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## From The Headmaster's Desk:



As always at this time of year a distinct hush has descended on the School as the exam season demands everyone's full attention. This gives time for the Headmaster to pause and reflect on another happy and successful year at CLS.

This newsletter emphasises the many and diverse activities undertaken by boys this year. I do hope you enjoy reading about some of their exploits, which range from sporting success with a number of appearances at regional and national finals, to Model United Nations to modern languages competitions and a hectic programme of musical concerts and recitals. If you add in the thirty or so flourishing societies, I am left wondering how the boys find the time to fit it all in and ensure academic success. The old saying that a "busy boy is a happy boy" could certainly be applied to CLS students!

The highlight of this term was undoubtedly the Junior School musical *Oliver!*. Sarah Dobson, one of our drama teachers, linked up with the Music Department to produce a hugely enjoyable and professional production. All four performances were justifiably 'sold out' as 75 boys and 15 CLSG girls mastered the challenges of acting and singing. As you can see from the photographs inside, from last term's equally spectacular *Sweeney Todd*, the new *Winterflood Theatre* has had a sensational start to its life.

A welcome feature of CLS existence is our increasingly close co-operation with our prestigious sister school, City of London School for Girls. In addition to co-educational plays and concerts, this term has seen the launch of combined academic workshops. Thus the third forms came together for a theatre day featuring lectures and practicals in drama performance while the fourth form were given an early taste of the major issues involved in the study of Politics, Economics and Business Ethics. Next term our senior football squad will undertake skill training in the early morning on the CLSG Astro turf pitch. It might even tempt our sisters to start playing the beautiful game!

The overwhelming majority of boys have worked conscientiously this year and I have no doubt that our results will again be very pleasing. The School is in good heart, with another record number of applicants resulting in an expansion of our roll for next September. We look forward to another successful year in 2009/2010 and wish everyone a relaxing summer holiday in the meantime.

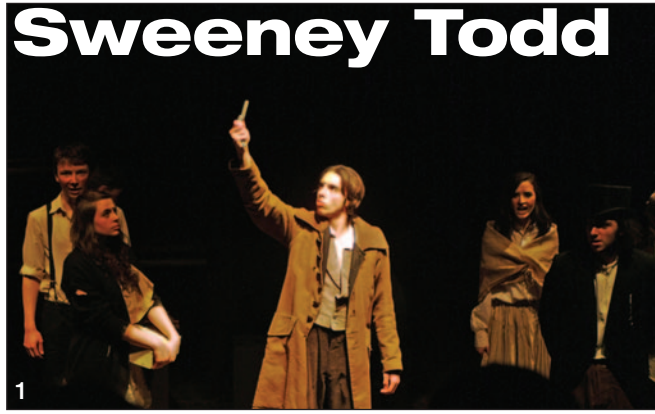
*David Levin*



The First XI enjoy a day out at the Palace. See the back page for the full story.

# Sweeney Todd

Sweeney Todd marked the opening of the new Winterflood Theatre and played from Monday March 9 to Thursday March 12 to sell-out audiences.



- 1: Bertie Watson as Sweeney Todd
- 2: Harry Michell
- 3: Sweeney Todd on murderous form
- 4: Bertie Watson contemplates another killing spree
- 5: Harry Bradford

## Vince Cable

Joel Mullish reports on the Liberal Democrat's visit to the Politics Society.

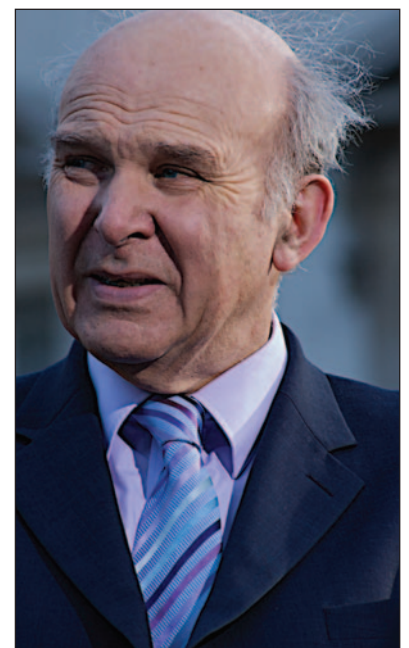
Open your history books – that was the message from MP Vince Cable when he addressed the Politics Society, continuing its reputation for attracting distinguished and engaging speakers. Currently Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats, he spoke on the present economic crisis and the importance of not making the same mistakes as previous governments worldwide have when tackling a recession.

