



EPSOM  
COLLEGE

# the LINK

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LEFT: College students entertain pupils from the Kyambogho school in Uganda. ABOVE: The staff accommodation block starts to take shape



## A taste of life in Uganda

A month in Uganda during the summer holidays provided 28 College students with a unique and memorable experience as members of two World Challenge expedition groups.

The groups, led by teachers Carol Rice and Mike Hampshire, undertook building projects at two schools and also faced a series of mental and physical challenges whilst trekking and camping throughout the diverse environment of Uganda.

The building projects involved the students working on development initiatives at one school in the Rwenzori Mountains and another at Mount Elgon. One group transported bricks to the Kyambogho school site and assisted with digging and cementing the foundations and laying the bricks for the walls of a three-room accommodation block for school staff. The new facilities will enable staff to stay at the school rather than trek three kilometres every day up and down the mountains.

The second group built a concrete ring as the foundation for a roof on a classroom at the Mount Elgon school.

The students were overwhelmed by the friendly and generous disposition of the local children and their parents, who displayed a happy nature despite the fact that they had few material possessions and, in most cases, no shoes. The Ugandan children were delighted to receive exercise books, pens, pencils, a football and a netball from the Epsom students and reciprocated by singing and dancing for their visitors.

The most arduous phase of the month was a trek to climb Mount Elgon. This was physically demanding but on reaching the peak at 4,321 metres the students were rewarded with stunning views of Uganda and Kenya.

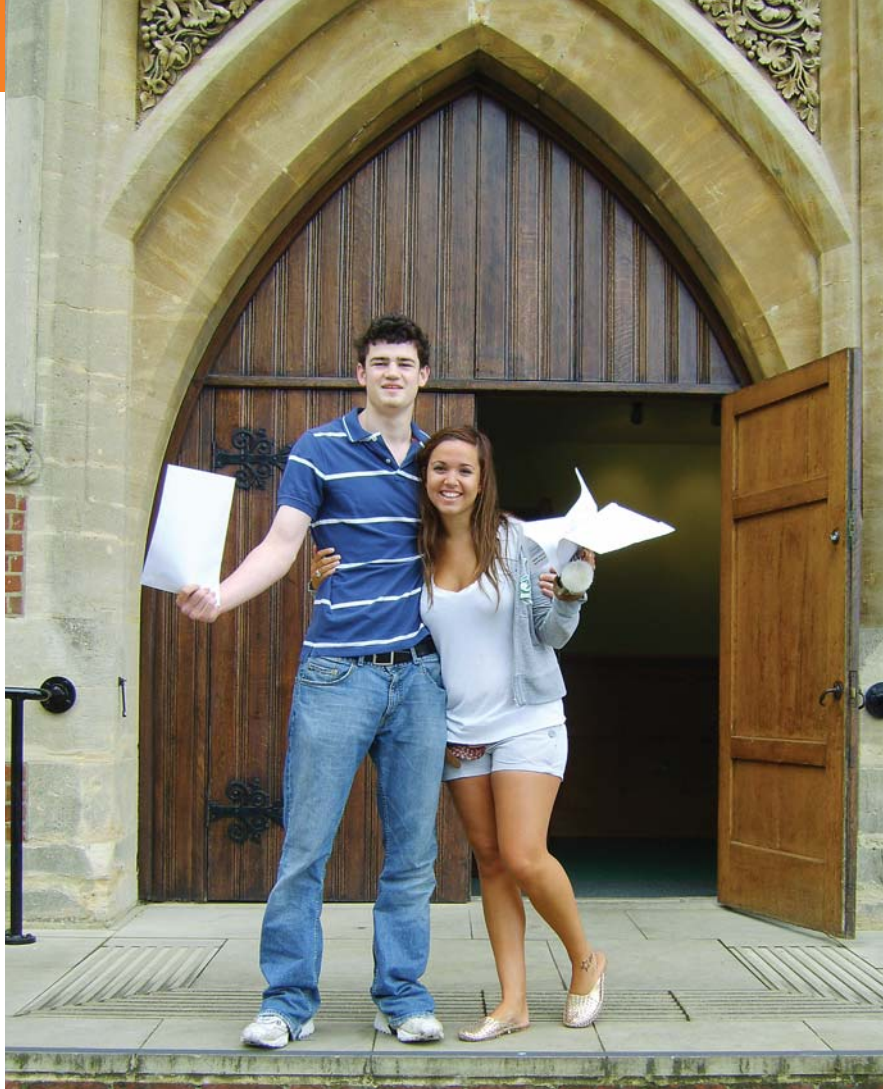
There were also opportunities for sightseeing. Both groups visited the Queen Elizabeth National Park, where they saw hippos, elephants and many species of

