

Gresham

JUNIORS

Following our victorious 2010-11, when we claimed the Kemp House Shield, spirits were running high at the beginning of the new academic year.

The Upper Junior girls were up first in the race to retain the Shield competing in House hockey. The Bs got off to a slow start, unfortunately coming third, but the As triumphed, coming joint first with Whittington.

It was then the turn of the Upper Junior boys on the rugby pitch. The boys fought very well in a tight game against Hale to finish second in the competition, an improvement on the last few years.

After half term, came House Art - one of Gresham's many fortes. It was a close competition with the theme being Sport in honour of the Olympic Games. Out of the 15 categories, Gresham was awarded nine first places! Sarah Spice won the Upper 3/Lower 4 3D category and was placed first overall, Daniela Zaks won the Upper 3/Lower 4 2D and collage category, placing second overall and Tom Turner won the Upper 3/Lower 4 Illustrated Poem category and was placed third overall. A hat trick for Gresham, proving our House to have a talented bunch of artists! There were many fantastic entries from Gresham, but despite having artistic quality we did not have the quantity and we were just one piece away from winning House Art overall, so we drew with Whittington once again.

It was then time for the boys to take to the cross country course, the Lower 2 boys excelling and coming first, the Middle and Upper Junior boys coming second and the Form 1 boys picking up points in third place.

After adding our points from Merits and Distinctions, Gresham was in second place at the end of the Autumn term, but unfortunately a long way behind Whittington.

The Spring term got off to a great start, with the Upper 2 and Lower 3 girls both coming first in hockey. Gresham girls were also victorious in netball, with the Upper 2 girls coming second and the Lower 3 girls coming first. House rugby for the boys did not prove to be as successful despite Lower 2 coming first. This victory could not be matched by Form 1, Upper 2 or Lower 3, with all three teams coming an honourable third.

Then came the dreaded House swimming... Third place for the Form 1 boys, Lower 2

girls and Middle Junior boys. Second place for the Form 1 girls and both Upper Junior teams, and well fought first places for the Lower 2 boys and Middle Junior girls. (We are getting better at swimming!).

Cross country for the girls brought a variety of results. The Lower Juniors came third, the Upper Juniors came second, whilst those strong Middle Juniors were victorious once again! Well done to all the girls, especially those in Upper 2 and Lower 3! In House gymnastics, Form 1 came second whilst Lower 2 came joint third with Hale.

Then came the news Gresham did not want to hear. We had come third in House Music, despite all the hectic rushes and pleas to fill in green entry forms. And yes, you've guessed it - Whittington had come first! Out of the nine categories, Maria and Katherine Carr won the Holst Cup for Most Promising Junior Duet and Oliver Way won the Walton Cup for Most Promising Lower Junior Musician.

We knew that the gap between us and Whittington was getting wider. This was confirmed with the news that Gresham had come last in Merits and Distinctions. (Whittington winning, of course!) By the end of the Spring term, Gresham had slipped to third - seven points behind Hale, and 19 points behind Whittington. We knew we'd all have to work even harder in the Summer term to catch up. It would not look good if having won the Kemp House Shield the previous year, we were going to end 2012 in third place!

The Summer term started well with the Middle Junior girls excelling once again in House tennis. The Upper Junior boys won their House cricket competition, with the Upper Junior B team coming second and the Middle Juniors combined coming third. The sun came out for House athletics but Gresham did not perform as expected in the track and field events. This was disappointing as the points we usually lose in swimming we make up in athletics. The Lower 2 boys and Middle Junior boys both came first, we gained a second place from the Upper Junior girls; however the third places for both the Form 1 boys and girls, the Lower 2 girls, the Middle Junior girls and the Upper Junior Boys did little to boost our diminishing point score. All was not lost however as once again the Middle Junior girls did us proud with resounding victories in House rounders from both the Upper 2 and Lower 3 teams.

