

Gonville House Newsletter

Lent Term 2025

Another brutal term flashed by, but as always there are some wonderful moments and achievements to record in this newsletter. Collectively the academic effort levels of the house feel at an all time high. The boys continue to turn up in numbers at every opportunity to represent the house, despite the fact that some of these squads are doomed to glorious failure. As ever, house hockey proved that you don't have to have many hockey players in your team to score goals and have fun. House fives, water polo, basketball, football and even Tug o' War proved that the classic spirit of the gentleman

athlete is still strong. They desperately want to win, but whether they succeed or not, their bearing never changes (although a good goal can lead to some whooping and hollering). The challenging house A Cappella competition,



saw fifteen of the boys keen to be involved. This year there was virtually no input from staff and I didn't provide any reminders to rehearse. The boys got on with it and put together a really fine performance, with lead vocals from **Heston Symonds** and **Alex Chapman**.

There was lots of charitable endeavour with the House Revue supporting The Red Cross in Ukraine and the inaugural Giving Day. Pupils and parents representing Gonville were able to raise over £800 on the day and be a partner in the overall total of over £350,000. The day had a parade, competitive events, pupil run stalls and some abseiling off the Memorial tower. Historically, new events can be viewed with suspicion, but the house really bought into the spirit of the day and it is clear that the next event, perhaps in a couple of years, will be eagerly awaited.

As always, the academic efforts of the boys are summarised on the next page. With no end of term exams or class prizes, there are fewer people to name individually, but **Dean Zhang** should be praised for his Gold in the Chemistry Olympiad and **Herbert**

Phillips for his Bronze in the Intermediate Linguistics Olympiad.

Finally in this introduction, I would like to acknowledge **Rufus McCourt** and family. Not only did he and his brothers join his father in climbing 4167m to the summit of Mount Toubkal, but Mrs McCourt also spearheaded the Giving Day stalls. As well as celebrating the achievements of the boys during term time, it is also lovely to hear about other brilliant challenges.



KEY DATES: SUMMER 2024

Tuesday 22 April

Return after 4pm. Supper from 7pm

Wednesday 23 April

Term begins

Saturday 26 April

Boarders' Ball

Saturday 3 May

Year 10 parents' morning

Leave out weekend after fixtures

Monday 5 May

Boys return from 6pm

Monday 12 May

Study leave begins for Year 11

Friday 16 May

Study leave begins for Year 13

Friday 23 May

Year 9 Options evening

Half term begins

Sunday 1 June

Half term ends at 6pm

Saturday 28 June

Term ends

Speech Day and Cornflower Ball

Colours awarded this term

Full colours Rugby

Barley O'Connor

1/2 colours Badminton

Isaac Lee



Academic Review

eRC (effort) Wall of Fame

Year 13

Joshua Yip	6
Archie Stephens	5.67
Ryan Liu	5.47
Heston Symonds	5.44

Most improved:

Joshua Yip	+0.28
Archie Stephens	+0.27
Oliver Bearcroft	+0.25

Year 12

Isaac Lee	6.08
Samuel Lee	5.63
Rowley Emus	5.44
Jayden Matsikenyeri	5.38

Most improved:

Ethan Ajikobi	+0.57
German Ris	+0.21

Year 11

Seanan Wong	6
Tom Robins	5.62
Alex Chapman	5.32
Connor Morrell	5.32

Most improved:

Valentine Gage	+0.35
Seanan Wong	+0.35

Year 10

Herbert Phillips	6.11
Felix Fox	5.92
Jonny Robinson	5.67
Daniel Song	5.62

Most improved:

Seb Bailey	+0.5
Jonny Robinson	+0.44
Gachecheh Kenyua	+0.27

Year 9

Donald Symonds	5.43
Felix Murray	5.19
Frank Liu	5.15

Most improved:

Frank Liu	+0.22
Henry Cooke	+0.2

Show Hsm Roll of Honour

(Denotes Praise which is slightly less good than a Show Hsm, but still awarded for excellent effort)

