



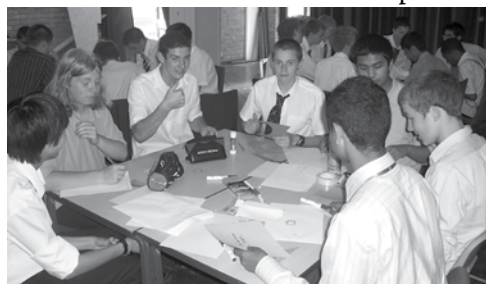
OMNIBUS

The termly newsletter of Wilson's School

JUST ANOTHER COG IN THE MACHINE?

Daniel Casey enjoys Project Business

Did you ever think that business could be...ahem...fun? Neither did I. But some begged to differ – and tried to change our minds. These brave few made up the Young Enterprise



team who ran Project Business for Year 10 on 3 July.

Usually arriving en masse with shirts dripping out like por-

ridge, petite ties and top buttons undone, the shabby entourage that is Year Ten was replaced by a group of sharp city slickers. Burnished shoes, shiny sunglasses and even some “man-bags” could be seen – but others managed to arrive dressed like car salesmen or Phones4U staff. The day began by looking at coffee beans. “What can you see?” was the question. But that, it turned out, was not the point – this was an “icebreaker”. After inspiring responses such as “a face” were offered, the ice was broken.



Next, everyone was given 10p. We were going to simulate a market. You could buy pegs, lollies or chocolates. But the cerebral stimulation soon turned into a scene from the film “Wall Street”. The cries of the buyers mingled with the yelps for help of those crushed in the scrum of the trading floor – the staff seemed to quietly disappear. Someone seemed to be suffering from cardiac arrest (perhaps I am exaggerating) but no one cared and simply trod over the poor soul’s motionless body to get closer to the stalls. One boy lay petrified on the floor, immobile, clutching his bag of 10p coins, a single tear running down his pale cheek.

Maybe I’m getting carried away – but the uncontrollable chaos of the trading floor was in stark contrast to the prosaic

warmth of the icebreaker. Other activities included creating a product from an envelope full of junk and then trying to persuade the “panel” that your idea was best. When I say “your”, I mean “your team’s” idea as we were put in randomly allocated teams. Anyway, the panel had to be convinced. A bit like “X factor” without Simon Cowell or nasty comments, the persuasion attempts usually consisted of the “7 M’s” and had to be presented with the “4 P’s” in mind. There were some very audacious attempts mostly involving entertaining and cheeky sales patter.

You see, despite the distracting and superficial glean of the activities, everyone subconsciously learnt something about business without the learning process itself becoming too arduous. To participate in the activities meant to immerse yourself in a business orientated ethos and thinking style – whether than meant teamwork or the intricacies of brushing off pushy customers.

Another activity we participated in was creating and advertising a new brand of water. “TLS Global (Croydon to Wallington), after playing around with inspired ideas such as “Liquid X” or “Thirsty”, settled upon “Dr Pang”. The 30 second commercial on stage involved “Dr Pang” being drunk with the aid of chopsticks! All in all, the day achieved everything that it set out to do. The whole year group was given a glimpse of being a cog in our capitalist society. Thanks are due to Mrs Burton and the Business Studies and Economics departments for their organisation, and to Young Enterprise for providing us with a very enjoyable day. It was extremely informative and – dare I say it – fun?



THIS YEAR...♦♦♦

The Headmaster reflects on the many changes this year at Wilson's

It is now four years since Wilson's was first designated as a Mathematics and Computing Specialist School, a development that has brought very considerable benefits to the school. Of course, there has been the money; a six figure sum each year to invest in the school, not to mention the capital investment we received for the Foundation Building. There have been more subtle changes too: we have forged much stronger links with the wider community of schools and now have a strong partnership with a number of schools in the local authority. Members of our staff visit local primary and secondary schools and we host numerous events throughout the year for children of primary, middle and senior school age. Whereas previously we were considered somewhat isolated and possibly even insular, today we are seen not only as a strong performer but also a strong contributor. In the autumn we will be applying for re-designation as a Specialist School for another four years. During this period, we want to see our links with other schools develop further. We are particularly interested and excited by the possibility of initiating a partnership with a school in the developing world. Locally, we have plans to collaborate with Wallington High School for Girls to develop a programme for gifted mathematicians.