birds. Camping on the edge of Lake Ruzongo, some of the group trekked up the slopes to see several crater lakes. One of the groups also spent a few days white water rafting at Jinja.

Throughout the month the students spent in Uganda, they took it in turns to be group leader, making decisions about transport, shopping for food, accommodation at campsites and keeping within budget. The life skills they learned from the trip will not only aid them in their personal development, but could help them to secure university places and impress future employers.

World Challenge is a schools expedition company offering a range of programmes geared towards the education and personal development of young people. Many of the students had to fund the expedition themselves and raised money by taking part-time jobs and organising fundraising events during the months leading up to the start of the trip.





LEFT: Robert Wolstenholme and Hannah Patel celebrate their success. BELOW: All smiles on results day

# Top performances in core subjects

Although overall results were down on last year's record breaking performance, provisional figures for A2 show that some 42 per cent of students gained A grades with 74 per cent recording A-B and 91 per cent A-C.

There were individual successes for 11 pupils who gained four or five A grades. Celebrating at the College results morning brunch were Lisle Chase, Yang Lee, Matthew Goodyear, Andrew Laing, Robert Nuthall, Gautham Shankar, Hannah Patel, Rebecca Tse, Terence Tai, Robert Wolstenholme and Beverly Lee.

Robert Wolstenholme added to his four A grades at A2 with a grade 1 (outstanding) in his Maths Step paper as well as A grades in AS Chemistry and Computing.

Achievements in Art were outstanding as ever for the College, with 75 per cent of students gaining an A grade in advance of what will be Graham Poupart's final year as a distinguished Head of Art.

Meanwhile, record results were recorded by the L6th form with almost 40 pupils achieving four or more As at AS and A2. These pleasing results are significant in light of the fact that top universities are increasingly placing more emphasis on AS performance. Nearly a quarter of all College students achieved four As or better at AS and 11 pupils attained five or six A grades.

Overall, provisional AS results show 46 per cent of entrants gained an A grade, 74 per cent A-B and an impressive 88 per cent A-C.

Students again performed well in both the sciences and art subjects, with the following A grade percentages: Art (100 per cent); Theatre Studies (91 per cent); Chemistry (57 per cent); Politics (57 per cent); Maths (54 per cent); English (54 per cent); Economics (53 per cent); and Business Studies (52 per cent).

A remarkable 80 per cent in Photography and 50 per cent in Perspectives in Science recorded A grades in the first year that these subjects have been offered at the College.



Once again College students showed their strength in the traditional core subjects, with outstanding A level results this year in Mathematics and the sciences.

An impressive 73 per cent of A level students obtained a grade A in Maths, with 100 per cent scoring an A in the challenging Further Maths paper. Superb performances were recorded in the sciences, with 61 per cent of Chemistry, 55 per cent of Physics and 51 per cent of Biology students achieving A grades.

## GOOD RESULTS AS IGCSE KICKS IN

Epsom students performed well in this year's GCSE examinations, all the more so as Science, Maths and IT students sat the more challenging IGCSE (International GCSE) examinations for the first time.

Epsom has joined over 200 leading

independent schools in offering the IGCSE, which is recognised and accepted around the world as proof of academic achievement and a good foundation for studying the sciences in the 6th form. Importantly, the exam is regarded by top universities as a first class grounding

for entry to medicine or science-based courses.