As the former Chief Economist for Shell and having just published his seventh book *The Storm: The World Economic Crisis And What it Means*, the MP gave a lucid and insightful account of the current financial mess. He traced the strains that began to occur in 2007-8 as the banks continued to borrow and lend to each other with total disregard. Especially interesting was his grave assertion that the entire British banking system came within twenty-four hours from collapsing, the unsurprising result

of combining banks with 'casinos'.

He also raised the question why everyone was so astonished by the global meltdown, given the frequency of recessions throughout economic history. Although he assured us he was optimistic that the current downturn would not reach the disastrous levels of the 1930s recession, he warned of the perilous consequences of inaction and the need for the government to "throw the kitchen sink at it".

Before taking questions from the floor, Cable noted the "revolutionary times" that we are in, and as such, to expect substantial changes. As well as stating the need for debate on reform, he observed that because of the magnitude of the crisis, we should not be surprised by any "seismic shifts", and raised the prospect of the Liberal Democrats overtaking Labour in the forthcoming elections.



Vince Cable, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats

# Careers

## Mr Baglin discovers that every cloud really does have a silver lining.

This summer, five boys from CLS – all of them under 20 years old – will be working at the forefront of biochemical research and contributing to our knowledge and understanding of the human genome and its role in cancer. Two of them have already been major authors in five published papers. And it all began as a crisis!

In the summer of 2006, Elliott Lever was weighing up his options having failed to secure a place that year to study Medicine, despite achieving top grades in his A level subjects. What should he do for his unplanned GAP year?

For several years, Professor Denise Sheer – then the Head of the Human Cytogenetics Laboratory at the Imperial Cancer Research, now Professor of Human Genetics at The Institute of Cell and Molecular Science at Queen Mary, University of London – had been a visiting speaker to the School, giving lectures and passionately promoting the biological sciences as a career choice to senior pupils. Perhaps she could help out?

Well, she could, and in August that year, Elliott joined Professor Sheer's team at the newly built Blizard Building, home to the Institute of Cell and Molecular Science and part of Bart's and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry. He took to the challenge like a duck to water and three years later has had three papers published – one an internationally acclaimed paper on chromosomal architecture – and all

of them as second author. Elliott now combines studies at University College Medical School with his work alongside Professor Sheer.

Last summer, Andrew Lawson also joined the Professor's team for his GAP year, having changed his mind late during the Senior 6th and withdrawn his application to read Mathematics in favour of Natural Sciences at Cambridge a year later. He too has been enormously stimulated by the challenge of applied research, and has relished the opportunity to apply his intellect to such an important area. He will shortly be joined by several other former CLS students who hope to make their mark in the field of genomic research.

Elliott's and Andrew's successes are fantastic achievements and remarkable at such an early stage in their careers. However, they also teach us that things can turn out for the best, even if events do not even if events do not take place exactly as planned. Rising to the challenge, setting revised goals and having a 'go for it' attitude can pay handsome dividends and be hugely rewarding. Taking a GAP year can also have an enormously beneficial impact on your life generally whilst at the same time significantly increasing your future employability.

It must be said, however, that neither Elliott nor Andrew have ever considered that last point. They are far too busy enjoying themselves!



Andrew Lawson working at QMUL

I would like to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to Professor Sheer for her past and continuing support and perhaps most importantly, her fundamental belief in the potential of CLS boys.

If, having read this story, you think that you might be able to offer an internship or GAP opportunity to a CLS pupil, Nigel Baglin would be interested to hear from you. [njb@cls.org.uk](mailto:njb@cls.org.uk)

And if any pupil is interested in exploring the cell in more detail, I'd recommend visiting the Institute of Cell and Molecular Science website at [www.centreofthecell.org](http://www.centreofthecell.org)

NJB

# Modern Languages

A number of boys have been involved in a variety of different competitions connected with foreign languages in recent months.



The Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Council based at Canning House set an essay competition with the title 'The Latin-American I most

admire', in which Alon Margolin's (J6ATL) entry in Spanish on the great liberator Simón Bolívar was highly commended.

