



SOMERSET HOUSE
NON NOBIS SOLUM
FOUNDED 1948

REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK

TERM 4 WEEK 5 (8 NOVEMBER 2024)

OAKWOOD GOES WILD!

We are so proud of our Oakwoodians for their incredible display at our production of 'Oakwood Goes Wild'. This is an annual highlight for pupils and teachers alike. It is wonderful to see our children shine in a different setting! I would like to thank the Oakwood Team for their dedication to their classes, making sure that each child had their moment on stage. I would also like to thank our fabulous parent community for their support throughout the process and for being an amazing audience.





The Benefits of Performing in a School Production

Getting up on stage at a school concert might seem a little scary, but it can actually be one of the most fun and rewarding experiences for preschoolers! Whether it's singing a song, dancing, or acting, being part of a concert offers so many benefits. Here's why your little one will love performing:

Boosts Confidence

Taking the stage in front of an audience, even a small one, helps kids feel proud of themselves. It's a big deal when they successfully perform something they've practiced, and that boost of confidence carries over into other parts of their lives. From speaking up in class to trying new things, they begin to believe they can do anything!

Improves Communication Skills

When kids learn to perform, they're practicing how to express themselves clearly. Whether they're singing, speaking, or moving in a dance, they're learning to communicate in new and exciting ways. These experiences help build strong verbal and non-verbal communication skills that will be helpful for years to come.

Teamwork and Social Skills

A school concert isn't just about the spotlight—it's about working together! Kids learn how to collaborate with others, listen to directions, and support their classmates. Being part of a group effort teaches valuable lessons in cooperation and how to be a good friend.

Memory and Focus

In order to perform well, kids need to practice! Memorising songs, dances, or lines encourages concentration and memory-building. The more they practice, the better they get at focusing and recalling information, which is great for their overall learning skills.

Creativity and Self-Expression

School concerts allow kids to be creative and express themselves through music, movement, and drama. It's a fun way for them to show their unique personalities and talents, helping them develop a sense of self and the confidence to be who they are.

Sense of Accomplishment

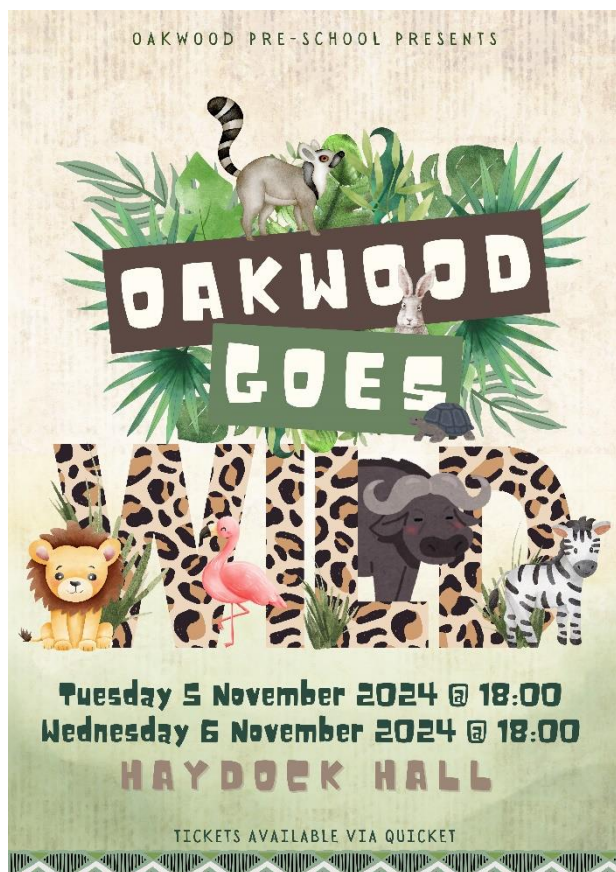
After all the rehearsals and practice, there's nothing like the feeling of walking off the stage after a great performance! Kids feel proud of their hard work, and they can celebrate their accomplishments with their classmates and family members. It's a moment they won't forget!

It's a wonderful opportunity to grow, learn, and most importantly, have fun! Whether they're shy or outgoing, a little time on stage can help them shine in more ways than one.

