hamza and I will work together to get the best results possible and with a strong team and a constant battle for places, we think we have a great chance of doing this. I have had experience in this when I led the Colts A team last year. We had a great season which was backed up by a lot of positive results. We performed really well as a team and that is what I want to take into this season because cricket is a team sport. My interest in cricket started when I was five years old and it has grown since then. I started just by driving balls off a tee and then it slowly developed to being able to play hard ball cricket by the age of seven. But it doesn't matter what age you start because one of the greatest cricketers of all time, Shane Warne, started at the age of 19 and played for Australia a year later. My key message to anyone starting cricket or playing any sport is to enjoy every moment and never give up as there is no limit on what you can achieve. I am very proud to be representing the school as Vice Captain for the 1st XI this year and hopefully, breaking some records as a team! Kian J 7M.

I love cricket and I am very much looking forward to the new season, especially with all the new equipment such as the bowling machine, nets and much more in the Centenary Sports Hall. As Vice Captain, I really want to make a difference to the team, win as many matches as possible, and help St John's enhance its reputation as one of the best cricket schools. We have a great team and I am sure we can definitely make it happen. Ahaan 7B.





1st - 5th Cricket v York House 27th April



First XI

On Wednesday the 1st XI played York House. We lost the toss and batted first. Unfortunately, our captain, Hamza, got out early on and Zac followed shortly after. This meant Nayan and Kian J were at the crease. On an unpredictable surface, Nayan and Kian J built a stable partnership with Nayan finishing on 31 off 32 balls retired and Kian J finishing on 50 off 35 balls retired. Then Ahaan and Ruben were at the crease but they both got out cheaply. This was the trend until we were all out.



At the end of the first innings, St John's finished on 148. To start with, Kian P and Kush opened the bowling. No wickets were taken in their opening spells but a very tight economy rate from both of the openers. For the first bowling change, Mithil and Ahaan came into the attack. Ahaan took two wickets for eighteen runs of his three overs. Then Kian J and Aryan G came into the attack. Kian J got a triple-wicket-maiden off his first over and in the end took four wickets for twenty-two runs off his four overs. Finally, Kabir, Nayan and Hamza finished off the bowling for us with Kabir taking two wickets for eighteen runs of his two overs. We won by thirty runs. All round it was a great performance and man of the match was Kian J for his excellent bowling and batting performance. *Match Report by Vice Captain Kian J.*

Second XI

St John's elected to bat first to try and set a competitive target. The team lost a couple of early wickets but a partnership of 61 between Sahib S. and Archie put us in a good position to attack the final overs. Sahib was retired not out on 50 and we finished strongly to post a total of 134-6. In the field, we started very well, taking a wicket in each of the first two overs, putting York house on 2-2. They rebuilt steadily, but St John's never looked troubled, taking regular wickets and limiting the scoring options with some good bowling and despite several dropped catches. York House finished on 109-7, still 26 runs adrift. Top bowling performances were from Yash (2 for 11) and Krish (3-8), and special mention to Aaron who got a catch and a stumping as wicket keeper. Man of the match was Sahib S. for his excellent 50*.

Third XI

St John's batted first with 4 overs each per pair and we got off to a good start with Emerson and Mihir playing some good attacking shots to score quickly. However, in their last remaining overs they tended to hit the ball in the air and got caught out. But what was impressive with this pair was the running between the wickets. Each pair had to score runs quickly but at the same time not lose wickets. We continued to bat well in pairs and Blake and William hit some great shots with William hitting a huge six. William continued to hit the ball all over the park and score quickly for us. We still lost wickets. Rahul hit the ball well into the gaps and Thomas and Benyamin continued scoring runs and the running between the wickets was very good. York House bowled well and made it difficult for us to score runs but we managed to score 72 runs once all the pairs had batted.

York House went into bat, and we opened the bowling attack with Mihir who bowled a very good line and length. This was



Cricket v York House cont...



followed through by the other players. We did drop two catches, but the fielding and bowling improved massively, and we took some very good catches in the deep. Emerson was very good behind the stumps, saving us lots of runs and running out some York House players. York House was chasing our target and they did hit some good shots but our bowling attack was strong with Benyamin, Mihir, Blake, Thomas and William the pick of our bowlers. In the last three overs we kept the bowling very tight and never allowed York House to get going and at the end of the innings they had scored 60 runs. A good start to the season and a great team performance. Well done!

Fourth XI Won: St John's 168 for 4, York House 149 for 6

We won the toss and Captain Armaan elected to field first on a familiar St John's astro wicket. We started strong, taking 2 wickets in the first 2 overs, through Armaan taking the bails off and Rehaan catching a high ball to give Rafi a wicket. From then on, we limited their runs with some brave fielding from Jacob and Albert but unfortunately gave away a few too many extras to keep them in the game. Abdullah bowled well giving away no extras, and Jimi came in soon afterwards taking another wicket through a catch from Shane. Further wickets came from pressuring bowling from Anek, forcing the batter to hit their own stumps and taking another through a catch from Albert, and a super individual wicket from Niam, bowling, fielding, and running out the opposition batter. A further good spell from Oscar reduced their run rate to enforce a decent bowling performance.

