

OMNIBUS

The termly newsletter of Wilson's School

IN OLD MEXICO

Robert Smith reports on his team's experience of World Challenge this summer

After 2 years, £3000 and a cold, wet training weekend in Buxton it had finally arrived - our trip to Mexico. From the offset of the trip it seemed as though we were doomed. The experience didn't start well as on the first night (still in England) our group's teacher, Miss Haire got an ear-plug stuck in her ear, so she rushed off to hospital to get it removed. Minus a teacher we all headed off to the airport to catch our flight only to find out that Miss Haire had to withdraw from the trip, as she was unable to fly after the "earplug incident".

After this unpromising start we all got on the plane and set off on a ridiculously long set of plane journeys (30 hours in total) until we finally reached Mexico City. Here we found problem number two for the trip: our bags were still at a previous airport and did not fly with us when we changed planes.

But all was not lost and the fifteen of us, minus the group teacher and all of our bags set off into Mexico City. We navigated ourselves to our hostel where we set up for the first of our few nights in Mexico. After several days the group moved on to our acclimatisation trek. This was our first trek of the month and was our initial trek in a national park. The least said about this four-day trek the better, but luckily for us our incredibly insane Scouse leader (below, with the group) set us our own personal treks to prepare us for the main trek that was to come in a few days, the Copper Canyon.



After the 26 hours travelling by coach had got us there, the Copper Canyon trek was excellent and offered some amazing views (above left) as well as a challenging

trek where we met some native Tarahumara Indians, giving

us an insight into the local culture of the region. For some the highlight of this trek and indeed the trip was the day we made camp on top of a sheer cliff drop looking into the canyon, with some amazing views.



We negotiated the end of the main trekking phase well and then moved onto the community phase of the project. At a local village school in Guapalayna, we were tasked to dig a large hole for a septic tank. This was because the school's current toilet facilities were 'not the best'! As well as digging we met the local people, experiencing the differences in culture and way of life between the local community and ourselves. This culminated in a fascinating football match on one of the final nights we stayed in the village where we ran out comfortable winners in the end thanks, in most part, to the fact that the opposition ranged from 8-10 years old.

Once we finished our project phase we said goodbye to the local village community and the school we were staying in and headed to the coastal town of San Carlos on the western coast of Mexico. This was to be the final part of our trip and we had an excellent time there. This was for the rest and relaxation (R&R) part of the trip and it was our chance to unwind and chill. And the group did just that! We had a very relaxing time on the beaches and in the warmest sea any of us had ever been in.

Our trip had nearly come to an end. We packed up our bags and got a series of coaches into America where we were flying out from the next day. Luckily our run of bad fortune had seemed to have ended, our plane took off on time and we only arrived home an hour late after additional security measures had been put in place. All in all I can safely say that everyone had a really good time in Mexico on World Challenge and they would recommend the experience to anyone.

THE YEAR SO FAR

The Headmaster reflects on the first successes of the new school year

Regular readers of the weekly information sheet and visitors to the web-site will be aware just how busy and successful a term this has been. We started, of course, with news of quite outstanding GCSE and A level results – our best ever – which always sets a good tone for the year. There were very many spectacular individual achievements represented in the results and it is right that we should celebrate these as we did at Prize Giving, but certainly the most important aspect of the results was number of students who achieved the requirements necessary to gain places on the courses and at the universities of their choice.

We saw another significant step forward in this respect this year, and that was in the context of very ambitious applications to the country's best universities. Never mind league tables and percentages, this is what the school is all about: providing the opportunities and opening the doors that will enable Wilson's students to achieve what they aspire to and hope for in adult life. School will always be about much more than work and exams – it should be something that is enjoyed for its own sake – but academic achievement will always be at the core of schools such as ours. All our departments have worked hard, very hard, to get better and better at this because we are confident that it is the greatest benefit we can impart to our students.



