

Gonville House Newsletter

Michaelmas Term 2024

So here it is, the first newsletter subject to VAT and I am wondering how much better I now need to make it! This is not the place to comment upon this policy change, but I do think that within these pages it is clear why so many of you continue to place such value on a boarding education. The community spirit in both sharing the good times and the challenging ones, develops strong bonds as well as a wealth of emotional intelligence about thriving alongside others. While much of these newsletters celebrate individual achievements, it is always the collaborative efforts that are dearest to my heart. This term Gonville had success in the house singing (not a win, but close), the aquathlon and won the participation award in the steeplechase (where the highest proportion of the house finish within a certain cut off time). These accolades are earned by the many and not just the few.



That said, there are a number of individual accolades that need mentioning. Three pupils achieved Headmasters' Commendations this term. **Alex Chapman** for his excellent speech to a gathering of prep school heads at the RAC in London, **Daniel Song** for his role in the national MEI RITANGLE competition and **Herbert Phillips** as part of the team that got bronze in the Top of the Bench chemistry challenge. In sport, **Joshua Yip** and **Harry Prescott** were part of the U18 relay teams that came 7th and 14th nationally at the ESSA championships. **Jimmy Hall**, **Barley O'Connor** and **Alex Chapman** were involved in the 1st XV victory at the Eltham tournament. It is also worth noting that **Oliver Twynning** scored close to 25 tries for the U14 A this term.

Pupils in the house continued to take advantage of the full breadth of school activities from mountain biking to dance, from drama to paddleboarding. As a house we have done everything from three-legged-races to dodgeball. As always I will try my best to chronicle all that has happened in a few pages of photos. I will endeavour to miss nothing out, but I am certainly fallible and so please forgive me my post Christmas forgetfulness in advance!

KEY DATES -

LENT TERM 2023

Sunday 5 January

4-9pm boys return (supper 7pm)

Monday 6 January

Lessons begin

Thursday 23 January

Year 11 Parents' Meetings

Exeat begins

Sunday 24 January

Boys return after 6pm

Friday 14 February

Y10 Parents' Meetings

Half term starts

Sunday 23 February

Boys return after 6pm

Saturday 8 March

Gonville House Revue

Tuesday 11 March

Giving Day

Friday 14 March

U6th Parents' Meetings

Sunday 16 March

Boys return after 6pm

Friday 28 March

Term ends at 3pm

Jimmy Hall	Rugby	Full
Barley O'Connor	Rugby	Half
Harry Prescott	Drama	Full
Ethan Ajikobi	D of E	Silver
Harry Doe	D of E	Silver
James Mattison	D of E	Silver
Herman Ris	D of E	Silver

Academic Review

eRC (effort) Wall of Fame

Year 13

Joshua Yip	5.72
Ryan Liu	5.65
Archie Stephens	5.41
Lucas Jayaraj	5.38
Heston Symonds	5.33
Ben Whiteley	5.31
Harry Prescott	5.10

Most Improved:

Jimmy Hall	+ 0.75
Oscar Fox	+ 0.56
William Rennie	+0.39
Lucas Jayaraj	+0.25
Ryan Liu	+0.24

Year 12

Isaac Lee	5.96
Jayden Matsikenyeri	5.84
Dean Zhang	5.77
Samuel Lee	5.50
Rowley Emus	5.47
Atom Tian	5.26

Most Improved:

Atom Tian	+ 0.52
Jayden Matsikenyeri	+ 0.17

Year 11

Tom Robins	5.50
Alex Chapman	5.37
Seanan Wong	5.33
Connor Morrell	5.10

Most Improved:

Connor Morrell	+ 0.41
Valentine Gage	+ 0.4
Alex Chapman	+ 0.26
Janson Lau	+ 0.23

Year 10

Herbert Phillips	6.09
Felix Fox	5.86
Tuan Minh Dinh	5.36
Daniel Song	5.36
Robert McPherson	5.34

Most Improved:

