

# House Reports

## Gresham

### JUNIORS

Third in 2008-09, second in 2009-10. Could it be third time lucky for Gresham? Would we be able to continue our upward trend?

The Upper Junior girls started the year off very well with a win for both the A and B hockey teams. Not to be outdone, in the boys Upper Junior House rugby the B squad also came first, with the A squad narrowly missing out. Gresham won both the hockey and rugby events overall, with the Upper Juniors really putting Hale and Whittington to the test.

Over the half term, we geared up for House Art – the competition where we usually excel. True to form Gresham did not disappoint; the theme 'Pattern' was a great success with some incredible pieces entered. Most notable was Daniela Zaks' painting which won the Upper 2/Lower 3 2D and Collage category and was placed first overall and Lucy Yellow's winning Form 1/Lower 2 2D/Collage piece which gained second overall. There were many other great entries and once again, many great Gresham winners so well done to all of you for another victory. At the end of term, after also winning Merits and Distinctions, our points-tally soared resulting in a resounding victory for Gresham at the end of the term.

The Spring term got off to a great start with the Upper 2 girls coming first and the Lower 3 girls second in their hockey. The rest of House rugby was also played. The energetic and enthusiastic Form 1s came first, the Upper 2 boys played strongly, coming second to Hale, whilst the Lower 2 and Lower 3 teams faced stiff opposition, resulting in third places being awarded. Then came the dreaded House swimming...



Swimming has always been a weakness for Gresham but everyone always gives it their all. It has become an in-house joke that Gresham being a 'green' House are much better suited to land based activities rather than those involving water! However, this year the swimming went far better than anybody could have imagined. The Form 1 girls came first and the Lower 2 girls shared first with Whittington – they did us proud. The Middle Junior girls also came first, a fantastic result, but unfortunately the Upper Junior girls could not quite match them, coming second. Matching Form 1 girls, the Form 1 boys also came first, with Lower 2 boys coming second and the Upper Juniors also coming second. Middle Junior boys came in third place – our only third position this year in the swimming; things are really looking up on the swimming front. Watch out Whittington! These amazing results really reflect the superb effort put in by all of Gresham, so well done all of you.

It was then time for cross-country and this went superbly for all our girls, emphasising our green affinity with the land! Every age group, right from the Form 1s to the Lower 4s, came first – a truly outstanding achievement. Congratulations! Matching the girls once again, both the Form 1 and Upper Junior boys came first, Lower 2 boys were second and Middle Juniors third. In House gymnastics, Form 1 came second, with Lower 2 taking another impressive first place. House music was very hectic with lots of running around brandishing green entry forms and persuading anyone who played an instrument to enter. Despite some excellent performances, we came second. Then came the worst news – we had come third in Merits and Distinctions. However, because of our great successes at the beginning of the term, we remained in first place with Whittington only a few points behind.

As we started the Summer term, we knew every event was to be crucial in gaining those valuable points required to stay ahead. The cricket was first and once again we started brilliantly with wins for the Middle Juniors and the Upper Junior A and Bs. Fantastic results boys! The Middle and Upper Junior A teams won their tennis, with the Upper Junior B team



coming second. Then came the athletics, one of our weaker events this year – we came third in Form 1, and Middle and Upper Junior girls, but the Lower 2 girls raced to victory. The boys also did us proud with the Middle Juniors coming third, Form 1 second and most impressively Lower 2 and Upper Juniors coming first. Then with a win in House Chef and a second place in Merits and Distinctions (achieved due to the fact that Mrs Williams sent us to nag everybody to hand their merits in!) we knew it was going to be extremely close. A major blow however was dealt when the results of House General Knowledge came through – we came third! It was looking extremely tight for the Kemp House shield and it was not surprising when we heard that Whittington had won... but only the Summer term!

Gresham had held on and in the final assembly of the year we heard that we had won the Kemp House Shield for the first time in many years! Congratulations to everybody in Gresham who helped us power to victory; for this year our House stepped up to the mark beautifully.