Before Prize Day, Gresham was still in third

after again coming third in Merits and Distinctions. (How can we be third every term?!). However, the competition wasn't over and on a sunny Prize Day the victories came flooding in and our points total started to build. First came the news that we had won House Chef, swiftly followed by hearing that both the Form 1 and Lower 2 girls' Rounders teams had come second, then that the Form 1 and Lower 2 boys had won House cricket! To put the icing on the cake, both the Upper Junior girls' A and B teams had come first in House tennis. Was this rush of points too late? Could we move out of third position? Had we left it too late to retain our crown?! We had to wait until the Final Assembly the following day to find out!

In Final Assembly the scores were read out: in third place was Hale with 70 points, in second place was ... Whittington with 72 points and in first place was Gresham with 74 points! Hooray.. we had done it again! But no...these were only the results from the Summer term! Now came the overall results totals... in third place was Hale with 161.5 points, in second was Gresham with 163 points and first, with a whopping 193.5 points was (yes, you've guessed it!) Whittington! But hooray, we had beaten Hale, if only by 1.5 points, to come second overall. Congratulations Gresham!

We would like to say a huge well done to everyone who participated in helping Gresham this year, and a big thank you to all of the other House Captains for all their organisation and hard work in promoting the sports, art and music events. Most of all, thank you to Mrs Williams for all of her hard work, effort and enthusiasm she put in to each of the events and all the time she has given up for us. We wish the best of luck to the next Gresham House captains and hope that they can succeed in pushing Gresham back up to the top spot and regaining the Kemp House Shield! Whittington can and will be beaten once again!!

Christina Huon and Ben Sidwell



SENIORS

I would like to thank every person who participated in the House events this year and who worked so hard to achieve some marvellous results.

The year started on a high after winning the Cock House Shield the previous year. Mrs Mitchell was keen to keep this high standard up and it wasn't long until the Lower 6 started organising the first competitions.

Drama was successful with Grace Roger organising and winning her dramatic monologue. We also had winners for the comedy duologue, Katherine Daly and Maia Penfold, and for the group piece.

Winter sports day arrived, by far the biggest event of the term, and brought some great results for Gresham. The Upper 4 hockey players managed to achieve first place, thanks to goals by Zoe Lowry and Anna Craig. Upper 4 and Lower 5 rugby players settled for a well-deserved second with some notable performances from up and coming players. Minor sports did not go as well as last year, with Gresham coming second behind a tied first place in both the boys' and girls' competitions. However, the stand out performances were in girls' basketball and boys' badminton, who both managed to come first.

The highlights of the term were the Senior competitions for rugby, led by Josh Stringfellow and Alex Winstone, and hockey, led by Kate Holmes and Louise Bluck. The rugby team showed its class with Upper 6 players dominating the side, and defeated both other Houses. The hockey team tied against Whittington and won impressively against Hale, 6-0. This meant that we had come first in both Senior rugby and hockey. I'd like to thank Jo Sneller for stepping up as goal keeper when we needed her.

Filip Obel and Louise Bluck worked their hardest to get our debaters prepared and we didn't go down without a fight. Unfortunately, we finished tied second in the Senior competition and a disappointing third for the Intermediates.

Autumn term finished with two outstanding victories in boys' cross country. Ed Vinter ran a great race and came first with Ben Windle close behind in second. The Senior event was even better with Gresham filling the top four places: Sam Eglon, Steve Pilley, Alex Culhane and Alex Tzortzis.

We finished the autumn term in first position.

The spring term started with girls' cross country and an unfortunate loss for the Inters. The Seniors, however, triumphed, thanks to a great run by Kate Holmes and Jess Filby finishing second and third respectively.

Swimming is never a strong sport for Gresham, with the Intermediate boys and girls both coming third overall. We were

not without our individual successes: Michael Trubshaw was the freestyle winner and Zoe Lowry won the butterfly. Senior swimming can cause some trouble with team lists but they were able to go one better by coming second to an unstoppable Whittington. The boys did particularly well, winning both the freestyle and breast stroke relays.

The music competition was altered in the audition stages this year, so that an individual's score was multiplied by the grade the person played at. This meant that we had to be more organised than ever. The point totals were tight the whole way through the process but finally Gresham finished first on an impressive 2505 points, just in front of Whittington on 2481. The concert was under the guidance of Peter Lam, who created a programme full of interesting and complicated pieces. Celine O'Donovan won The Dowland Cup for her performance of 'Alto's Lament'. Also Gresham's House orchestra won The Goddard Cup and Alastair Cockrem won The Jeremy Cole Cup for his wonderful accompaniment of four pieces. Gresham, however, narrowly missed out overall and came second.

