

THE ELIZABETHAN 2012

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Editor: Sandy Crole

Designer: Tam Ying Wah

Assistant Editors: Sive Curran, Alexander Lee, Matteo Leibowitz, Jerome Mockett, James Sherwood

Photography: Ransford Ransford Agyare-Kwabi, James Alster, Sam Baldock, Angela Bamping, Uday Bannerjee-Bulchandani, Hannah Bird, Martin Boulton, Gabriel Cagan, Joanna Chidgey, Chris Christodoulou, Jamie Cranston, Sandy Crole, Steven Curran, de Paul UK, Matt Diffey, Nick Fair, Bill Gewanter, Angus Goalen, Simon Hawken, Natasha Hedegaard, Elyas Helmke, Charlotte Hempstead, Ulf Hennig, Thomas Holdaway, James Hooper, Christos Ioannou, Joe Ireland, Andrew Johnson, Amanda Jorgensen, Jeremy Kemball, James Kersten, William Kitchen, Richard Kowenicki, Hugo Leatt, Matteo Leibowitz, Ally Leigh, Sarah Leonard, Harry Lewis, Yik Tak Lum, Angela Marquez, Sam Meijer, Monty's Photography, Kevin Olding, Teehan Page, Alice Procter, Sharon Ragaz, CD Riches, Theo Rigden, Kshitij Sabnis, Fiona Sharp, Peter Sharp, James Sherwood, Sarah Shone, Brian Smith, Dominic Smith, Carla Stevens, Jamie Voros, Joanna Vymeris, Kevin Walsh, Emily Wethered, Elizabeth Wells, Clarissa Wigoder, Huw Williams, Rhian Williams, John Witney, William Wood, John Woodman

Proofreading: Julianna Agiakatsikas, Abi Cave-Bigley, Sive Curran, Jerome Mockett



Abbey Address I ARE YOU HAPPY?

In November The Reverend Dr Joan Crossley, former Assistant Chaplain, gave an address to the school in Abbey on the subject of happiness.

■ Are you happy? Are you feeling happy this morning?

They sound very similar but these are actually two very different questions.

The second question, about your mood at this moment is a very modern question. For much of history the transient emotions caused by lack of sleep, hormones, sunshine, the inability of Arsenal to score goals, would not be matters of great interest. Not feeling very cheerful was not historically and, perhaps is not now to be confused with genuine unhappiness.

For Aristotle, happiness is an activity rather than an emotion or a state. Happiness is born of a good life in which a person fulfils higher human nature. For Aristotle, then, happiness is “the virtuous activity of the soul in accordance with reason”. When we read in the United States Declaration of Independence of the unalienable right to “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”, it is happiness in the sense of good citizenship and public virtue which is being invoked, pleasure in doing and being good rather than feeling good. Modern people reading the phrase interpret it to mean that they are entitled to do whatever it takes to feel cheerful, perky and chipper all the time.

Buddhism teaches that such an aim is madness. One of the Buddha’s basic tenets was that we have to accept that, because of the endless changes in life, all life is suffering. Early Christianity regarded the end of the world as being so immanent that whether you felt happy or not in this life simply wasn’t relevant.

The point was to lead a life of such virtue and conformity to Christ’s teaching that you were assured of bliss in the Heavenly life beyond. Jesus never once mentioned happiness but taught that loving God and loving others as much as oneself was the right way of life and the way to obtain eternal life.

The notion that happiness is a right has become so ingrained that these days it takes a reckless Christian priest to tell a congregation that she doesn’t care whether they are happy or not. Which, come to think of it, is exactly what I am doing in this talk.

Being happy, to paraphrase Jane Austen, is mostly a matter of good fortune, a matter of temperament rather than circumstances. We all know people who seem to have everything they need to make them happy yet are not and likewise, people whose circumstances seem calculated to make them miserable, yet they are not.

In the developed world, after World War II, once the necessities of life were provided for, attention shifted to the assumption that happiness would be enhanced by the acquisition of more and more material possessions.

.....
Everything conspires to convince you that feeling happy all the time is the natural, default, position for humans.
.....

Whole industries are now dedicated to reinforcing the nagging feeling that you are not happy enough. Everything conspires to convince you that feeling happy all the time is the natural, default, position for humans: there are shelves of self-help books, and a whole pharmacopoeia of drugs to make you feel up when you are down and bring you down when you are up. If you are not happy then you are entitled to do anything in pursuit of that aim. You can throw away job security, break up your family and move continents, in an attempt to find the elusive happiness that we mistakenly believe that all other, normal people have. If we aren’t happy then it is our right to make ourselves happy whatever the cost.

So here is my question. What if we stopped thinking about how we feel all the time? What if we accepted that it was normal to feel elated, cross, gloomy and mildly cheerful in the course of a single day? What if we stopped imputing massive significance to those natural ups and downs? What if we could persuade ourselves that how we feel isn’t really all that important compared to living ethically and doing good?

What if we tried to take a long view and tried not to panic when we feel a bit down, hacked off or gloomy and tried to imagine that feeling in the context of our whole life? Perhaps searching endlessly for short-term pleasure and gratification, which we think of as happiness, might be in the end destructive of a life well lived. At the end of *Saving Private Ryan*, the hero stands in a cemetery staring at the graves of those who fell to save him and asks a big question: not “Have I been happy?” but “Am I good man?”

Behind the Scenes

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO SPEAK IN ABBEY?

Angus Hanton, who gave the talk on fairness and baby boomers in Abbey that follows, reveals just what it feels like to speak not just from the heart, but also the pulpit in the most famous building in the nation.

Speaking in Abbey is obviously an honour but it is also the ultimate in daunting: the most famous building in Britain and probably the most thoughtful young audience. If your teenage children are also present you start to think about the downside of fluffing your lines. Fortunately 'Gav', as my children call the Reverend Gavin Williams, is a reassuring guide and you soon realise why the pupils all think he's 'cool': he also shows you how to press the button to make the sound system work and he makes you practice speaking from the pulpit while the choir are warming up. "Speak from your stomach," he says, whilst all you can feel down there are butterflies. He explains that you mustn't walk across the famous Cosmati Pavement, an extraordinary mosaic floor in front of the altar, built for Henry III about 750 years ago. This reminds me that this is a rather unusual school chapel, occasionally used for coronations and royal weddings. In only 15 minutes' time I will be speaking, but I get a tiny confidence boost from having practised the talk with my wife, who was marginally less scathing than usual.

While waiting, Gavin talks about the day ahead and mentions the bereavement group he organises for pupils who have recently lost a parent. One of them will miss the talk as he's at his mother's funeral today, and suddenly one sees how trivial one's own worries are compared to those of others. Gavin casually asks me whether I want to say a prayer at the end of my talk but the only thing I can think of is that it would be rather useful to have a prayer now – that the talk works out. He describes what happens in the Abbey after the service when visitors and tourists will pour in, and prayers will be said for them too – on the hour, every hour.

We go back to the Nave to prepare for the long walk in and 'Gav' explains that I should walk next to the headmaster but we'll both have to proceed rather fast because Sophie, his assistant, goes at a 'cracking pace'. While the pupils are streaming in I meet Douglas, the 'grandfather of the school', and introduce myself but he's way ahead of me, recalls not only my name and my children but even what we talked about last time we met. He wishes me well, bemoans the fact that the Abbey managers spent £250,000 on their sound system and gives me the reassurance for which I am now desperate. I love that man.

Aha, here is the headmaster. He's deliberate as always and very welcoming, perhaps the

politest man in the school. He thanks me for coming to speak but I can sense he's already worried that I'll run over the 5–7 minute time limit and mess up the whole of Westminster School's Friday morning. I reassure him that my talk is only 700 words long. Dr Spurr tells me not to worry if the pupils seem to be staring into space or even yawning – "it's their way

Dr Spurr tells me not to worry if the pupils seem to be staring into space or even yawning – "it's their way of showing they are listening".



of showing they are listening". I shake hands with Dr Beavon and Dr Boulton, knowing that whatever else happens these two are quietly running the school – nothing gets past them and they are obviously wondering why I've been asked to speak. So am I.

We walk swiftly to the front of the Abbey and climb the steps up to the platform called 'The Sanctuary'. Once there, we acknowledge the high altar with a small bow, sit down behind the pulpit and listen to the choir singing – the music is completely enchanting and I hope it will go on forever, but it doesn't, and bang, I'm on. Walk up into the pulpit, press the magic speaker button, pause deliberately, big smile, and launch into my talk. The speaker system works brilliantly and mentally I thank the Abbey for spending so much on it – it's fit for a King. 600 faces look up at me, they seem interested in wallets and my thought experiment, they laugh at my only joke and mercifully nothing goes wrong. As I sit down the lovely Sophie smiles appreciatively and, totally relieved, I want to hug her – but even I know that this would be what my eldest son describes as 'inappropriate behaviour'. A prayer is said, a song is sung and it's all over. We file out, the school files out and, to my surprise, one heroic boy comes up and shakes me by the hand and declares that it was a good talk. Never has an undeserved compliment been so welcome!

Sophie shows me out through those beautiful cloisters and I apologise to her that my talk only mentioned Jesus once. "Don't worry about that", she says, "it was very much about justice and that's what Christianity is about".

If you would like to know more about this subject, or to discover details of the Intergeneration Foundation, visit <http://www.if.org.uk>

Abbey Address II

INTERGENERATIONAL THEFT? – SOME DISTURBING IDEAS

Angus Hanton, economist, entrepreneur and Westminster parent came to Abbey in February to give an address on the Intergenerational Foundation.

■ In my wallet I always carry a picture of a baby, which I do for an odd reason – so that my wallet, if lost, will be given back to me.

Let me explain. A psychologist wanted to know what makes people hand back lost wallets, so he did a bizarre experiment – he distributed dozens of wallets randomly around the streets of Edinburgh. Each wallet contained the same items (including an address) except for one crucial difference – the photos: some had a photo of a happy older couple, some a pet, some a happy family and some held a baby photo.

What he discovered was quite remarkable. Those wallets with the baby photo were more than twice as likely to be returned as those with the photos of happy older couples. Scientists think this result was because people respond to babies at an emotional level – we are hardwired to respond positively to the youngest members of the next generation.

Despite this we are giving the next generation as a whole an extraordinarily raw deal: we have vandalised the environment, we are handing on huge national debts, and we are passing on vast pension liabilities. Edmund Burke, 18th century philosopher and statesman, said that society is really a contract. It's a contract not just between living people but between the living and the dead and between the living

and those yet to be born. We have broken that contract: and that is why intergenerational fairness has moved to the heart of today's political debate. Social justice has become more than a matter of class – it is also a matter of fairness between generations.

Please join me in a thought experiment about intergenerational differences: if you had the choice, when would you like to have been born? You could go back 2,000 years to the time of Jesus Christ, or be born 1,400 years ago in the time of Mohammad, or you can go forward to the future, maybe the year 3,000, assuming people are still around, or you can choose to be born when you actually were born. Or choose any other date.