As everyone knows a culture of achievement and striving for excellence in one area sparks success

in others. It's worth spending a moment to reflect on some significant achievements outside the classroom this term.

At the end of last term we were given the status of Badminton Academy – one of twelve schools in the country to achieve the award. The great benefit for the boys has been the opportunity of additional high quality coaching that this has given. All of our most skilled and enthusiastic players - some 48 boys - now receive five hours of coached practice per week. And the results...all four finalists in the U13 Surrey competition were Wilson's boys; our A and B teams are all top of their division in the county leagues and our teams are well placed for success in the Regional Finals. It's been wonderful to see chess really take off this over the last year and we now see the teams reaping the reward of their hard work. The school's team has swept all before it in this term's matches against some serious competition and it looks as if we are on target to win the league. It does help, of course, having three England players - all junior boys too - on the top three tables.

For the first time ever, all the school's football teams remain in all the county and national competitions – it's a great record. Thanks to Mr Simmonds' great energy and enthusiasm we play more and more fixtures every year and more boys than ever are getting the opportunity to represent the school. And we can add to all this, of course, the success of our table tennis players, and just as we go to print, that of our Target 2.0 team in the annual Bank of England competition.

I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to all the boys and the staff on these impressive achievements, both academic and extra-curricular and to wish all members of the school's community a very happy Christmas and New Year.

YOU DO THE MATHS

Kieran Patel reports on Year 7's experience of Number Day

On Monday 4th December, an event called 'number day' was held for Y7's in order to raise money for the NSPCC. The event was held in a maths lesson. The objective was to score as many points as possible. Pupils in Year Seven raised money in their form groups by collecting sponsorship for the points that they scored.

The events that made up number day were as follows: firstly we had to complete a sheet in which you had to make the numbers 1-20 by using 5 2's; secondly we had to do the mathionaire twice; the third and final task was to complete as many sudoku puzzles as you could(the maximum being six).

We interviewed a year 7 pupil on how he felt about the number day. He replied by saying that he found it nice to do something for charity and that it was a very good idea to run number day. The NSPCC, who collected all the money, were astonished at how much money had been collected at a simple event. Miss Beadle, one of the maths teachers who supervised the event said that 'it was nice to do something different especially at Christmas.' She also said that 'it felt good to do something for those at the NSPCC. Number day was a way of helping children in need and entertaining the pupils. With the money the NSPCC can help those children who are less fortunate than us..We helped to give them a new life.

JELLY EATING!

Kane Watts enjoys the school's inaugural Jelly-Eating competition

A gloomy, clouded November day was brightened only by an amazing competition earlier in the term when Wilson's school took part in an exciting and unique charity event. In this strange competition 4 representatives from each form had to guzzle up a mound of luridly coloured jelly that matched the colour of their forms in a relay race.

The competition went on all lunchtime with each year having their own competition. To enter a form into the contest the form had to collect at least £30. The money raised went to St Christopher's hospice and a Croydon homeless youth organisation. The school as a whole managed to raise £400 for these charities, which was much appreciated by all.

Class 8b managed to raise the most money and so a special thanks to the year 8 charity reps. It seems like Wilson's is keeping up its amazing reputation for charity funding.

Despite the gloomy weather the competitors and the audience had an amazing time watching people of all shapes and



sizes Hoover up a heap of bright and sticky jelly with absolutely no utensils (or hands!!)

We asked a year 7 child what his views on this event were. He said that he thought it was a great way to make money because it was fun, mad, entertaining and made everyone

laugh as they watched willing students stick their face into a pile of jelly. "I had a great time and the atmosphere was great," he added.

Well done to all those that competed and special congratulations to Camberwell and Brecon who were the overall winners of the competitions.

Special mention must be made of the staff team who hoovered up their jelly with inimitable style and panache. Overall this competition was a very enjoyable event and Wilson's students hope to see more funny and prestigious charity events in the not too distant future. Many thanks to Miss Carroll for her organisation.

HALF A POINT - AGAIN!