We would like to thank all of the House Captains for the help we received and also to thank all of you, our fellow Greshamites, who represented the House in any of the competitions. We did it!! We won!! Lastly, thank you to Mrs Williams for being such a great Head of House, her enthusiasm inspired us to succeed. As we move into the Senior School, we would like to wish our successors good luck for next year. Can the Juniors retain the Kemp House shield for two years in a row? Watch this space...

Zoë Lowrey and Tom Abraham

### SENIORS

Congratulations to everyone in Gresham: We won the Cock House Shield!

We would like to thank every member of Gresham who has enthusiastically contributed to help make this triumph possible. This is truly an amazing achievement as Gresham has not won the Cock House Shield since 2006. This victory would not have been possible without the

brilliant organisation of our Lower 6 event captains and, of course, our superb Head of House, Mrs Mitchell.

Term had barely started and we were underway with the first competitions. In House Debating the inters came second overall – largely due to a stunning performance by Angus Gillan and Celine O'Donovan. Meanwhile the seniors argued brilliantly, but overall came third.

In House Drama we came a narrow second despite individual outstanding performances and original writing. We congratulate our very own Drama King, James Trinder, who won best actor for his touching dramatic monologue, said by the adjudicator to be "from the heart". Displaying Gresham's comedic talent, Emily Wilkes won best actress for her hilarious comic monologue, performed whilst making the audience believe that she was on a roller-coaster ride. Many thanks go to the Upper 5 drama captains Grace Roger, Katherine Orchard and Charlotte Bader for their organisation of this event.

Next we had the main competition of the term – Winter Sports day. Gresham performed fantastically in the minor sports competitions where the senior girls and boys stole the show by both clinching first place. Our particular triumphs included girls' and boys' basketball (Andre Wong – top scorer, Richard Lam – most valued player), boys' squash and fencing (in which we won every match) and girls' badminton with a special performance from the Tai twins who did not lose a match. Many thanks also go to the netball and football teams who in the face of fierce opposition both came second. As for the inters, the hockey players made a valiant effort but both teams unfortunately came third. However, we had more success in the rugby with the Upper 4s coming second and the Lower 5s achieving first place, having thrashed Hale and after a close, nail biting match against Whittington which they won 10-7.

At Christmas we were leading on points but with many competitions ahead.

The spring term started with the delayed senior House Rugby, in which the team was seriously affected by injury, but the boys showed incredible spirit and we only just lost out on first place. Special mention must go to James Trinder, Steven Pilley, Sam Tresadern and James Wilson who all scored tries. Also, thank you to Chris Harvey for his excellent support despite injury.

In the arduous House Cross Country competitions, the inter boys and senior girls performed beyond expectations achieving two first places. Congratulations to Alex

Tzortzis, fourth for the boys, and Jess Filby who was first for the girls. Despite running in April, because of snow, the senior boys crushed the opposition with Sam Eglen, Steven Pilley, Alex Culhane, Will Simpson, and Ben Pooley taking every place except second. Notably Sam Eglen set a new record time of 14 minutes 17 seconds, smashing the old record by a whole minute.

Just before half term, we leapt into the water for House Swimming. Traditionally one of the hardest events to organise, we managed to field great teams. We came third in the inter girls' competition and in the senior section. However, the inter boys did exceptionally well, securing a great victory. Gresham came first in both the freestyle and medley relays, whilst Hugo Solway won the individual backstroke race. Also we would like to thank Hugh Ward and Callum Room for their valuable contributions to the team.

Frantic organisation then ensued for House Music. We made a superb start with Gemma Golding and Sally Nicholls rounding up all our musical talent, ensuring Gresham had by far the most audition entries.

Thank you to everyone who filled out a green form, signed up for an audition and went along to play. You gave us a convincing victory in the audition section.