We received a letter recently from the DfES informing us that the school had been identified as a 'high performing Specialist College' and inviting us to apply for a second specialism. After some thought, we have decided to apply for a second specialism as an Arts College, with a focus on English and Media. We see all sorts of opportunities here to develop interesting initiatives across the whole Arts side of the curriculum. The focus on Media will enable links to be made through ICT to the first specialism. We think that developments in the Arts will be a very healthy complement to those we have seen in Mathematics and ICT over the past four years. There are no guarantees that we will be successful in our application, however; it has been made clear that our proposals must fit in with Government and Local Authority priorities. I'll keep you informed of progress.

In the last issue I promised that I would tell you how we were going to address the points you had raised in our survey of parents' opinions. If you remember, the main issue was to improve communication between the school and parents. This is now one of our top priorities. Hopefully, you have already seen some improvements. We are now publishing a weekly newsletter, or 'Information Sheet', which should reach you by hand each Friday. We want this not only to communicate and inform but also to celebrate the many achievements of the boys. Should your information sheet not arrive as intended, it is also published on the web site. If you have not had a look at the web site recently, please do so (www.wilsonsschool.co.uk): you will see that it has been attractively redesigned. We are putting much more emphasis on this as a means of communicating effectively with you and showcasing the achievements of the boys. In the Letters to Parents pages there will be copies of all block mailings sent out to the various year groups. We are also building a Study Support section where you can find up-to-date advice on help-

ing your son with his studies. Departments are also developing their own web-site areas. Please bookmark the pages you find useful, check back often, and let us know if you have any suggestions to improve communications further.

The parent focus groups of parents made clear that they felt our existing system for parents' evenings was inefficient and frustrating: so we are trying out a new system. The first trial took place with the Year 7 parents' evening last week and went well, by general consent. A number of Year 7 parents felt that this was the wrong time of year for their meeting and we have revised the timings for next year. A number of parents said they would like us to increase the number of parents' evenings and perhaps have two every year. However, as this would have a serious impact on teachers' already very heavy workload, we felt that this was not possible. We are also developing a parent handbook that will be sent out to all parents early next academic year. This will include useful contact details, a coursework calendar, homework timetables, and key policies.

Following our survey asking for boys' views on the canteen arrangements, boys and staff have recently seen some very significant improvements in the canteen arrangements at school. Most importantly, with the arrival of our new catering manager, Mr Pryse Hawkins, the menus and the quality of food has hugely improved. We have taken on board the Government's insistence that schools should promote healthy living not only through exercise but also through healthy eating. The advent of cashless catering has also made service more efficient. Over the summer the kitchens will be refurbished, brought up to modern standards and antiquated equipment will be replaced at a cost of £85,000. Next year we will improve the dining rooms to make them a much more pleasant environment.

The boys also asked us to consider some other improvements. They particularly wanted more water fountains, which have now been installed; a water tap for refilling water bottles will be installed during the summer. They asked us to improve the supervision arrangements for the 'Astros' during lunch hour. In response we are negotiating a new system with staff that we hope will be in place next term. They told us that the lessons they enjoyed least were those that were 'covered' when the normal teacher was not there. This is a more difficult issue to sort out in the short term; however, we understand it and think it is important and are considering a number of options to address the issue.

In some ways it feels as though it has been quite an introspective year; but it has been a very instructive one. We've heard, to use the jargon, 'the pupil and parent voice' more clearly and, hopefully, the school will be better as a result.

Staff Farewells This year we say goodbye to a number of exceptionally experienced staff.

