

CRAIG HOUSE

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

2023

What a mammoth term!

Despite a lengthy and at times exhausting 16 and a half weeks, the boys have managed to not only survive but thrive throughout the demands of each and every day. We welcomed 11 new year 9s at the very end of August and finish the term with 12 energetic and eager new members of the Craig community.

I must also take this opportunity to offer an apology on slightly fewer photographs than in past editions – in my efforts to encourage the boys away from screens and devices and to embrace every moment, there have been times where I have forgotten to capture the moment on their behalf!



Lent Term Dates 2024

Sunday 7th January

Craig House Open 10:00-20:00

Monday 8th January

Term resumes (08:20 latest arrival)

Week A (Y11 Mocks begin)

Thursday 25th January

Exeat weekend 14:15

Y11 parents meeting 14:45

Friday 9th February

Half term begins 14:15

Y11 A-Level information meeting 14:45

Monday 19th February

Term resumes (08:20 latest arrival)

Friday 8th March

Exeat weekend 14:35

U6 parents meeting 14:45

Saturday 16th March

CHAPS (Craig Revue)

Friday 22nd March

Term ends 15:00

ACADEMIC AND SERVICES REPORT

September began with the news that James Dunlop had won the Y11 Headmaster's Challenge before a busy few weeks for our linguists, with Hunter & Struan welcoming French exchange pupils, trips to London and French poetry evenings. Alex Bailey competed in the economics Olympiad and Jasper Simpson was commended for his role in taking part in the Lords Select Committee for climate change. Last but by no means least, Straun and Alex have been busy taking part in Oxbridge interviews and we eagerly await their news in the new year.



As well as the usual CCF and S@S activities, boys have been busy across the service sphere, whether that be Dexter, Edgar, Sam, Hunter, Al and Harry S achieving their silver Duke of Edinburgh awards or Dexter taking a leading role in the charity committee's services and events.

The CCF has been particularly busy and none more so than the RAF contingent. Alongside the Remembrance services, they also found the time to take part in a special service at the Central Church of the RAF at St Clements Danes to commemorate 75 years of the CCF, under the watchful eye of Flight Sergeant Ben Clark.



PRIZES

	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
1st	Jack Jordan	Felix Bordass	James Dunlop	Jasper Simpson	Ben Clark
2nd	Tommy Llewellyn	Rory Ford	Ollie Kirtley	Harry Shouksmith	Marcus Skyrme
3rd	Matthew Murray	Harry Jordan	Theo Hazelwood	Dexter Bell	Jamie Gordon
4th	Ollie Reed	Thomas van Rensburg	Kyle Tsawayo	James Speakman	Alfie Hunter
5th	Ben Jeffrey	Will Laws	Nicholas Beech	Hunter Upton	Tom McDonald

Colours

Harry Shouksmith	Dance (Half), Music (Half)
Ben Clark	Music (Half)
Herbie Sleep	Drama (Full)
Tom McDonald	Rugby (Half)
Marcus Skyrme	Rugby (Half)
Alfie Hunter	Rugby (Half)
Ben Chambers	Rugby (Half)
Ridley Flind	Squash (Half)
Alexander Bailey	Rugby (Full)

Simon Green Cup for Endeavour

Marcus Skyrme was awarded this due to his tireless work over the past two years to achieve his aim of getting into the 1XV. Even once selected, he never once rested on his laurels, but rather he put 100% into each and every training session, as well as attending nearly all extra sessions on top of this - he has never let his effort levels drop and as a consequence has realised his goal and then some.



SPORTS REPORT

Rugby

Not only has Craig managed to have 9 players represent the 1XV at various points throughout the term, boys across the year groups have managed to represent the school in a wide range of sports. Rugby, golf, squash, basketball, swimming and football have all featured this term alongside pre-season hockey and winter cricket preparations.



Theo was nominated 'player's player of the season' for his excellent contribution to the 1XV and Tommy was called up to the Harlequins development squad.



The boys have worked hard at representing the house throughout the term in various sporting events.