When I realised how much intergenerational theft has been going on I was ashamed, both as an economist and as a parent.

However in this experiment you cannot determine your position in society – if you go back to Roman times you might well be born as a slave. In any historical time your life would probably have been, as Thomas Hobbes said, “nasty, brutish and short” (a history

teacher once described me like this but I pointed out that I wasn't short!).

So when would you choose? I'd love to hear your reasoning, but if you had wanted to maximise your economic well-being you should probably have chosen to be born as a baby-boomer, in the years after the second world war (1946–1964). You would have lived through a period without world wars, of great economic growth and seen enormous advances in medical science. But we baby boomers – I'm one too, born 1959 – have gone beyond just accepting that good fortune – we have arranged our society so that we often gain at the direct expense of younger and future generations – we have done this in housing, where older people now have enormous unearned housing wealth, in employment, in taxation and in the financing of university education.

When I realised how much intergenerational theft has been going on I was ashamed, both as an economist and as a parent. So I have set up, with many others, the Intergenerational Foundation. This is a charity which researches and campaigns for fairness between generations. We need to force our governments to do much, much more for younger and future people.

Actually, you are in a good position to campaign for change not just for your own sake but for others – as a generation, you have been robbed, you have energy, you have optimism (I hope), and youth is on your side.

So, if you ask me what date I would have chosen to be born in my thought experiment, I would choose to be born in the 1990s, like you.

Finally I hope that I have persuaded you to carry with you a photo of a baby – not just out of self-interest but as a reminder to put the needs of future generations at the heart of your thinking.



School Gym

150 YEARS OF THE GYM: 1861–2012

For 150 years, we have enjoyed the use of the most peculiar and historic School Gym in the country... and now, with the acquisition of the RHS Lawrence Hall offering the prospect of a modern and fully-equipped sports centre at long last, we should perhaps take a moment to look back, says TPJE:

■ When the Dean and Chapter finally decided to provide the school with a ‘covered playground’ in 1861, it was never going to be a new-build; from the start, the Gym has had to fit the constraints of its unique surroundings. One end (the room currently filled with weights and gym equipment, with Room 37 above it) was adapted from rooms, once part of a Canon’s house, which had been built onto and which still incorporate the remains of the medieval chapel of St Dunstan. The main Gymnasium space to the north of this room runs along the east wall of the Norman Undercroft, and of School and the Abbey Library above it, and extends as far as it can before hitting the flying buttresses of the Chapter House, the nearest of which is the reason for the interesting curve in the Gym’s north wall. There had never been a single permanent building covering most of this site – in part, perhaps, because of its past as a place of monastic burial, a detail which has long been used within the school as an excuse for our consistent failure to solve the problem of

rising damp, and for our inability to dig down and redevelop.

The provision of the Gym, of course, was not wholly altruistic, despite the tone of the school’s effusive letter of ‘respectful thanks’ for the ‘handsome act of bounty’. There had long been complaints that, in search of a wet-weather playground, Westminster boys had been rampaging round the Cloisters, causing untold damage and distress to fabric and visitors alike. These ‘frolics’ (*’tis a name*, William Cowper reminds us in his own recollection of his Westminster schooldays, *which palliates deeds of folly and of shame*) were the subject of some vivid prints, which may be said to place today’s problems of un-tucked shirts into some sort of perspective.

Alongside the self-interest there was also the question of obligation. 1861 was seven years before the Public Schools Act, which gave Westminster its independence from the Abbey, and the two institutions were in every sense still one foundation. This helps explain the anomaly that, at ground level at least, the

school was being provided with a new facility which was, in effect, an ‘enclave’ or island in a sea of Abbey property – a distinction which would mean little until 1868. The original access was through two bays of the Undercroft, between the Pyx Chamber and the cellars then used for storing scenery for the Latin Play.

This question of access dominates the Gym’s early history. When the newly constituted Governing Body was given the freehold of the school’s buildings in 1868, this included the Gym itself, but not the Undercroft, or any alternative route. As early as 1874, the Masters were perturbed at the rumour that the Dean and Chapter wished to reclaim the Undercroft and instead provide a way either through School and what is now Room 37, or through

Its past as a place of monastic burial, a detail which has long been used within the school as an excuse for our consistent failure to solve the problem of rising damp.

‘the storeyard east of the School’. The former, it was claimed, would be ‘most improper’, injurious to ‘instruction and discipline’ and would involve a staircase taking up valuable space; while the latter went against the plans of 1861, designed ‘under Sir Gilbert Scott’s >>

>> personal direction'. Common Law was cited, that the grant of a building (as had happened in 1868) carries with it a right of access, which should remain *as it stood at the time of the act*, and should not be altered at will; Dean Trench's explicit surrender to the Head Master, of all rights over the Gym, was quoted – and a veiled threat was made, that the school's access to the Gym was comparable to the Abbey's (then frequently used) entrance to College Garden via the 'stoke-hole' between School and College.

In the event, an accommodation was reached. In 1875, the Dean and Chapter thought it 'undesirable' to raise the question of ownership of the 'crypts'; the school was allowed access via a 'strip eight feet in width' and paid rent of £10 p.a. There matters stood until Dean Robinson's scheme of converting the Undercroft into a museum space, from

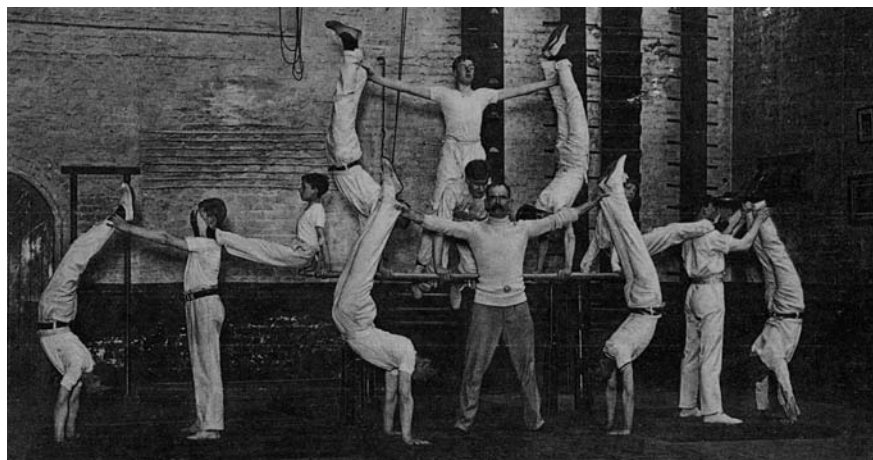
1908, placed the route to the Gym under threat once more – and finally the old plan of providing an alternative 'Dark Entry' through the storeyard to the east of School (the current access from the Cloisters) was carried out with limited fuss.

There were also plans put forward in October 1910 for moving to an entirely new Gym in a more accessible location, the two suggested options being the School's own property at 6, Dean's Yard (which was, however, unsuitable in shape and at that point leased out), and the site of Canon Wilberforce's stables, behind 20, Dean's Yard, presumably to be accessed via the Blackstole Tower. Both suggestions ultimately foundered on the same fundamental objection: why would the School wish to exchange a larger and more convenient space for a smaller and awkward one?

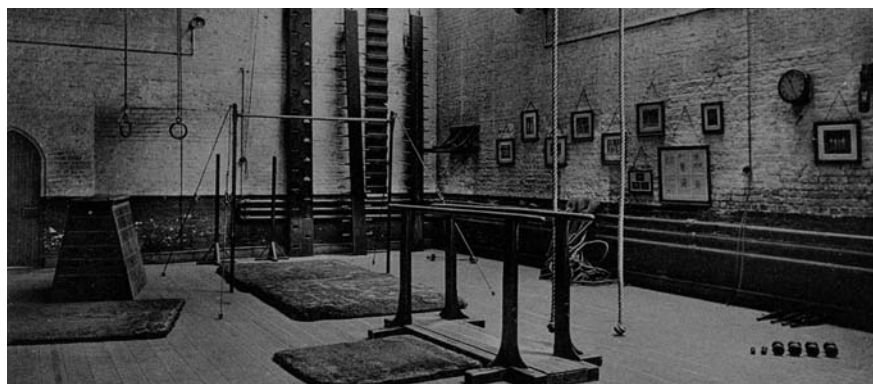
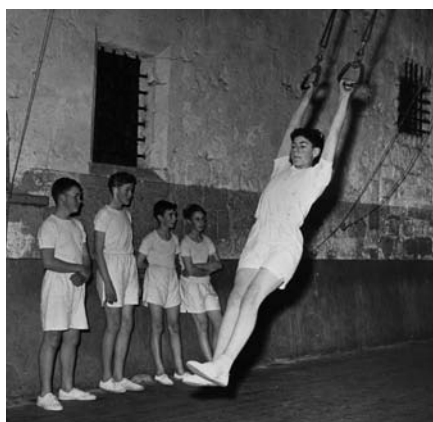
And so the Gym remained, until bombing during the Blitz opened up once more the possibility of alteration and redesign, as part of the general post-war reconstruction. The Gym itself needed a new roof and floor, and the whole of the adjacent Armoury Block (Room 37 and the space below it) had been gutted, along with School. Suggestions were made for quite radical changes – the Captain of Fencing recommended the full space of the Gym and Armoury Block should be knocked together, to allow space for a 'full station' of 30 fencers, and to give gymnasts a run-up, while many at the Abbey wanted a new floor put in at a height of 12 feet, to provide a covered masons' yard at the lower level, with a top-lit Gym raised above it, a proposal under consideration until the Bursar, Colonel Carruthers, decided that it would not allow the Gym to reach its full and required height.

In the event, and after a brief thought that a new Gym could be incorporated into one floor of the reconstructed College, the pre-war buildings were simply reconstructed – the Gym, the Armoury Block and access route to the south, with a new set of connecting stairs coming up under the floor of Room 37. The £2,695 estimate for refitting the Gym caused the reconstruction committee to take the (perhaps fateful) decision to save £500 by reducing the boarding and sheet lead on the new roof, and opting instead for a patent glass lantern design – a decision which generations of exam candidates who have found themselves sitting under a leak in a sudden June downpour have cause to regret. Though perhaps they could also take time out to curse the Abbey workmen who were caught stealing such lead as there was on the Gym roof in 1956, and passing it on to 'an outside person in College Garden'.

Are there any precedents to disinter here, as the Gym faces a future in which its traditional role is overtaken? The idea of a new floor to make two levels is intriguing, alongside a watertight roof; and the questions of access and logistics remain pressing. But no Westminster will want to lose the uniqueness of this space.



In search of a wet-weather playground, Westminster boys had been rampaging round the Cloisters, causing untold damage and distress to fabric and visitors alike





Elizabeth Wells reflects on her first year as School Archivist.

I've given the matter some thought since then and, although I'm not sure that I can give an exact answer, hopefully I can give a clearer idea of what it is I do, and why I think it's important.