Special Thanks To:

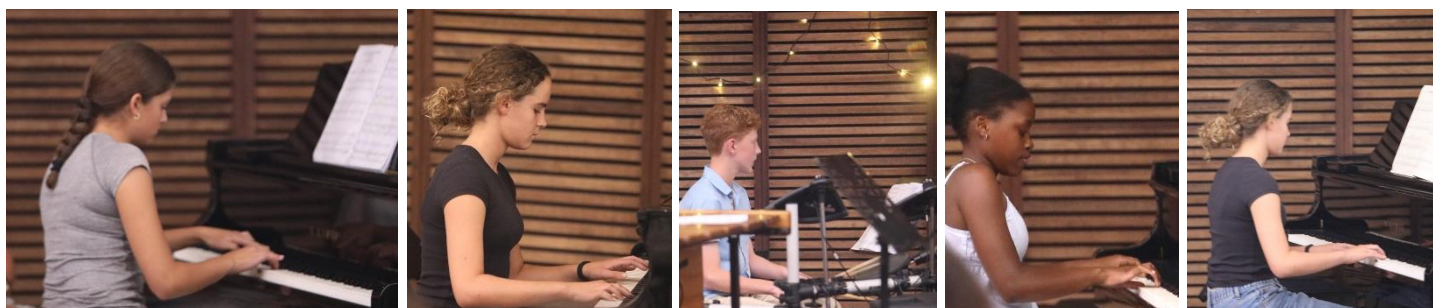
- Gretel Le Roux
- Caryl Currin
- The Make-Up Mums
- Tim Odendal and his team
- Nigel Rank and his team
- RMC videographers
- Tracey du Toit
- Lisa Jones
- Lisa Jacobs

(Mrs. K)



THE GRADE 7 MUSIC EVENING

The Grade 7 Music Evening was a truly unforgettable celebration of hard work, talent, and growth, as each student took the stage to perform on the instruments they have spent years mastering. The air was filled with a sense of pride and emotion as parents, teachers, and fellow students shared in the joy of watching their peers shine. For many, it was a bittersweet moment, marking the end of a chapter in their musical journey, yet also the beginning of new possibilities. It was a night that beautifully showcased the skills learned. Well done, musicians!



BOYS 1ST CRICKET TEAM WIN INTER-SCHOOLS MATCH

Last Saturday our Boys 1st Cricket Team headed to Somerset College for the annual 1st Teams Inter-Schools match. This is a longer format than the boys are used to, 35 overs per innings. Somerset College won the toss and elected to bat first. Our discipline was not great at times, and we gave away a massive, 78, extras. Belief was instilled after their opening partnership was broken with a great catch by Nicholas Coolen, who went on to be our most successful bowler on the day with 2 wickets for 44 runs from 6 overs. Christopher Havinga and Lee Seloka also took wickets. Somerset College manage to set a huge total of 256/4.



The change of innings seemed a little daunting with a huge target at stake. Our boys remained positive and knew that it was possible and that they had to set themselves some realistic, bite-size goals to reach the target of 260. Our innings got off to a great start with Micah Macun being offered a licence to open the batting and to have some fun, scoring a quick 46 runs off 27 balls, very well supported by Christopher Havinga who played a perfect captain's knock, scoring his first fifty and century of the season. Chris enjoyed an awesome innings of 116 off 82 balls at a run rate of 141.5 before being caught out on the boundary. Just what was needed and so well executed, very well done Chris. He was well supported by Ben Hingeston (18) and Adam Sulaiman (25). Somerset House reached the target of 257/4 in the 26th over. Congratulations to our Boys 1st Team for a stellar performance. We are very proud of you!



SPOTTED ON CAMPUS



A tranquil moment in the garden – with a book. How lovely!

GRADE 5 OUTING UPDATE: A SPLASH OF ADVENTURE!

Despite a rainy start to the week, our Grade 5s had a fantastic outing on Monday! Originally planned as a cable car ride up Table Mountain with a walk along the Boomslang Bridge at Kirstenbosch Gardens, the weather had other ideas. With heavy rain dampening outdoor plans, our quick-thinking staff took the group to the Two Oceans Aquarium for a day filled with excitement and discovery. We kicked off with an educational session at the Shark Tank, where pupils learned how to tell male and female ragged-tooth sharks apart – a thrilling experience for our budding marine biologists! The interactive tanks were a big hit too, as the children got a closer look at unique and colourful marine life. Thank you to all the staff who made this memorable day possible, rain or shine! It was a fantastic experience for our Grade 5s, packed with fun and learning.



