



King Henry VIII Relay



34th Boys' Relay & 6th Girls' Relay

Wednesday 26th January 2005

The 2005 Relay took place in the War Memorial Park at the end of January (/last month). It proved to be another memorable occasion, (thankfully not due to the weather this time!). The Boys' competition was won by Marling School from Gloucestershire in a time of 72:12. It was nice to see a different school win after so many years of the St Albans, Judd and Winchester school teams dominating the event. Winchester did finish in 2nd place and Bradford Grammar School finished 3rd. The Most improved school team award went to St Aloysius from Glasgow who finished 9th this year following their 20th placed finish in 2004.

Our own Boys team ran impressively. Whilst finishing in 19th place from 41 teams does not perhaps sound like an earth-shattering achievement, it was a very creditable performance from such a young team (with three Year 10 pupils, one Year 11 and two Year 12 pupils). All six pupils ran the 2.2-mile course in under 14 minutes; this has not been achieved for several years. Their individual times were, in race order: Mark Rawlings in 13:48, Jack Pearson in 13:26, Tom Grimley in 13:04, Tom Roberts in 13:52, James Sztejka in 13:09 and Ciaran Acford in 13:16. All the boys trained well for the race, but special mention must be made of Chris Bannon who has not missed a training session all year. He made it into the team only to come down with illness on the day before the Relay. Well done to all.

It was a great honour to have two ex-Olympic athletes from Coventry involved in the presentations following the race. Mr Bill Adcocks made presentations in the Boys' race, his marathon running achievements included holding the course record on the classic Athens course from 1969 until the 2004 Olympics, 5th place in the 1968 Olympics and winning a Commonwealth Silver Medal in 1966. Mrs Sheila Carey presented the Girls' awards. She finished in 4th place in the 1968 800m final and 5th place in the 1972 1500m final.

As race organiser, I depend on the help of many pupils and members of staff both past and present. Thank you to all. Whilst, there are too many people to mention specifically, I would like to give special thanks to Geoff Bullock who gave up a great deal of time devising the computing and results service, Melvin Cooley for his general assistance and Phil Mahiques for his advice and help in organising the attendance of our guest presenters.

The school looks forward to hosting the 35th Boys and 7th Girls races next year. The date is provisionally set as Wednesday 25th January at 2:30pm in the War Memorial Park.