Seb Bailey	+ 0.67
Felix Fox	+ 0.5
Alexander Tidswell	+0.47

Year 9

Donald Symonds	5.36
Felix Murray	5.31

Most Improved:

Thomas Lewis	+ 0.53
Felix Fox	+ 0.27

Show Hsm Roll of Honour

(brackets denote Praise)

Felix Fox	15 (15)
Herbert Phillips	14 (12)
Tuan Minh Dinh	10 (29)
Henry Cooke	9 (23)
Daniel Song	8 (13)
Milo Deniz	7 (15)
Dean Zhang	7 (4)
Robert McPherson	6 (23)
Donald Symonds	6 (18)
Adam Davies	6 (14)
Seanan Wong	6 (8)
Felix St John Parker	6 (5)
Felix Murray	5 (25)
Jonny Robinson	5 (23)
Isaac Lee	5 (11)
Thomas Lewis	4 (27)
Carlos Chan	4 (20)
Oliver Twyning	4 (17)
Frank Liu	3 (24)
Tom Zlattinger	3 (19)

In other academic performances of note, **Dean Zhang** and **Atom Tian** continue their mathematical excellence with **Dean Zhang** top performer in the senior maths challenge and **Atom** in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo. **Daniel Song** is mentioned above for his commendation, but also achieved 100% in his end of year exam. On the subject of exams, year 10 pupils **Herbert Phillips** and **Felix Fox** achieved averages of 7.9 and 8.2 respectively. Felix's results placed him second in the entire year group. As mentioned above, **Herbert Phillips** was successful in the chemistry Top of the Bench challenge.



International academic trips are making a return with **Alex Chapman, Ben Whiteley, William Rennie** and **Valentine Gage** from Gonville heading to Washington for the history trip at half term. With the election just days away they were witness to the tension that was mounting ahead of the polls, visited The Capitol, Arlington Cemetery and Gettysburg among other sites. They also, of course, took in the NBA.



New Additions

This August saw a new resident tutor in the form of Mr Alex Roberts. He is familiar to the boys as he has been at Eastbourne for ten years teaching physics, running the golf team and coaching football. He has also been a resident tutor in Wargrave for a number of years and so we are very lucky to have such an experienced and committed staff member join the team.



Also joining us this term is new staff member Mr Fred Clarke. Fred is working with the sports department and coached many of the boys during the rugby season. He will be involved with hockey, rugby sevens and cricket, as well as the sports scholars program. He is regularly in the house as an evening duty tutor.



Creatives review

It is a very busy term for the music department with no less than eighteen musical events. The Jazz Band were up and running on the very first weekend of the year, entertaining those attending the Eastbournian Society dinner in the Grand Hotel. This was quickly followed by a trip for the Choir, including **Alex Chapman**, to sing evensong in the magnificent surroundings of St John's College, Cambridge. Three well-supported informal concerts took place throughout the term with performances from **Atom Tian**, **Janson Lau**, **Gachechek Kenyua**, **Jerry Pang**, **Daniel Song** and **Sam Lee**. The hotly contested annual House Singing competition held centre stage on the last night before the half term holiday. Gonville performed an excellent version of *Rolling in the Deep*



by Adele. They were certainly in the mix for the top prize and a crowd favourite. Kudos must go to **Jimmy Hall** for preparing the boys so well. Returning after the break, the department's attention was focused on the Remembrance concert, featuring the Symphony Orchestra with **Oliver Twynning** on tuba and **Gachechek Kenyua** on percussion, the Remembrance Sunday service and Act of Remembrance. Special mention must go to **Sam Lee** in the corps of drums who played at both events. No rest for the hard-working Choir, who joined with the Choir of St Andrew's to sing a beautiful and busy Advent Carol service in Chapel. The biennial Christmas concert featured festive family favourites from the Symphony Orchestra and Jazz Band.