Mr Cloves first joined the school back in 1985 – but in a very different context! His successful career as a schoolboy at Wilson's led to his election as Head Boy of the school. Mr Cloves' enthusiasm for the school was so great that he returned as a Maths teacher in 1999 - without the quiff and sideburns he sported in his previous incarnation at the school. Since joining, he has been a supportive and well-liked teacher among both staff and students. His colleagues have all appreciated his work as Social Secretary of the Staff Common Room, NASUWT Union Rep and Sutton President of the NASUWT. For the Mathematics department, he has worked as an Outreach teacher with Amy Johnson School and run Masterclasses both at the Royal Institution and here at Wilson's. He has also made a huge contribution to sports at Wilson's, running football teams for the boys and acting as goalie for the staff football team. Mr Cloves has been a strong supporter of school trips; Cornwall, Greece, America Spain and Italy have all got to know and love him. The school stage has provided him with a further platform to display his talents, most notably as "Idle Jack" in the Staff Pantomime and in performing "Tragedy" with Mr Burton in the 6th Form Talent Contest. Mr Cloves leaves us to become Head of Maths at Wallington Girls; we wish him all the best for the future.

Mr Harries joined the school in 1993 from Howard's School in Gillingham as Curriculum Manager for the Humanities. Since then he has taken on the two very different roles of Head of History and Cover Manager for the school. As Head of History, Mr Harries has run a series of very successful trips, perhaps most notably to Ypres and to Ironbridge. He has also been instrumental in arranging for a range of inspirational outside speakers visiting the school, including survivors of both D-Day and the Holocaust. Outside of the classroom, Mr Harries has been a strong supporter of school drama, managing the box office for many productions. He is a keen golfer, playing for the staff golf team against the boys and against staff from other schools. He recently graced the stage as the bassist in the staff band "Get Staffed". Mr Harries will also be fondly remembered in his capacity as Cover Manager to fill countless colleagues' hours with cover lessons. As he now passes the responsibility for the cover slips over to Mrs Fulton and leaves to pursue outside interests, we wish him all the best for the future.

Mr Pearson joined the school in 1980. Under his teaching and leadership, both students of Mathematics at Wilson's and the Mathematics department have achieved incredible success at a national level. His responsibilities in school have not been confined to the Maths department, though. Mr Pearson has acted as Head of Year and even to this day his assemblies are noted throughout the school. Mr Pearson's family have also been part of the Wilson's community, his partner Annie teaching at the school for a period and his sons Toby and Tostig attending as pupils. Beyond his academic and pastoral commitments, Mr Pearson is a gifted musician and a keen pianist. He has composed incidental music for school productions and, along with Mr Knight, has written the original musicals "Hubert and the Firework" and "The Life of Stephen". Outside of school, Mr Pearson is a noted *bon viveur*; a Francophone and a Francophile who has a keen appreciation of wine and whiskey. Mr Pearson is a gifted mathematician who has a deep appreciation for Wilson's and all it stands for; the school community wishes him well as

he retires to his house in France.

Mrs Stockton joined the school in 1984 - one year earlier than Mr Cloves! She has played a much-appreciated role in the Maths department, taking various important roles over the years including that of examinations officer. Her involvement in drama at Wilson's has been similarly vast. Many school productions, most recently "Oliver!", have benefited from her skill and expertise in this area. Mrs Stockton has also a strong personal interest in Music and has contributed to the Music Department of the school in different ways, notably in singing in the school choir. Next year's Sports Day will also miss her dedication to producing certificates for winners and runners-up. Colleagues will particularly miss her encyclopaedic memory of students past and present. Mrs Stockton is an exceptionally generous teacher, to both staff and students, and we wish her well in retirement. She hopes to retire to Wales where we hope she and her husband will be very happy.

WHAT A RACKET!

Mr Molyneux on the success of badminton

The season has finally drawn to a close with another great set of results for all the teams. The Lower school teams performed particularly well, with the Under 12 team winning the Surrey League comfortably. The Under 14 team also won the County League and then went and won the Surrey cup for good measure! The Under 16 team have reached the league final which will have to be played next September. They also reached the County Cup final but lost narrowly. The under 19 team won the League and then went on to win the County Cup.



All the B teams in the Leagues performed very well. The level at which badminton is being played at Wilson's is shown in the ability of these B teams to beat a number of schools' A teams. There is great promise being shown in the Lower school and we hope that the success continues.