An outstanding 75 per cent of IGCSE Biology students obtained A\* or A grades, with 63 per cent A\*/A in Physics and 57 per cent A\*/A in Chemistry.

Overall, a total of eight students –

# A sporting ACADEMIC



ABOVE: Max Denning with his GCSE results on his return from the College rugby tour.

INSET: Max on the slopes in France.



his sights set on representing Team GB at the 2012 London Olympics.

He recently won the open weight category in the U16 age group at the Independent Schools Judo Championships and has also won gold and silver medals representing London and the South East. "Watching the Beijing Olympics has inspired me and I want to take my judo to the next level and compete on the international stage," said Max.

Max is also a talented alpine skier and earlier this year he could be found on the ski slopes at Chamonix in France, where he won gold and silver medals in the National Inter Schools Championships organised by the British Alpine Racing Ski Clubs.

Max sat his first GCSE in Spanish at the age of 13 before starting at the College. A member of Holman House, he found studying for the new IGCSE in the three sciences and Maths this year a challenging exercise. "The new syllabus has a more specific

course structure and although a harder exam, I believe it has prepared me well for the academic work in the 6th form," Max said.

Max attributes his success to a positive work ethic. Because of the amount of time he spends on sport, his study time is, of necessity, intense and focused.

He plans to study Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and French, as well as Critical Thinking, in the 6th form and hopes to go on to read medicine at a London university.

Fifth form student Max Denning was on tour in Argentina with the College's senior rugby squad when he received a phone call from his mother telling him he had achieved 11 A\*s at GCSE.

Max's success is all the more impressive as he achieved these results despite spending much of his free time chasing success in a variety of sports. He is a judo black belt and has

Joanna Boddy, Tom Burgess, Max Denning, Xavier Daldas, Alex Dowle, Anna Hurley, Jack Keep and Josh Phillips – secured 10 A\*s or more, many with an AS module in Maths and CT as well.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Josh Phillips, Charlie Higgs and Alastair Mazumdar open their GCSE results



## FLYING HIGH IN IELTS EXAM

College students from overseas have excelled in an examination designed to test their knowledge of the English language.

Some 17 L6th form pupils of different nationalities, including German, Korean, Chinese and Malaysian, sat the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) exam at International House in London this summer.

The IELTS exam is internationally recognised as a valid and trusted method of testing ability in all four aspects of language – reading, writing, listening and speaking – for foreign students wishing to enter further education.

The highest possible score for an individual paper is nine and the scores for the four papers are averaged to give an overall mark. All 17 College students who sat the exam did exceptionally well, despite some of them only having had an hour a week to prepare.

Congratulations go to Jae Ho Chung, Felix Higger and Katharina Peters, who top scored with eight and a half out of nine in the tests.

The test  
that sets the  
standard

# A hidden College treasure



ABOVE: Chris with Stuart and Philippa Head and their children. BELOW: Chris Baxter, flanked by Norman Rice (left) and Jud Drinkall (right) in the 1988-89 Fayrer House photo. INSET: Chris Baxter has been the Housekeeper of Fayrer House for 25 years

For the past quarter of a century, Chris Baxter, the popular Housekeeper of Fayrer House, has been something of a hidden College treasure, caring for boys and staff with a dedication to duty second to none.

During this time, Chris has worked alongside two Fayrer Housemasters – Norman Rice for the first 10 years and Paul Williams for the past 15. Now, with the appointment of Business Studies teacher and former England hockey international Stuart Head as Fayrer Housemaster, Chris can reflect on her career with fond memories. She has known Stuart, a former Head of House in

Fayrer, since he joined the College in 1987 at the age of 13.

As Housekeeper to the 80-plus boys boarding in Fayrer, Chris, who will retire next April, sees her role as a caring one or, as she would prefer, a “Housemother,” creating a home from home for the boys. During the five years they are in the House, she watches their transition from children, many boarding for the first time, to confident young men.

“One of the most rewarding things for me has been seeing the boys start at 13 in the House and develop through the years into well-rounded young gentlemen,” said Chris.