Gachecheh Kenyua continues to excel in creative disciplines, this time as the Year 10 dancers performed in a spectacular short production devised by Motionhouse Dance Company, after their 3-day Coastal Schools Partnership residency here at Eastbourne.



In art and photography, pupils visited the V&A and Natural History Museum as part of their coursework development. Drawing in the canteen and visiting the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition were a highlight of this trip. There have been a series of life drawing sessions for art and textiles 6th form in the Casson Art School, led by local artists. The final weeks of term saw the second annual Open studio event in the Casson Art School with work in progress from across the school in art and photography on display. Gonville pupils were featured in the display, including **Valentine Gage** and **Isaac Lee**.



The drama department started Michaelmas off by being nominated for the National School Theatre Awards for the college production and ended with a triumphant performance of *Blue Stockings* by a 50-strong team of actors, designers and technicians, including **Alex Chapman**, **Gachecheh Kenyua** and **Harry Prescott**.



This term also saw the highly successful year 10 scholars' production of *Menace in the Silence* (a collection of scenes by Nobel prize-winner Harold Pinter) and another EBCTV screening of *Surviving School* in the JWA involving, you guessed it, **Gachecheh Kenyua**.



The joyous year 9 drama competition was this year fought over some Grimm Tales. Gonville had the fun of *Hansel and Gretel* and won the prize for best ensemble performance. The performance was directed by **Ethan Ajikobi** and **Rowley Emus**.





Service report

The Chapel Charity this year is the Midlands Orphanage & Care Centre, Colenso, South Africa, and as well as collecting for this great charity, it was agreed that events would also contribute a small amount to the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal, which has the ambitious aim of providing up to 40 fully-funded, means-tested bursary places by 2028. Once again, a substantial amount of produce was given to the Eastbourne Foodbank (as a result of our Harvest Appeal) for those who struggle to make ends meet. In addition, a successful Charity Lunch raised £730 and a magnificent Charity Concert by LAMDA/Trinity pupils brought in another £750! Finally, the superb Advent Readings and Carols Service in the school chapel raised almost £300 for the chapel charity.

In the CCF, all year 11 cadets gained their blue leadership awards and are working on their MOI qualifications, a nationally recognised leadership course. Year 10 have had their first experience of shooting on the range and have begun their blue leadership awards as well as learning about the structure and history of the RAF. Year 10 cadets in the Army Section have progressed from the basics of Phase One training to begin the Phase Two training that will prepare them for their activity week at the end of the summer term. Year 11 cadets in A Company can be proud of their successful 24 hours in the field in challenging weather conditions in September, and of taking part in the civic parade in Eastbourne on Remembrance Sunday. Most will now train in leadership and instructional techniques, with a view to serving as NCOs in the sixth form.



Mr Lamb has stepped down from the role of Contingent Commander (after 17 years). He received a remarkable sendoff when all pupils on site one recent evening turned out to cheer his arrival on campus for a surprise thank you dinner with his fellow officers. A great deal of the responsibility for the current strengths of our school's CCF – and of the national cadet movement – can be attributed to the efforts of this creative and hardworking leader. It is particularly noteworthy in the pages as he was also a former Hsm of Gonville until 2006. Over the half-term, fifty-six year 11 pupils passed their silver practice expedition in the Ashdown Forest,



including **Connor Morrell** and **Valentine Gage**. Whilst nine golds passed their Gold assessment in the Brecon Beacons including **Oscar Fox**, **Oliver Bearcroft** and **Heston Symonds**. Five pupils gained their Gold award and forty one pupils gained their Silver Award (Gonvillians are listed earlier in this newsletter).





Sport Review - School

Another brilliant Michaelmas Term of sport comes to an end. 500 pupils competing in 16 sports, 40 teams and 200 plus fixtures across weekend, mid-week and cup matches. The rugby teams have seen over 200 boys have competed in the 70 fixtures played this term with half the games won. All players deserve credit for the way they



have put their bodies on the line game after game during a season, unlike any other sport, and plaudits have to go to the 1st XV playing sometimes three times in a week and in all day tournaments. Not only have the 1st XV won 8 from 12 this term but they also finished second in the Churcher's tournament and went on to win a very



competitive Eltham tournament by fine margins and without conceding a try. The 2nd XV have played some impressive rugby in many tight and competitive matches, similarly the U16 and U15 teams. The new U14 A,B&C teams have impressed with the A&B teams both winning four from seven played.