As an Archivist I feel I have three core responsibilities from which all of my day-to-day work devolves. The first of these responsibilities is to the school's existing historic collections, its past. I work to ensure that these are kept in good condition and stored appropriately to ensure their continuing survival, so that pupils at Westminster may benefit from them for many generations into the future. This work involves a wide variety of tasks. Listing, cataloguing and completing inventories of the collections (so that we know what we have, where it is and in what condition) is the basis for all further work. All of the items in the schools collections are made from materials that will naturally decay over time – paper, paint, parchment, textile, metal and plastic. However, extreme levels and fluctuations of temperature and relative humidity, as well as light and pollution can rapidly increase the rate of this decay. Checking the environmental conditions where items are stored by examining regular readings from thermohygrometers (devices which record temperature and relative humidity) help us to monitor this situation and >>

Westminster Archives OUT OF THE PAST

■ As a new Archivist you can feel like a walking oxymoron. An Archivist should know an organisation inside out and be able to respond to every conceivable question about its history authoritatively. During my first week, when I'd still not mastered the location of the lavatories, the weight of this expectation was a little overwhelming.

But of course, the real joy of being an Archivist isn't that of being an expert. The pleasure comes from the gradual accumulation of knowledge, learning new things on a daily basis and knowing the right places to look for answers, if there are answers there to be found! Questions – from staff, pupils, alumni and members of the public become exciting opportunities to share information and make new discoveries.

Nearly a year after having started at Westminster, a Fifth Form pupil approached me on my way up School and asked if he could see inside the Busby Library. He poured forth a

deluge of queries about the School's buildings and historic collections which I managed, with growing confidence, to answer. It was his last question, a casual aside, which left me floundering for a reply: What is it, exactly, that an Archivist does?

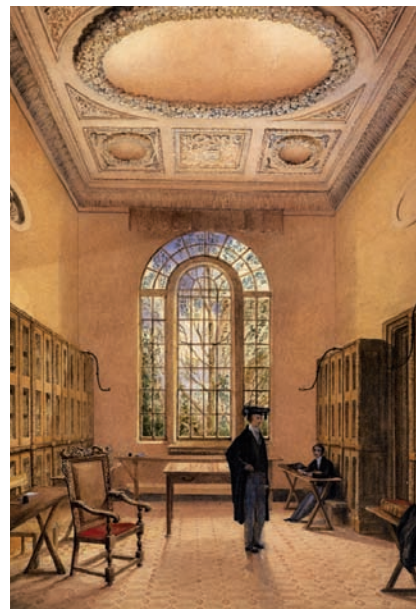
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>> take actions to protect items where necessary. Sometimes things have deteriorated to the extent where the work of a specialist conservator is required to help stabilize an item and protect it against further damage. Without all this care and attention the school's historic possessions could be lost, stolen or simply disintegrate.

Whilst all these actions help protect the collections for the future, the second responsibility is to make sure that they are appreciated today. This can be a careful balancing act. Displaying material will inevitably increase the rate at which its condition deteriorates. Over a short space of time this deterioration might be imperceptible, but it does occur. However, there is little point in spending time and money preserving items if they are never to be used.

Both getting the archives out into the classroom and pupils into the archive are ongoing projects. In addition, exhibitions and displays in the Library provide an opportunity to put the spotlight on aspects of the collection that are felt to be of importance. Naturally, interest in the collections extends beyond the immediate school community. Many items in the school's possession are of national and international importance. I answer queries from members of the public (about 300 each year) and supervise visiting researchers throughout the year. The Archive has a web-presence which will ultimately mean that documents previously only accessible to a few people at



a time can be enjoyed by many all over the world. This year I have been serializing, day-by-day, the diary of a pupil who attended the school over 100 years ago. In November, there was a screening of films made by Westminster pupils between 1939 and 1970 which I hope to repeat this year.

My final responsibility is to the future. It is important that the collections continue to grow and develop, reflecting school life today. Donations are regularly received of photographs, diaries, scrap-books and other material which all serve to add to the richness of the archive. Occasionally the school purchases items that will fill a gap in the existing collections. Elements of the school's own administrative records will become the archives of tomorrow, but not everything can be kept so careful selection processes must be undertaken. Of course, more and more records are being created electronically and require preservation in digital format. Those of you who remember what a 3½ inch floppy disc is will understand that ensuring the long-term survival of electronic files against the threat of obsolescence is one of the biggest challenges facing the archive profession today. It is important we avoid having a digital black hole in our records. There are generations of history in our care and it is vital that we don't become the missing link in the chain.

If you are interested in finding out more about the archive, want to volunteer or have something you would like to add to the collections – contact the Archivist at archives@westminster.org.uk



It is important that the collections continue to grow and develop, reflecting school life today.



Westminster in the Community

A WORLD FOR THE CHANGING

The news has got out. More than 300 pupils currently at Westminster have been volunteering in the local community since the Elizabethan last went to print. And more are now keen to enlist on the programme. So, what is it all about, asks chief co-ordinator Abi Cave-Bigley?

A string of A*s won't achieve it: an understanding of how other people live on our doorstep but in very different circumstances to ours. 'Understanding' is the operative word. If we do provide genuine help – practical, emotional or financial – in our volunteering, that is a wonderful bonus; what we stand to gain, on the other hand, can be life-changing, as many Westminster volunteers have testified when asked to comment on their volunteering. Here is a snapshot of what we've been up to this year.

Diplomacy with Cakes and Rats The Upper Shell Post GCSE Course

Following the completion of their GCSEs, the Upper Shell were let loose on a two-day course in an attempt to delay worrying thoughts about results and have a bit of fun, declare James Sherwood (DD) and Alexander Lee (DD).

Part of the course focussed around volunteering, where the Upper Shell, being ambassadors for the school, played host to 150 children from local primary schools, sharing their insights and knowledge through a range of workshops. From dissecting a rat in biology, to drama, to learning how to use programmes in IT and icing cakes, there was an opportunity for both Upper Shells and primary school children alike to find something that they wanted to do. Post-exam weariness on Upper Shell faces quickly turned to smiles. In particular, following the course, the school received an email from one of the pupils' teachers, saying

More than 300 pupils currently at Westminster have been volunteering in the local community.

that she had never seen a particular child smile before until he carried out a rat dissection in the biology workshop at Westminster! Overall, the day was very productive, with the primary school children partaking in two different workshops, the whole event culminating with a panoramic photograph on Green, and a cake for each participant to take home.

Participating Westminster teachers, and particularly GMF who organised much of the course, were bombarded with grateful emails, testament to the success of the Upper Shell as ambassadors for the school. >>





The Future's Bright Westminster Summer School

In July 2011, I was privileged to take part in an extraordinary process – no, this wasn't PHAB but Westminster Summer School which, taking place at the same time, is often overshadowed by its larger charitable sibling, explains Jamie Cranston (RR).

■ Every year several teachers from Westminster generously team up with the charity Future Foundations to produce an amazing week for a diverse collection of year 11s from multiple London schools. A few members of the sixth form, Charlie Hempstead, Bryce Leavitt and I were also involved, volunteering to facilitate the event as ambassadors for the school. Every guest attended two classes designed to inspire in their chosen subjects as well as several

We then split up, going to individual classes to help encourage others to take part in the prepared activities. This took some doing in the case of the rat dissection which the biologists were engaged in. It seems to be a favourite with the department... We also did our best to answer the swarms of questions which came our way, ranging from universities and subjects to which football teams we supported. This was an aspect of the week we all enjoyed, just getting to know people from other schools pursuing diverse interests and ambitions. One of the biggest surprises at the same time as making these new friendships was having the strange feeling that these people, just a few months younger than us, were looking up to us for advice.

This is an event that I would thoroughly recommend to anyone in the Sixth Form, especially those who want to do volunteering

difficulties who come to Alderney Street in Pimlico on weekday evenings for classes in Life Skills, Art workshops, and personal and social support. Volunteers have been accepted as members of the club on an equal footing. "The young people have amazing pluck in managing aspects of life and social inclusion that are a struggle for them. We've also had the chance to work with the Soho Theatre and we helped out with their art exhibition on a Superhero theme in September. It's even more difficult for Caxton and its members at the moment because they've lost a lot of government funding, so we've helped raise some money for them, by holding concerts and bake sales in school," writes George Hage (LL)

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

■ "I would never have realised how possible it would be for me to get involved with the TEFL project. I took a TEFL course within school, then volunteered. It is daunting to think that, together with my partner, we are solely responsible for aiding their educational achievement. But knowing the value of competent communication, and seeing their joy at a breakthrough makes it all worthwhile," says Katie Broke (BB). 12 boys and girls in the Sixth Form took a TEFL qualification as one of their 'options' classes this year. Since then, they have been teaching local primary school children, for whom English is an additional language and who need extra language support to achieve their potential in the classroom.

Volunteering in local primary schools

■ Many Westminster volunteers take advantage of the opportunities which seven local primary schools kindly give us to volunteer with young children: as classroom assistants on station afternoons, working one-to-one or with small groups of children to support them academically – in Maths, reading or with homework – or to teach them musical instruments: Strings Club and Guitar Club have been a great success this year.



workshops aiming to foster teamwork and help people to think of their future goals.

Not knowing what to expect when we turned up on the first Monday, we were slightly apprehensive. But after donning our new Future Foundations t-shirts we were swiftly immersed in the good-nature and fun of the event, registering the arriving while frantically running around looking for missing board pens and/or people.

work over the summer but don't feel they can commit to something fully residential. This is well worth a shot.

The Caxton Youth Organisation

■ Ten Sixth Form volunteers have been working with The Caxton Youth Organisation since last Summer. This is a club for young people with physical and learning



We've also been volunteering in local Breakfast and After School clubs. Having raised some money to buy Football, Art and Drama equipment, we've set up clubs. We've also started a Science Club where children from Year 5&6 do experiments with dry ice and locusts, water rockets and 'idiots' guides'.

"With my fellow coaches, I run a football club at a local After School Club. A year ago, we came up with the idea and asked to set it up. We rummaged around Sports Direct, buying Sondico and Carbrini goals, bibs and even whistles. Now, we are still playing with the same kids, who stay behind after school just for our club. From our star player, to the boy who "still needs to learn the rules of the game", we cater for all abilities, ages and genders. Perhaps a measure of the effect we have on the children is the grief the other coaches get if one of us is absent. For example, after I explained that Ollie wasn't around due to a muscular injury, a clearly distressed Year 6 enquired if he had any muscles left at all. It is an incredible feeling knowing that your hour of football is the highlight of a child's week. In a few years there's a chance I might feel fairly threatened by these kids; maybe that's something that these sessions can change," writes Tom Jordan (BB).

"I work at Burdett Coutts Breakfast Club. I'm merely required to keep the children happy whether by scoring multiple hat-tricks in a game of football or helping a Year 3 earn a historic victory over a Year 6 in a game of snakes and ladders. Though my natural talents in football and board-games are debatable, they're more than enough to please the children. One has to keep in mind however, that it's absolutely vital to set an example, as they will imitate whatever you do. Things like saying please and thank you, eating with your mouth closed and being good at football only require so much as a demo from me and suddenly they're doing the same.