Andrew Macolm-Neale and Geog Soc take a trip to Kingston

Having spent a couple of hours 'revising' after school on Monday 4 December, the Geog Soc team set out for Kingston University in search of glory, certificates and a small prize of assorted book vouchers. An hour later, and after some 'interesting' driving and frankly exquisite use of the English language by Mrs Prestney, we arrived. Rushing past bewildered students (we got stuck on the one-way system,) we took our seats. Apparently we just missed the compelling introductory talk by the adjudicator informing us a record number of schools were present (10 as opposed to last year's 9!) Professor Guy Robinson made some bad jokes about going into 'Jeremy Paxman mode' and we were off!

The first half was made up of 4 rounds which, according to Joe, were "low pressure, easy marks and little questions..." We started well winning the first round. After the second round Tim complained that everyone else but us had received their bottle of complimentary water. We got ours and he proceeded to drink most of it. The next rounds were map work and an individual round which we did reasonably well in. In the interval, true to form, I went straight for the tea and mince pies. However this year I managed only to grab one of final few pies and there was no milk left for tea. Dismayed I settled for orange juice instead. Next (this is starting to become a tradition,) myself and Joe felt the need to debate one of the answers in the map work section with the adjudicator. If

anybody wants to know, there were 10 level crossings in the stretch of railway line as opposed to 8. Anyway, we got the answer changed but unfortunately this helped our eventual successors too!

The second round got underway and we did well here too. However, an overwhelming sense of déjà vu kicked in with the scores putting us in a similar position as last year. The final round was out of 25 marks and here everything went wrong. Forgetting all in had learned in a 2 hour television programme, I failed to recall that Mexico City is the modern name for Tenochtitlan (the ancient Aztec capital.) With the final scores looming, the atmosphere was tense.

Tenth on the night were the 'sane' people from Coombe Girls, whose enthusiastic cheers had followed a steady diminuendo throughout the quiz as they came in the bottom three after every round. We went through the scores in reverse order until we got to just 2 left. I will say now that before the scores were read out, Professor Robinson had informed us there was only ½ a point in it. The assorted book vouchers went to the team from Hampton school.

I would like to thank all those who took part, Mrs Prestney for driving us, Mr Vidler for guiding us around the one-way system and Kingston University for hosting the event.

FROM RUSSIA... WITH LOVE?

Kieran Miles experiences an unfamiliar way of life in Russia

Sending off forty odd boys for a week sounds more like an interesting experiment than a history trip. The teachers hoped we would use our time to take in the culture, architecture, history and art of one of the world's most fascinating countries. And we did...most of the time.

On our first day in St Petersburg we decided to attend the most traditional Russian pastime we could think of – a riotous football match. Despite the frisking by armed riot police, it was an enjoyable match; many Wilson's boys left with Zenith St Petersburg scarves (something that probably wasn't so wise as we were going to Moscow – the city's biggest rivals – in a few days). Later in the week, we visited the Church of the Saviour on Blood, where Tsar Alexander II was assassinated. Filled with sixty-foot high frescoes and mosaics, with golden statues everywhere, it made us reflect on the difficulties that all religions must have suffered under the tyranny of Stalin.

We were also able to watch the traditional Cossacks. Singing, dancing, flying through mid-air, it was an enthralling sight. Later in the week, we took the night train from ST Petersburg to Mosco, which was cramped, claustrophobic and unbearably humid. This was another opportunity to stay up all night playing cards and discussing politics, philosophy, history of art...

On our arrival, we attempted to negotiate the city. With traffic lights that appeared to have no red lights and armed police patrolling the streets, it seemed like a very rough city. Yet there was much culture to be taken in. Visiting the Red

Square was an amazing experience. Surrounded by the historic Kremlin, which we later visited, and the grand neo-classical architecture, we were further amazed when we saw St Basil's Cathedral, with its instantly recognisable colourful spires. We were also able to see Lenin's tomb. Seeing the man who was arguably responsible for both the most idealist of political ideologies, and the biggest conflicts in the twentieth century, was an awe-inspiring experience.