Next year, the top 6 players in each year group will be invited to join a development programme which will involve these boys having extra coaching and playing time during the week. They will be expected to attend two lunchtime sessions and two morning sessions in addition to the school club. It is hoped that this will move our standard up to the next level and will help produce even more County standard players. There will of course still be the chance for all boys to play at school and for others to force their way into the development program. The school has enjoyed a great season yet again in badminton – well done to all our players.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SPECIAL!

Brandon Lundini reports on 7B's visit to Talybont

On the 62nd of June, 7B went to Talybont, accompanied by teachers Mr. Burton, Mrs. Prestney and Mr. Jones. After a four-hour long minibus trip, with the teachers having to enjoy endless chatter and attempting to drown it out with cds, radios and iPods, we finally arrived at the centre. Although we were quite taken aback when we reached the Field Study Centre (it was not what most people would call luxurious), we unpacked and sorted ourselves out.



Later, having had a tour of Talybont-on-Usk and a dinner of rice and curry cooked by Glyn, the cook, we donned our walking boots and went on a night hike. We went out when it was late afternoon and dusk, and came back at about eleven o'clock. It was quite a hike; we trudged through fields and over barbed wire-lined gates. We had to develop our "night vision" by walking without torches.

Early in the morning Mr. Burton came into the dorms shouting "Wake up!" and summoned the first five people on the register, that day's base camp, to go and get washed, then set the tables for breakfast. I was glad to be setting and clearing the tables and washing up for dinner, since we didn't have to get up so early. After a bowl of cereal and a cooked breakfast we then got kitted up and got ready for our climb of Mt. Pen-y-Fan, the highest mountain in southern Britain!

After a painstaking climb we finally reached the Corn Du peak, and enjoyed a triumphant lunch we had made earlier. We then rushed down and jumped in the minibus for our next destination- the Big Pit mining museum. The word "museum" didn't sound particularly exciting, but this one was different. We journeyed through a real mine, with the only light coming from our head lamps. We then came out and all spent big chunk of our money at the gift shop. After travelling back to the centre we enjoyed some free time at the recreation grounds (we now knew why they called it a rec) and then sat down to write a Talybont diary.

The next day we went to do Black Mountain Activities: rock climbing and gorge walking. Rock climbing was fine; one boy making it up and down in a total of 56 seconds! Gorge walking was by far more extreme. We walked in freezing cold water, stuck our heads under waterfalls, and jumped off ledges into pools of freezing cold water. The next day, we journeyed into Brecon to shop. We bought overpriced souvenirs to remember our time, went back to the centre for the luggage then journeyed home. It took us seven hours due to a crash on the motorway!

On a final note, it was a valuable experience for us all. We got to know life outside the city, and that teachers aren't as stiff as they appear in school. Thanks to all the staff that accompanied all the Year Seven Trips to Talybont for giving everyone in Year Seven a truly memorable experience.



Michael Crust gives us the lowdown on Lower Sixth fieldwork at Talybont

Everyone arrived bright and early at school as we packed the minibus and set off for Talybont. We eventually arrived at the Field Centre in the early afternoon but not before what seemed like half of Ritvik's equipment had fallen off the roof rack or the of minibus on the motorway, much to everyone else's amusement.

After everyone had briefly unpacked, we set off again for the local mountain range in Brecon. There we examined the features of glaciation, most impressively the enormous currie that had been carved into the hillside by the glacier thousands of years ago. We then began a tiring climb to the top of the hill and when we got there, we were greeted by a spectacular view of the mountain range and surrounding countryside. As well as this the top of the hill was covered in snow and, inevitably, a massive snowball fight broke out. This was only ended by the steepness of the hillside on the way

down, though the fun and games did not end there! Amaan set an impressive record by sliding about 30 feet down the hill through the ice and mud and would have made it much further were it not for Mr Knight's timely intervention. Not to be outdone, Mrs Prestney went for a slide of her own and managed to take three other people down with her. We then returned to the centre and had dinner before a trip into the village pub. While we were there Mr Cady and Mrs Prestney managed to play the luckiest game of pool the world has ever seen.