The job is surprisingly rewarding as so little of my time and effort means so much to them. My work has influenced the way I choose to behave but most importantly, I realise my passion for making people happy. As I leave



every week, the children beg me to stay and the teachers show their gratitude. Next Friday morning there will be the same friendly faces eagerly waiting for me, and I shall be glad too," says Zi Ding Zhang (BB).

Many thanks to Burdett Coutts, Millbank, St Matthew's, Soho Parish, St Vincent de Paul's, St Peter's, St Joseph's, St Andrew's Boys' Club and The Rugby Portobello Trust for the volunteering opportunities.

Rubik's Cube World Record 2011

I pride myself on a long history of experience with the Rubik's cube, confesses Christopher Leet (AHH).

■ I've sampled most of the delights that 'the cube,' as it is affectionately referred to, has to offer, from 'cubing races' to 'extreme cubing' (not recommended for the meek). In retrospect, however, the highlight of my career with the cube definitely came last summer when I, along with 29 other boys from Westminster, went to Baker Street to participate in an attempt to break a Rubik Cube world record: aiming to be the most people to solve the cube at one time.

With 30 participants, we stood to raise £3000 – if we could all solve the cube.

The record was being sponsored by the Rubik Cube company itself, who promised to donate £100 for every person to solve the cube. With 30 participants, we stood to raise £3000 – if we could all solve the cube.

When we arrived, we found ourselves in a crowded auditorium. The floor was occupied by rows and rows of tables, each lined with unopened boxes, each containing a single, pre-scrambled cube. We took our places, and waited for the cubing to begin.

While we were waiting, I started a conversation with my neighbour, only to find that he was the current World Speed Cubing champion, capable of solving a Rubik cube in under 30 seconds. We chatted about his plans to go to Bangkok this October to participate in the World Rubik Cube Championships. His friend, who was also planning on going, could solve a Rubik's cube in under a minute in one hand. It was somewhat daunting company.

Eventually, after everyone had found a spare cube, the rules were read out and the timer started. We had an hour to solve the Rubik's cubes, although my partners finished their cubes in under a minute. It took the rest of us slightly longer, but before 30 minutes were up, the results came in: all 30 of us had >>

>> succeeded in solving the cube.

Shortly after the event, I learnt that we had in fact broken the Rubik's Cube World Record – by exactly 30 people: in other words, the exact number of Westminster pupils in attendance. Westminster was therefore essential to the attempt. The whole event was the pinnacle of my cubing career, and a wonderful treat for anyone who's ever solved a Rubik Cube.



Westminster House

Westminster School helped to set up Westminster House Youth Club, now in Nunhead, many years ago. The School no longer takes any formal responsibility for the Club but Westminster House volunteers are among the most passionate for their cause. Last Summer, girls in Purcells took part in a 24-hour cycle ride to do their bit to raise essential funds, to mention just one initiative. Volunteers work at the Homework Club on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, travelling from Westminster with Eddie Smith and Gabrielle Ward-Smith. The club plays a vital role in one of the most disadvantaged areas of London.

Napier Hall

We've also been working with the very young. Napier Hall is a group for mothers and babies next to Vincent Square. The group was struggling to keep going because more volunteer support was needed. This year and last Westminsters have helped to set up, clear away and run the sessions; they've cooked for the group, provided musical entertainment and even Father Christmas! (Or was it Christopher Newman dressed up? Don't let on...)

Working with the Elderly

Katriona Hilliard (PP) talks about her volunteering experience at Garside House, residential care home:

“Having no previous experience of volunteering with elderly people, I was nervous and uncertain of what to expect – but now I really enjoy visiting each week. It is immensely gratifying to see someone's mood improve after spending as little as five minutes talking to them. It's sad to acknowledge that the majority of the residents are overwhelmingly bored and desperately lonely. As several residents struggle with memory or communication, conversation is not easy with everyone



in the home; but I believe that as a result my own communication skills have improved in a way that they would not have done otherwise. Cheering some of them up can be difficult, but I enjoy the challenge. I find it a real privilege to hear the life-stories of some of the residents, which act as a great reminder that there is far more to life than schoolwork and exams.”

Hospital Volunteering

Since medical schools have declared a preference for candidates with work experience, volunteering placements at local hospitals have become harder and harder to secure. Nevertheless, through sheer tenacity in the face of interminable and somewhat unfathomable bureaucracy, ten Westminsters have gained places to work in the last year. The work includes helping with administration and at the Welcome Desk, conducting patient questionnaires, offering support in Outpatients and conversation on the wards, or providing assistance at mealtimes.

Many thanks to the Royal Free, Guy's and St Thomas's, Chelsea and Westminster and The Royal Brompton for providing volunteer placements.

Heath Hands

Now the summer weather is breaking through, Joseph Lambert and Byung-Gu Kim, both Sixth Formers, are rewarding themselves with sunny afternoons on Hampstead Heath after weeks of hard labour in less clement conditions. Each Tuesday afternoon they work with the volunteer organisation 'Heath Hands' to help keep the heathland in good shape. It's a placement which allows a complete escape from Westminster, school and city, armed only with a willingness to help and a pair of steel-toe-capped boots.

Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children

For the past year six of us in the Remove have volunteered at Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children in Camden, writes Bea Natzler (WW).

So often when we were there playing with the children, they would ask what our school was like. I for one struggled to describe the Westminster experience, and with my limited sign language, it was limited to 'London', 'big' and 'old'. So when Mr Smith told us he had organised the visit of the Frank Barnes Year Six class to Westminster, this became a greatly-

Thanks also to the following who have provided opportunities for Westminster Volunteers:

- Norton House residential care home
- The Pullen Day Care Centre
- The Tana Trust
- The Abbey Community Centre
- The Genesis Community Foundation
- St Andrew's Boys' Club
- SE1 United
- The Rugby Portobello Trust
- The Ace of Clubs
- In Deep
- Trinity Hospice
- Age UK

Special thanks to Catherine Moss, Catherine Buchanan and Julianna Agiakatsikas who have been instrumental in running the programme.

Westminster was magically transformed into a giant playground.

anticipated event. Further anticipated on the day given that they arrived half an hour late due to trouble with the tubes (compounded by wheelchair access not being what it might be). A carefully planned trip to the library, to see parts of a fencing match, and the Product Design department before tea and biscuits was transformed into a crazed run around school. We dashed round the library, missed the fencing match and sprinted hand-in-hand to Hooke so they would make it back to school in time for pick-ups. As we danced across Yard, waving with the excited children at people we had never spoken to, playing skipping and hopping games on the cobbles, sharing their overwhelming excitement, and chasing pigeons on the way to Hooke, Westminster was magically transformed into a giant playground. Ms Chidgey did wonders with the group and within twenty minutes they had all wielded drills (!) and produced their personalised key ring and photo frame. After fond farewells, we Westminsters retreated to the Camden Room for the tea they hadn't had time to eat. Momentarily exhausted but happy, I sipped orange juice and resisted the urge to chase a few more pigeons. Somehow I couldn't help but feel that it was they who had shown us Westminster School, and not the other way around.



Transporting 18 wheelchairs to the theme park was no easy task.



■ That was the dilemma I faced this summer on my return from PHAB, and it's the dilemma we face now, trying to tell you about the exhausting yet wonderful world of Westminster PHAB.

To tell the truth, the 30-something Westminster students, assembling in Yard last July, did not really know what to expect. We knew we were going to be looking after, caring for and above all having a good time with a group of guests with physical or mental disabilities for the busiest week of our years.

It was when the guests began to arrive that I experienced what I came to see as an exceptional stroke of luck – my room-mate for the week, James, was an absolute legend: whether it was running over tourists with his electric wheelchair in Parliament Square, having a pint in the pub or just messing around in the art workshop. James has no speech, but was always typing jokes on his communication aid that are far too obscene to repeat in print.

It was jokers like him that made all the jobs easier – carrying wheelchairs up flights of stairs, looking after our guests' every need and chasing James when he made a beeline for particularly noisy tourists were made all the more tiring by short hours of sleep interrupted by the inevitable call of nature at two in the morning for our room-mates. Through the exhaustion, we came to rely on two things – coffee and, more than that, the people around us.

A visit to Chessington World of Adventures was this year's stressful and logistically



PHAB 2011

WESTMINSTER'S WORLD OF ADVENTURE

Have you ever done something so far removed, so different from your everyday life that when you return to normality, you find that you don't even have the words to explain to people what it was like? asks Maddy O'Riordan (GG).

complicated day trip, but by far one of the best days, continues Theo Morris Clarke (AHH). Transporting 18 wheelchairs to the theme park was no easy task, and that was before we even attempted to face the rides. The group seemed to split into half; those content with a nice visit to the zoo and the aquarium, and the die-hard thrill seekers begging for the roller coasters. Embarrassingly, most of us hosts were more scared than the guests. I was forced to accom-

The school is renovated each year for PHAB.

pany David on sick-making Ramsey's Revenge – as I staggered off regretting my decision, David made it clear that he wanted to go again.

However, the trip was itself revealing as to the difficulties experienced by many of the guests. Having been refused entry to our three first rides, we were bluntly told that wheelchair users who could not walk unassisted were limited to two single rides. Chessington considers itself suitable for all manner of disabilities, and claims to make an effort to allow them onto rides; but apparently only two of them.

Nonetheless, the day out was an enormous success. Not only did both guests and hosts have an extremely fun day out, but as hosts we began to learn even more about the struggle some of the guests face and their positive attitude towards everything that life throws at them. Not even Chessington's rules could stand in the way of PHAB spirit.

The school is completely renovated each year for PHAB, adds Ben Ireland (RR). Yard is transformed from the cliquy environment of normal school life into an intimate circle of benches where guests, many of whom spend most of their year almost entirely detached from the outside world, are entertained and catered for by their Westminster hosts. The Camden Room evolves into a dance floor and the Fives Courts become a waiting-room for the showers next door.

School has a new role, home of Dance and Drama workshop, and trust me, there is very big difference between Latin Prayers on a Wednesday morning and performing Latin American, Carnival dance patterns – especially when you get pictures of me on Facebook trying to act like a confident professional and ending up looking like a prat in a sombrero.

What I'm really saying is that PHAB changes the way you look at your surroundings here at Westminster; it makes you change your attitudes and see other people in very different lights.

I never thought I'd have the courage to cry in public on the last day when all the guests were making their farewells; but that is the environment that PHAB creates, where it is normal to be emotional, where it is normal to help people get dressed or go to the toilet because they cannot do it unaided, and where it is normal to smile at every single person you come across, teacher, host or guest, and to be smiled back at, and for there to be no malice, gossip or deceit, only trust, companionship and love.