She has been proud to share in their achievements, whether they be academic or sporting in nature, and keeps a protective eye on the many cups in the Fayrer trophy cabinet. Chris believes it is important to nurture the idea of House identity and everyone being part of a team.

Of course boys will be boys and in addition to her numerous jobs as Housekeeper, Chris is kept busy looking for lost uniform and games kit and mending clothes. She always has a supply of spare kit ready for games afternoons and sports matches.

Chris was the first non-resident Housekeeper at the College. Previously Matrons, as they were known then, had to live in. Over the years she has seen many changes in the House – all of them for the better. Gone, for example, are the old metal bedsteads and horsehair mattresses to be replaced with modern divans and duvets!

One thing that hasn’t changed over the years, however, is the boys’ excellent behaviour. A few years ago, Chris suffered a serious illness and the whole House rallied round to support her. “The boys have always shown a great deal of respect for me and when I was ill they responded with understanding and maturity,” she said.

On retirement next year, Chris, who has four sons of her own, will continue with her voluntary work in the children’s ward at the Royal Marsden Hospital, but Fayrer House will never be far from her thoughts.

“I know I will miss the House and the boys. It’s similar to when your children grow up and leave; the focus of everyday family life is suddenly gone,” she said.

*“One of the most rewarding things for me has been seeing the boys start at 13 in the House and develop through the years into well-rounded young gentlemen.”*



Anyone for tennis? OE David Cook gets ready for a coaching session with (left to right) Andy Thomas, Matt John, Rob Thomas and James Miller

## This sporting life

**S**ports courses, which have been held at the College during the summer and Easter holidays for the past 34 years, are proving as popular as ever with record numbers attending this year's summer sessions.

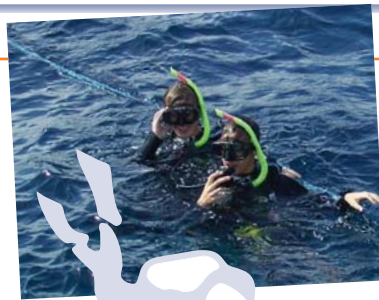
First launched in 1974, the highly regarded, four and five day courses attract youngsters aged 8-14 from throughout Surrey and beyond. Reflecting the College's move to co education, course organiser Andy Wolstenholme reports that the number of boys and girls participating is now close to 50:50.

Girls take part in anything from athletics and hockey to dance and gymnastics, while the boys enjoy an equally diverse programme, including coaching in rugby, hockey, cricket, squash and tennis. All the participants receive a T-shirt and are able to make full use of the College's excellent sports facilities, including the gym and swimming pool.

The courses finish with mini-tournaments in various sports, which are always keenly contested and highly popular. Prizes are awarded to both teams and individuals.

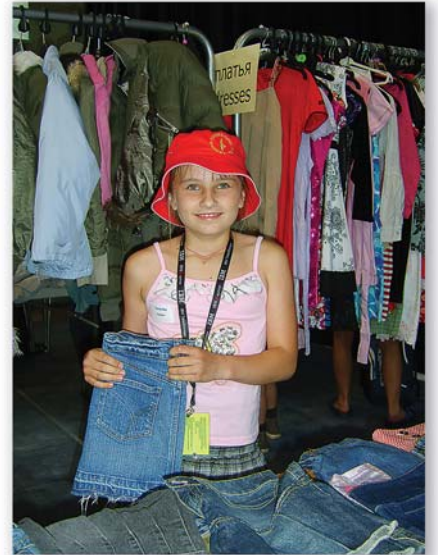
This year saw OEs David Cook and Andy Ventris take a break from their studies at Exeter University to help out with the coaching.