We limited them to 149 runs which wouldn't be easy to chase down, but we were confident going into the innings. Shane and Jimi opened the batting and quickly found the long leg side boundary and the field past it! They achieved a partnership of 16 from the first 4 overs, only giving away 1 wicket from an expansive shot selection. Rafi and Abdullah wanted to one-up this partnership however, with Rafi getting 27 n/o from 11 which included 2 monster 6's. More boundaries came from Jacob, Daniel, Rehaan and Niam to build the score further. Niam and Anek finished off a dominant batting performance to bring home the win in this well spirited game. We should be confident going into the next game at Belmont, but we need to work on reducing the number of extras bowled. Man of the match: Rafi

Fifth XI

This was our first match of the season against a competitive York House team. They won the toss and elected to bowl. This was a 12 over game, pairs cricket. Our fielding was quite tight initially and bowling accurate. We were alert and as a team were encouraging of one another and showed an all-round great team spirit. Rian and Darwin got some early wickets and we looked to be in the driving seat. After that York House steadied the ship and started to increase the run rate. Unfortunately, we lost a little focus in our fielding and catching mid-way through the innings. In the end we managed to peg them down and restrict their score. Kian also managed to take two wickets and they were all out for 127. Our batting was reasonable overall. Darwin had a good innings playing some well-timed shots; Leo, Rian and Aayan also batted well. By the end of the innings, we had reached a total of 134 winning by 7 runs. A great game and a wonderful effort from the whole team.





Old Boy Luke Parry plays for Cambridge against Oxford in the Varsity Match at Twickenham

Over the Easter holidays I went to Twickenham to see Luke Parry represent Cambridge against Oxford in the Varsity Match 2022. The fixture is the rugby contest that dates back to 1872 and forms part of several annual Varsity fixtures in many sports. The womens' contest was also played at Twickenham on the day. It was a privilege to see Luke play in the match. I remember him as a tenacious competitor who was passionate about the game. He hadn't lost any of these characteristics, coming off the bench as a 'finisher' in the 65th minute and immediately scoring a try from a lineout. He was part of a strong come back from Cambridge in the last fifteen minutes of the match, with Oxford just holding on to the win. Well done Luke from everyone at St John's.
Mr Robinson





Fencing Classes at St John's School

Why Fence?

- Fencing is an exciting sport which requires both mental and physical skills
- Don't miss out on the opportunity to take on your friends in a duel after school
- Our classes are designed by Olympians and European Champions

When:

Years 5 & 6 - Mondays @ 16:00-17:00

Years 3 & 4 - Fridays @ 16:00-17:00

Commencing 25th & 29th April

Price:

Years 3, 4, 5, 6: (8 sessions) - £144

Book Here

1. Scan QR code here
2. Tap the link that appears



Years 5 & 6
Mondays @
16:00-17:00

1. Scan QR code here
2. Tap the link that appears



Years 3 & 4
Fridays @
16:00-17:00

INSPION SPORTS

OUTLOOK



Calendar & important dates

Monday 2nd May: Bank Holiday (School Closed)

Tuesday 3rd May: Summer Concert Rehearsals all day

Wednesday 4th May: School Council

Cricket v Belmont: 1st, 3rd, 5th X1 (h), 2nd, 4th X1 (a) (2.15pm)

Summer Concert (7.00pm)

Thursday 5th May: Visit of the Court of the Merchant Taylors' Company

Years 4-8 Athletics Match at Merchant Taylors' School (4.00pm – 6.00pm)

Friday 6th May: House Meetings

Cricket v Radlett Prep: Colts A, C (h) (2.15pm)

Cricket v St Paul's: Colts B, D, E, F (a) (2.15pm)

Second Hand Uniform Sale (Norman Hall) (2.45pm)

Contact details

Updates: Please continue to visit www.st-johns.org.uk for all the latest information on sports fixtures and results. The website will have announcements in case of emergency.



You can also follow us on twitter @stjnsnorthwood and our sports department @StJohnsNwSport

Mailings: If you would like to be sent a copy of the Lamb each week, please email: Lamb Editor. Let us know your contact details and you will be added to the list.

Photographs: Do please continue to send in pictures to lambeditor@st-johns.org.uk for inclusion in The Lamb. Many thanks.



Chess in the Library at lunchtime for two boys with injuries who can't play outside and their friends.

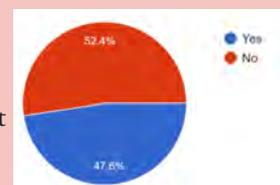
Notices and reminders

Nearly New Uniform Sale: The next Nearly New Uniform Sale is on 6th May at 2.45 in the Norman Hall.

Summer Concert and rehearsals: Next week we have our Summer Concert on Wednesday 4th May at 7.00pm in the Norman Hall and we look forward to seeing you all then. Boys should arrive in smart school uniform, without jumpers, no earlier than 6.30pm. Please remind the boys to bring their instruments and music into school on Tuesday 3rd May, as there will be rehearsals during the day for the concert.

House Points: Churchill 110.51, Lincoln 107.76, Oates 104.56, Lawrence 101.64

Votes for Schools: Our topic for the start of term was: "Should all animals be treated the same?" Our topic for next week is: "Is it right that the Prime Minister kept his job after breaking lockdown rules?"



Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.