The term began with a wonderful festival of rugby on College Field with some excellent team performances.



Aquathlon

Jack won the year 9 Aquathlon and notable mentions should also go to Jasper who came 3rd overall in senior aquathlon, Marcus and Harry J first in their year groups and Nate second in his year group.



Steeplechase

Steeplechase was again dominated by familiar faces with Jack again taking the year 9 title and Jasper coming first in year 12.



Fives & Rowing

Harry and Dexter won the senior house fives title overcoming tough opposition and we await the final standings in the house rowing competition.



There have also been opportunities to represent the house in swimming and squash as well as the newly created inter-house table tennis and pool competitions and I will look for even more of the boys to put their hands up next term for more.



CREATIVES



Cronkites have been busy on the stage this term with the year 9s handling the weight of expectation and becoming the 4th group in 5 years to win the house drama competition.

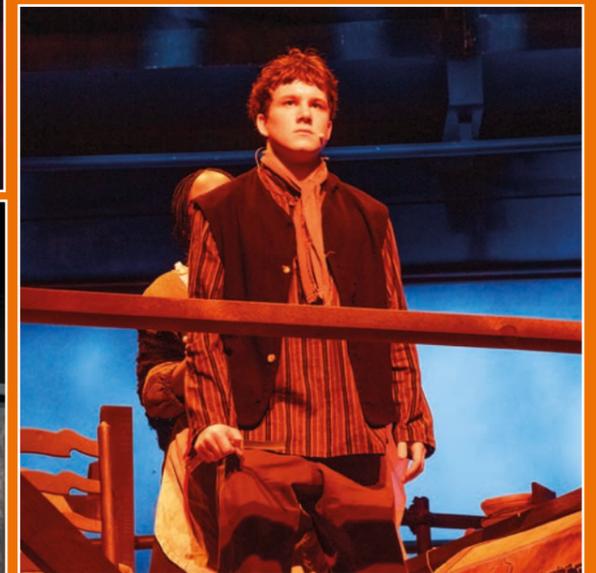
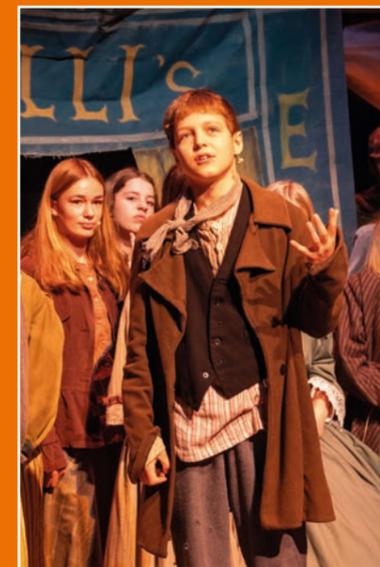


In a tough field, Ben won the award for Best Actor – an accolade that could have gone to a number of the boys. For those of you unable to witness their victory first hand, I'm sure you'll be in for a treat at CHAPS. Thanks should also go to Monty and Dexter for their excellent leadership.



Sweeney

The vast majority of key roles in the school production of Sweeney Todd were taken by Cronkites with Herbie taking the title role, ably assisted by Harry S, Harry J and Jack and they certainly wowed the crowds each night across a busy week towards the end of term.



SOCIAL

As well as the usual recreation time, the boys in the house have been able to host tutor dinners, and take part in scholars, year 12 and the House dinner. This was a wonderful event (even with numerous AMKs appearing from year 11!) and plaudits should go to the entire year 13 team on organising a successful event – from Jamie's quiz, to Herbie & Jasper serenading us as the evening came to a close.



THANK YOU & A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

This has been a wonderful first term as housemaster and will certainly live long in the memory. Whether that be the house spirit shown on the rugby pitch back in September, to the year 9 drama production and the wonderful house dinner. The new year 9s (and a couple of 12s!) have certainly felt welcomed by all and I look forward to seeing them kick on in the new year – Good luck for 2024!