Archie Stephens	4 (3)
Heston Symonds	4 (2)

Dean Zhang	8 (3)
Samuel Lee	6 (2)
Jayden Matsikenyeri	5 (2)

Seanan Wong	5 (12)
Tom Robins	5 (5)
Connor Morrell	5 (3)

Herbert Phillips	12 (13)
Seb Bailey	9 (15)
Felix Fox	8 (9)
Daniel Song	7 (6)
Jonny Robinson	6 (13)
Alex Tidswell	5 (9)
Gachecheh Kenyua	3 (18)
Milo Deniz	3 (16)

Thomas Lewis	7 (20)
Carlos Chan	7 (15)
Frank Liu	5 (13)
Henry Cooke	3 (15)
Tom Zlattinger	2 (14)
Felix Murray	2 (12)

Service Review

A busy term for Duke of Edinburgh, with Y12 and Y10 Gonvillians attending their first training day on Sunday 23rd in preparation for their practice in the summer term. In the school, 70 pupils have completed the award over the last year - 22 golds, 47 silvers and 1 bronze. Congratulations to **Oliver Bearcroft**, **Heston Symonds** and **Oscar Fox** for completing gold and **Felix St John Parker** his silver.

Once again **Connor Morrell** has been the Gonville representative in the Charity Society, helping to organise events like the charity lunch and the Charity Revue. These and other events have raised in excess of £2500 for the Midlands Orphanage and Care Centre in Colenso, South Africa. In the charity revue, **Isaac Lee** performed a dance in collaboration with some Nugent girls. At the beginning of the term the Prefects put together a highly successful 'Eastbourne's Got Talent' event raising £879 for Blues Sky Bursaries. **Daniel Li** should be congratulated for making the final with his basketball skills.



The first Giving Day took place on 11th March, which raised many thousands of pounds for the Blue Sky Bursaries Appeal, aiming to fully-fund, means-tested bursary places at our school for local children. On the day the boys were tasked with creating a



mascot to parade down Old Wish Road followed by a house chant. There were junior and senior Tug O'War competitions. In the junior competition, Gonville lost in the final. A mixed year group team came second in the assault course, slowed up by the planks pictured. Throughout the day, the Gonville stall challenged pupils and staff to hang from a bar as long as possible. All the houses had similar stands meaning that pupils could enjoy the carnival atmosphere and enjoy all ten stalls, including throwing sponges at staff.







DISCLAIMER: The annotation above and those that follow in the newsletter are the contribution of Phoebe and Toby and, some would say, the only entertaining part of this missive.





The CCF has continued to offer its cadets a fantastic range of opportunities and challenges this term, in each of its 3 sections. The small yet mighty Royal Navy section set sail for the Lent Term with drill a key focus; NCOs and senior cadets putting everyone through their paces in weekly sessions and a visit to the Training Ship Eastbourne drill hall with Lieutenant Simister was much needed and very well received – we hope to foster closer relations with the Sea Cadets in the coming months. For the Army Section, this term has offered one main extra opportunity: the overnight voluntary exercise at the start of this month. **Alex Tidswell** and **Robert McPherson** got involved preparing rations and putting up shelters in the dark. The next day saw weapons handling and they gained a lot from the blank firing tactical training. Year 11 cadets, including Seanan Wong and Connor Morrell have been undertaking their Cadet Forces Instructional Techniques course. In the RAF section, eight more cadets took part in their first Air Experience Flight and spent the night at RAF Benson, enjoying a glimpse of life on an active military base.



The CCF term closed with its splendid annual formal dinner to thank all senior cadets and adult volunteers. Accompanying music was provided by **Daniel Song** and **Samuel Lee** was involved in the Drum Corps. Overall a busy term developing critical life skills. Recent research suggests that the CCF produces young people who are more confident, more able, more engaged, more resilient, more employable and happier.