At the House Concert, the audience enjoyed stunning Gresham performances from Becky Johns (most promising brass player), Ellen Timothy (best string player and best overall performer), and the best duet from Peter Lam and Ellen Timothy. The orchestra also won the best instrumental ensemble. Later that afternoon, when results were announced, the tension was palpable but culminated in an epic Gresham victory, the first time we have won both the concert and the auditions for many years. A special thank you to Peter Lam who was the architect and driving force behind our victory.

At the end of the busiest spring term on record Gresham was still ahead on points, and an overall victory was beginning to seem a real possibility.

The major event of the Summer was House Athletics. Gresham came third in the senior boys' and second in the senior girls' by only three points. For the boys special mention goes to Sam Eglen who set a new record time for the 1500m. For the girls Kate Holmes and Louise Bluck did particularly well across several events helping to give the girls firsts in five individual events. The inter teams did even better with the boys narrowly missing out on first by a mere two points, whilst the intermediate girls achieved a victorious team first. Gresham members won both the intermediate Victor



Ludorum (Tai Bucks) and the Victrix Ludorum (Philippa Nicholls).

The sunshine stayed with us for the House Cricket. The seniors came second, whilst the inters played their hearts out achieving first place in both the A and Bs, finally securing our victory in the Cock House Shield. In House Tennis our senior As came third whilst our Bs came second. However, the inters fared better although the final session was washed out as the great British weather returned to form with torrential rain on Prize Day. The B team came third but the A team won.

The final competition of the year was House Chef. The inters only just came third with their chocolate chip cookies and victoria sandwich cakes, but the seniors ended the year with a victory by presenting plates of six decorated cupcakes.

Leading up to the last few events Gresham only needed to secure a second place in one event to win the Cock House Shield, but we achieved much more than this – storming across the line to victory. This shows the true spirit of enthusiasm and participation of Gresham. This has been an incredible year for both of us, and we would like to thank everyone so much for making Gresham a truly outstanding House. With the support and leadership of Mrs Mitchell and the new Heads of House, Peter Lam and Sally Nicholls, we have every confidence that Gresham's success will continue.

Tessa Abbott and James Frewin

# Hale

## JUNIORS

In the Autumn term the Upper Juniors competed in rugby and hockey. Unfortunately, we only managed to come second in the boys' A rugby, with the other teams coming third. Hale then produced some fantastic pieces of art over the half term holiday. The overall result was a second place. This was all the more impressive as we had the lowest number of entries. Well done to Ben Butcher who was first in the computer graphics section, Nicholas John and Liberty Gamble who were first in the textiles section, and Sophie Hamilton and Abigail Jordan who were first in the Illustrated Poems section. Sadly we finished the term in third place.

At the beginning of the Spring term, our bad luck continued. Whittington (traditionally) known for being strong swimmers won the majority of the year group competitions. Hale however managed to break Gresham's series of last year successes in cross country gaining a respectable two first places, four second places and only one third place.



This gave Hale a positive feeling and determination to keep gaining those first places. The pupils worked very hard in their academic work to achieve the highest number of merits and distinctions, as well as first places in the Lower Junior gymnastics. Unfortunately, we could not dig ourselves out of third place by the end of the term.

One of the many attributes of Hale is the positive team spirit and helpfulness amongst the pupils. At the start of the Summer term, we rallied together and although the final outcome for the Kemp House shield was looking bleak we all showed determination to do the best we could for each competition. The Upper Juniors, Middle Junior Boys and Lower Junior girls received second place in athletics and congratulations to the Lower Junior boys and Middle Junior girls for their wins in athletics. The cricket scores amazed all of us, with all three houses in the Middle Junior Boys' cricket competition tying for first place. Yet again nature was not supportive of the house competitions and

## SENIORS

September has become my favourite month as Head of Hale House. The first house assembly of the year is filled with optimism and opportunity, a keen Lower 6 eager to help, and the scores are reassuringly level on the Cock House Shield leader board!

However, House Drama loomed large and Cat Chick and Justin Chow had only two weeks to put our show together. They did a superb job though and we won the competition thanks to some stunning performance from Harry Househam, Ben Mady, and Ollie and Abbie Hampden. The highlight for many was Ollie Hampden's devised piece starring Ariane Bieri as a psychiatric patient and Vicky Wales as the bemused and frustrated psychiatrist.