CRICKET VS STELLENBOSCH PRIMARY

The U11A team took on a strong Stellenbosch Primary team on Wednesday. Stellenbosch Primary decided to bat first scoring a convincing and well managed 198 runs for the loss of 6 wickets. Brodie Holford-Jones and Alastair O' Carroll both bowled well, taking 2 wickets each. Somerset House went into bat, unfortunately losing an early wicket before Brodie (17 runs) and Harry (11 runs) steadied the ship. Unfortunately, the Stellenbosch Primary bowling was just too good for our batsmen as we slumped to 57 all out after 19 overs. The boys continue to remain positive, give their best and enjoy the game, learning and growing from each match experience.

The 1st Team lost the toss but managed to post a competitive total with Chris and Bobby leading the charge with the bat was a huge positive. Special congratulations to Chris who continued his fine form from last weekend, scoring another 50 in this match. Even though there was a mini-collapse, it was fantastic to see the team dig in and add a few more runs to set a challenging total. The way the bowlers and fielders responded to the pressure though, is what really sealed the win. Taking regular wickets and being sharp in the field - especially when catching opportunities came up - shows that everyone was invested in the game. Chris and Bobby's contributions were key with the bat, and the bowling attack was just as solid, keeping Stellenbosch Primary on the back foot throughout. Winning by 18 runs and bowling them out in the 22nd over is a solid performance. Definitely something to be proud of!

(Coach Etienne)



PAST PUPIL NEWS

Somerset House would like to congratulate Olivia Castleden on her incredible achievement at the Wits Maths Competition. She came first in the Junior Secondary category and submitted the best proofs for her calculations. Well done, Olivia!

WITS MATHS STARS

The University of Witwatersrand Maths Competition had their annual prizegiving on Wednesday 6 November. This competition started in 2018, with the aim to promote Mathematics in South Africa. The competition has grown to include neighbouring schools in Southern Africa with a record number of 18 000 entrants this year. Somerset House qualified to participate in two categories: Middle Primary – Grade 4 & 5 and Upper Primary – Grade 6 & 7. We would like to commend our pupils and staff on the excellent results achieved this year.



- Middle Primary: 5th overall and 3rd in Western Cape
- Upper Primary: 4th overall and 2nd in Western Cape

Well done to all our pupils who participated in this competition!

LIFE SKILLS IN THE OAKWOOD PLAYGROUND



Counting, reading and completing tasks are vital factors in the Grade R Curriculum, but nothing beats free time to play outdoors with friends in the Oakwood playground, to learn the true fundamentals of life. The children enjoy the sandpit, water stream, tricycles, go-karts and initiating their own games for discovery, learning and social skills.



CONGRATULATIONS DANIEL!



Daniel Beck recently represented his running club at the Top 13 Athletics Meeting held at Strand High School. Dan did exceptionally well, winning the Boys U10 80m and coming 2nd in the Boys U10 100m. Fantastic performances, very well done, Daniel!



COLOUR THEORY

This week the Grade 7s explored colour theory by creating whale paintings with a limited palette of three colours, mastering the techniques of mixing tints and tones.



PLAYTIME IN THE JUNIOR PREP

Collaboration, problem-solving, creativity, communication and strategic planning – but it all looks like “play”.



GRADE 5 ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ARTEFACTS

Over the past week, the Grade 5s have created an Ancient Egyptian artefact as part of our Ancient Egypt theme in Social Science. They were asked to plan, design and make an artefact that interested them. The project required careful preparation as they had to research the artefact and ensure that they bought the correct materials to school. As is the case with all practical projects, they needed to use their problem-solving skills to adjust when things didn't go according to plan. Time management was also a key skill that they had to practise during this task and some of the children realised too late that they did not have enough time to complete their product. But many life lessons were learned, and the process was more important than the final outcome. They all seemed to have a great deal of fun and enjoyed the more unstructured lessons, in which they could be creative and collaborative.



CONGRATULATIONS CALEB

Caleb Hare-Bowers was chosen to play for the Wildcats Boland Under 12 T20 Cricket Team this season. They have played a number of matches and ended on a high last weekend as his team won the league in their age category. Well done, Caleb!