Creatives Review

The artists in the house are gearing up to summer exams, finalising portfolios and planning exhibitions. Some visual artists are producing artworks for the Blue Sky Art Auction which takes place in the summer term. In textiles, the Great Eastbourne Sewing Bee house competition took place with **Isaac Lee** taking second place. In Dance the term has ended with an outstanding Showcase from our talented



dancers, including **Gachecheh Kenyua**. In music, **Daniel Li, Sam Lee, Jerry Pang, Janson Lau, Daniel Song** and **Gachecheh Kenyua** were all involved in Informal Concerts. **Donald Symonds, Sam Lee** and the Jazz Band joined forces with the Durham University Jazz Orchestra as a wonderful finale to our Giving Day, providing our pupils with an inspiring and

unforgettable experience. The term ended with the Gonville A Cappella rendition of Twist and Shout by The Beatles. The group consisted of **Heston Symonds, Alex Chapman, Ethan Ajikobi, Jayden Matsikenyeri, Adam Davies, OT Ekiugbo, Connor Morrell, Rowley Emus, Harry Doe, Oscar Fox, Gachecheh Kenyua, Felix Murray** and **Jonny Robinson**.



GONVILLE

Next to perform: School

A CAPPELLA



The main event of the term was, of course, the Gonville Revue. This year the show was compèred by **Archie Stephens** and **Heston Symonds**. Once again a house band consisting of **Atom Tian, Oscar Fox, Sam**

Lee, Will Rennie, Connor Morrell and **Gachechek Kenyua** proved a highlight, this time performing *Champagne Supernova* by Oasis. The show kicked off with year 9 showing off their synchronicity with 'Daft Prep', all set to the Daft Punk classic. Year 10 produced a dating show that was full of bad wigs and worse one-liners, but struck all the right notes. Year 11 and 13 showed production value in their videos and the year 12s managed to pull off a choreographed Michael Jackson routine....just. These light-hearted

performances were surrounded by real quality in the form of performances from **Daniel Song, Janson Lau, Sam Lee** and **Isaac Lee**.



HOUSE REVUE







Sports Review

There was no representation from Gonville in the 1stXI hockey or football this term, but **Jimmy Hall** and **Jayden Matsikenyeri** played in the 2nd XI hockey, while **Oliver Bearcroft** captained the 2nd XI football, playing alongside **Ethan Ajikobi**, **Herman Ris**, **Heston Symonds** and **Archie Stephens**. **Charl Spies** and **Valentine Gage** played in the U16A. Further down the school the house was well represented in hockey teams with **OT Ekiugbo** and **Adam Davies** in the U15A and **Tom Zlattinger** and **Henry Cooke** in the U14A.



Elsewhere, **Seanan Wong** and **Isaac Lee** were part of a very successful badminton outfit and **Daniel Li**, **Arnold Yan**, **Janson Lau**, **Atom Tian** and **Ryan Liu** were all regulars in the basketball team that were finally defeated in the final of the county league.



In swimming **Joshua Yip** was part of the historic Bath Cup success as the school became the first to achieve the double double, defending both the medley relay and the freestyle relay. Josh reduced his personal best, and therefore the school record, further at 50M breaststroke, but also had success across the term in the 100m breaststroke.

Herbert Phillips competed at the county cross country championship alongside **Rufus McCourt**. **William Rennie** and **Oliver Bearcroft** continue to represent the College valiantly on the links.





AROUND THE GROUNDS



HOCKEY





FOOTBALL





BASKETBALL



There were an extraordinary number of house competitions this term and although the overall term position for the house of 6th is not somewhere Gonville are used to being, there was plenty to celebrate as well. With the perennial strengths of badminton, basketball, tennis and athletics still to come, I am sure that we will rise up the table in the summer. Starting with hockey, the year 9 and 10 teams managed solid mid-table performances, but the senior side, while they enjoyed scoring goals against more illustrious rivals, especially the **Tom Robins** strike against Craig, they were not able to avoid a string of defeats, leaving us 6th overall. In the football, there was a memorable 2-0 win over Wargrave for the senior team, although I am ashamed to say that in all the excitement I can't be sure that **Charl Spies** and **Alex Chapman** scored the