The Directorate-General for Translation for the European Commission's

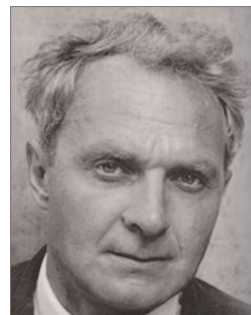


EU-wide translation competition, *Juvenes Translatores*, ran for its second year in 2009 and Tomo Takabatake's (S6RE) translation from French to English was among the top 10% of entries.

The Franco-British Council runs an annual creative writing competition requiring entries in English on a French theme and this inspired Bolaji Oladipo (5C) to pen a short story entitled 'The Beginning of the End'.



Finally, we had four entries for *The Times* Stephen Spender Prize for poetry translation, for which a poem of the candidate's choice must be translated from any classical or modern



language into English. We are watching this space to see how Angus Russell (3H), Alex Panagiotopoulos (3C), David Shaw (J6HMS) and Harry Michell (J6GP) have fared.

All these competitions are annual so those who would like to turn their hand to any of the above skills are encouraged to look out for publicity next year.

RE

# Literary Festival

1. Chris Loyn, speaking at the CLS Literary Festival
2. Harry Michell reading his poetry
3. The opening of the new Winterflood Theatre
4. Waldemar Januszczak
5. CLS students enjoy one of the day's events

## Alex Foley writes about an exciting innovation.

This May, City hosted both its first-ever literary festival, and the official press opening of the Winterflood Theatre by actors Kate O'Mara and Kenneth Cranham. The student organiser, Dan Pyzer-Knapp, stated that he wanted the festival to 'bring fun and education together in an intellectually stimulating manner', with an event that brought together the English, History, Art and Geography departments.

The festival attracted many famous speakers from the fields of travel writing, teenage fiction, history, journalism, the art of literature and art itself. For one day only, the Asquith Room, Winterflood Theatre, Coulson Studio and various classrooms were full with the sound of John Mullan discussing the tricks novelists play, Dr Peter Smith contemplating the importance of Hamlet, and Waldemar Januszczak

explaining his love for Manet – a talk which included a world premiere of his forthcoming BBC2 film on the artist. Just a few of the many highlights included the BBC correspondent David Loyn speaking on Afghanistan, Patrick Mercer's take on history and Ben Power describing the difficulties in adapting Milton for the stage.

The festival was run in association with the kind support of READ International (last year's Charity of the Year), who gave us help with some of the organisation for the event. The charity benefited from the sale of a 6th Form poetry anthology, *Crosscurrents in the Heart of the Meltdown* – of which a few copies are still available.

The student-run event was a great success, and thanks must go to the 6th Form Literary Committee, led by Dan Pyzer-Knapp.



# Model United Nations

## Jay Swain records a day of high drama at the MUN.

City of London School's Model United Nations Conference on Saturday, 7 March 2009 lived up to the high expectations of all the participants and delivered a day of lively, stimulating and enjoyable debate.

This, the fourth in a series of Conferences organised by City's talented MUN team, was the biggest event of its kind held at the School yet, with over 200 debaters from 22 schools representing 47 countries. As hosts we were well represented in high office. Ronan Magee (J6WER) was Secretary General of the United Nations and he was very ably assisted by Ethan Schwartz (S6RSB) and Ellis Onwordi (S6NOM) who were joint Presidents of the General Assembly.

Each "country", represented by members of a particular school team, had been asked to prepare delegates to attend each of four Committees and, in the case of certain countries, the Security Council, in order to



discuss solutions to the various problems facing the world today. The delegates' participation was dynamic and mature, and led to a successful General Assembly in which many issues were raised and subsequently

dealt with. Mr Justice Blake was the highlight of the event, as his speech on fundamental human rights in the context of immigration was followed by a round of thought-provoking questions and answers.

**Mr Justice Blake speaking at the MUN conference.**

# Ghana

Ms Eastman tells City Lights readers about her work in Ghana.

My interest in this peaceful and developing West African nation began last summer when I visited for 6 weeks to take part in a volunteer programme, educating local communities about HIV and AIDS. During this time not only did I fall in love with a beautiful country full of white sand beaches, undisturbed rainforest, vibrant culture and welcoming people, I also began to understand the depth of poverty in some of the communities and really started to appreciate how lucky we all are at City.