The following morning we drove to the industrial town of Ebbw Vale where we had to map the land use of the town in groups of four. This was made more difficult by the fact that we were accidentally dropped into the wrong part of town, without our knowing it. We were lost before we even began! After lunch we headed off to the River Calfanell to carry out

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SPECIAL!

part of our coursework by measuring the velocity, width and wetted perimeter of the river amongst other things at various sites along the river.

Everyone ended up fairly wet and caked with mud but, disappointingly, no-one actually fell into the river. In the evening we produced short presentations on our findings about the river before another evening was whiled away around the pool table. The effects of a late night were clear the next morning when almost all the geographers were asleep on the way to the market town of Abergavenny. There we had to interview the public on where they lived and their shopping habits. We found that most were more than happy to help out, although there were a few interesting excuses.

Andrew Free feels the pain on MS Challenge

Last weekend Ms Prestney, Ben Prestney, Mr Du Plooy, Asif Farooq, Mehul Makwana, Joe Gibbons, Sam Ellis, Rob Pearson, Joe Pawson, Fred Chinnery, Howard Hume, Olly Hutchings, Aaron Dowling, Dave Wateridge and myself embarked on a once in a lifetime event, the Multiple Sclerosis



Challenge.

We arrived at Snowdonia in a buoyant mood, despite a cramped nine-hour minibus ride, which was a challenge in itself! Darkness was quickly closing in on

us so it was a race to assemble our tents. Wilson's could also boast the biggest tent in the whole campsite that comfortably slept 5 people, but required about 10 people to put it up. Following this, most of us stayed up until the early hours of the morning and made sure we created plenty of noise whilst doing so.

On Saturday morning we were awoken by the welcome scent of fried eggs, sausage and bacon. After breakfast we changed into our matching t-shirts and were prepared for a strenuous challenge. We then met the 'lucky' woman, aptly named Karen Willson, who we were to carry around the course. Karen, who also came from Sutton, has been a long-term sufferer of Multiple Sclerosis and was such a friendly person who really deserved a treat like this. We assembled the chair, attached poles and 8 handles to it, then made our way to the starting line with Karen onboard.

I had seriously underestimated the physical strain that was to be put on our bodies throughout the challenge especially as we were forced to navigate treacherous terrain. With our help, Karen was raised over rocks, twisted through trees, raced over rivers, and meandered around mud. The extra strength provided by Mr Du Plooy proved necessary at times

In the afternoon Port Talbot Steelworks beckoned. We were treated to an impressive tour of the plant, an enormous factory with some warehouses up to a mile in length and producing more than 500 tonnes of steel a year. The group got to see the molten steel tapped off into a gigantic cauldron and then explored the packed warehouse where the steel is rolled, in which we could hardly move because of all the machine. The next morning we departed from "the shed" as it became affectionately known; the journey home was largely uneventful, barring one of Mr Cady's "shortcuts" to the motorway. On behalf of everyone on the trip I would like to thank Mr Cady, Mrs Prestney and Mr and Mrs Knight for organising and helping out on an enjoyable trip.

as we were forced up steep gradients and through icy cold rivers. It was fortunate that we had enough challengers to rotate around the handles because 8 men on the own could not manage the whole course. The course provided many hilarious incidents, such as Rob Pearson's famous last words, "It's not very deep here," before sinking waist deep into water. Or Joe Pawson's fantastic full-length dive into a river of thick mud. The only casualty on the whole course was Mehul's shoe, which was swallowed up by perilous mud, however he heroically fought on over the sharp stones and sticks and refused to complain. Wilson's gave a good account of themselves in the challenge and at times managed to keep pace with the Army teams. Great praise must go to all members of the team because we worked exceptionally well together and this includes Ms Prestney whose navigation skills were essential.