House points were much harder to come by in the Sports competition and we came third in both girls' and boys' minor sports. However the Under 14 boys won their rugby and the Under 15 girls won the hockey so the day was not an unmitigated failure. Next was debating – a competition in which we have done well since its inception. We struggled in the intermediate competition despite fielding a strong team (mostly due to bad luck and underhand tactics from Whittington) but the senior

neither the Lower Junior cricket nor rounders could take place, due to the heavy rainfall on Prize Day. Thus Hale came third in the Kemp House shield this year.

I have only given a snapshot of the very busy schedule of House competitions. My thanks go to all the pupils who took part with such great enthusiasm and dedication to their House.

A special mention goes to the captains who took on the responsibility of arranging teams and collecting art and music entries. It is often the first time they have had a role of responsibility such as this and they completed the tasks conscientiously.

This year Hale has benefited from having two very good House captains. Our thanks go to Kate Irwin and Oliver Meek which have carried out their duties with superb efficiency all year.

Miss Nicola Chambers

team (Laura Grayling, Hattie Rainbow, Harry Househam and Gabbi Cox) reigned supreme and argued their way to victory. As term ended, we trailed in third place.

With so many house events postponed from the Autumn term, the Spring term became laden with potential points. Few of them, it has to be said, earmarked for Hale, but we hoped for the best nonetheless. That's how we roll.

All three houses shared eight points in the girls' cross country with Abbie Bender, Kate Irwin and Libbie Wells our stand-out runners. The boys didn't go so well, and disappointingly for the legendary Ollie Garrod running in his last ever house cross country, Hale came third and Sam Eglen from Gresham had the temerity to beat Ollie and break his record. (Ollie was carrying an injury though!)

The arrival of the daffodils in Ashted Park means only one thing to a loyal Haleite – the house swimming. The senior team swam strongly thanks to Ollie Mays, Henry Swindell, Jacky Yick and Justin Chow for the boys and Jen Baldock, Lucy Archer-Lock, Ros Broccardo and Sarah Moore for the girls but they were cruelly pipped at the post in the last race. The intermediate girls



were impressive and came first with some strong performances.

All of Hale turned as one to captain Dan Sperrin as House Music approached. Hale musicians of all ages auditioned in their droves and with a musical Lower 6 and talent aplenty in Lower 5, we were optimistic and the concert devised by Dan and his many loyal helpers (Cat, Darcy, David and Justin) was quite incredible. We enjoyed and marvelled at Becky Baker's virtuosity on both the violin and piano; new girl and talented pianist Jennifer Ding proved herself to be a very welcome addition to Hale and Tim Peters' solo trombone piece was stunning. Dan, Darcy and Dave added splashes of contemporary colour to the show, my personal favourite being their intricate and rhythmic reworking of YYY by Rush. The McElwaine Cup for the best rock performance was awarded to the Hale Jazz Band for their sultry, moody Pink Panther Theme. Anyway, Gresham won both the concert points and the audition points and the Cock House Shield was now essentially out of our reach.

The snow-affected senior rugby and hockey competitions were still to be decided and the girls went first. They went into their first game against Whittington as underdogs

but were unlucky to lose narrowly. Other results did not go their way however and they finished third. The senior boys were a different story. With on paper the strongest Hale team in living memory, we were still hurting from last year's embarrassing defeat at the hands of Stuart Keenan's Whittington and we had many a point to prove. This was the famous year group with Mays, Swindell, Charalambous, Taylor, Crabtree and Hodgson. They were a formidable group of men, feared by the other two houses. This was their time. The pressure almost proved too much but they beat Whittington in a tense, nervy encounter. Gresham proved less of a problem and the senior house rugby crown was claimed back by its rightful owners.