While carrying out my work I became involved with an organisation called PEYORG (Progressive Excellence Youth Organisation), and managed to secure funding for a project on judicial awareness. Seeing the difference this money made to the community inspired me to return for a second visit in April. This proved to be a real eye-opener!

I agreed to stay with the family of Philip Amoah, the founder of PEYORG, so that I could work with his organisation. Living in a compound house with over 20 other people, all of whom rise around 4am, and with no windows to block out noise is a great way to understand a country. For any of you who have visited West Africa, you will understand how much of a shock it was for me to tuck into a daily diet of fufu or banku with okro, goat or fish stew,

eaten of course with my hands, and usually in the dark due to the power cuts! Alongside many other activities, I visited a community development programme in a village called Ponkrom. It is here that my story really begins.

Ponkrom is an isolated village surrounded by jungle, which can only be accessed by a long and bumpy 10km dirt track. The village has no electricity, and only one well. The majority of the adults are illiterate, and they all work in subsistence farming. A simple three room school building was sitting empty, as none of the village could afford the £7.50 required to send their children for lessons. It was when I looked around the school, with a gaggle of wide-eyed and swollen-bellied children following me inquisitively, that I realised this was where I could make a difference. After a formal meeting with the village chief the following week, proposing my idea to sponsor the school, I set to work planning how it could be possible. On my return to the UK, I set up PEYORG-UK, a registered voluntary organisation and set to work fund raising. To date, over £400 has been raised, two teachers have been employed, and up to 50 children are attending school on a daily basis. The challenge now is to maintain the funding in the long-term, as well as purchasing equipment and furniture for the school. I am heading back over in July for 6



weeks to visit, and I hope to teach in Ponkrom.

All too often we are asked to support various causes the world over, and are shown pictures of children in order to promote us into donating. What I have realised is that small steps can make a big difference. I truly believe that education is the key to development in the poorer nations of the world, as through the gift of literacy, these children will be able to escape the cycle of self-subsistence and poverty that their families have been locked into. They will have the knowledge to avoid and prevent disease and illness, and will learn how to turn their community into a thriving, safe and healthy place. I am not asking for money: I am asking you to be extremely thankful for your education, and to do all that you can to use it to help others. I also hope that one day, some of you will be able to share in the generosity of the Ghanaian spirit for yourself, and see some of what this amazing country has to offer.

For more information on PEYORG-UK, contact Alison Eastman at [PEYORG@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:PEYORG@hotmail.co.uk), or check the website ([www.veyorg.org.uk](http://www.veyorg.org.uk))

- 1: Ms Eastman talks with local children
2. Typical Ghanaian fare
3. Village children pose for the camera with Ms Eastman
4. The exterior of the school
5. Ms Eastman and Philip in the schoolroom



# Normandy

First Former Kyle Da-Cunha recalls a fascinating trip to Normandy.

- 1. Second World War graves
- 2. Mont St Michel
- 3. CLS students enjoy a day of sightseeing

On the 22nd of March, very early morning, it was time to leave school. For some boys, it was their first time away from their families, for others being away from their parents was a relief. The atmosphere inside the coach was lively. Most boys were zapping away at game consoles furiously, as if their lives depended on it. Everyone else was either chatting to their neighbour or, in some cases, having a quick nap!

Time flew by, however, and before we knew it we were at the hostel where we were staying. After a scrumptious dinner, we went downstairs to write the first extract of the diaries we would complete throughout the trip.

Afterwards, we had a choice, either go up our rooms or party and play video games at the disco. I chose the latter option, along with every other boy – I wonder why. Quite a long while later, sleep took over us all and we retired to our comfy beds for the night.

The next three days were packed with action. We started with the Norman period, beginning by looking at two castles, one of which was in ruins – which made much better views. Next, we went to the tomb of William the Conqueror, the cause of far too many History essays, and ended with a trip to the Bayeux Tapestry. This really was one of the highlights of the trip.

The following morning, we travelled to Mont Saint Michel, a historical

monastery and photo phenomenon. In our room groups, we toured the shopping area, buying trivial souvenirs on the way. Later, an audio guide led us round the monastery, right to the top of the huge hill. All the climbing made us all exhausted, so upon returning to the hotel a good night's sleep was guaranteed. Besides, we had to be fresh for the next day: D-Day.