3 hours and 38 minutes later we sprinted across the finishing line to



great applause and everyone felt very proud of their achievement. We were left with cuts and bruises on our muddy bodies, but the huge grin on Karen's face at all times was enough to make us forget about our pains. Following this great event we just about managed to crawl up the road to the pub for a well-deserved pint and fish and chips. We then said farewell to Karen and then set off on the journey back home that was full of loud songs and chants, which were of course sung in the best of taste!

Overall the weekend was incredible and we are all proud to have made such a charitable contribution. The aching muscles the next morning was proof enough that the event brings a whole new meaning to the word 'challenge'.

FRIENDS, ROMANS...♦♦♦

James Ireland goes back in time on the Italy trip

The journey started with waving and goodbyes as the coach carrying the pupils to Stansted airport departed. The coach turned around the bend on Mollison Drive and Wilson's school was out of site, I could have sworn I heard cheering and celebrations from our parents, now they were free of their nagging children - a kind of holiday of their own. As the RyanAir plane took off, we knew it was going to be a special trip. However, waiting in a coach while on the way to the centre of Rome can be quite tedious. The combination of heat and boredom was getting to some of us. A pack of cards was



like gold in the coach, but not as we started to see the wonders of Rome.

Approaching the Coliseum was like approaching a mountain... a mountain with very long queues

to get in. The atmosphere in the Coliseum was as if you were back in the Roman era; the size of the amphitheatre was very impressive for a structure made that long ago. You could just imagine gladiators battling it out in the centre of the arena. The only gladiators there were, however, were there to take pictures in exchange for money, or were advertising something or other.

The next place we went to was the region of Campania, dominated by the giant volcano; Vesuvius. The main focus of this part of the trip was the ancient city of Pompeii. A tour guide showed us around the ruins, telling us some interesting facts as we went along. One of the facts was that the direction to some 'interesting' places were marked out by 'arrows' on the ground. Honestly, those Romans...

We spent the nights in Campania in a tall hotel, where we would get our rest, or just talk to three o'clock in the morning. Once we had seen all the sights in the region



and annoyed all the old people in the hotel with the noise we made, we were on our way back to Rome for the last couple of days in Italy.

We squeezed quite a lot of activities into the final days in the capital. One of the things we managed to do was go back in time... in a time machine! The 'Time machine' simulator was quite good, but many were not able to afford the trip back in time as they had used all of their money on expensive pizzas, and countless ice creams of every imaginable flavour. While we were at the Trevi fountain, a group of four year seven pupils managed to finish a tub filled with a kilo of ice cream, all by themselves! And I thought I liked ice cream!

There's no doubt, the Easter trip to Italy was a big success. I'd like to thank Mr Hookins for organising the trip and the group while we were away. Many thanks also go to Miss Carroll, Miss Wing, Miss McGuinness, Mrs Prestney, Mr Cloves and Mr Englefield for accompanying us in Italy. Looking out of the plane window as we saw Italy vanish away beneath us, on the way back to Stansted airport, and the snow of England, I secretly knew that the year seven, eight and nine pupils were glad to be going back home and back to school. (And if you believe that, you'll believe anything!).

A YEAR IN THE LIFE

Glenn Moore interviews one of last year's new recruits - Ms Daly

Third time lucky? Wilson's is Ms Daly's third school having moved from the private Hampton Boys School in Middlesex; the first being Hinchely Wood, a mixed comprehensive in Esher near Kingston. So what key differences has the English teacher noticed between the schools? "The main differences are the fantastic facilities here. Boys will be boys, but here they are obviously smarter, more charming and of course better dressed. Seriously though, I really like the students, staff are interesting and hard working, and there is the added opportunity of teaching both English and Media". However, she is building a career portfolio - teaching is almost a second life to her compared to earlier occupations: "Schools aside, I have worked as a health journalist for ten years on a variety of internet sites, as well as specialist magazines for consult-

ants, doctors and nurses. Originally I trained as a radio and television journalist and have worked for the BBC and leading independent radio stations (I'm still an avid listener of Radio Four, although I know nothing about 'The Archers!'). I also successfully worked as a freelance journalist for national newspapers, submitting articles also for women's magazines."

