

From a young age it was very difficult to miss Charles at Winchester House. And this wasn't because of his fiery red hair, or his exotic French Surname. It wasn't even because of his huge 6ft frame which he had from the age of 11/12 onwards.

It was simply because of his charisma, his kindness and his generosity towards others.

At Winchester House, Charles was a bit of a legend to everyone who knew him and a real gentle giant.....whether it was in the classroom, or in the playground, or even at one of the many Winnie House Discos we had, Charlie would always have followers, particularly girls! There's that classic phrase....'boys wanted to be him, and girls wanted to be with him'. That was undeniably the case with Charlie.

Charlie was a also natural born sportsman, whether it was from having an older brother, or huge build, he was great at every sport, and actually a bit annoying, because you could never beat him at anything....He used to clean up at the sports days!

Now I'm sure there are a number of you here today who have had the pleasure of either playing alongside or the agony of being against Charlie on the rugby field, and have witnessed his talent and ability.

Well at 13, it was certainly clear that Charlie was a massive sporting talent particularly on the rugby field. Scoring 48 tries in 15 matches....That's no fluke. He was however 2 tries short of 50 which meant he didn't get his quad bike which Chris had promised him....

But Charlie, being the modest, honourable gentleman that he was, was just happy to be out there playing with his mates.....I can assure you that for me at 4ft5, I felt a lot safer walking onto the field with Charlie in front me.

Charlie was a natural talent and a fantastic leader, and I am one of many who have had the pleasure of experiencing this.

I've actually brought with me today some right ups taken from Charlie's last 2 rugby season reviews written by Robin Pointon the 1stXV coach.....and I'll read one quickly....

Now away from the sports field, I want to share one of my greatest memories of Charles and another countless example of him being a real team player.

This one, during our School Leavers trip to Paris just after our Common Entrance exams. Now like most schools, leavers Trips were your last chance to go out with a real bang, and this was indeed taken 'literally' by Charlie!

At 12/ 13 most boys are all pyromaniacs, and pretty much obsessed by Bangers and Zippos and lighters etc. And it was Charlie being the eldest looking who had pulled the short straw to purchase all the goods; So Charlie without hesitation proceeded to go out and buy all this pyrotechnic junk.

Once back at the bus, and everyone thinking all was well, a source tipped us off that a random search was to be taken before getting back on the coach, PRIMARILY to check for potential "inappropriate" objects.

Now Charlie being Charlie that crafty old fox that we all know him by, and without anyone else knowing used his final couple of Euros to buy a role of Duct tape. And before jumping back on the bus began to tape the majority of his purchased items round his inner thighs! (Which I might add were quite hairy, at 13). I'll leave the rest up to your imagination, but I can tell you that he got away with it, despite getting a couple of nasty rashes.....if I knew he was going to do this; I probably would have recommended cling film...

This story was but one example of Charlie's ingenuity, tenacity and sheer determination to never give up!

Charlie was always like that all his life, and I had the honour of knowing him throughout his time at Winchester House and beyond... Fantastic memories of a great sportsman, and genuine role model to so many of us here, We are gonna miss you so much Charlie, you were and still are a true Hero and Inspiration to us all.