Rain hit hard in the summer term causing a lot of problems in competitions that needed to be held. Senior cricket was squeezed in with the boys managing second but the Inter competition had to be cancelled. Tennis had the Inters playing in the glorious sun of Prize Day, though unfortunately coming third. The Senior competition was cancelled after it was moved three times for rain and eventually ran out of time.

The athletics competition miraculously found a dry day when the sun shone, and Upper 5 and Upper 6 students made their way back to school even though they had finished for the year. The Inter girls worked hard but finished third, with Olivia Morris achieving a first in her long jump and the 100m. The Inter boys came second with Rory Penfold being named Victor Ludorum with two firsts and a third. Both Senior teams were victorious. Sam Tresadern, Sam Eglon and Alex Culhane all amazingly managed to win two events on the track each. Philippa Nicholls was named Victrix Ludorum after winning all the events she competed in. The relay teams finished the day by not only winning every race but having more teams than both the other Houses. (Mrs Mitchell claimed we should get bonus points for that!). It was an excellent afternoon led brilliantly by the captains, with the bonus of Gresham winning overall. This was a long-awaited result – the first time it has happened, as far as Mrs Mitchell could remember – as the shrieks of delight showed!

The last event of the school year was House chef, where the Upper 4 and Lower 5 chefs managed to out-bake the other Houses and win their section. The Seniors came second, but not without Louise Bluck and Celine O'Donovan's cupcakes going unnoticed.



Finally all the events had finished and the final points were added up. Gresham had extended their lead against Hale, but couldn't catch Whittington. Fingers crossed that next year Gresham will hold that shield again.

I have had so much fun leading Gresham with Peter Lam and we feel privileged to have been Mrs Mitchell's last House Captains as she leaves the school. As Head of House for 17 years she has always been an inspiration and will be sorely missed. Peter and I wish Mrs Dickson the best of luck for the years to come. We also now hand our roles over to Steve Pilley and Louise Bluck, and we hope that they enjoy their new roles as much as we did. Good luck Gresham for the Cock House Shield 2012/13!

Sally Nicholls



Hale

JUNIORS

It has been a tradition that in the Autumn term we have struggled to get the points we need in the sporting competitions. Our captains did a great job organising the hockey and rugby teams, so our thanks go to the Upper Junior sports captains Georgia West and Alex Taylor. Unfortunately, the tradition continued and the best we could manage was to get a second place thanks to the girls' hockey B team.

Last year our Form 1 boys showed strength in cross country running and they managed to gain first place along with the Middle Junior boys. House Art is the other main event and it was a shame that having done well in the last two years in House Art Competition the other two houses were determined to beat us and we dropped down to third place in this event.

We therefore started the Spring term in third place in the Kemp House Shield, and were desperately seeking to increase our points. We were all grateful to learn that we had accrued enough points to finish the term in second place although our nemesis, Whittington, was far ahead in first. Well done to Form 1, Upper 2 and Lower 3 rugby boys; Form 1, Lower 2 and Middle Junior boys for their first place points in swimming and lastly Lower Junior girls' Cross Country team and Form 1 girls' gymnastics teams who managed to gain first place.

It is sad that Hale has lost a lot of very good musicians, who have moved onto the Senior School and thus we were upset when we received second place. However, well done to Annie Foster who received the Delius

Cup for Most Promising Woodwind Player, Joshua Neil-Boss received two cups: the Delius Cup for Most Promising Junior String Player as well as the Thorne Cup for Most Promising Upper Junior Musician, as well as plenty of second places from other members of the house in their categories.

In both the Autumn and Spring terms Hale showed their academic prowess by achieving second place in the quantity of merits and distinctions received.

We were very proud to be in second place at the end of the Spring term, and although it was extremely unlikely that Whittington could be toppled from first place we set our sights on keeping Gresham in third place.