Going to the Moscow State Circus was staggering. Seeing trapeze artists back flip and fall through mid air and horse riders jumping and performing acrobatics was incredible. But the animals we saw trumped this. Although initially reluctant to watch what was really animal cruelty, no one failed to be delighted by the sight of monkeys cycling around the arena and elephants roaring imperiously at the audience.

Yet visiting the War Museum struck a sour note. Surrounded by old missiles and even Trotsky's armoured train was in itself an impressive experience, but seeing cabinets full of Nazi medals and a display of captured standards reminded us of the costs of war.

Flying home between the two planes recalled by the British Government due to radiation on board, related to the death of ex-KGB Alexander Litvinenko, made us think about the nature of the country. But despite all of Russia's brutal history, we found it a refined centre of history and culture. We would like to thank Mrs McLoughlin for organising the trip and all the teachers who came along for making the trip unforgettable.

OPEN TO ALL

Michael O'Halloran watches the crowds roll in to Open Evening

The end of September had come again and once more the call went out - it was time for pupils to do their duty for school and subject! For the new year sevens and sixth formers in particular, the evenings of the 27th and 28th were to be filled with a range of tasks, including acting as tour guides, carrying out experiments in the science laboratories and answering any general questions levelled at them from prospective Wilsonians. As usual the students took to their tasks with energy and enthusiasm. Thanks largely to Mrs. Mitchelmore's efforts the tour groups were dispatched, along with their guides, with regimental efficiency.

Another key contribution to the night was given by the recruits of the C.C.F., who once again demonstrated the high standards the school has come to expect. In full regalia, the cadets marshalled and prepared Wilson's for the largest ever influx of prospective students and parents, many completing

near on twelve hours in their immaculately polished boots!

In addition to Mr. Charnock's numerous speeches throughout the evening, the teaching staff worked alongside their pupils to add to the allure of the Wilson's experience. Surely no eleven year old could resist such an onslaught! With questions ranging from the possibility of introducing the Baccalaureate examinations, to whether Wilson's teachers were "nice" we sixth formers, I am afraid to say, were put to shame by the performance of the younger boys, who seemed to have a natural flair for the evening!

By the morning of the 29th the event was over for another year! Pupils and staff alike breathed a sigh of relief and prepared to sink back into the routine of everyday school life. Mission accomplished...until next year!

NEW YEAR, NEW FACES

Daniel Smith interviews the newest members of Wilson's Staffroom

Mr Alderson is one of three new maths teachers to join the department this year. Originally from Kent, Mr Alderson studied economics at Cambridge, successfully completed the London Marathon last year and has a twin brother. He considers that the best thing about Wilson's to be "the number of boys who study maths beyond GCSE."

Ms Beadle joins us from Sydenham School. Another Cambridge graduate, she studied Chemical Engineering at university but did, however, find time for a bit of bungee-jumping: one of her life highlights. Ms Beadle enjoyed travelling around Italy this summer. She believes that Wilson's is made special by "the great sense of humour of the boys."

Head of R.E, Philosophy and Critical Thinking, Mr Broughton is extremely proud of the fact that he once ate a cow's uterus but slightly peeved by the fact that he was beaten by Gordon Ramsay by 12 seconds in this year's London Marathon. Mr Broughton spent three years working in Japan and has a working knowledge of Japanese, which is already being put to good use in year 11 enrichment classes. Mr Broughton thinks especially highly of the "supportive staff and student body" at Wilson's.

Ms Chase, Wilson's new Director of Maths, is originally from Blackheath. Ms Chase sees herself as sporting and adventurous. Not only has she cycled down the most dangerous road in the world, in Bolivia, she also has passed her Day Skipper sailing qualification. Amidst such daring adventures Ms Chase confesses that she has never been to Croydon and says that the best thing about Wilson's is "the warm welcome I've received from staff and students!"