OUR BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

The season has finally swung, and summer has arrived. Do yourself a favour and take a walk through the Sustainable Garden! Colours are bursting and the plants are thriving, with the help of the newly installed automated Rovic irrigation system. We thank Wrench who kindly donated the system to the garden, as this will ensure the gardens thrives through the dry, hot summer months. Currently, we have Queen Anne's Lace and Paper Flowers in bloom. Sunflower seeds have also been planted, which we hope will flower before the end of term. In the ground, we have placed around 2,500 Dahlia tubers, including some generously sponsored by Vergelegen, as well as Foxglove seedlings and Billybutton seeds. A huge thank you goes to the mothers who have worked tirelessly in the garden this term whilst the Grade 7s were away on Quest. Their love and support for the garden has been greatly appreciated.



FOOTBALL NEWS

De Beers Football Club recently held their end of season prize giving and a number of our boys were recognised for awesome performances this season. Congratulations to the following players:

- Harry Ryder
- Corbin Hilliard-Lomas
- Bobby Savage

Player of the Year
For Dedication & Performance
to his Team
U14A De Beers Team of the
Year – the first De Beers team to win the Prem League 2 Cup and
the League, well done Bobby!



FOOTBALL VS APPLEWOOD



On Tuesday afternoon, our Girls U11 and U13 enjoyed football matches against Applewood Primary. It was great being able to host these matches on our new astro. The matches were closely contested with a fine strike by Addison Brown securing a win for the U11 girls 1-0. Our U13s took a little while to get going, however, bounced back after being 2-0 down at half time to secure a 3-2 win with awesome goals being scored by Lily Herbertson and Charlotte Guy. Well done ladies, such a fun afternoon!



ZONAL TENNIS

A number of our pupils attended Helderberg Zonal Trials recently and were selected to represent the zone at an Inter-Zonal Tournament last weekend. Participating zones included Helderberg, WC North, WC South and WC Central. Congratulations to the following Somerset House players who received Zonal Colours:

- Tyler Bothwell Played 9 Matches, Won 9
- Hannah Sloane Played 9 Matches, Won 8
- Rijk van Galen Played 9 Matches
- Nathan Sloane Played 9 Matches, Won 7

This tournament served as Western Province Tennis Trials, and we hope to receive exciting news soon regarding the 2025 WP Tennis Teams.



FRACTIONS AND BAR GRAPHS

This week the Grade 2 pupils have been consolidating their learning on fractions, focussing on small group fraction work during the Maths Rotations. The pupils have focused on colouring the fractions, drawing their own fractions and writing the correct fractions. This week we have also had an exciting new focus on bar graphs and created a bar graph to represent the current Premier League Football table. This was received with pure excitement as Liverpool won on Saturday and has subsequently overtaken Manchester City to be top of the table. The children plotted the new information on the bar graph, developing their skills in reading a bar graph and adding new information to it. We also explored a 'What is typically in a monthly Checkers shopping trolley' bar graph, deepening learning through everyday situations.



THE PLANET'S STRUCTURE

This week, our Grade 5 pupils took a hands-on approach to exploring the Earth's crust by creating their own mini models in glass jars! Each pupil carefully layered materials to represent the distinct layers of the Earth's crust, from Bedrock all the way to the Humus itself. They labelled each section, bringing their studies to life with creativity and precision. The results were stunning – every jar was a unique work of art that showcased the pupils' hard work and understanding of our planet's structure. Well done, Grade 5s!



GRADE 5 INDOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

The U11 indoor hockey girls were thrilled to compete in the semi-finals against Lochnerhof. It was a fierce game that could have swung either way, testing the girls' determination and resilience as they fought through not just one showdown, but two, ultimately earning their place in the finals against Beaumont. They poured their hearts into the final match, securing a worthy second place in the tournament. I'm incredibly proud of each player for their hard work and team spirit!

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." – a reminder that bravery on the field, like these girls showed, is what brings growth and achievement.