In the Summer term our thanks went to the Middle Junior boys' cricket team for their first place, Form 1 boys, and Middle Junior girls' athletics team, and lastly Lower 2 rounders team who all received first place in their competitions.

Hale had also now achieved first place in the merits and distinctions section. In the last House assembly of the year, there were still precious scores and points to be announced by the P.E. and Games department, to see if we had managed to stay in second place. Regrettably, Gresham's wins in the term pushed us down to third place with a difference of 1.5 points! This was extremely disappointing because of all the hard work put in – at least it was close!

I would like to thank the House Captains Jack Symonds and Vicky Earl. Also thank you and well done to all Hale pupils for their hard work and perseverance.

Miss Nicola Chambers



SENIORS

We started the year with strong performances from the whole drama team ensuring the fantastic unbeaten run for Hale in House Drama. This was swiftly followed by a joint first place in the Minor Sports placing us at the top of the leader board. Unfortunately, some close losses in rugby, hockey and cross country put us a point behind at Christmas.

The spring term highlight was debating, in which the pairings of Becky Baker and Dan Sareen along with Gabi Cox and Harry Househam (or "Gary" as they became known as in today's celebrity culture!) finished first and second. Music and swimming were fiercely fought but sadly saw us finish in third place.

Rain affected a lot of the summer term fixtures and led to Intermediate boys'





cricket and Senior girls' tennis having to be cancelled altogether. Second place for the Intermediate girls' tennis, however, kept the competition close going into sports day.

The Intermediate boys' athletics squad did us proud and won their division, with the Inter girls finishing just a few points off first place for a strong second. Individual highlights included Emily Stewart taking Victrix Ludorum by winning the 200m and setting two superb new school records in the high jump and triple jump. Ben Lumsden also won the 800m and Long Jump and was jointly awarded Victor Ludorum. Congratulations to both who performed brilliantly on a very hot and muggy afternoon!

This has no doubt been a momentous year for the Houses, with all three Heads of Senior House moving on at the same time. Here in Hale, we also marked the end of an era with the Head of Junior House, Miss Chambers, moving on to other challenges. The final series of assemblies, a real Hale speciality, proved to be a deeply memorable mixture of hilarity and heartache as the pupils and staff reminisced over the glories and stand out events of not just this year but the previous ones as well. Miss Chambers fought bravely to avoid a blub in the last ever Friday assembly, although a crack in her voice gave the game away! Of course, she wasn't the only one...

I was very touched by the kind present of a guitar and look forward to some rocking and jamming in any future spare time. While I bid a fond farewell to Freeman's, I shall remain Hale at heart forever!

Mr Ian Knowles





Whittington

JUNIORS

It has once again been a pleasure to work with Whittington's Junior pupils during the academic year. I would like to thank Cydonie Ashbridge and James Lawrence, this year's House Captains, for their outstanding dedication and contribution to the House. Without them, we would not have had the success that we have enjoyed this year.

Of course, without the willingness and enthusiasm to participate in a wide range of activities from all of the pupils, Whittington would not have stepped up to the podium during the final assembly of the Summer term to collect the Kemp House Shield. Well done to everyone!

Here are a collection of extracts from some of the House Captains' reports:

Upper Junior Hockey by Bethan Moncur (Sports Captain Autumn 2011)

We played an outstanding match against Hale winning 3-0 with goals scored by Bethan Moncur, Izzy Nash and Christina Georgiou. Our match against Gresham was a draw although Alicia Wilson had an amazing shot which just hit the post. The final match was Hale v Gresham where, unluckily for us, Gresham won 3-0. The final results for the A team was Whittington and Gresham joint first.

The B team absolutely smashed Hale and Gresham with goals from Hana Castle and Vicky Marshall which meant Whittington came first.

Overall Whittington came first. Well done to all of the Upper 3 and Lower 4 girls.

Upper Junior Rugby by Oliver Williams (Sports Captain, Autumn 2011)

In our first match against Hale we quickly opened the scoring with good hands from the back, setting Oliver Williams up for the try. After pressure from Hale we added a second try with Jake Slater scoring. In the second half another try along with Dan Cuthbert gave Whittington a 24-0 victory.