Joining Wilson's from Saffron Walden County High School, Mr Cole has taken the position of Year 10 Year Manager and history teacher. Originally from Sheffield, Mr Cole once won the Yorkshire Tennis Championships. Besides sport, Mr Cole is a gifted musician and can play the guitar, piano and double bass. However, his talents clearly don't extend to painting. Mr Cole won a painting competition at age nine-by cheating! He is truly sorry for this and believes the best thing about Wilson's to be "the ready unit of my year group."

Mr Parkinson straddles the divide between the Science and Sports departments, teaching Biology and Games. Along with Mr Phillips, he is a former pupil of the school and is also the manager for the U12 A football team.

Year 9 Year Manager and biology teacher Mr Phillips joins the school from Prendergest School in Lewisham. Mr Phillips is putting his creative talents towards making an acoustic guitar (which has already been two years 'in the making.') Green-fingered Mr Phillips is the owner of an allotment and

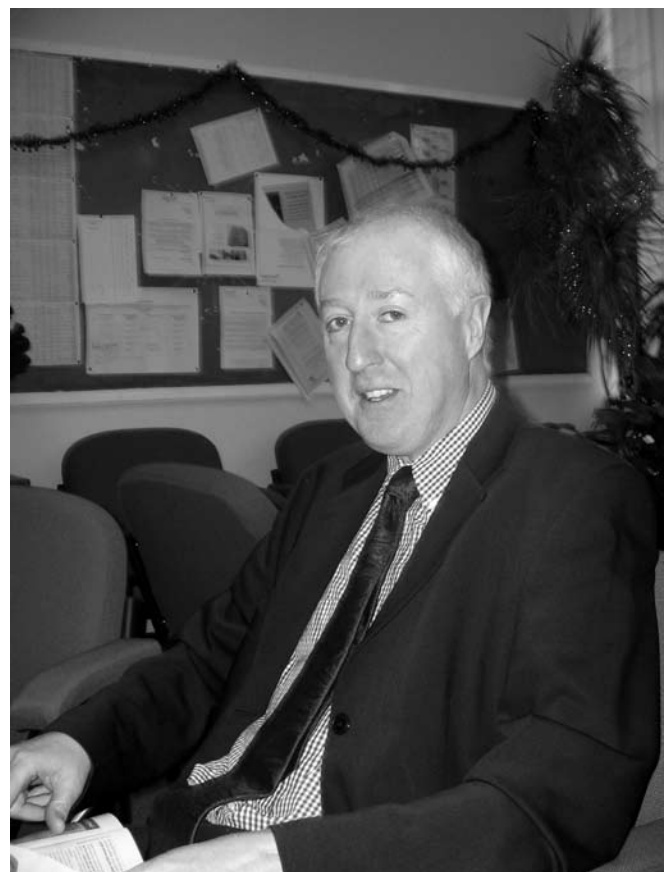
is promoting the Eco-Schools project for Wilson's. So far the highlight for Mr Phillips has been "the applause from my year 9 after I sang to them. Genuine or not."

Geordie Ms Potter joins the music department this year, undertaking responsibility for the Junior Wind Band and choir. Ms Potter has a passion for music and particularly loves electronic music, although a classical singer herself. Ms Potter mountain-biked the St Lucian rainforests during the summer and believes the best thing about Wilson's to be, "the pupils' sense of humour."

Dr Meddleton joins us from Latymer School as Head of History. He is also in charge of the new subject, Government and Politics.

Mr Mulcahy (below) joins Wilson's this year to take responsibility for GCSE English. Originally from Cork in the Republic of Ireland, Mr Mulcahy has also had the pleasure of having lived in Montmartre, Paris for six months. He is passionately committed to the modern world, particularly contemporary writing, believing that "there is no time for nostalgia." Mr Mulcahy thinks the best thing about Wilson's to be "the quality of learning within the classroom and the superb interaction between staff and students."