The swimming team have once again been achieving new personal bests throughout the term, College records, and College firsts in national competitions. After two rounds of the Schools Super League, the College team is in the top 7 of National schools. The squads reached the national relay finals along with the senior boys, the third consecutive year we have reached this level. The senior boys impressively finished 7th and 20th nationally from 128 schools and made the main final with the biggest swim schools in the country. **Harry Prescott** and **Josh Yip** have their eyes firmly set on the Weald and Downland Trophy and the national Bath Cup next term at the Olympic Park where the senior boys will be aiming to defend both their titles from 2023.



The basketball team have reached the end of term with a 5 and 2 win/loss record. With wins in the league and national cup and with plenty of matches to play next term we look forward to reporting more progress in the future. There is wonderful Gonville representation here. **Daniel Li** a points machine having 'dropped' 40 in most



games he has played with **Ryan Liu** and **Atom Tian** also regularly in the starting five. **Arnold Yan** and **Janson Lau** have also played regularly for the 1st V.

The golf team have enjoyed experiences at regional tournaments and cup matches in the ISGA and HMC competitions. **Oliver Bearcroft** and **William Rennie** are both keen as mustard and improving with every outing. The boys squash team have made great improvement over the term in their seven fixtures with many close games and matches. Both **William Rennie** and **Felix St John Parker** look forward to the inter-house competition. Football have played in cup and friendly matches in readiness for the full season starting in January. Their ISFA cup run has come to an end, but **Ethan Ajikobi**, **Rowley Emus** and **Herman Ris** look forward to more challenges in the coming weeks.



Badminton have enjoyed boys fixtures with great improvement made and included a close 10-8 win against Sevenoaks recently. **Isaac Lee, Seanan Wong, Liam Lo, Daniel Song** and **Samuel Lee** have all featured in school fixtures. In tennis there has been a lot of action on court with **Nazarii Dmyterchuk** and **Daniel Li** competing in the LTA Winter Schools Cup matches as well as plenty of tournaments being played around the country in LTA events for ranking points.



Sport Review - House

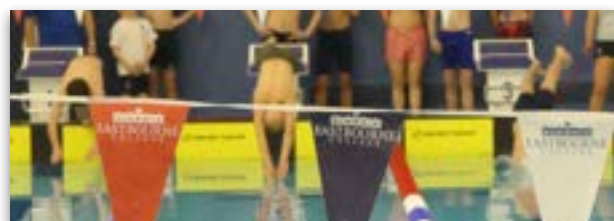
Sadly an admin error has left some doubt over the position of Gonville in this year's house competition. I believe that we lie in third place behind Craig and Reeves at this point following strong showings in the aquathlon, steeplechase and swimming. The first event of the year was house rugby and although this proved to be less successful from a results point of view, it was a wonderful showcase of house participation and camaraderie, as always. While the house overall propped up the table, it should be noted that the year 9 group went unbeaten in winning their age group.



The Steeplechase saw a podium finish for **Henry Cooke** as he finished 2nd in the year 9 category. The intermediate race, for year 9 and 10, was won by Gonville with **Herbert Phillips** 5th and **Jonny Robinson** 13th. In the senior race **Daniel Li** came 5th and **Rowley Emus** 11th. Overall Gonville came 2nd and the house was also delighted to get a pizza-based reward for having the highest proportion of finishers in the school. Everyone got out and got around the course in times that made them proud.



The house swimming saw Gonville come 3rd with wins for **Harry Prescott** in the 50m fly and **Joshua Yip** in the 50m breaststroke. Eighteen boys shared out the twenty-odd events with some impressive performances from part-time swimmers, not least **Adam Davies** coming 2nd in the Individual Medley race.