A number of College CCF Cadets were special guests at an Open Day held at SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) Norton House in Ashted recently. The Cadets attended the event and saw for themselves the excellent work SSAFA does helping injured military personnel and their families. They also presented SSAFA with a cheque for £3000, which they raised by taking part in a sponsored 3500ft static line parachute jump. U6th form student Annie Urwin (right) is seen handing over the cheque to Norton House Manager Michael Turner and Deputy Manager Liz Gallacher



A trip to St Tropez this summer saw a group of College CCF Cadets acquire a recognised diving qualification whilst enjoying some sightseeing in the south of France. Organised by CCF Instructor Bob Bonner, the seven day trip included four days taking the intensive PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) course, which involved the cadets sitting five theory tests and completing four open water boat dives to a maximum of 18m. Tom Simonson and David Hosking, students from last year's U6th form, took an advanced qualification, diving to 30m

## College hosts Chernobyl children



One of the children from Belarus chooses her clothing in Big School

It may be more than 22 years since the world's worst nuclear accident took place at the Chernobyl power plant in Ukraine, but the effects of radiation fallout are still blighting the lives of over a million youngsters living in the neighbouring regions.

This summer saw the arrival at the College of a group of children from Belarus for the start of a four week respite holiday organised by the Mid-Surrey Link, part of the national Chernobyl Children Life Line charity.

Chairman of the Mid-Surrey Link is OE Philip Taylor (Fayrer 1982/83), whose father, David Taylor, was Head of Mathematics at Epsom for a number of years.

The boys and girls, aged 9-10 years, were hosted by local families and were given access to the facilities at the College, including the swimming pool, sports centre, dining hall and meeting rooms. They also had use of the College's minibuses for several of their trips, which included sightseeing tours of London, a visit to the seaside and some horse riding with local charity Riding for the Disabled.

Donations of clothes from the local community were made available to the children when they arrived at the College. Many also took clothing back to Belarus for needy siblings.

# Enter the dragon

There is a dragon abroad in the College! But there is no need to call for St George as this one is the somewhat unusual pet of Deputy Head (Academic) and English teacher Angela Drew.

Mohinder is a five month old Bearded Dragon named after the genetics professor in the TV drama series Heroes. The extremely friendly lizard lives with Angela, her husband Jeremy, 14 year old daughter Bethany and 11 year old son Paddy on the College campus.

Home for Moey, as he is affectionately known, is a heated vivarium as he needs to be kept warm. A carnivore by nature, he feasts on a diet of locusts, crickets and meal worms.

Originating from Australia, the Bearded Dragon or "little dinosaur" makes an excellent pet. They can grow up to 18 inches or more in length – Moey is currently 13 inches – and be trained to go for a walk in a harness.

The exotic creature occasionally



attends English lessons and has acquired something of a celebrity status with the students. But fame hasn't gone to Moey's head. He

remains refreshingly modest and loves nothing better than cuddling up on the family sofa watching television.

THIRD IN A REGULAR SERIES

## NEWS FROM THE COMMON ROOM

The size of the Common Room has increased further this year, with several new positions created and a number of new appointments made

•••• **Abi Wickham** joins us from King's School, Bruton, where she was Head of Design and Technology. She will work in the same capacity here, as well as coaching hockey and being a tutor in Raven House.

•••• **Katie Lenham** has taught at Canford School in Dorset and more recently at St Alban's High School for Girls. She comes to Epsom as Co-Head of the Art Department and will succeed Graham Poupart as Head of Department at the end of this year. She will be a tutor in Wilson House.

•••• **Susan Church-Jones** joins us as Head

of Girls' Games, having taught for ten years at St Edward's School, Witley. She will be a tutor in Granville House.

•••• **Maurice Hynd** joins the Modern Languages Department as Teacher in-charge of Spanish. Previously at Wellington College, he will be a tutor in Robinson House.

•••• **Roy Burgess (Cr 1976-80)** is a new member of the Physics Department. Following time working as an accountant and consultant, he qualified as a teacher and has recently taught at Whitgift School. He will be a tutor in Granville House.

•••• **Naomi Crossland** studied for an M.Phys. at Magdalen College, Oxford, and has since taught at Winchester College. She also joins the Physics Department and will be a tutor in Carr House.

