



THE GRENVILLIAN: 2ND EDITION

LENT TERM 2019

EDITED BY HARRY HEATHCOTE (LOWER SIXTH)

Welcome to this month's copy of the Grenvillian. We hope you all had an enjoyable Easter. For the majority of us, it was a well-earned break! Since the last edition, quite a lot has happened within the House. We have had a handful of boys travelling the globe on numerous different school and extra-curricular trips, as well as several impressive sporting achievements, including one boy participating for England in an international badminton tournament in Sweden! We have also had two new Sixth Form societies set up by Grenvillians, as well as an awful lot more which we will cover in this edition!

BADMINTON ABROAD – HOW A THIRD FORMER'S PASSION FOR BADMINTON TOOK HIM OVERSEAS:

On Sunday 27 January, I flew out to Sweden and had a thrilling time playing in an international Badminton competition. In the first round, I played a German pupil and beat him 21-19, 21-23, and 21-19. This, in total, took one hour and ten minutes. Afterwards, I played Russian pupil 'Ilya Kim', who unfortunately demolished me 21-4 and 21-10. The following day I played mixed doubles following by playing a strong Russian pair. Regrettably, we lost and were out of the competition. However, all in all it was a great experience.

Oliver Butler (Third Form)

THE FOURTH FORM INTER-HOUSE BASKETBALL SUMMARY:

On Sunday 13 January, Grenville House took part in the Inter-House Basketball Competition. The very strong team was captained by Xander Brett. Firstly, they played Chatham and took a very comfortable win, with Ben Calabro and Opus Seriake-Dickson scoring several points. We then had a challenging game against Grafton. Both sides fought very well as they battled it out. As the game came to an end the final score was 2-2 with Ben Calabro scoring in the last few seconds. In our third game, we faced Walpole and took a close victory with Malek Salem and Joey Gwena scoring some great baskets. In the semi-final, we faced Bruce, after a long ten minutes the two sides went into extra time with Xander Brett scoring just before the end of the game. In the final, Grenville played Temple. It was a very close game, but we unfortunately lost due to our own mistakes, with a final score of 6-4. Overall we fought very well, although were not quite good enough for the means of Temple. We are already preparing ourselves for next year!

Rocky Farquhar (Fourth Form)





QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS WITH MR SMITH:

Oliver Garson: What do you enjoy most about Grenville?

Mr Smith: The sense of community and the location; I enjoy the atmosphere around the house and being in the main mansion is excellent for access to meals, the library, sports facilities and the staff room!

OG: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

ES: Sports, travelling, speaking other languages and experiencing new cultures, spending time with my family and leasing bright green cars.

OG: What is the most interesting thing you have found in the Boarding House?

ES: That what were once considered pyjamas are now apparently not only passable but in fact fashionable at any given time of day.

OG: 3 albums, a film and a luxury: which ones would you take to a desert island?

ES: Given that the question uses the word 'ones' in the plural, I'll say thank you and take all of them.

OG: What's the worst hairstyle you've ever had?

ES: Probably my current one - average at best.

OG: What would be your message to all Grenvillians?

ES: To focus on maintaining perspective in life; some things are of course important but always try to see the bigger picture and to remind yourselves how lucky you are.

Oliver Garson (Fifth Form)





THE NEW 'CHEESE APPRECIATION SOCIETY'

On the 22 January, Thomas Chamberlain's much anticipated cheese appreciation society finally had its first meeting, and below is a summary of how it went according to Thomas himself.

The cheese society was not just a gouda idea it was a brilliant idea. We just indulge in juicy cheeses every meeting. In the first meeting, we ate 6 different cheeses with, in total weighing 8kg. We had a guest speaker from an Artisan Independent Cheese Company in Buckingham, who kindly came in and bought us some Cornish Yarg, St Nectair and some rather potent Stinking Bishop. I remember the thought of being in a room with the Stinking Bishop again, it was more potent than anything imaginable, resulting in us needing to open a few windows to get the smell out of the east wings of the mansion. I'm looking forward to our next meeting where we will have another six cheeses, black tie dress and possibly a little bit of the vino.

Thomas Chamberlain (Upper Sixth)





HISTORY OF ART TRIP TO FLORENCE:

During the last Half Term, there was a History of Art trip, taking a few of the Upper Sixth in Grenville to Florence in Italy, as described by Paolo Below:

Fifteen eager and excited Art Historians departed Stowe during the beginning of Michaelmas Half Term and embarked on a journey to Florence, the hub of the Italian Renaissance. Throughout the trip we visited many of the famous galleries and museums Florence has to offer, varying from the Baptistery to the Uffizi Gallery; to further our knowledge and understanding of the subject within which we are studying, as well as heightening our experiences in life.

Commandeered by Mr Estorick and Mr Robinson, we traipsed through the busy and narrow streets with a Florentine Cappuccino in one hand, and a freshly baked 'Bombolone' in the other (an Italian doughnut filled with cream).

