

## PUPILS CELEBRATE RENOVATING SCOUT HUT FOR THE COMMUNITY BY RE-ENACTING THEIR OWN SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS ADVENTURE

Pupils from Castle School made the most of the spring weather to recreate their own Swallows & Amazons adventure earlier this month. Inspired by Arthur Ransome's story, they staged their own mock battle on the waters of the Cleddau River near Lawrenny.



The event was held in celebration of all the hard work Years 7 and 8 had put into renovating the old Scout Hut at Garron Pill. Earlier in the Spring Term, the pupils had used four days of their time usually spent at their Outdoor School in Llawhaden to visit the site where the hut had been slowly falling into disrepair, giving it some much needed improvements. The Lort Phillips, whose child attends Castle School, kindly funded the equipment required to turn this hut back into a lovely resource in a fantastic spot.

Once the big day arrived, everyone was keen to get going. The day started with pupils canoeing up from Llanion Cove to the site in two teams - the Swallows (Year 8) and the Amazons (Year 7). The conditions were perfect and once they had their sails up they flew!!



Lucy Peters in year 8 said 'It was exciting canoeing down the river. Seeing the hut finished made me feel very proud.' And Evan Morgan in year 7 added 'During the trip up river I motivated the team so much they voted me as Captain of the Amazon! It was such a good experience canoeing up to a site that we had worked very hard on.'



Senior teacher, Ruth Harris, who had organised the event agreed. 'The pupils really enjoyed the day. They got to work together in team and get outside to experience the beauty of where they live. They also had a very exciting trip up to celebrate the fantastic renovation project. Seeing them all sitting down

together, eating, sharing and smiling was lovely. Their awareness about keeping safe and responsible outside is really developing.' She was very keen to congratulate them on how well they worked together, explaining that 'it was a delight to see the Senior school helping the Prep pupils make the 20 minute walk back to the car park.'

Both during the build up to the day's events and on the day itself, under the watchful eye of instructor Gethin Williams, pupils got a chance to hone their bushcraft skills, make dens, light fires and brew up a cuppa when the weather was unkind. Thankfully, on the day of the race itself, the sun came out, the wind blew and everyone stayed warm. However, even without any rain, there was little chance of anyone remaining dry on the water but, with so much fun being had by all, no-one seemed to mind.



Pupils from the prep school had been preparing for the day too by studying pirates in class. But the hut was a complete surprise for them as they hadn't visited it before. Abigail McLeod told us 'I thought the hut was amazing. The year 7 and 8s did a really good job. The pirate party was fun because we got lots of sweets and I really liked the film because I had never seen it before' Luca Davis added, "I thought the hut was very impressive. I couldn't believe that the older students renovated it from scratch. The pirate party was really fun because the food was lovely and a great treat. The pirate pancakes were delicious!!'



As the older pupils came into view, the prep school were there on the shore's edge to wave and greet them ashore at Garron Pill, where everyone enjoyed a BBQ, cake and the official naming ceremony.

A great day was had by all and the hut can now be enjoyed, not only by the school who will continue to use it for similar events, but it can also now be used by other community groups who will be able to recreate their own adventure.