Here's what some of the girls had to say about their experience:

- "I had the absolute best time being part of the indoor hockey team." — *Eva Capri*
- "Indoor hockey was such fun, maybe a bit stressful. The shootouts were nerve-racking, but I felt so proud to represent Somerset House. Thank you, Mrs. Theart!" — *Mackenzie Nelson*
- "Indoor hockey was extremely nerve-racking, especially the shootouts (well done girls), but I am so proud of the team for placing second." — *Zoey Nelson*
- "The indoor hockey league was exciting and fast-paced. I really enjoyed working with my team to score goals; it was great fun." — *Emily van Schalkwyk*
- "The indoor hockey league was so much fun. I learned so much about teamwork." — *Sadie Munitich*
- "As the goalkeeper, this season was tough but SO much fun. From shootouts to winning games and having Juffrou Theart as our coach with Miss Mac guiding us, it was a blast! #1Team" — *Addison Brown*
- "Indoor hockey was a blast! I loved all the support and being able to play with my friends. We grew as a team, and making the final made me really proud." — *Love, Mabel Savage*
- "Die Indoor Hockey League was regtig baie lekker. Ons het goed presteer en baie geleer! Baie dankie aan ons afrigters." — *Emma Wever*

(Mrs Theart)

Monday 4th November was "the night of nights" for our Grade 5 Indoor Hockey boys. They had a brilliant start to their campaign, winning the first three matches. However, the previous week, they were met with some stiff competition, narrowly losing both games. Nonetheless, they had fought hard enough to secure a semi-final play-off. The boys were facing Lochnerhof, who had previously beaten Beaumont and ourselves. After holding them to a second half draw, we knew that we would be able to not only hold them off, but to combine our creative attacking flair and take the game to them. And that we did, the boys played their best hockey, each one of them giving 100% to secure a 3-1 win. An incredibly proud moment – well done boys! This victory saw us compete against Beaumont in the final. Unfortunately, they dominated us from the start and our basics were just not good enough. We went into the break 0-4 down. The boys knew that they could do better, and better they did. The final score 0-6 to Beaumont. I was proud of the determination and teamwork that they demonstrated throughout the indoor series. To finish second overall is a very good achievement - well done, again boys!

(Mr Angus)



BRAAI DAY!

Yay, yay! It's Friday Braai-Day! Thank you, Mrs Rautenbach, Mr Rautenbach and the Catering team for a delicious lunch.



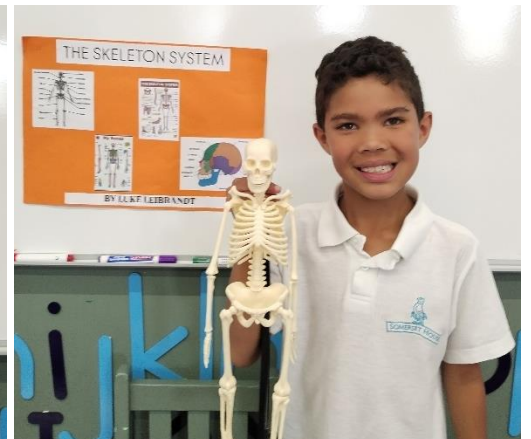
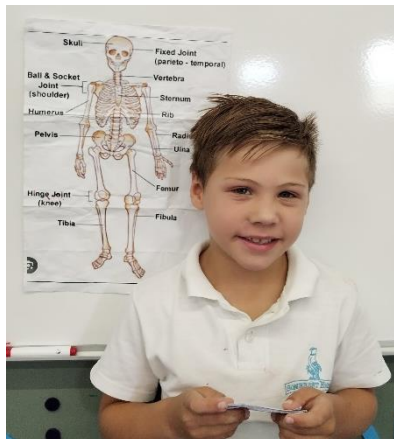
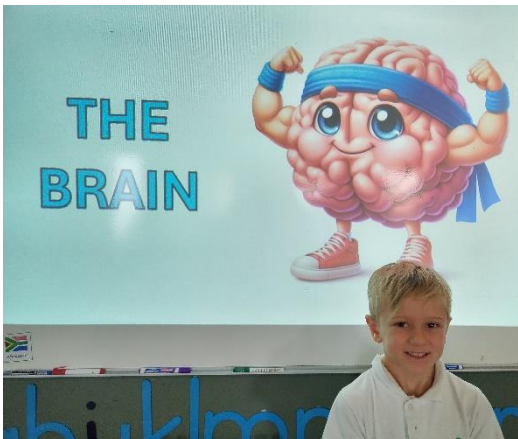
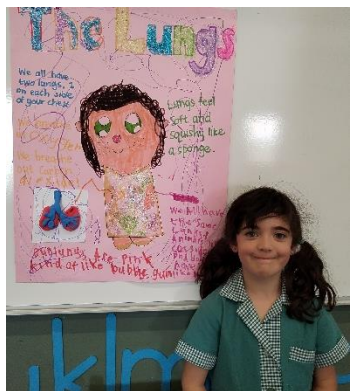
INTRODUCING THE CELLO

Solange Rojas visited today's Junior Prep Assembly to showcase the cello. We're excited about the possibility of welcoming many new cellists to Somerset House in 2025. For any inquiries, please contact elzjoh@somersethouse.co.za.