•••• **Clare Huxter (Wh 1997-99)** is returning to the College to pursue a Graduate Teacher Programme qualification in English and Drama and will act as cover teacher for the coming academic year. She will be the resident tutor in Crawford House and Teacher in-charge of Target Rifle Shooting.

•••• **Zhie Liu** joins the Common Room as a part-time teacher of Mandarin. Zhie, who comes from Shenyang in north-west China, has taught the subject at Wallington (Boys' and Girls') and at Wilson's School. She will initially teach the subject as an M4 and 6th Form Activity.

## New website goes live

The new College website went live in August at [www.epsomcollege.org.uk](http://www.epsomcollege.org.uk)

The new site has three distinct entry points providing information for prospective pupils and their parents, current pupils, parents and staff and Old Epsomians. Easily navigated, it has a number of new features, including the ability to display video footage and photo galleries within individual pages.

Designed to be a dynamic and informative resource, with a comprehensive news section and links to areas of interest both within and outside the College, the site will be updated on a regular basis.



# College golfers drive into top three



Having narrowly failed to reach the main final at the HMC Foursomes at Luffenheath Golf Club in Rutland this summer, the Epsom College golf team picked itself up to win the Stableford



The victorious College golf team with coach Andy Wolstenholme

competition, confirming their place as the third best team nationally.

The team comprised Gareth Blease and David Boote as the first pair, Matt Chasey and Ollie Lloyd as the second pair and Maddie Kuhler and Jeremy Morgan as the third pair. The competition is played off

scratch over two days and contested by the top eight school teams in the country.

The first two rounds brought wins for Epsom over Cheltenham College (3-0) and Reigate Grammar (2-1) to set up a showdown against tournament favourites Millfield for a place in the final against Bradfield, who had upset the form book to beat second favourites Loretto in the other half of the draw. Both Millfield and Loretto are golf academies with full time golf pupils and PGA professionals on their staff.

Despite a great performance against a team with four players off scratch handicaps Epsom lost narrowly in an exciting

finish and it was Millfield that progressed to the final where they beat Bradfield.

On the final afternoon, the Epsom team went forward to the Stableford competition for all the teams not in the final. A great team effort saw the College beat Loretto to take first place.



The College rifle team has become national champions for the third year running

## Ashburton hat trick

The Epsom College rifle team won the coveted Ashburton Shield at the national Rifle Association's 2008 Imperial Meeting at Bisley to become national champions for the third year running.

Epsom was a clear winner of the blue riband event of the school shooting year, scoring 790.75 points. Dollar Academy took second place with 779.5 points and The Oratory School was third with 766.52 points. Sam Hunter was the College's top scorer with an impressive 102.14 points.

The College has now won the Ashburton 12 times in the last 19 years

and has not been out of the top two places for 11 years.

Underlining the College VIII's domination of this event, Alex Dowle came first, Nick Beesley second and Sam Hunter third in the Cadet Rifle Aggregate. Alex also won the Cadet Grand Aggregate, with Sam taking second place, while Nick headed the list in the Schools Hundred.

Overall, the College won 20 team trophies, including the Devon Trophy and the Victoria College Trophy, which was won by the Epsom B team.

## SPORTS BRIEFS



••• The College has teamed up with the In-Touch Cricket Academy to offer a site of excellence for the development of cricket in and around Surrey. Currently the Academy has around 60 boys aged 10 to 13 on its books, including 30 who are members of county squads. Coaching sessions will be held three to four times per week. For more information visit [www.intouchcricketacademy.co.uk](http://www.intouchcricketacademy.co.uk)

••• U4 David Boote captained the Surrey U15 golf team to victory in a recent match against a strong Wales U15 team. The foursomes competition, held at Walton Heath Golf Club, saw Surrey triumph by 8.5 to 3.5 with David winning both his games.



••• Nicole Ferguson, a highly qualified nutritionist and masseuse, has joined the team at the Epsom College Fitness Centre. Hailing from Sydney, Australia, Nicole has an extensive background in personal training, nutrition and body therapies. Initially she will visit the centre on one Wednesday a month, offering treatments that include nutrition advice, iridology studies, aromatherapy and Swedish and deep tissue massage. For more information on the facilities and classes available, visit the EC Fitness website: [www.ecfitness.co.uk](http://www.ecfitness.co.uk)

# Girls' tour to Australia and Singapore

A summer tour to Australia and Singapore proved a valuable pre-season experience for the College senior hockey and netball squads.