We dominated against Gresham as Sam Wilson finished off a great run on the wing with a try and Jake Slater gave Whittington a 10-0 lead before half time. It was a quieter second half with just Dan Cuthbert scoring a try giving Whittington a 15-0 victory and Whittington House rugby once again.

House Music by Amelia Hart and Tor Wolberg (Music Captains, Spring 2012)

Another great success for Whittington was House Music. We had many fantastic entries, including the formation of a brilliant House choir. We sang a fantastic rendition of *Fireflies* by Owl City. Many thanks go to Cyd Ashbridge and Izzy Nash who taught the song and actions. It was a great performance and we were very proud. Sadly the House choir was not allowed to participate in the final even though the judges were amazed by our performance. We have requested that in future years, a Junior House choir category should be included. Hopefully our fantastic piece has set a good precedent for years to come.

Entries that deserve special recognition came from Sarah Etherington with a superb entry on her 'cello and Oliver Baylis' pieces. Every entry counted towards our win! Our success was due to every single audition that took place so we say a big thank you Whittington!

Upper Junior Swimming by Maia Diffey and Alexandros Kanavos (Sports Captains, Spring 2012)

Whittington excelled by winning the girls and the boys' competitions. We have many strong swimmers in our house including Alicia Wilson, Isabelle Nash, Christina Georgiou and Sash Bruce.

Some swimmers were reluctant to swim but they did their House proud by stepping up to the mark. Well done to everyone who participated and everyone's race earned us an extra point towards winning!

As I have always been dedicated to swimming, it was a pleasure to be selected as Swimming Captain. When it came to organising the event, I was running around and sorting who would take part in each event. However on the day there was a lot of sickness, putting pressure on the rest of the team fill in races. Whittington came up trumps maintaining a steady lead, with lots of inexperienced swimmers trying their best to do the House proud! When we found out that Whittington had won, we felt really happy! I felt very proud to be a winning House Captain in my last year in the Junior School. It was a pleasure to lift up the winner's shield for Whittington!

House Athletics by Emma Whiteley (Sports Captain, Summer 2012)

This year Whittington had a very successful Upper Junior House athletics competition. Both the boys and the girls had some outstanding results and they deserved to win the competition after all the hard work and effort they put in for their events. This year Whittington won in both the boys' and girls' competitions.

Mrs Janet Wilby



SENIORS

2012 was an important year for Whittington. It would be the last year that Mr Bramhall would spearhead the Whittington battalion on the House field against Gresham and Hale. Mr Bramhall had a fantastic record so Whittington knew that it was time to emerge from the shadows to reclaim the Cock House Shield.

We started off the campaign with House drama, with our fellow Whittingtonites producing acting performances that I'm sure Shakespeare would be proud of. It was a valiant effort from our budding actors and actresses, providing us with brilliant scenes and professional execution, but unfortunately we finished third. The Autumn sports afternoon really got the ball rolling. With Lucy and Vusa covering everyone in blue paint, Whittington was feeling the house buzz and this was reflected in our performances. Notably the Upper 4 rugby team finished first, the Lower 5 hockey side won their tournament, and great performances on the football pitch and the sports hall for our minor sport competitors.

Later in the term was the boys' Cross Country competition, traditionally a strong event for Whittington. For the Seniors, we unfortunately had little injuries and illness so we sadly finished third, with our highest ranked runner, Alexander Duke in sixth. For the Intermediates we had a lot of strong performances from the boys, taking us to second overall.

On the last weekend of the term, we had another greatly anticipated day of sport with House rugby and hockey. After wins in the both sports against Hale, it came down to Whittington vs. Gresham. In the hockey, after a closely fought match, the game ended 1-1, but due to Gresham having flicked one more goal against Hale than us, it meant that we finished the tournament in second. It was a similar situation for the rugby boys, who after a convincing win over Hale needed to at least draw against Gresham. Early in the first half, after a controversial decision made by the referee, Gresham soon got their first try and conversion. Despite it being very close in the midfield and the strength of Gresham's 8 matching ours, we weren't able to break through their back line and although it was a great team performance from Whittington, the game ended 7-0 to Gresham, giving us second place overall. So, at the end of Autumn, Whittington sat in second place, 5.5 points off Gresham in the top spot.