GRADE 1 ORALS

The Grade 1 pupils recently took on an exciting challenge: to present an oral report on a body part of their choice. With enthusiasm and creativity, they shared fascinating facts through unique presentations, complete with visual aids and fun demonstrations. The class learned something new with each presentation, sparking curiosity and discussions. Pupils even had the chance to engage further by asking insightful questions, making it a collaborative and interactive learning experience for everyone. It's safe to say our young presenters have given us all a fresh appreciation for the wonders of the human body!



LIFESAVING AWARD

Congratulations to Lia Gabrielides, a Grade 7 pupil, who was recently awarded the Chairman's Award at the Strand Surf Lifesaving Club's Prize Giving. This award is made to a recipient who has impressed the Chairman with their positive attitude, brilliant work ethic, super sportsmanship skills and enormous effort throughout the season. Very well done, Lia, we are very proud of you!



MINI CRICKET VS SWPS

U7: The U7s took on SWPS Primary this week, with fielding focus proving to be our Achilles' heel. Too often, balls slipped past our fielders without an attempt to stop them, allowing SWPS to capitalize on our lapses. Our bowling also fell short, with 42 of SWPS's 52 runs coming from extras, meaning they only managed 10 runs with the bat. Owen Lumsden stood out as the best bowler of the day, giving away just two runs in his entire over, while Phen Hardcastle impressed with the bat, scoring 13 runs off six balls. Though we didn't come out on top this time, we're committed to sharpening our focus and staying present in both practices and matches to bounce back stronger. (Mr O' Brien)

U8: The Boys U8A team had a fantastic match, winning by 3 runs in a close encounter. SWPS scored 58 runs and SHPS scored 61 runs. (Mr Mendes)

- Best Bowler: Nic Harpur
- Best Batsman: Joe van Zyl

The Boys U8B team also had a great game against SWPS. Our boys were reminded about the importance of the fact that the result could have gone either way. SH lost by 1 run – a very close game! (Mrs Angus)

- Best Bowler: Milan Porter
- Best Batsman: Milan Porter

U9: Congratulations to our Boys U9B team who were disciplined in each innings which restricted the extras and saw some great runs off the bat. SH won by 9 runs.

- Best Batsman Jackson Gilbey

The U9 Cobras had a close match against SWPS on Wednesday afternoon. Our boys won the toss and decided to bowl first and had the performance of the season restricting the opposition to just 27 runs with amazing bowling and fielding. However, chasing a low score meant our boys were a little bit impatient with the bat in hand and they missed a lot with big swings. This resulted in us only scoring 18 runs and ultimately losing by 9. Overall, we learnt lessons that will hopefully help us finish the season strong. (Coach Ben)

- Best Bowler Raadhi Abass
- Best Batsman Othniel Plaatjies



TENNIS RESULTS

U11 GIRLS

Only 2 Girls U11 were in action for matches against Somerset College. Emma Gielink and Alera Janson each played singles and a doubles match. Although they fought hard, Somerset College were just too strong on the day, winning 3-1. Well tried girls!

(Mrs Eagle)

U11 BOYS

The U11 boys played against Beaumont A team on a windy Thursday afternoon. The boys played well and had to play numerous matches as we were a man down. We lost overall, but it was an enjoyable afternoon on the courts.

Special mention must be made of Tyler Bothwell, who played two outstanding singles matches. Well done and thank you, Tyler!

(Mrs Bolton)

U14 GIRLS

U14 girls played beautifully. Olivia Hipkin and Hannah Sloan won their singles and doubles games. Rebecca Plewman played her heart out; she had to play two matches as we were a player down for the day. SH beat Somerset College 22 games to 19, very well done girls!

(Mrs Farrer)

U14 BOYS

Our U14 boys had a great match against Lochnerhof last Thursday. Congrats to Nathan Sloan and Rijk van Galen who both won their singles matches as well as their doubles match. Simon Wiehahn fought hard in his singles match, going down 6-3. Special thanks to Harry Downing who filled in on the day and also gave his best. All their contributions helped SH win the matches 26 games to 23. Well done boys!

(Mrs Tucker)