After a couple of weather abortions in the past, it was lovely to see the aquathlon take its place in early September again this year. An excellent turn out in the senior race saw Gonville win that and the overall title. **Henry Cooke** was also on the podium again in second place for the year 9 event. **Herbert Phillips** came second in the intermediate race. The event was improved this year by more spectators who create a real amphitheatre around the transition area and the finish line. I am always amazed by the way the pupils, many very new to the school, throw themselves into this event. The sea swim is certainly a challenge for many, not least for the temperature, so all participants must be congratulated.





HOUSE RUGBY



DISCLAIMER: ALL SPEECH BUBBLES ARE DESIGNED AND WRITTEN BY PHOEBE WD AND MAY OR MAY NOT MAKE SENSE.....





DOWN YOU GO!



YEAR 9 WINNERS





GO
GONVILLE!



OVERALL PLACING: 6TH

AQUATHLON



SENIORS WIN THEIR COMPETITION



MMMMMM!

MMMMMMMM!



1ST PLACE OVERALL





SWIMMING



NEARLY.....
THERE.....!

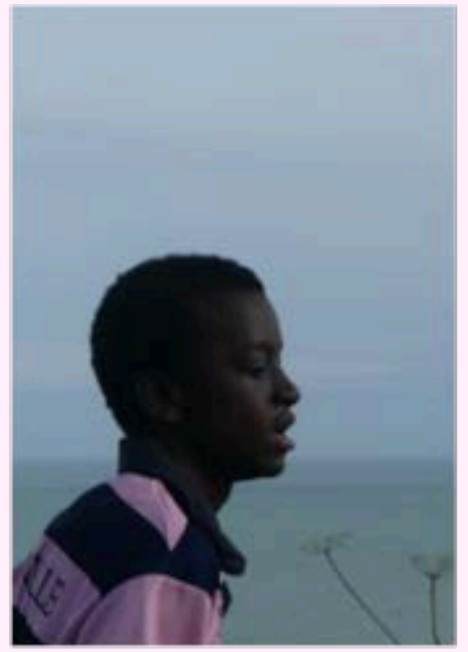


3RD OVERALL



STEEPLECHASE









PARTICIPATION WIN



House Awards - MT 2024

The end of term saw awards given to some of the most deserving pupils in the house and also the reveal of the house squad who had achieved the most points through the term. The squad competition is split into three parts. The academic points come from eRC effort, punctuality and the school PUPIL record. The house points come through being tidy, on time to roll call and studious in prep. Finally the participation points come from taking opportunities to get involved in house competitions and activities, both during the week and at the weekend. I collate the points for each team and work out the average per person. The teams for 2024 are shown below:

G	O	N	V	I	L	LL	E
Rennie	Stephens	Hall	Jayaraj	Bearcroft	Liu, Ryan	Prescott	Fox, Oscar
Ajkobi	O'Connor	Yip	Symonds, Heston	St John Parker	Whiteley, Ben	Emus	Beadell
Matsikenyeri	Ris, Herman	Lee, Isaac	Li	Zhang	Mattison	Tian	Lee, Samuel
Ris, Martin	Morrell	McCourt	Spies	Gage	Doe	Howard-Spink	Lo, Liam
Ekiugbo	Lau	Chapman	Wong	Phillips	Robins	Pang	Yan
Song	Davies	Dmyterchuk	McPherson	Fox, Felix	Bailey	Kenyua	Robinson
Twynning	Chan	Deniz	Symonds, Donald	Cooke	Dinh	Tidswell	Zlattinger
		Lewis			Liu, Frank	Murray	
MTH	ATR	FC	PRC	IPS / EDH	EMWD	DJM	PJF



G	505	72.1	8
O	596	85.1	4
N	711	88.9	2
V	603	86.1	3
I	737	105.3	1
L	655	81.9	6
LL	594	74.3	7
E	582	83.1	5

Team 'I' is the winner for the term and will have a meal out on the house next term.