SALVETE



TOP (l-r):
Sébastien Blache,
Joanna Chidgey,
Bhavna Choraria,
Tim Garrard

BELOW (l-r):
Gareth Mann,
Benj Walton,
John Woodman

Dr Sébastien Blache

■ Dr Blache has joined the Modern Languages Department at Westminster as Head of French after four years spent at St Dunstan's College teaching French and German. Whilst at St Dunstan's he completed his PhD on the works of Salman Rushdie with the Sorbonne University (Paris III) in December 2009. He is looking forward to an article on *Midnight's Children* being published in a forthcoming anthology on Anglo-Indian literature. Previously he taught English in Paris for three years. Before qualifying in France he was a French assistant in two public schools, a *Lecteur* at the University of Reading and also taught at King's College, London and Imperial College. He has been a member of Chatham House since 2008. He enjoys tennis, reading and music. He also loves Ladurée's *macarons*...

Joanna Chidgey

■ Joanna Chidgey read English and Drama at the University College of Wales. Her innate desire to wield all manner of power tools and play with brazing torches proved too strong however and she completed her PGCE in Design Technology at Ripon and York St John. Twenty years later and having taught in a range of bouncy and not quite so bouncy comprehensives, her passion for design and power tools remains undiminished and she likes nothing better than lighting a vanilla candle, cranking up the music and getting stuck in in the workshop. Jo is currently working towards her Masters in Design Technology Education at Sheffield Hallam University.

Jo is married to Yevgeniy and has two young children who are regularly subjected to whistlestop tours of museums and lectures on sustainability. Working and motherhood have curtailed interests such as travel and rowing. Other passions include music, politics and shouting at Question Time on Thursday evenings.

Bhavna Choraria

■ Bhavna Choraria joins the Physics department after three years at Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet. She read Physics at Hertford College, Oxford, where she researched image registration in MRI for her MPhys project. After graduating, she completed the Graduate Teacher Programme at the Institute of Education and Queen Elizabeth's School, before moving to Westminster. When not studying for her Masters in Education, she is enjoying getting to know central London on her bicycle and taking advantage of the variety of live music available and delicious food to eat.

Tim Garrard

■ Tim Garrard read music at King's College, Cambridge, where he was awarded the Gollin Prize and appointed Senior Choral Scholar of the Chapel Choir. Upon leaving university, he worked at Eltham College as Assistant Director of Music, before taking up the position of Head of Academic Music and Associate Director of Trinity Boys Choir at Trinity School, Croydon.

Tim takes a keen interest in football and cricket, and is a big fan of Indian cuisine.

Gareth Mann

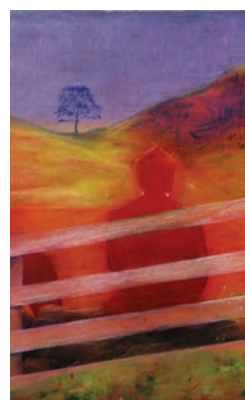
■ Almost exactly 13 years ago, and having thought he'd never become a teacher, Gareth Mann went to a talk about school teaching. The speaker was Frances Ramsey, at that point Head of History at Westminster. She gave a fine talk, indeed an inspiring one, and it's with some trepidation (mixed with delight) that he takes up the job once held not only by Dr Ramsey, but also by such legends as Valerie St Johnston and GPAB. Before arriving here, Gareth taught medieval history at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, and then was forced to find out about the modern world at (irony of ironies) Winchester and Eton. Along the way he has lived in Syria (where he learned Arabic) and has become actively involved in education projects in the West Bank, Lebanon, and Afghanistan. Part-time, he works for the Department for International Development as a 'Deployable Civilian Expert'; only one of those three words is accurate.

Benj Walton

■ Benj Walton worked for an art charity after studying History of Art at Cambridge, and then joined a commercial gallery in London for nearly three years. While at the gallery he also worked for a company leading regular tours through Italy introducing school and gap-year students to the country's art, history and culture. This gave him a taste for teaching and he now joins the Art History department at Westminster. He enjoys regular travel, often with the school, to explore and enjoy the art and food in Europe and beyond. He is put through his paces helping to coach cross-country at Westminster, looks forward to the school cricket season, and loves to sing and paint.

John Woodman

■ John Woodman graduated from the Glasgow School of Art in 2006. He then began teaching at Merchant Taylors' School and has arrived at Westminster after four and a half years there. He is a figurative painter and has exhibited in such places as the Mall Galleries and the Royal Scottish Academy. In 2010 he worked in America as an artist in residence in the McGuffey Art Centre in Virginia. You can see his paintings at www.johnwoodman.com





Gavin Griffiths (OW)
Literature for Life

■ An OW English master! We have been nurtured, teased and dazzled by this pupil, teacher, Head of Department, twice House Master, twice President and lounge lizard *extraordinaire* for five decades. How did this unlikely lad of English, Welsh and Bolivian (yes!) stock become the champion of literature at his old school and how did it begin? Probably when one of his Westminster School English teachers frisbeed his precious copy of *Middlemarch* into a waste paper bin. As he drew that mangled Penguin from the apple cores and pencil shavings, I like to think that he knew, even then, that it would be his destiny to defend the subject against the supposed Philistinism of teacher and pupil on his home turf. His fun literary winter of discontent has lasted decades at Westminster and a particular penchant for the close appreciation of intelligent literary humourists and satirists has informed the studies and lives of his pupils.

His *bêtes-noires* will be fondly remembered. He has had little patience when (in alphabetical order) academic gurus, advocates of ‘group work’, badly sourced poets, conceited Oxbridge hopefuls, festival-attenders, Leavisites, middle-aged men in denim trousers, ‘researchers’ (rather than ‘readers’), sermonisers, the respectable, tear-jerkers, travelling amateur theatre groups or ‘workshops’ have gone anywhere near intelligent literature.

Gavin has seen fiction as a locale for Truth – both the beautiful and stinking varieties – and hubris-busting and folly-hunting has been a particular literary fascination for him as well as making him a candid departmental backbencher. Our follies, shortcomings, professional pride and generally Fallen state (this tenet of Christianity he fully embraces) are grist to his mill. Those authors who brilliantly depict our limitations have been assiduously studied with his pupils over the years. No surprise therefore that Gav is a devotee of Philip Larkin: ‘Well,

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useful to get that learnt.’

Pupils emerge from his lessons genuinely delighted and enlightened by his literary critical perspicacity and the pedagogic brio with which he addresses the developing adolescent mind. Perhaps a dose of strong narrative stuff for the Fifth form: monsters and lots of the grim rules in *Beowulf*, A Christmas Carol or an HG Wells short story; serious takes on science fiction and the wise worldliness of challenging American authors. But Shakespeare, Johnson and Pope have always been invited to the party. Few dull or unwise moments in Gavin’s lessons! For two years he also ran a column in *The Independent* (‘Books you should Read’) which sharply ignited interest in many neglected works. He also wrote a rather jolly pocket biography of Conrad for Hesperus Press. Do check it out!

Gavin has always been at the heart of school life (he’s uneasy about the term ‘community’) and – why not – the liberal and liberated tradition of the school. His experiences here as pupil as well as teacher have given him a valuable long view and putting his own son George through the system means he has had three takes on the old place. His life at the school has been rich; to put it in Tudor terms, he was divorced, beheaded then survived. With his marriage to Tracy Morris – who joined the English Department in the late nineties – and with the arrival of Josephine, our first departmental baby, Gavin has led, perforce, a public and private life in tandem at Westminster.

As House Master of first Ashburnham and then Grant’s he led the pupils with pragmatic wit and efficiency and commanded great affection. He has been a loyal retainer of Water for many years because ‘CD is such a nice man.’ His constituency has benefitted from an uncluttered and cant-free approach to schooling problems. Before, and as twice-elected President of the Common Room, Gavin has also been quite a champion of the distressed, militant about his associates’ dignity and their right to be treated like adults – something that can sometimes be overlooked in an institution dealing mainly with children. Of course he has been a tease and fun-monger as well, often setting off firecrackers in Monday Morning announcements and in his verbal valedictories; indeed many colleagues have considered postponing retirement rather than suffer one of his lengthy and unsparing stand-up performances. He has downed his valpolicella at many a Common Room party, worked the room with charm and gaiety at a Gaudy or Ben Jonson drinks or giving the latest generation of parents and pupils

the grand tour of the Yard from which he must soon sadly depart. The sparky young teacher in specs from Wimbledon became our Minister without portfolio, diplomat and willing dogbody in his dotage.

Well we must consign him at last to family life in the windswept fens of Norfolk from where he has been valiantly commuting for the last two years. My mind will often wander over those bending osiers to Gavin, horizontal on his recliner in vacant or in pensive mood, Sir Walter Scott in hand. He is magnificently well read and literature will continue to be his life. We shall have to see what legacy remains and whether he will clear out his vast literary clobber from the departmental shelves. Or perhaps it will fall into the hands some other far-off OW English teacher even now wandering the floors of Weston’s. **RJP**

Gavin arrived at Westminster in 1980, after three years teaching English at KCS Wimbledon. Only two or three colleagues of that era remain, adds PDH.

■ Those early years have lodged in his memory: he will tell you that he was patronised, exploited, given a rough run by some of his colleagues, and that he had difficulties in managing Lower School sets. There were deeply unappealing aspects to Westminster in those days – its ability to avert its eyes from lousy behaviour was prominent among them. But, even in those exacting conditions, Gav enjoyed himself, for his genius has always been to maximise the fun. Maybe drawing off his memories as a schoolboy here in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, he defused his critics by his coruscating articulacy and exposed their self-importance and affectation.

Young teachers work hard, often for modest returns. Gav climbed Welsh and Cumbrian peaks, rowed, took parties to the old USSR, and taught a million periods a week. He even compiled the Almanack for a period, endowing him with a confidence in his administrative expertise shared by nobody else. He directed school and House plays, and even appeared alongside Richard Pyatt in *The Mikado*.

In 1988, he took over the English Department. Hitherto, Heads of Departments had been one of the invariable butts of his affectionate ridicule, but his translation to a seat of eminence changed nothing about that. Even when he became a Housemaster, or President of the Common Room, he remained an iconoclast, albeit from the inside.

Yet what in another person might have been risible double standards he has made profitable and engaging. His instinct has >>



>> never been to bully people, but to tease them. I remember his asking me to witness some form in April 1986, in which I was required to state my occupation. I was half way through the word 'schoolmaster' before he exploded in derisive laughter at my side. 'You're not going to like this, chumbo' he said, 'you're a teacher'.

David Summerscale discerned that his intelligence and searing funniness would be well suited to housemastering. In his four years up Ashburnham and seven years up Grant's, I occasionally saw him rattled by lists, by lockers, and by the demands that he learn how to operate a PC – but nothing worse. He was, without exaggeration, a superb Housemaster. Clear-headed, sensitive to the diffidence and misery of others, he also had the necessary stamina. When I replaced him in Grant's in 2007, the main challenge was to get some pictures up on the walls: Gav is more unaware of his surroundings than anyone I have ever met. All the big stuff: the trust of the children and parents; the absence of any culture of bullying; the assurance of routine – these were in place.

