Rector’s Report

Here I quote T.S. Eliot’s Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock:

“No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was meant to be;
I Am an attendant lord, one that will do
To swell a progress, start a scene or two
Advise the prince; no doubt, an easy tool,
Defential, glad to be of use,
Politic, cautious, and meticulous;
Full of high sentence, but a bit obtuse;
At times, indeed, almost ridiculous—
Almost, at times, the Fool.

My illusions shattered, I can but gather as much pride as I can around me and proceed. Not many people know this but the Shakespearean Fool is a complex character: while comic and foolish he possesses a wisdom the ‘wise’ ignore at their cost and he stands always a loyal and true friend to truth.

(Yes, indeed, forget Hamlet, the part of the fool grows on me!)

However, I have not fully recovered from the trauma from the weekend.

It is Ben (Captain for 2012) and David (Head Border for 2012) who speak tonight.

If they speak as well as Liam or if Liam comes as much as ten feet from a microphone this evening I will be the first Rector of Mazenod ever to expel an Old Boy! I might have to check with Jeremy Logan and his Committee as to whether this is Constitutionally possible but, if it comes to it, I will simply use the words of Jean-Luc Picard of Star Trek (I am an avowed Trekky fan!): “Make it so…”

Tonight is about excellence and celebrating excellence at every level of our College.

As Alexander the Great said: “I would rather excel others in the knowledge of what is excellent than in my power and domination over them” (this quote is purely to remind Liam that I know my friend Alexander the Great as well as he does).