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new staff and hope they enjoy their time at Wilson's.



REID ALL ABOUT IT

Bas Gilbert gets a newcomer's perspective on Wilson's Sixth Form

A new school year, a new café, and a new intake of pupils - this year seemed promising from the start. For a new Lower Sixth pupil, the excitement of starting a fresh year with a new common room slowly ebbed away, but the gap has since been filled with many more interesting extra-curricular activities. Mentoring, volunteer-work, and University starter courses are available to all new Year 12's.

It's very easy for us at Wilson's to take for granted everything that the school can offer. I thought I would combat this by interviewing a new student to the Wilson's school community, who has taken up many of these opportunities. Mike Reid seemed an obvious candidate, as I knew from his badge he was a mentor and had heard about his volunteer work in a local school. As I spoke to him he told me that he had come from Riddlesdown, a local comprehensive. The largest change for Mike however is not the location but the distinct lack of the opposite sex at Wilson's!

He felt that that A-level was a positive step up from GCSE's and it is certainly holding his interests. Wilson's was his main choice because of the simple facts that we do get very good results, not only in sixth form but also throughout the school

age groups. He is studying Chemistry, Biology, Maths and English Literature, and hopes to go into medical science.

Mike also further informed me about the extra curricular activities he was taking part in. As a fellow mentor I knew that he had joined the mentoring team and I asked more about his volunteer work. Through the school's volunteer work, Mike works at Foresters, which is a local primary school and he helps autistic children aged 6-7 as a general class assistant, and assists with organisation and activities such as reading. To further benefit his chances of university placements, Mike has signed up for a medical course at Nottingham University, where he will have an introduction to the university, the life associated with it and more academically, an introduction to the medical career.

Overall I got the impression Mike is going to be an excellent addition to the Wilson's School sixth form and hopefully will keep his remarkably clean sheet clean! From the crowd of friends around him and his positive attitude about the school and even its teachers [*! -Ed*], I can see that Mike has integrated himself into the school especially well.

"GOOD"-MINTON

Sam Taylor celebrates the continuing success of Badminton at Wilson's

Badminton at Wilson's has never had it so good. The academy status achieved by the school means that more, specialist, coaching is available. The facilities provided by the new school building it has made it possible for the players to get more practice. Each year group has a select group of about 10 handpicked boys who are judged to be especially talented at badminton. As a reward it is expected that the boys should turn up one morning per week at 7:40 to receive training from the ever enthusiastic Mr Molyneux. On top of this, players are required to attend lunchtime sessions and after school training.

On the 6th December, the school was host to the southeast England qualifying stage of the Nationals Finals. The under 14's and under 16's were able to field two strong teams and were well represented as the best players from schools such as Sutton Grammar and Stanley Park turned up to try to best them. To their credit, the U14's put up a strong show and were able to reach the final, before succumbing to their opposition.

The U16's blitzed all their opposition and the 'A' team managed to get to the final, when they learned they were going to be playing the 'B' team. The match ended with the B's beaten by the A's. This means that Daniel Sellman, Pascal

Wye, Kieron Kader and Alex Keen will be representing the school at the National Finals later this year, and we wish them the best of luck.



All of the age groups are playing well in the league, with all teams as yet unbeaten. Although the season has only just begun, it looks promising for the U19's who, despite losing some of the best players Wilson's has seen in Ben Beckman and Tom Farmer, still boast a strong squad, and the 'B' team is the

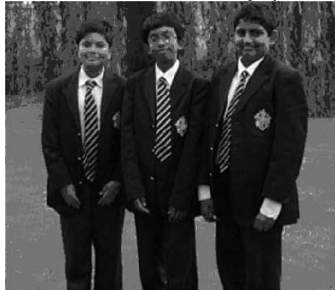
strongest yet. The situation is similar in the other squads and the U14's have the best pair in Surrey of their age in Charlie Filmer-Court and George Heinemann (left)

Wilson's exceptionally strong record in this sport is due in no small part to the contribution of Mr Molyneux, who deserves all of our thanks for his continual hard work.