Two hockey teams played a total of 12 matches against opposition ranging from ladies club sides to school teams. Despite some early injuries, the girls won seven out of 12 games, with the A team outperforming their opposition on many occasions and winning five of their six matches.

In netball, three teams went on tour and played a total of 17 games, winning eight, drawing two and losing seven. Playing in some impressive indoor arenas, they faced particularly strong opposition in Australia, where netball is a major sport for women.

Outside of the hectic playing schedule, the party sampled local life with a Night Safari and a visit to Sentosa in Singapore, a trip to see the Phillip Island penguins in Melbourne, jet boating in Sydney Harbour, white water rafting on the Baron

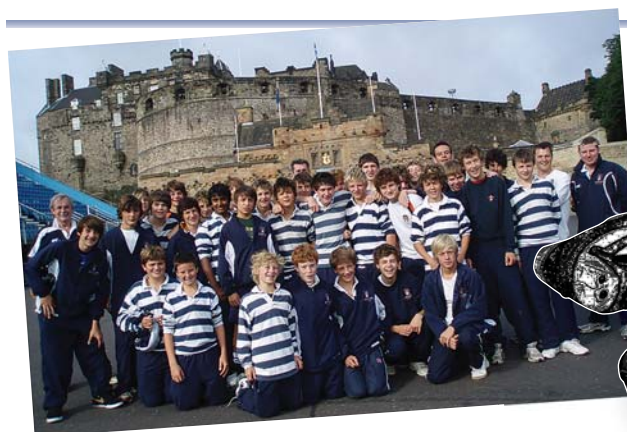


ABOVE: Enjoying jet boating in Sydney Harbour. INSET: Danielle Rice shows her form in Sydney

River in Cairns and a day on the awesome Great Barrier Reef.

Led by College teachers Fi Drinkall, Lizzie Irvine and Katie Cloonan, the girls

were joined on tour by many parents who took the opportunity to support the players whilst meeting up with family, friends and OEs living overseas.



The U4 party on tour in Edinburgh



## Bravehearts in Edinburgh

A total of 32 boys from the U4 year group together with parents and staff spent three days in Edinburgh at the end of August enjoying some pre-season rugby training and playing against two of Scotland's top rugby schools.

Staying in a youth hostel, the players were able to make use of the Edinburgh Academy sports fields for training prior to a match against the school. The two Epsom sides put in a great performance with the A team winning 33-12 and the B team a resounding 95-0.

The following day, the two College sides played George Watson's College and despite the opposition being considerably stronger, both teams came away with victories, the A team winning 19-12 and the B team 15-10.

The party also enjoyed cultural tours around Edinburgh, taking in the Castle, the Royal Mile, Holyrood Palace, the Scottish Parliament and, the highlight of the tour, the Murrayfield rugby stadium, the home of Scottish rugby.

## RUGBY BOYS IN SOUTH AMERICA

A rugby tour to Chile, Paraguay and Argentina in August saw the 1st and 2nd XV squads enjoy some tough physical encounters and hard fought, close matches whilst experiencing new cultures.

The Argentineans in particular lived up to their reputation as the best scrummagers and maulers in the world, testing the rugby skills of the College squads.

Nevertheless, the 1st XV returned a score sheet of four wins, one draw and one loss, whilst the 2nd XV had three wins and three defeats.

The player of the tour award went to flanker Tom Lothian, with notable mentions for Josh Li, Tom Brown, Tim Faccini and captain Rhodri Needham.

The party had the opportunity to take part in some outstanding trips, including sightseeing in the Andes in Chile, a trip to the waterfalls at Iguazu, and a visit to the La Boca barrios in Buenos Aires. They also spent two days being 'gauchos' on a ranch outside Cordoba.