Academic performance of the term: Felix Fox
 Matron's Award: Tom Robins
 Sportsman of the term: Oliver Twynning
 Newcomer of the term: Tuan Minh Dinh

Year 9: Henry Cooke
 Year 10: Jonny Robinson
 Year 11: Seanan Wong
 Year 12: Rowley Emus
 Year 13: Josh Yip

Gonvillian of the term: Herbert Phillips



BOARDING ACTIVITIES



BEWL WATER





BOARDERS' OLYMPICS







YEAR 9 - TUG O' WAR WINNERS

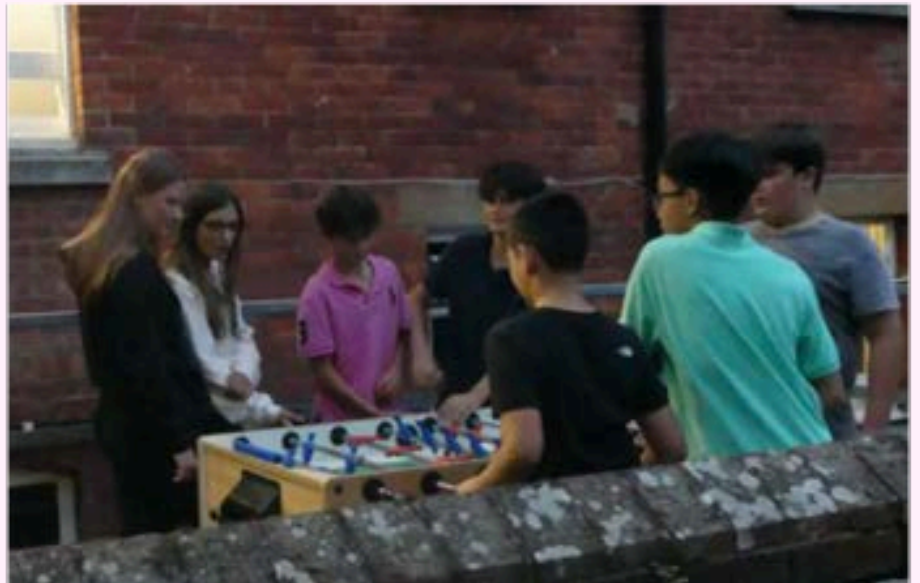






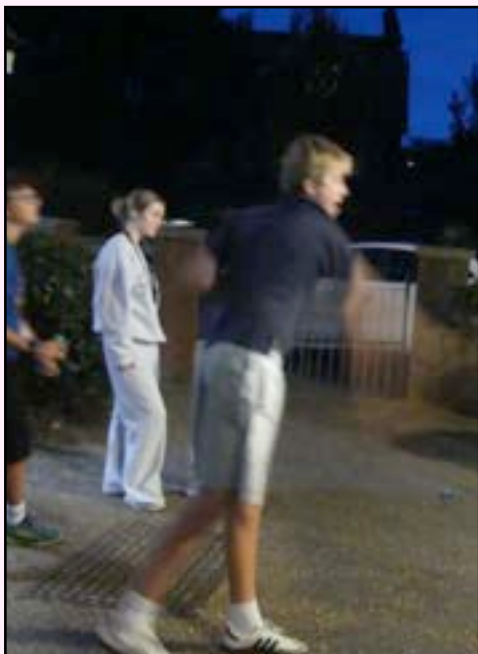
DODGEBALL





YEAR GROUP BBQS







6TH FORM WINE AND CHEESE





FOOTBALL









AROUND THE HOUSE







HOUSE XMAS DINNER









All that is left to say (especially as Christmas is now behind us) is that I wish you all the best for the New Year ahead. From me, my family and the whole team in Gonville, we wish you a prosperous 2025. I can also testify that the sea is pretty chilly at this time of year!