CHECK, MATE!

Vikas Chadha updates Omnibus on the successes of the Chess Club

The chess teams at Wilson's have had a very successful start to the season. The first team has won all five of their league games so far this season beating Trinity (4.5-1.5), Sutton Grammar (4.5-1.5) and Wallington Boys (5-1). We are on track to winning the league this year. The second team has also been doing very well, winning five out of their first six league games beating George Abbot, Whitgift's second team and Wallington Boys' second team 6-0. The first team's top three boards are all England player's and are in year 7 and 8. They are Anand Krishnan, Aditya Gupta and Maniharati Periasamymanjula (right), and funnily enough the bottom three boards are all 6th formers!



The school's first team also did well in the pre season Russell Jamboree event held at RGS Guildford. We managed to

get placed at 5th out of the 12 teams that entered and were placed above Whitgift and Westminster.

Chess is also being played in the 6th form common room as an enjoyable pastime with many improving their game a great deal. When the chess pieces aren't being used to play the game, they're put to good use as "chips" in a friendly game of poker!

The annual British Land UK Chess Challenge event will be held in school next year. Those getting high scores will be awarded badges and mascots and the top performers in the school will be presented with trophies. As well as this, high scorers will be invited to attend the Surrey Chess Megafinal – for the best students from all of the schools in the county. The school has had many of its students get through to this stage in the past.

GETTING THE BOOT

Harrison and Tom Gower round up the term's football news

This term has been an excellent example of the fantastic talent we have here at Wilson's in our football teams. And the teams have shown this in every match they have competed in. Many of our teams are currently competing in a league or a cup although some teams have been battling on in friendlies. Over the term we have played against many other schools including: Glyn, Cheam and Sutton Grammar.

The Year 7'A's are still going strong in the 2nd round of the Surrey cup. At the moment this team has only just begun playing for the school and they are only just beginning to act like a team and play for each other. But overall the future looks very bright for them and we're sure that Mr Parkinson will help these boys along the way! The Year 7'B' team have played in a number of friendlies over the term and they have a good record of 3 wins and 3 losses. They have become a very strong and well-organized team via the guidance of their manager Rob Smith.

The Year 8'A' team has been playing in a mixture of games over the term. They are currently in the 2nd round of both the Surrey and Sutton cups and also have a very good record of 7 wins out of 7 games. Well done! The Year 8'B' team has only played two matches but the two scores couldn't be better. They have won both games by a 10-0 deficit in the Surrey cup and they are due to start a league any time now

The Year 9'A' team have had an excellent season so far. They currently sit at the top of their league after 2 games and they have a record of 5 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses. They have

advanced in both of their cups and have Whitgift in the 2nd round of the National cup and Haling Manor in the Collingwood cup. The Year 9 B team have done very well so far, playing five games and winning five so far.

The U15'A's have played in a number of competitions so far including the Surrey cup which they unluckily lost in the 2nd round and the National cup in which they were defeated in the 2nd round as well. Overall they have played 10 games in which they have won 2, drawn 2 and lost 6. The Year 10 'B' team has only played 3 and they have won 1, lost 1 and drawn 1. These were all friendlies and we hope you carry on and keep playing well

Moving into Year Eleven and the Sixth Form, the Fourth and Fifth elevens have played only a few games - two and three apiece - but all have been won. The Third Eleven have played 6 games overall and they have won 3, lost 2 and drawn 1. They also played in the 1st round of the Surrey cup but unfortunately they were defeated.

The Second Eleven have played 10 games and they have a good record of 5 wins, 4 losses and 1 draw. The First Eleven have played very well so far and they are in a few competitions including the Borough cup in which they are in the 2nd round. Overall they have played 8 games, from which they have won 7 and lost 1.