At the end of the term, Hale and Whittington were tied at 75 points each and Gresham had 90. The green house now looked to be in pole position but with Whittington's sporting talent straining at the leash the summer term promised to be an interesting one.

There was little for Hale to sing about in the summer term. The Cock House Shield quickly became a two horse race as our cricketers and tennis players toiled in the sunshine to no avail, with the exception of our sporty Upper 4 and Lower 5 girls who won the

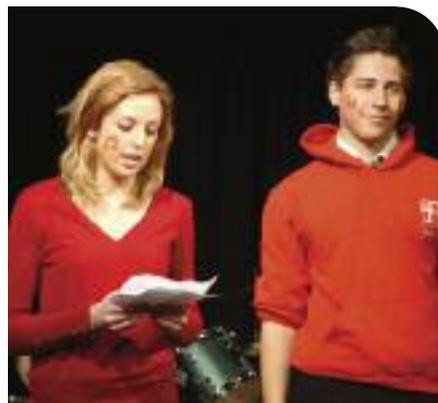
tennis. We came second in both house chef competitions but the highlight of the term for Hale was house athletics. The phenomenal senior boys won by a country mile and the inter boys upset the bookmakers by coming first too. Add to this the inter girls coming second and in terms of total house points, Hale won sports day! A large crumb of comfort given that we had no chance of winning the Cock House Shield.

As the year ended and the scoreboard showed we had come third again (though only by three points) Hale could nevertheless look back over the many competitions and pick out some incredible performances and results.

We say a fond farewell to some very talented sportsmen and women, some clever debaters and some gifted musicians and actors but we look to the future and see a huge amount of potential coming up from the Junior School.

I would like to thank everyone who did anything for the red house through the year, no matter how minor you felt your contribution was. I really feel that we are on the rise and next year could be a big one.

Mr Ian Knowles



# Whittington

## JUNIORS

It has once again been a pleasure to work with Whittington's Junior pupils during the year. For the first time ever, our House Captains remained in office for the entire year. Sam Ashbridge and Aila Diffey did a sterling job, supporting the other captains with team selection, helping with Lower and Middle Junior events throughout the year and generally assisting me with the task of keeping everything in order. My thanks go to them. They will be a hard act to follow.

The Autumn term proved to be busy and challenging. Chris Richards and Bethany Pembridge, our Sports Captains for the term, headed up the year with the Upper Junior Rugby and Hockey events. The girls took to the field first where we came a commendable second in both the As and Bs, narrowly missing first place. We then saw the boys A team take first. However, due to very tough opposition the Bs came third. Thanks go to

the Senior School Sports Captains who helped coach and prepare the teams.

This year's House Art theme was 'Patterns'. Whittington produced a record number of entries of an excellent standard. James Ellis and Georgina Whichello, our House Art Captains inspired and cajoled all members to get out their pastels, paints and cameras with amazing results! However, the entries throughout the Junior School were phenomenal. Whittington placed third in a very close field.

The Spring term was a very busy one for House events, as Cross Country had been postponed from the Autumn. The Sports Captains this term were Aran Fitzpatrick and Millie Reed.

It would seem that Whittington are more fish than mammals, as our major success was in the swimming pool, where we took first in four of the eight events. Cross Country saw us drag our heels a little,

taking third. I urge all Whittingtonites to don their running shoes and join Mr Valkenburg at the flag pole each Thursday lunchtime in readiness for next year!

It was then the turn of the Middle Junior Hockey and Rugby teams, admirably organised by James Stanley and Alicia Wilson. In these events the Upper 2 and Lower 3 boys came first and the girls third.

The Spring term once again highlighted our artistic talents. This time it was the turn of House Music. There were a record number of entries resulting in us taking first place for the second year running. Many of our talented musicians entertained us during House Assembly and my thanks go to them.

Not deterred by the term's mixed bag of results, the Lower Junior girls performed some very challenging and complicated sequences in gymnastics and the boys showed sheer determination on the rugby field. Again, mixed results were the order



of the day and we came third and second in gym and second on the rugby field.