After a hearty breakfast of croissants and ham, our first stop was at the infamous Pegasus Bridge, where the allies first landed. Next to this was the first house to be liberated by the allies, which has now been turned into a pub. Shortly after this we visited the museum, in which we learnt more about the Pegasus landings. Arguably the most solemn part of the trip was when we stopped over at the British and American cemeteries. It was absolutely quiet, the only noise being the stomp on grass and the whisper of CLS boys. Leaving the cemetery, we silently clambered aboard the coach which headed towards the Gold and Omaha beaches; two significant locations in the success of D-Day. Here we visited the museum in which I especially liked the miniature battle scenes. Suddenly, it hit us that this was the last full day in Normandy. Our hearts sank as we realised that the trip had reached its end.

So on the 26th of March, after packing our bags, we left the hotel. Obviously the mood was different to our first



coach journey. More boys were sleeping; fewer boys were talking as if their friends were a kilometre away. Of course, this was the beginning of the Easter holidays, so it was not as if school was a problem. The ride back in the Euro tunnel was less fantastic – not as many boys were playing 'stuck in the mud' or other running games. Why am I writing so much about the depression of boys, you may ask, when I should be writing about more blissful topics? Well, really to show you just how satisfactory the trip actually was and how little we wanted to go home. Thanks to all the staff who helped make it so memorable.

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The new CD by Old Citizen Costas Fotopoulos

## Pianists at CLS

Mr Williams reports on the musical careers of two CLS students, past and present.

Third Former Zizhou Zhang was recently awarded, in recognition of his outstanding performance in this year's Ealing Festival, one of the competition's two most prestigious prizes – the Woodward Trophy.

Zuzhou won first prizes in the piano solo (under-14s) category, playing Prokofiev's Visions Fugitives, no. 1 to 5. He was also victorious in the category (under-16s) that featured works by Romantic composers.

The famous event, which is in its 62nd year, took place over two weekends in May at St. Mary's Church in Perivale.

Zizhou is not the only famous CLS pianist, however. Old Citizen Costas Fotopoulos, the composer and pianist who left the school in 1993, has just released a new CD. Costas, whose work has been featured on the BBC and Classic FM, is a graduate of the Royal College of Music.

# Abbott House

Mr Ratnasabapathy says goodbye to the mighty Abbott House.

Abbott has been immense this year. On the court, the field, the pool, the debating floor, or the page we have shown a consistent belief and determination to excel that has been awe-inspiring. Throughout the year, I have never seen a single point dropped for lack of determination, commitment or focus. We gave our all and reaped the just rewards.

It was not only our winners of whom I was proud (and there were so many this year), but also those who battled on when the odds were against them. Our 5th form football side, for example, may not have possessed a single player over 5 feet tall, but they were brave, united and resilient in face of very experienced opponents and only conceded 2 goals in the whole tournament!

As in previous years, we also demonstrated the extraordinary intellectual powers of Abbott, with outstanding spellers, writers, general knowledge experts, chess experts and

debaters underpinning our sporting success.

There were some terrific performances in sport, too. We all knew Gabriel 'Invincible' Jamie was a racquet monster, but his teamwork and natural sporting intuition was critical in the epic volleyball tournament. Other highlights included the 6th form handball, the magnificent 4th form road running victory, and Saleem Khan's superb contribution to the 5th Form track team. He ran every single race!

The fantastic motivation and participation has been enabled by the enthusiasm and energy of all the house members, in particular the fantastic House Team. I must thank Mike, Gabriel, Dele and Misimi for their indefatigable support and the immense Josh Brown, who was a model captain and organiser and the architect of our success.

It is with great regret that I stand down as Abbott Housemaster this year, but I



know that we have a terrific team and are in very capable hands. Topping this year's performance will be tough, but I doubt there is a finer House team in the country than Ben, Dan, Jake, Debayan and Jamie to lead us into 2010. Stay positive, stay mentally strong and believe in your success. Even better is to come. Well done boys.



CLS students represent their Houses



## Basketball

Mr Apaloo on a good season for the school's Basketball Club.

The Basketball Club has had an excellent season and all the players involved will look back on a year where progress has been made in both the LISBA League and LISBA Cup.