We would just like to end with a message to every single team, good luck next term!!

LEARNING THEIR TABLES

William Hogg sums up the progress of the Table Tennis teams

Wilson's is continuing its great table tennis record this season with successes across all age-groups.

The under 19s are top of the Surrey league and with two matches to go, everyone is positive that we will keep the trophy for the third year in a row. The team, consisting of William Hogg, James Carroll, Hasib Dewan and Paras Bakrania, also reached the final of the cup, losing narrowly to table tennis academy Bacon's College. However, this means that the team have been invited to take part in the Area finals in Southampton in January, which will be a great experience for everyone as we play against some of the best juniors in the country.

The under 16s have also been making steady progress this year. However it has been difficult in a very competitive group. Regulars in the team include Amar Shah, Harshal Shah, Christopher Hogg, Russel Jacobs and Harry Frost.

The most successful team this year has been the Under 13s. They are currently second in the league and have already won the Surrey cup, defeating Ernest Bevin School 6-4 in the

final. Therefore Michael Ho, Ayman Al-Sibassi, Mikey Elgar and Mark Goldhawk will be joining the under 19 team in the Area finals in Southampton. Michael won the Surrey U13 schools singles without dropping a game all day, a tremendous achievement and so he will now be representing Surrey in the National Finals. On the same day Ayman and Michael won the U13 schools doubles, against stiff competition from other schools.

Mr Henderson, the specialist table tennis at Wilson's, is always looking for new players who can be put in the team for matches or friendlies. Anyone who is interested in joining a team or just playing for fun should come along to the practises on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes in the gym.

FOR YOUR DIARY

3 January: Entrance Examination

4 January: Term begins; Year 11 Trial Exams begin

9 January: Year 10 Parents' Evening

20 January: Year 9 RI Maths Masterclass

24 January: Year 9 Parents' Evening

27 January: Year 9 RI Maths Masterclass

30 January: Academic Tutoring Day

1 February: Intermediate Maths Challenge

3 February: Year 9 RI Maths Masterclass

8 February: Year 11 Parents' Evening

10 February: Year 9 RI Maths Masterclass

15 February: Year 11 final options deadline

19 February: Half-term holiday begins

23 February: Half-term holiday ends

26 February: INSET day

1 March: Year 8 Parents' Evening

2 March: Year 9 RI Maths Masterclass

6 March: Higher Education Evening

7 March: Year 11 Science Module

10 March: Year 9 RI Maths Masterclass

12 March: Oxbridge Evening; Year 8 Options Evening

17 March: Year 9 RI Maths Masterclass

18 March: L6 Geography Field Trip begins

21 March: L6 Geography Field Trip ends

22 March: UNA Public Speaking Competition

23 March: Fresh Aid

24 March: Year 9 RI Maths Masterclass

30 March: Term ends

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM EVERYONE AT OMNIBUS!**

Omnibus Editorial Team

*Editor: Ms Haire; News Editor: Bas Gilbert; Features Editor:
Kieran Miles Sport Editor: William Hogg*

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Julian Waton reviews the Music Department's Term

This term has been another successful period for the music department. At the Advent Carol Service (23rd November), the choir, new chamber choir and brass group all performed excellently. This was as a result of many willing year 7 recruits, and of course the inspiring new choir mistress Miss Potter. On the other hand, the jazz band has suffered a considerable reduction in numbers after thriving last year. We could do with a saxophone, a guitar and perhaps a trombone if anyone is interested!

I am particularly looking forward to the junior and senior concerts on 14th and 15th December respectively. The junior concert will feature the year 7 choir, orchestra, junior band, junior jazz, flute group and wind quintet, whilst in the senior concert there will be the school choir, senior wind band, saxophone ensemble, string quartet, Brass ensemble and the GCSE and A level music groups. Many thanks must go to the staff of the Music Department for all their hard work this term and to every student, from Year Seven to Upper Sixth, who has contributed to the success of the department this term.