The day commenced with an 8:00am awakening accompanied with a breakfast buffet. The day's agenda would consist of a four-hour session in the morning where we visited various Cathedrals, artworks and galleries of the various artists that we study within our course. At around 1:00pm we would be seated in a



traditional Florentine square for lunch - usually with a plate of 'pasta al pomodoro' accompanied by a nice ice cold glass of Italy's finest water.

After lunch, the group would wander deeper into the culture of Florence, which opened our minds to that of Brunelleschi's and Vasari's. Again, after another three hour session, we were sent back to our lovely hotel in which we were given some down time to either enjoy a nice cold drink in the 'Piazza' or rest in bed after the hard day's work.

At around 8:00pm we would locate a lovely traditional restaurant which was close to our hotel, and would be filled up to our heads with delicious Florentine food, which ended with our teachers shocked, as the waiters brought a round of 'Limoncello shots' (an Italian tradition, to end the meal with a small glass of lemon liquor).

Paolo Alvigini (Upper Sixth)



WARRIORS TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA:



During the Michaelmas Half Term, Thomas Chamberlain (Upper Sixth) and I participated in the School's Annual Warriors Trip to South Africa. This was an incredible, action packed week (probably the best school trip of all!), the main activities included were: crossing forests by foot, climbing our way up mountains, meeting and stroking a hippopotamus, jumping off cliffs, as well as off a bridge, a plane and much more. The whole trip was just filled with fun and a sense

of unparalleled freedom, even during the (sometimes strenuous) bus rides that could last up to five hours! The one regret we have about the trip? Leaving Johannesburg and the Warriors Academy in the sunshine then to arrive in raining, cold, soggy England after an eleven-hour flight. I don't know about Thomas, but I am definitely going back after Stowe!



Sean Carslaw-Tricot (Lower Sixth)



FIRST TEAM RUGBY:

This year I have had the privilege of captaining the Stowe Rugby 1st XV captain, a task I have strived to achieve since entering the School in the Third Form and spending my Saturdays religiously watching the seniors on the North Front. The role of being a 1st team player is not just what happens on the pitch on a Saturday afternoon but the general demeanour that each player carries with himself around the school and on the training pitches. Commitment from the following Grenvillians who all played as solid members of the 1st XV include, Max Whitehead (Upper Sixth – front row), Ben Edeh (Lower Sixth – winger and top try scorer), and Egan Brosnan (Lower Sixth – fly half).



It was no doubt a tough season for our 1st XV playing some of the most renowned rugby schools in the country. Noticeable victories were recorded against Abingdon a friendly fixture during the pre-season camp as well as local rivals St. Edwards. Although the season may not have gone our way the commitment and resilience shown by each individual player was no reflection of our winning stats at the end of the season. When 20 points down in a game it is easy to drop off and hand the game over, which didn't happen once showing the true values of sportsmanship and a true graft from all 15 players.



Jamie Moir (Upper Sixth)





AROUND THE HOUSE:

As you may have seen earlier on in this edition, Thomas Chamberlain's Cheese Appreciation society has really taken off, with the first meeting proving to be a huge success, despite the Stinking Bishop which really does live up to its name (Thomas successfully stank out the entirety of the East wing of the main mansion, including the library!). As per usual, Grenvillians are at the forefront of the battle for the academic salver, as from what I have heard, we are still retaining our top ranking amongst other houses. The top merit achievers in their respective year groups are as follows: David Gollifer (Third Form), Alexander West (Fourth Form), Hugo Paynter Bryant (Fifth Form), Egan Brosnan (Lower Sixth) and the top position in the Upper Sixth is shared between Alexander Jones, Hugo Robinson, Jamie Moir, Cameron Chambers, Rowan Brudenell and finally Tom Percy, all coming in with one merit each. However, one does need to bear in mind that merits become progressively more difficult to gain as one goes higher up in the School. The Fifth Formers are also showing a strong side considering they have just come out of their GCSE mock exams, where it is said that the marks that have come through so far are very promising!

MATRON'S CORNER:

Some of the boys are lucky enough to spend their birthdays at home with family, but for most of them, it is their Grenville family they celebrate with. To make the day special I bake a cake for each boy. They can choose whatever cake they want a few days before their birthday. The favorite used to be a chocolate cake but last year the lemon drizzle overtook chocolate and is now a favorite. I probably bake one lemon drizzle cake a week! Carrot cakes are gaining in popularity as well.



On his birthday, at the end of evening stance, the birthday boy nominates three people in house to sing happy birthday for him. This usually causes much mirth and laughter. The lights then go out, the candles on the cake are lit and the whole House joins in singing Happy Birthday. The birthday boy then takes his cake to his form kitchen where it is tucked into by him and his year group.

ON A CLOSING NOTE:

The whole House has handled this term very well. The longer nights and unforgiving weather can sometimes dampen the spirits, this however can be easily solved at one of the Grenville 'Family' hot-chocolate nights. For those who do not know, Mr Hughes had previously set up a system by where the junior year groups are split into two 'Families' as it were. Two Lower Sixth mentors and two Upper Sixth house prefects meet with their 'Families' at least once a week to discuss how everything is going and if there are any issues that any one is experiencing. I think everyone is looking forward to the longer evenings and the Summer Term ahead!