goals. I do remember the wonderful strike from **Arnold Yan** to claim a 1-1 draw with Craig. Sadly the juniors suffered for lack of goals, but as always the endeavour was there. The house water polo saw the juniors miss out on the final by a hair's breadth in qualifying and then beat Reeves to claim 3rd place, with **Carlos Chan** scoring three goals. The seniors also missed the final match and lost agonisingly to Wargrave to claim 4th. The long-range **James Hall** howitzers failed to make the net and the the speed of **Harry Prescott** and **Josh Yip** couldn't carve out a decisive goal in the second half.





House basketball is only partially complete as the seniors have yet to play, but in the year 10s the energy from **OT Ekiugbo** set them up for a third place finish. In year 9 the skill of **Carlos Chan** and the uncompromising defence from Frank Liu were notable in their 1st place finish. Onward to house fives, and Gonville were consistently very good across all three teams, only losing to Craig who were almost faultless. **Rufus McCourt** had his first taste for the seniors and **Oliver Bearcroft** and **Archie Stephens** saw almost everyone off. **Henry Cooke, Felix Murray** and **Tom Zlattinger** appeared to be naturals in year 9 and **Jonny Robinson** and **Milo Deniz** were industrious in year 10. Finally the house squash saw Gonville unlucky to finish last mathematically, but they were the most consistent finishing 4th in each competition. **Felix Murray** was very competitive playing against year 11s and **Nazarii Dmyterchuk** got over the lack of net fairly quickly. **William Rennie** and **Oscar Fox** took their opponents deep in each game, but it didn't prove to be their day.





HOUSE HOCKEY















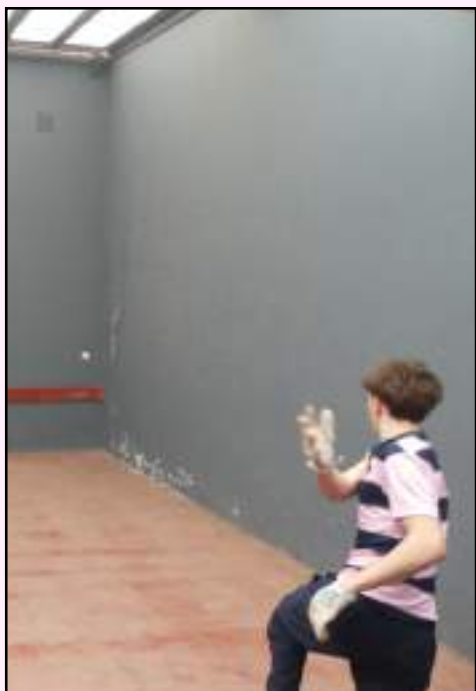




HOUSE BASKETBALL







HOUSE FIVES





HOUSE SQUASH





House Pool Competition

Mr Roberts has certainly had an impact since his arrival in September, not least in the games room where he masterminded the first properly organised house pool tournament for 10 years. Even the draw was a work of art with a main competition and then a plate for those who lost in the first round. On the final Wednesday of term the keenly awaited finals took place in the Gonville Crucible. The plate competition pitted **Mr Clarke** against **Heston Symonds** and the main draw saw **Daniel Li** facing off against **Charl Spies**. I don't think that the quality of pool was quite Mosconi Cup level, but the crowd was thoroughly entertained as 'Virgo' Roberts handed the Amazon voucher prizes to **Heston** and **Charl**.











LUNAR NEW YEAR



As we race into spring and the sound of lawnmowers I look forward to seeing the boys back in the house refreshed for the next set of experiences. It is so lovely to have long evenings and see the garden used at every opportunity and to have the chance to dust off the BBQ. In the meantime, have a Happy Easter and please remember to eat all the chocolate that contains nuts before returning.