During the final assembly of the Spring term, Mr Beach announced the results to date of the Kemp House shield, placing us second to Gresham.

After a refreshing Easter break, the pupils picked themselves up and prepared for the final push of the year. A busy term of tennis, cricket, athletics, rounders, cooking and general knowledge kept us all busy and focussed on the shield. The Sports Captains

for the summer were Ed England and Tabitha Read-Cayton for the Upper Juniors and Matthew Clarke and Jasmin Clarke for the Middle Juniors. They definitely had their work cut out to try to make up lost ground.

Despite some outstanding play and effort, most notably the Upper Junior girls' Tennis, Middle Junior Cricket, Upper Junior girls', Lower 2 boys' and Form 1 Athletics, and overall General Knowledge, it is with great sadness that we witnessed the Kemp House Shield being held high by the victorious

Mrs Williams and her Gresham House.

So it would seem that we have not had the best of years. However, all Whittington pupils never fail to astound me with their willingness and enthusiasm to participate in a wide range of activities, sometimes stepping up to the breach in an activity that is out of their comfort zone. It is this commitment and dedication to Whittington that will be the secret to our success as we look forward to the next year.

Mrs Janet Wilby



## SENIORS

In 2009-10 Whittington excelled, winning the house competition by a record breaking 39 points. As a result we entered this year as confident defending champions, hopeful of having another successful year.

Six of the 13 house events are held during the Autumn term. Consequently the house captains spent the first few weeks of the year covering the notice boards with team sheets and encouraging all the students to sign up for one event or another.

Our senior hockey team rapidly re-established our reputation of professionalism and expertise with two convincing wins. Meanwhile our minor sports teams showed great promise, winning the girls squash and table-tennis as well as the boys football and badminton. Unfortunately Gresham proved superior in the fencing and basketball and almost had a clean sweep in the boys cross-country – with four of their athletes finishing in the top five positions. Hale won house drama, however a special mention must go to Laurence Belcher who deservedly won best actor for his impressive rendition of Shakespeare's Sonnet 123. By the end of the term, Whittington were second.

House music was the main event of the Spring term. Once again Whittington put together a well structured, well rehearsed and impressively diverse house concert filled with music of the highest quality. Our choir, conducted by Lucy Cole, was a definite highlight, winning the Martin Cup for the best singing entry. Lucy was awarded the Cole Cup for the best overall pianist as well as the Jeremy Cole Cup for the best accompanist. Despite our best efforts Gresham were unstoppable, collecting six of the nine remaining trophies, resulting in another victory. By the end of the term Whittington were still second.

The Summer term was as busy as ever with house cricket, tennis and athletics in quick succession. Our senior girls' Tennis team won an impressive 89 of 126 games. Congratulations go to Lizzie Sherwin and Katie Zinser for confidently winning all six of their games. The senior girls also dominated in the House Athletics with the 4 x 100 relay team setting an outstanding new record of 55.12 seconds. Meanwhile the highlight of the boy's competition, and perhaps of the day, was Peter Hatcher's stylish finish in the 200m race. Special mentions must go to Will Straughan and Katelyn Aitchison who won victor and

victrix ludorum for their outstanding individual performances.

This year the Charities Committee introduced a new event to the House Competition. Each house was given a stall at the RAG week fair and 30 minutes to raise as much money for charity as possible. Whittington excelled – as per usual – and raised more money than Gresham and Hale put together. Thank you, Whittington, for being so charitable.

So overall we did enjoy another successful year. We broke records in the athletics, proved ourselves superior in the debating and maintained our reign as champions of the hockey field. We performed with professionalism and enthusiasm, excelling in teams and as individuals. Nevertheless Gresham remained one step ahead of us, winning the Cock House Shield with 127 points, whilst Whittington came second with 112 points. Our thanks go to Mr Bramhall for leading Whittington with such enthusiasm and to all the students for their individual contributions to the house. Ben and I would like to wish all Whittingtonians the very best of luck for the years to come.

Harriet Newhouse