The under 14s have shown great potential and are developing into a very strong team. Despite a slow start to their first season of basketball, the team - whose star player was Dom McLoughlin - finished 3rd in their league and will hope to improve in this next year.

The under 15s have also had a very

good season, but despite topping their group, they had to settle for league runners-up as they lost out in the final by 5 points. In the LISBA Cup, the team again lost out in a hard-fought final by 2 points in overtime. Despite finishing the season without any silverware, they have shown their immense potential and will be looking forward to going one step further next season. Players of the season were Brendan Cowley and Joe Nash.

The under 16s, featuring the excellent Asher Korner, have had a challenging

season in a very tough league. However they won 4 and lost 3, which allowed them to qualify for the play-offs - although they unfortunately lost in the final to very strong opposition.

Well done also to the senior basketball team, which won 6 games in a row after losing their first match, and topped their group. Despite this, the team lost in the semi final in a hard fought game. They did, however, bounce back to win the 3rd/4th play-off to finish third overall. The player of the season was Patrick Dillon-Hatcher.

# Water Polo

Mr Silcock reports on success for City in the National Finals of the English Secondary Schools competition



The U16 team



The U19 team

This year City had two teams represented at the English Secondary Schools National finals. This is the first time the U18 team have been 4th and the U16 team 5th in a National competition, a fact which shows the strength and depth of water polo in the school. This fantastic performance can be attributed directly to the hard work these players have put in for five years, and they can be very proud of their achievements.

The U16 team first played one of the favourites for the title, King Edward School in Birmingham. They struggled against their strong fast mobile attack, losing 5-1 before playing Trinity for a place in the semi finals. City started strongly and jumped out to a 2-1 lead by half time, however a resurgent Trinity came back to snatch the victory with seconds to go on the clock. This set up a match between City and Haberdashers Aske's, which culminated in a penalty shoot-out that ended when Theo Sunley drilled his penalty into the back of the net to seal the win and 5th place.

The U19 team played King Edward Birmingham in their first match and finished with a narrow loss, 4-3. They then took on the highly fancied Bolton side. After going 1-0 down at half time the team rallied and levelled the match at one apiece. With one minute to go Josh Brown took on the goalkeeper, showing great composure and waiting until his opponent was struggling before blasting the ball into the back of the net. The game ended at 2-1 to City, setting up a semi final with Trinity in which the team was finally beaten 8-4.

An upset in the other semi final saw them play one of the teams fancied to play in the finals, King Edward Birmingham, for the bronze medal. The City side took the match to their opposition and traded goals with them until half time. King Edward's had the ability to changed gears and City struggled to keep up as Birmingham sealed the victory two minutes from time.

# Football

Mr Santry reports on the Football Club's progress this year.

Football is one of the school's major sports and has two terms dedicated to it. This year the Football Club has seen an impressive 206 fixtures, with the Lower School averaging 30 games per year group, including fixtures for A-F teams. With so many boys involved in this amount of matches it is no wonder that the school is starting to see the results.

The year got off to a flying start with the U13 team winning the Prep Schools' Cup for the second year running. The U12s and U15s both reached the quarter finals of the Bromley Schools' Cup while the U14s reached the semi final of the same cup. The continuing development of the football club will hopefully one day lead to the Headmaster's promise of a whole school day off to watch the 1st XI play in the Independent Schools' FA Cup Final.

At the start of the season there was the same old question of how the 1st XI would cope after losing its Senior Sixth players. After a relatively slow start and a first round knockout in the ISFA Cup, the boys started to show what they are capable of by beating rival schools and progressing

well in their other three cups. In both the Trinity School's Cup semi final and the London Independent Schools' Cup final the boys were narrowly edged out by a particularly strong Latymer side.

The highlight of the year for the team was reaching the Bromley Schools' Cup final and getting to play at the home of Crystal Palace, Selhurst Park. The team were matched against the might of Bromley Academy and it was soon evident what an impressive outfit they were. The boys matched a group of players who all have aspirations of playing the professional game until 20 minutes from the end when Bromley finally found the net to finish off a very tired City side. There may not have been any silverware but the team must be commended for their display.

All eyes are now on next season. Despite the loss of several key players, the Football Club is optimistic of finally earning a trophy next season, and the squad will hopefully benefit from a pre-season week at the University of Bath. Hopefully next time we will return from the Palace with the crown!