Swimming is another traditionally strong house event for Whittington. Setting up teams was a struggle and sincere thanks should go to George Macdonald, Alice Churchill and Harriet James Weed for their commitment and persistence. The time came to finally to get in the pool and Whittington were superb, with noticeable performances from Amelia Reed, Mark Tuddenham, George Macdonald and William Straughan.

It was particularly good to have individuals volunteering despite not being a fan of swimming and these people (they know who they are!) must be thanked for their performances. At the end of the day, we repeated the feat of the 2009-10 by winning with a clean sweep. Intermediate Girls. First. Intermediate Boys. First. Senior Boys and Girls. First. This fantastic result very much contributed to overtaking Gresham at the end of the Spring term, putting Whittington in first place.

Vusa Mtunzi

In addition to the swimming, the term presented perhaps the most feared of house events for the girls: cross country. While for the more talented runners it provides the chance to display incredible self-will and limbs which continue to move despite all odds, others may simply picture hoards of highly embarrassed young ladies, stomping round muddy paths, whilst trying to avoid being seen by the rugby players. As it happens, Whittington seems to have talent in abundance, with Nathalie Richards, Saskia Davies, and Amy Owens placing fourth, fifth, and sixth respectively, putting the Intermediate girls in first place in this event, and the Seniors in second.

The annual house music competition was perhaps the most profitable of the year's events for Whittington. Having come second overall in the auditions, our music captains, Will Nash and Georgia Holloway, were the epitome of organisation and creativity in the lead up to the finals. The Whittington House choir was an exceptional entry this year; thanks must go to the Lower 5 girls who attended rehearsals but were unfortunately unable to sing on the day due to excessive numbers, an incident reflecting only the infallible enthusiasm of the pupils. In spite of the choir's outstanding harmony and dynamic flair, they were just piped to the post! Yet it wasn't weeping all round, as in fact the winners of the best house singing entry were none other than The Whittington Bluebells. Other cup winners included Philip MacDonald as the most promising brass player, and Georgia Holloway and Lucy Cole for their piano duet, with Lucy also winning best overall performer. However, the true pinnacle of excitement came in the day's final moments, with the adjudicator's announcement that Whittington's professionalism and musicality had won first place, a wonderful achievement that must be attributed to all who took part; this adjudicator, Mr Richard Burdett, is of course very welcome again next year!

The new term brought with it not only anticipation for the summer's House events, but also fairly torrential rains. Both the Intermediate cricket and Senior tennis teams, despite arranging various dates to play on, eventually sacrificed their turn in the sporting spotlight, after the fear of getting wet and cold proved just too much! While the Senior boys' cricket team struggled to swing their dripping bats, their

moist little feet gradually sinking into the waterlogged pitches, their spirits never languished, obtaining first place in the competition. Similarly, although the A team was slightly less successful, the girls' Intermediate B tennis team took first place for the house in their own competition.

Fortunately, with Sports Day later in the term, the weather was a little more cooperative. With many exceptional performances, including Will Straughan winning the Senior Victor Ludorum for the third year in a row, a remarkable achievement, the highlight of the day was perhaps seeing Mr Bramhall complete the last leg of a Senior girls' relay race against Mr Knowles, a memory which will undoubtedly be giggled at for many years to come.

In the House Chef competition we came a commendable second in the Intermediate section, while the hugely enthusiastic Senior cooks triumphed in first place. Clara Hutter in particular showed off her baking prowess with a selection of delicately produced cupcakes, topped with masterful swirls of buttercream, and winning first prize.

So, Whittington enjoyed another diverse year of competition, finishing first, with some considerable jumping up and down from Mr Bramhall and some friendly boasting in the staff common room. As per usual, the students came together to perform with enthusiasm and dedication, proving the spirit and friendship that defines the house. Vusa and I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to making this year an outstanding one, and to express our gratitude to Mr Bramhall as he sadly ends his role as Head of House. We wish Mr Brooke every success next year, working alongside Elle Riley and Oscar Coyle to lead the house to even greater heights.

Lucy Cole