Being an OW lent insight, but his ability to flourish here has depended far more on his resolute independence. He has been the best of Jim Dixons, faced intermittently by latter day Professor Welches – especially during that era in which strident egoism seemed a guarantee of substance. Like Jim, Gavin's fantasy was to belch loudly. He hated showing off. Unlike Jim, however, his anger has always been softened by a deep sympathy for the ragged loneliness of the human condition.

Physically short, round and bespectacled, Gavin has always been the last man to toe the party line. When he was a small boy at the Lycee, his music report one term stated simply: *Gavin ne chante pas*. Too right he doesn't. In wishing him, Tracy and Josephine the best of everything for their life in Norfolk, I can only add – a little plaintively – many of us will miss him more than we can ever say.

VALETE

Simon Craft

■ Simon joined Westminster in 1992 and is leaving the School to pursue business interests after 20 years of teaching. In reality he joined Westminster in 1977 as a young boy up Rigaud's and was so inspired by the late Gerry



Ashton that he went on to study Spanish and History at St Anne's College, Oxford.

Although Simon did not go straight into teaching but tried his hand at advertising, journalism and marketing in far flung places such as Australia, it was Gerry who encouraged him to apply for a post at Westminster. Simon took the opportunity to devote his attention to his two great passions in life: Spanish and sport.

He has been a key figure in an increasingly popular Spanish department where he was able to impart not only his passions for García Lorca and Spanish Golden Age plays but also for all things cultural such as concerts, plays and flamenco dancing. He has been a tireless organiser and promoter of trips to Spain: whether to Granada or to Salamanca, Simon's trips have always had at their heart his love of the characteristics of urban Spanish living, skilfully balancing allowing the individual pupil the scope to explore the buzz of Spanish life and culture for themselves with an extremely professional concern for their personal wellbeing. Simon's students have also had the joy of learning from an extraordinarily faultless linguist who inspired great levels of excellence. In this respect Simon's laid-back exterior is deceptive – he demands the highest standards from his pupils. Their response has always been impressive; there is no doubt that they were as much motivated by their great fondness for Simon as a person and teacher as anything else. His sense of humour and ability to lighten the atmosphere of his classes without compromising the spirit of intellectual endeavour have been central to his teaching style. For above and beyond his linguistic excellence, Simon always made the process of studying Spanish fun. That his wife, Angela, was able to join him in the department only heightened the scope for laughs with a peculiarly Spanish twist!

Simon is an extremely accomplished sportsman in his own right. Nicknamed

'Psycho' at school, his considerable footballing ability, and his cultured left foot, won him an Oxford football Blue and briefly he even considered a career in the game, but, a badly broken leg scuppered these plans. He has had to endure many years when his physical skills were compromised through long-term injury and a variety of ensuing medical conditions; this used to frustrate him deeply. From his first arrival at Westminster, he threw himself enthusiastically into coaching both football and tennis. Indeed for 7 years he held the post of Head of Station – skilfully juggling logistical challenges and massaging the egos of the individual Station masters! However it was probably his involvement with School tennis which produced the greatest impact: not only will we miss his daunting shots across the net, but the Station itself can thank Simon for the dramatic improvements it has seen over recent years to its facilities, coaching and overall competitiveness. Simon was Head of Tennis for 13 years and, under his watchful eye, the Westminster Tennis Team may be considered to have enjoyed golden years; our success at the Youll Cup was unprecedented.

Simon has been a real personality in the Common Room over the years, and we have all enjoyed the scope for banter which he has presented. Witty, knowledgeable and very much his own man, Simon will be sorely missed by colleagues and pupils alike.

JLC with AEAM and JJK

Amanda Jorgensen

■ You find Amanda most at home in her studio. With students around quietly chatting but utterly absorbed in what they are doing, the atmosphere is one of learning in a friendly environment. She talks with passion about the process; the process of making art



is what she sees as part of the creative act she enjoys in her own work, but even more so than that, in the job of teaching. Giving students the confidence to experiment is her ultimate goal and she enjoys being made to see things in a new light by those working with her, whether Fifth Formers or Remove. She likes to experiment and works on a small 'manageable' scale. Her own works are objects of incredible delicacy and stillness; drawings, paintings, photographs, three dimensional objects and textiles.

Her photographs are breath-taking; a light on a wall, shafts of light forming linear patterns on a textured surface, these are pared down shapes and contours. These shapes can be seen in her painting but suddenly we are confronted with colour as well as texture. She explores the different relationships between the colours and their varied intensities. There is no narrative, yet they are intensely personal. Her works with



textiles are utterly original and point to her delight in collecting and recycling. Small pieces of cloth, all with a memory within them, lie in patterns around one another and are sewn into the base. Nothing is wasted and she, with typical humour and modesty wonders whether they are all part of a 'make do and mend' trait in her. Ever-caring Amanda; she describes her pieces as objects that are not necessarily meant to be beautiful but have value in their overlooked quality. She is inspired by Tracy Emin and Louise Bourgeois, and by her husband Alex whose work she obviously admires hugely. She wonders whether her new job as Head of Art at Stowe will allow her more time for her own work and suspects not!

Amanda has been respected, admired and appreciated at Westminster in so many ways over the past 18 years since her arrival in 1994. She has inspired generations of artists but she has also played a major part in setting up and running PSHE in the past twelve years. With her typical mixture of integrity and steeliness she has made the discipline an integral part of the learning process at Westminster. Amanda's quiet, understated strength has made her a good leader and friend.

She has also run netball over a number of years and tutored in Purcell's. These activities have enhanced the lives of many of the girls who have come to Westminster and needed a friend, mentor or quiet presence. We will miss her too in the Art History department where she is an honorary member. Her Lower School Expeditions to Venice over the past few years have led many a budding art historian to decide to study the subject.

We wish her luck at Stowe with her work, her teaching and her family and hope that on her way back down to her beloved retreat in Cornwall she will drop in on us from time to time. JLC

Andrew Johnson (OW)

■ 'AJ' has been a cult figure at Westminster since he joined the History department at the turn of the century, unfailingly popular and warmly appreciated by colleagues and pupils



alike. It is no coincidence that Westminster History has flourished so strongly during his time here. Andy's hard work, unfailing yet characteristically understated, and his rock-solid commitment to the very best standards of teaching, are both self-evident and inspiring, and it is typical of the man that this exemplary professionalism somehow remained undiminished despite the greater commitments of managing Ashburnham being thrust upon him. This sense of his earnest commitment to, and engagement with, their cause and welfare is only part of the reason for his popularity with his pupils; the rest is surely due to the strength and richness of his personality, and to his enthusiastic and committed involvement in so many different areas of the life of the school and its pupils. His levels of energy, and the depths of his patience, consideration and humanity, are remarkable. He has an ineffable sympathy for his fellow human beings, and an innate sensitivity to personal need and situation, which marks out the very best teachers. He sets firm boundaries – clear, rational, understood and conducive of best practice – but knows instinctively when to support and encourage rather than cajole. He quickly assesses the potential in individuals, and judges them at their best, instilling confidence and self-belief. Best of all, he is a fantastic role model.

As a colleague, his company is always invigorating, his sense of humour heart-warming, infectious and never far beneath the surface. He evidently has a great gift for friendship, and is unfailingly loyal and supportive to all those around him, deserving or not. I have been privileged to have been a companion on Andy's Westminster odyssey, as his History teacher in the early nineties, and latterly in his second incarnation here this century as colleague and head of department. I even like

to think I gave his self-esteem an early boost, less by what I did (or failed to do) for him in the classroom but more generously in granting him an outrageous leg before decision against the Oratory School captain and Young England star batsman in 1992 that I feel confident marked a turning point in the burgeoning careers of both young men. It even lost us the fixture. Andy now knows that all he touches turns to gold. This has certainly been the case in his gilded Westminster experience, where he has given so generously, and I trust will remain true as his career now takes an exciting new turn. He will be much missed here – and more than he knows, for sure. GPAB

■ There is no doubt that 'Johnners' will look back at his time as a teacher at Westminster and reflect on the vast range of extra-curricular activities he contributed to, adds CJRU.

His time here as a boy no doubt prepared him for various facets of the activities on offer. Having walked the Lyke Wake Walk himself, for example, it was natural that he should help out with the running of this on several occasions – driving minibuses around the North York Moors in the small hours of the night, listening to Hawkwind and Pink Floyd, always acting as an encouraging figure for the weary hikers approaching Hasty Bank or Rosedale Head.

Having himself excelled at sport, it was natural that he should contribute to coaching various sports here, running for several years a successful U15 football team in the winter. In doing so he tried to replicate the success of the Chelsea team he holds so dear. As a keen and skilful tennis player he also brings his passion to that sport in the summer. As if that wasn't enough he turns out on the cricket field for the Pink Elephants, the Staff team, with great vigour, bowling wicket-taking inswingers and slashing boundaries with equal relish. Is there no end to this man's sporting talents? Rumour has it he is even quite good at Real tennis, and may possibly be in the top few Real tennis players in the Common Room.

In more recent times, his guidance of Ashburnham House has been his main focus, and he has done a great job. The pupils in his house have a great respect and genuine warmth for their Housemaster, and his attitude is to try to understand and respect them. Every member of his House matters to him, and they benefit in no small way from his attention to detail – even if they don't always realise it at the time!

However, I would be willing to bet that if you ask AJ to state the one part of his time at Westminster that meant the most to him, it would be his leadership of PHAB. He was passionate about the value of this week-long residential course, having taken part in it as a pupil. He believed in it as a life-changing education for everyone who took part, and his efforts as leader were colossal. For his impact on the broader life of Westminster School he will be sorely missed. CJRU

Gareth Brocklesby

■ In the Westminster Mathematics department Gareth was an unusual figure: a snappy dresser amongst flannel-clad fogies; a drinker of Yorkshire bitter amongst cocktail sippers; for those who recall the era of Britpop rivalry, the *Oasis* to the rest of the department's *Suede*. Gareth is leaving to become Head of Mathematics at Brighton College: an impressive promotion at this stage in his career and a responsibility which he will, of course, manage with the combination of effectiveness and unflappability which has characterised his teaching here. He has been unstinting in giving his time to those who needed it and I am sure that his pupils meant to be as grateful for this as he deserved: his colleagues, at any rate, have appreciated his professionalism and support.



For his four years at Westminster Gareth was the resident tutor in College, where his Wakefield roots and Matron's Bradford background provided the ideal cultural balance to The Master's antipodean refinement. Gareth was always a friendly but firm presence around the House; he enjoyed a healthy banter with the boarders and was able to maintain a very productive environment with a very cheerful atmosphere. As alluded to elsewhere in this magazine, his birthday was celebrated with unnatural frequency; it was with a sense of irony that I pointed out to my Remove, on the day after Gareth's birthday, that they had actually missed the real event! As a tutor, he encouraged, nurtured and occasionally chastised in his customary avuncular manner. He left his mark on College in just the right way.