So why become a teacher? "Although I never expected to become a teacher (having seen my mother's working hours!), I have always loved English literature and drama and have always read widely. I have also wanted to avoid everyday commuting to the city and those expensive overseas, exotic trips! Wilson's is privileged to have such an experienced and interesting teacher. We wish her many more successful years.

ROLL UP, ROLL UP!

George Armitage reports on the first Wilson's Oscars Evening

It was the night of 18th May 2006. The eagerly anticipated Wilsons Oscars Evening was taking place, and promised to be a largely successful and certainly humorous event. With wallpaper for a red carpet, and Miss McGuinness and Mr Shaw for the celebrity hosts, there was definitely an exciting night in prospect. It was a full house in the lecture theatre,



with both young and old, male and female and this was tipped to be one of the laughs of the year. It was introduced by sixth formers James Fritz and Nick Hadfield who announced the evening as the Wilson's spoof of the Oscars: The Wooftas.

It began humorously with an entertaining music video of the song "Emo Kid" being awarded the (plastic) trophy for best Music Video. This re-

ally drew the audience in and they were adamant they were in for an exhilarating evening. This feeling was backed up when it was followed by around half a dozen thriller films, which were expertly directed by members of lower and upper sixth studying Media Studies. The star performer of the night was co-presenter James Fritz who was streaks ahead of everybody else with around four more awards than any other competitor, although every attempt was outstanding and the standard was very high. Fritz was second to none.

Despite most videos being of exceptional quality, there was one demonstration of the way "not to do a presentation" - a documentary on Brighton Pier. It won an award for the wrong reason but was taken in good heart and was very entertaining for the audience of around a hundred people. All in all it was a very interesting evening and will always be remembered in the minds of the Wooftas winners and the grateful audience

EXPLORING ANNE FRANK'S LEGACY

Greg Buchanan visits a new exhibition in Sutton Library

Within Sutton Library, until the 20th July, there will be a maze of contrasting exhibits. Stretching round a bend near the entrance is a white wall of photographs taken by Otto Frank, recording the history of his fated family from the birth of his first child, Margot, and others.

And on one plaque, near the beginning - "Nothing we seen in Otto Frank's pictures reveals the horrors that Anne and her family will later have to endure. What we now know about the fate of Anne Frank has an effect on how the diary is perceived. Equally so, it is now impossible to view the photos that portray her life with an impartial eye".

The exhibit shows many things, many corners and many facets not just of Anne Frank's life but of art, of history, of contemporary issues and of contemporary murders. Anne Frank was a Jewish girl in Nazi Germany who, in hiding, wrote a now world-famous diary, and shortly after was taken away to be executed at a concentration camp. One plaque, beside one photo, says this - "In 1932, Otto Frank hears Storm Troopers marching by his house in Frankfurt and they are loudly singing "When Jewish blood spatters off the knife." From that moment on, he can only think of one thing: How can we leave here?".

Such images of dark history are contrasted by aesthetic concerns - "Ottos Frank's photos are not just any ordinary snap-

shots. With his daughters his regular subjects, he investigates the boundaries of photography. He experiments with light, sometimes incorporating his own shadow into an image. This might seem inappropriate, but the idea is vindicated - "In the photo albums of the family, we do not encounter a trace of the fear, the uncertainty or the anxiety of those times...in the images, life goes on as usual."

Elsewhere, the exhibit examines how themes prevalent within Anne Frank's own life apply to today's society. One, "Stand up, speak up", features racial hatred in football. Another wall shows a giant fist emblazoned with the letters "LOVE". Throughout the exhibition there are blood red walls with texts from Anne Frank's diary and photographs. Others feature stencils like pop art silhouettes - one, a crying woman hugging her lover while another wall examines indifference and responsibility. Visitors will see examples of a fight, an accident and injustice; then on another wall, inclusion and exclusion; a replica of Anne Frank's bedroom with clever use of projection to show a window. Finally, the exhibition narrows to another portion.

A dark tunnel at the end, focusing on the Holocaust, features images of Nazi atrocities. At the end, a single wall, with a screen, the words "and you" above, shows all the genocide committed in modern world since the Second World War. The projection lasts a soberingly long time.