Gareth maintained a valued commitment to both football and cricket stations. For football he managed the under 15 A team and will be remembered for his distinctive Bassano Virtus shirt as well as his positive and fair approach. It was the under 14 team in cricket that benefitted from Gareth's commitment and enthusiasm. He gave freely of his time and will be much missed up fields.

Gareth's new job also involves moving to Brighton: considerably further South than us and a town flamboyant even by comparison with the loucher end of the Westminster Common Room. We wish him well with his new job and hope that he, Lucy and the whip-pet will acclimatise there as quickly as they have here. **MHF with MCD**

James Baughan

■ A recently discovered and unfinished novel by Graham Greene 'The Empty Chair' would have been a fitting gift for James Baughan on his departure from Westminster. In James' case it is the bench in Yard that has been left empty

but his departure is to ensure that, unlike Greene, the novel he has been working on over the past few years does not remain unfinished. The bench in question was daily a hive of activity, whether it was his seminars on literature, an extra lesson in German or a meeting with miscreants from the Lower Shell, James could invariably be found holding court from this spot underneath the Registrar's window.



James joined Westminster midway through the Lent term in 2007 to teach German and French and it quickly became clear that he was a highly enthusiastic and very gifted teacher; he went on to play a vital role in the success of the Modern Languages Department over the course of the following five years. He played a key role in facilitating the extensive exchange visits which are a part of the DNA of the German department and James would spend over three weeks spread over the summer and winter breaks in Munich and Berlin respectively, which, for someone who refuses to believe that aeroplanes can fly, involved many hours on the European Rail Network.

These long journeys did not however provide sufficient time for James to complete his unfinished novel and his departure from Westminster will allow him to immerse himself in his writing. During his time here James devoured books and whilst I suspect his own novel will be more Evelyn Waugh than Irvine Welsh, his reading spanned many genres and languages, and his love and knowledge of literature was something he shared with pupils and staff alike.

Over the next couple of years James plans to split his time between London (one will generally find him in Hatchards or the London Library) and his beloved Dorset; we would like to thank him for all he has done at Westminster and wish him well for the future.

MAB with UH

Hannah Munro

■ Hannah arrived at Westminster in 2009 from Charterhouse, and over two and a half years proved a real asset to Westminster History. She was a joy to work with; a constructive, good humoured colleague, whose doggerel e-mail exchanges and sense of fun enlivened the department, and whose at times sudden enthusiasms were followed up with commitment and flair. Who can forget her passion for her roots in Dutch football during the 2010 World Cup, or her decision to get a letter



published in *The Times* that summer, which saw her write in daily, on a host of subjects, until the Letters Editor rightly relented? That sense of fun has been a hallmark of her teaching too, and it has regularly been tempting to sneak into the back of D39 to join in another rousing rendition of *Come Out Ye Black and Tans* with the Remove, or to see if one could emulate the Lower Shell in claiming a ration of fun-sized Mars Bars for asking three or more pertinent questions. She was far more technically savvy than her often rather Luddite colleagues, and has trail-blazed with Team History's first interactive whiteboard and a host of new and innovative resources with a light touch and a sure attention to detail. The musical repertoire, in particular, reflected Hannah's part in making the study of modern Irish History a staple of Westminster's range of A2 options, and her efficiency and powers of organization have been to the fore in establishing the study trip to Dublin. From the start, she was so magisterially in command of logistics that her colleague could totally relax into *his* role of meandering around the city's Georgian squares holding forth on Yeats and the literary revival, with barely a care in the world. In short, Hannah was both an accomplished historian and an inspirational and creative teacher, taking pride in both these assets in a fashion that rightly kept her pupils and colleagues on their toes.

Beyond the department, Hannah was a committed tutor up Busby's, an enthusiastic participant in athletics and cross-country – and, perhaps above all, a wise and trusted ear for many. A lot can happen in seven terms. Hannah arrived as Miss van Dijk and left as Mrs Monro, leaving colleagues and pupils alike bereft at her departure. We are hugely grateful for everything she did here, and wish her and Alex all the best for the future, in Christchurch and beyond. **TPJE with AJ**

Kavan Shah

■ If a gauge could be devised for measuring the greatest teaching impact over the shortest time, Kavan would surely ring up a very high score indeed. He came to us straight from graduating in Economics & Management at Oxford and quickly showed himself to be innovative, inspiring and fearless. Taking an Oxbridge class of 40, for example, was just fine. It was the same on the football field. We are sorry to lose him so soon and wish him prosperous good fortune in his new business venture. **SCH**



Marie-Sophie von Halasz

Marie-Sophie joined the French Department in September 2010 so that the Lower School pupils could experience conversation classes with a native speaker, something which had been the preserve of the Upper School. Only Marie-Sophie could arrive at work on a scooter in such a distinguished and elegant fashion! With pupils and colleagues alike she was gentle and kind. She contributed extensively to the life of the Department and accompanied pupils on trips. She was particularly keen to help those to whom French did not always come easily. We wish her well as she continues her teaching career elsewhere and hope that she will stay in touch. **SGB**



Westminster Under School and the Great School between 1989 and 2000. Then, since 1999, as a member of first the Under School and, for the last 8 years, of both schools simultaneously.

Appointed as 'Study Skills Co-ordinator', a title suggested by Tristram Jones-Parry when she worked under him at Emanuel School, she has formed a department of one. Pretty much single-handedly she has had to define, formalise and expand the job of supporting pupils' academic progress both within the world of Westminster and within a broader world which has become sadly, and madly, ever more obsessed with defining Education in terms of exam grades. In spite of this, however, Carla never viewed the role as one restricted to the imparting of skills necessary to succeed in exams; yes, she did successfully counter the often entrenched scepticism of the Common Room to raise awareness of the physical and intellectual benefits that the use of a laptop brings to some individuals, and yes, under her guidance, many pupils in both schools did pick up enormously valuable tips for successful revision and gaining examination skills. But many a housemaster and parent alike will also pay testament to the priceless role she has played in assisting with the pastoral as well as academic well-being of her many pupils: in particular of pupils who, perhaps in danger of feeling peripheral or even alienated within the competitive and high-achieving world of Westminster School, might otherwise have not had access to such a sympathetic and supportive ear as hers, and not achieved the academic success that in the end they did.



For she has always highlighted the importance to a pupil's successful academic performance of his or her self-belief – something that lay at the heart of her relationship with her pupils: her confidence in their underlying ability was unswerving and uplifting to them. Moreover she showed how crucial it was to start confronting these issues as early in a pupil's education as possible – her role in the Under School enabled her to forge vital early contact with individual pupils in this respect: equally she urged her colleagues to raise our own awareness of the individual learning needs of pupils in our classes and to shape our teaching strategies to meet the demands of the less vocal, less obviously academically efficient members of the set, as much as their opposites. If the School may be considered to have improved its ability to deal not just with the obvious high-flyers at the top end, and its sensitivity to the individual needs of the full range of its pupils, then Carla has played a central role in that process.

On a personal level, Carla's warmth, her powerful sense of conscience and her inclination for straight-talking have brought her many friends within the School community. It is important that we occasionally are reminded to look out from the ivory tower of our existence at Westminster at those less fortunate around the world, and at issues more fundamental than a missed prep. She has always done this both in her actions – for example in helping physically to build a school in tsunami-struck Sri Lanka – and in her words, with humour, passion and conviction. The integrity which she has brought to both her work at School and her life outside it has been exemplary. We all wish her well as she sets her sights on young offenders and the world of prison, working there with those whose learning difficulties impair their literacy skills – a daunting challenge after Westminster? Perhaps not. **AEAM with JMC**

Natalie Brosehat

Natalie Broschat joined the German Department in September 2011 as the Language Assistant and has been a great addition ever since. She has worked intensively with pupils of all ages and has impressed us with her friendly manner and her professional attitude. We all wish her every success for her future career. **UH and DJS**



Carla Stevens

Few members of the Common Room have been able to gain the insight into the world of Westminster School that Carla has over the almost 23 years that she has been associated with the place; first as parent to two sons, Will & Ed, who made their way through both

Simon Massey RIP

Simon Massey died in the winter after suffering intermittently from illness. Despite the health problems which led to his absence from some of the previous cricket season, he had always seemed the picture of physical fitness. Simon began coaching cricket at Westminster in 1998 and his work at the Under School and the Great School was valued very highly by all the boys he coached. He prepared for these sessions thoroughly and he kept meticulous records of scores and coaching points on his charges. His



enthusiasm, commitment and loyalty to the school were outstanding.

Those boys who were coached by him will not have known that he had been a professional cricketer contracted to Hampshire from 1980 to 1984 and Worcestershire. He also played grade cricket during this period for Manley C.C. in Sydney, Australia. He was then signed by Berkshire and played Minor County Cricket from 1986–1989. He captained the Berkshire League Representative XI from 1992–1997 during which time he broke the league batting record with a score of 194.

His coaching took him to many other schools and cricket clubs. For a while he was Head Coach at the Oval's Ken Barrington Cricket Centre and he also worked for the Tasmania Cricket Association in Australia. He continued to play

league cricket until 2010 and will be fondly remembered within the wider cricket community. Some may remember him switching from his specialist right-arm off-spin to bowling accurate left-arm spin in cricket practices. He also worked as a cricket commentator for Rapidline, Cricinfo and Lashings Cricket Club. On one coach journey back from Highgate he entertained the boys on the microphone with a comic routine which celebrated his enthusiasm for the game and the characters involved.

His widow and family have offered the chance to contribute in Simon's memory to the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust (Tel: 01252 749990. Email: enquiries@sdbtt.co.uk). On Sunday 24 June at Vincent Square, Pink Elephants CC played Old Westminsters CC in a match in Simon's memory. **JAI**s



Arch Inscriptions PUNCTUATING ETERNITY

Will Kitchen (AHH) proudly reveals his five top tips for carving your name on Burlington's Arch.

Figure 1 (left):

Location, Location, Location

Seen these names before? I thought not. These people have fallen at the first hurdle, the location of one's inscription. These ones are almost never seen. A better height would be around eye level, neither too high nor too low. Choose a prominent position.



Figure 2 (left): **Carve it well**

Having a deeply carved, and properly carved, inscription is a key factor in being noticed. The clarity and depth of one's carving increases the prominence and likelihood of being noticed too. Being noticed for having a poorly done inscription also risks deletion, as has indeed happened in recent years. It is possible to carve well if one has the ability of a stonemason.



A poorly done inscription also risks deletion

Figure 3 (below): **Don't forget your name**

One might think it is very obvious indeed, and that it is ridiculous that someone might forget to put their name on the wall after inscribing the date. However, this does happen. Whilst being pleased with inscribing the date on the wall one must press on with the task at hand.



Figure 4 (below): **Remember to use a 's'**

This is one of the best known of them all. However, if one looks carefully one can see that it is in fact G. Legge *not* Clegge. Using a clear full stop and a small gap avoids confusion.