FLASHING THE PLASTIC

Luke Martin investigates the dawn of cashless catering at Wilson's

This term, the introduction of cashless catering happened meaning that children in all year groups would now pay using a card instead of money, hence the term "cashless". The size of the card is like a normal debit or credit card and fits neatly in all boys' pockets and can be carried anywhere. It works by being scanned in to the till and then money being taken out of the user account, but eventually this money will run out. To put money on to the account you hand a cheque into the school office where they will apply it to your card. Many other schools around the borough and country have chosen this technique of purchasing school lunches and it has proved to be successful there. Wilson's hopes it will be an equally big success here.

The card means that children will no longer have to bring money to school. That obviously means that there is less chance of losing money and parents can also check how much money you have spent. This also means that there is no chance of money being stolen if you don't bring any to school, which is great, but what happens if you lose the card? Well, no worries, as you'll just have to buy a new card but all the money you placed on the old card will be transferred to your new card. Only the minorities of students believe this to be a problem. Many students agree with Nikesh Shah, 8G, who said, "I think the cashless catering is a brilliant idea and I can't see any problems at all."

Another excellent advantage of these cards is that those colossal queues are a thing of the past; now nobody is searching for those last coppers it's just a scan of the card and you're off, which is a relief for every one. Dinner Ladies as well, because of fewer queues have now received more time to ...well, cook! This means more beautiful food can be served up. Along with the introduction of cashless catering, the quality of the food available in the canteen has increased by miles with the new innovations of the scrumptious salad bar, less salt on the cheeky chips and no more sugary sweets. The food still tastes brilliant and in many people's eyes it tastes better! The cost of the food is still the same with the average meal costing £2.00 so you don't need to put millions of pounds on the card to get a decent meal.

Mr. Charnock believes that the change between money and pay cards has been an incredibly smooth one and he hasn't and can't see any problems in the near and far future. He also agrees that the queues have gone down sensationally which is a relief for every one. The atmosphere in the canteen has changed a lot as well now you can't smell burning chip fat but the sweet smell of fish and salad. This is a magnificent step forward in a world where obesity is becoming a bigger and bigger problem.

However are there any problems? By the look of it no but is

it a correct move to follow the crowds of the other schools? Should we be the sheep or the shepherds? Some people may say that they still need to carry money to go and buy items after school or pop to the corner shop. This would mean that the possibility of theft is still there. However I am sure most parent would rather their children buy a healthy dinner than a Mars bar.

All in all cashless catering seems to be an absolutely brilliant idea that minimizes the chances of being robbed, losing money and more chance of having a brilliant dinner. Mr. Charnock and the school have made a magnificent decision having it installed here and following the other schools. Cashless catering is the way forward!

FOR YOUR DIARY

Beginning of term arrangements

Tuesday 5 September

08:30: Year Seven arrive

14:00: Lower Sixth enrolment

14:05: Years Eight to Eleven with Form Tutors

14:30: Dismissal of Year Seven

15:30: Dismissal of Years Eight to Eleven

Wednesday 6 September

Normal timetable for Years Seven to Eleven

14:05: Upper Sixth enrolment

15 September: Oxbridge/Medical UCAS deadline;

18 September: L6 Parents' Information Evening; Prayer Support Group

22 September: PTA Cheese and Wine Evening

26 September: Open Evening

27 September: Founders Day; Open Evening

05 October: Y11 Parents' Work Experience Evening

13 October: UCAS deadline

17 October: U6 Parents' Evening

23 October - 27 October: Half Term Holiday

02 November: Y7 Tutorial Evening

06 November: Prayer Support Group

07 November: Sixth Form Open Evening

09 November: Senior Maths Challenge

17 November: Y8 Learn to Earn Day

21 November: Prizegiving

23 November: Y11 Science Module

27 November: Advent Carol Service

28 November: L6 Parents' Evening

06 - 09 December: School Play

14 December: Junior Concert

15 December: Senior Concert

19 December: End of term

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO EVERYONE FROM OMNIBUS!