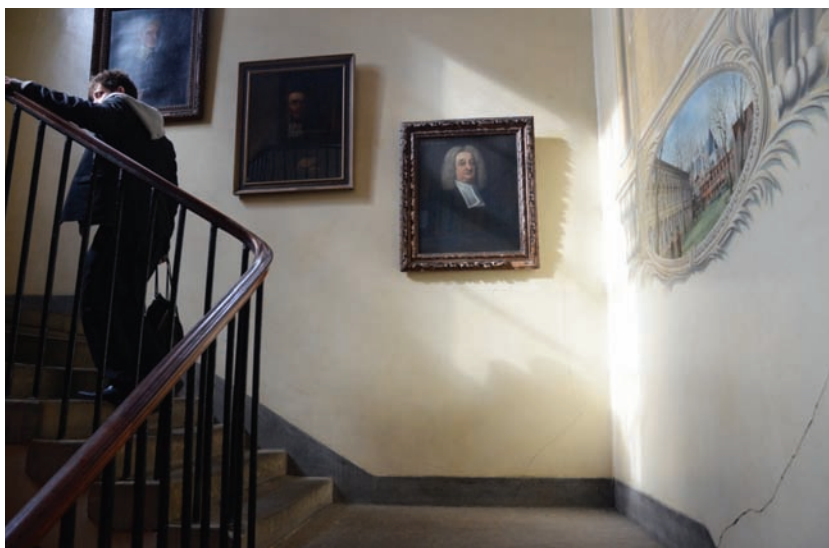
Figure 5 (below): **Use English**

After one has achieved the above one can simply be pleased with oneself. However, do not be lured beforehand to be boastful enough to do your inscription in other language. It makes your inscription completely illegible to the majority of the population who are not scholars in an obscure, old or ambivalent language.



Figure 6 (below): shows an example of very finely done work at the top of Burlington's Arch which satisfies the above five points, and has ensured schoolboy immortality for the careful scribe.





Being a Queen's Scholar

SLEEPING IN THE SHADOW OF THE ABBEY

When Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540, most of Westminster School, then known as the College of Saint Peter, had to go, explains Tom Ashton (QSS).

■ But Henry made sure that the school kept running by paying for 40 'King's Scholars' to be educated there. Twenty years later Elizabeth I started up the school again and the King's Scholars became Queen's Scholars, who from then on have changed their name according to the gender of the monarch, unlike Eton's King's Scholars.

Queen's Scholars have some rights; including the right to witness the opening of Parliament, the right to go into College Garden, and the right to be the first to greet a new monarch after the coronation. In C.H Parry's coronation anthem *I Was Glad*, there is a strange key-change at one point that often baffles singers and conductors. This occurs because there is a section being missed out. The "vivat rex/regina" (long live the king/queen) section is only allowed to be sung by Queen's Scholars during a coronation service.

On a daily basis there is no difference between Queen's Scholars and other Westminster pupils, although there are certain traditional duties Scholars must perform from time to time. They have to wear gowns in Westminster Abbey for example, and attend a Sunday Eucharist service there once a term. To become a Queen's Scholar,

When I leave I won't forget sleeping in the shadow of Westminster Abbey in a building designed by Wren, with Big Ben tolling in the background.

you have to be one of the top eight candidates in the scholarship entrance exam, the Challenge. Traditionally, a Queen's Scholar had to be a Protestant, but Head Master John Rae abolished that rule in the 1970s.

Being a Queen's Scholar is certainly a unique experience. When I leave I won't forget sleeping in the shadow of Westminster Abbey in a building designed by Wren, with Big Ben tolling in the background.

Joining the Sixth Form at Westminster

LEARNING THE LINGO

I can say with certainty that my first day at Westminster was something of a daunting experience, admits Sive Curran (HH).

■ Although moving from my last, all girls', school and where I had been since I was four years old, was a huge decision I found that within a few weeks I could barely imagine myself anywhere else but Westminster.

So, my first day. Now it seems like a blur of new names and a repetition of the same questions (Which House are you in? What subjects are you taking? Where did you used to go to school?). We spent the morning meeting the Heads of Department and attempting to navigate the labyrinth of school buildings. After a whole series of talks about subject choices and station (you are inducted immediately into the Westminster lingo) we were all finally ushered to our new Houses to meet each other, in what turned out to be a slightly awkward but memorable experience.



My overriding memory of that first day is sitting on the bright red Hakluyt's sofa telling stories about what we did over the summer, some more graphic than others. Despite not winning the House quiz in Grant's dining room I did learn the price of a margherita pizza from Ecco, one of the most important facts I learnt on that day.

It takes a while to get used to the strange school traditions that all the boys take for granted; my first Latin prayers was an honestly surreal experience. Over the first few days you are forced to fit into a new way of life fairly quickly; not only are you still getting used to all the new names and faces around you but you also have to acclimatise to the style and work-load of Sixth Form lessons. Looking back now, with nearly a year of Westminster schooling behind me, I am so glad that I decided to come to the school and I'm really looking forward to the rest of my time here.



Latin Prayers

CHEQUES AND BALANCES – THE INEFFICIENCY OF FETES

In September, Chris Leatt (AHH) had a debate with others from Ashburnham House at Latin Prayers about the value of the school's major pupil fund-raising event, September Saturday.

■ As you all know, September Saturday is happening this Saturday – and today we'd like to talk to you about a question that's always puzzled me: is it all worth it? Why should we go to all the pain and trouble of hosting September Saturday?

Now, before the objections begin, I want to take a second to explain. Putting aside the obvious objections: social responsibility, our duty to mankind and the like, I want to look at the problem objectively for a moment. September Saturday – and this is indisputable – is hideously inefficient.

Consider the vast amount of time that September Saturday requires, and the quantity of prizes to be bought and items to be donated. Consider the cost of running it, down to the price of the petrol needed to attend. Now imagine if we were all, for example, to find part time work for the duration of the event, and donate our wages, plus the money saved by not hosting the fair in the first place instead. Chances are we'd make a lot more money. Wouldn't it be more practical and less effort simply to dispense with the whole thing and just ask everyone to send a cheque?

Aren't you missing the point? The school is easily wealthy enough to throw money at the problem. A couple of thousand pounds here and there is technically enough to release us from our moral responsibilities. Time, not money, is what September Saturday's about. By giving up our time, we're showing we genuinely do care, as opposed to assuaging our consciences with another meaningless cheque.

But what if we really did raise more money if everyone simply sent in a donation? Our aim is to raise as much money for charity as possible. How we do so is irrelevant. The women and children in the DRC won't care if the money we send hasn't been raised in a family-friendly way. It's pure selfishness not to be as efficient as possible, even if it means sacrificing

Why should we go to all the pain and trouble of hosting September Saturday?

the 'personal touch.' If we *genuinely* cared, we'd cancel September Saturday and ask everyone to send a cheque, if it ultimately meant more money for the poor.

Aren't we trying to save the world here though? September Saturday, even if it's not the most effective solution, still raises awareness and helps the poor. Instead of focusing on the net result, shouldn't we relax and do our best? If we all just keep working at it, maybe one day we really will solve the world's problems.

Don't give me diabetes – the world isn't that sweet and syrupy! Take a look around. In a world riddled by war, poverty and starvation, how much can we really do? How much can September Saturday, even such a noble gesture really raise? £10,000? £20,000? More? It will ultimately be a drop in the ocean – a futile gesture which will mean little, and achieve less.

At least it's a start. Isn't it better to light a candle than to curse the darkness – to do something, no matter how small, than to not do anything at all?

Don't be ridiculous. It's not a start. It's not even the beginning of one – a start implies a potential effect in the future. Consider the immensity of the problem. You are literally suggesting we change the world, and we both know that's not going to happen. The naivety and the arrogance behind that idea – that we can suddenly sweep in and make everything better – just takes my breath away.

You're looking this the wrong way. No one expects us to solve the world's problems in one swoop. Everyone's just got to do their part. If everyone in the UK donated just one pound to charity, for example, no one would be making a big effort, but the net result would be huge – over £60 million.

What if I took my pound, and bought, say, a triple shot latte with vanilla syrup, whipped cream and cinnamon from Starbucks? Nothing would change. My personal contribution is insignificant. September Saturday, on a grand



scale is insignificant.

If we're as insignificant as you say, than why should we bother with charity at all? I suppose it's worthwhile when it suits us, but other than that, you make it sound pointless.

What do you mean, 'when it suits us'?

Pragmatically, I can think of several selfish reasons for charity. UCAS forms, for one. Charity always looks good on a university form. It's very important to tick all the boxes, you know.

Very true.

Charity is also a great way to enhance your reputation – especially if you keep it a secret. The word tends to get out, as it does, and not only do you look like a generous man, but a modest one as well. You could even do charity for the school. We need to maintain our status as a charitable institution.

But is that the way we want to live our lives?

The point we've been trying to make, ultimately, is that when looked at objectively, the reasons most people give for taking part in charity are fundamentally flawed, because they're based on naivety, arrogance or selfishness. Don't misunderstand me – the money we raise is still important, but that's only half the point.

If we abandon our superior outlook – the idea that we are bending down from up high to aid those who are incapable of helping themselves, we can begin to understand that charity is a two-way process. We too have our problems. The act of taking part in charity helps the giver just as much as it helps the receiver.

Through charity, we are taught empathy, communication and understanding. Charity poses challenges that we have to learn to solve. Running a stall, for example, teaches business skills and organisation. Most importantly of all, charity exposes us to new outlooks upon life and new ways of thinking.

Whether that's reason enough to host September Saturday we'll leave to you.

September Saturday SPOILED FOR CHOICE

Walking into double maths on Saturday morning, Yard was its normal, lifeless self, claim James Sherwood (DD) and Alex Lee (DD). But this day was different.

■ What a difference a double lesson makes. Within one and a half hours, Yard had been transformed into a full-blown fete. From giant inflatables for 18 year olds to bounce on to giant cockroaches for racing, there was something for everyone.

For the first year in the history of September Saturday, all of the stalls were set up within Yard and Ashburnham House. The event was also documented through a time-lapse. Under the new leadership of Jeremy Kemball and Sam Baldock, September Saturday has started to achieve its full potential, with the money raised more than doubling in the past two years. Some had questioned the new format of the day, with no house Tug of War and nothing on Green, but the figures really illustrate what a difference this made.

With over 30 stalls to choose from, visitors were really spoiled for choice of where to spend the money. The traditional stalls, including the Bookshop and Cake Sale were joined this year by the rather more obscure, wacky, and ultimately very successful stalls, includ-

ing stalls which offered the chance to smash crockery, be photographed in costume, and watch famed 'Iron Man' Mr Wurr coated in pink gunge, who gained this privilege after winning the public vote over Dr Williams and Mr Hargreaves.

From just two and a half hours, the total raised amounted to over £20,000. The money is being split between our away charity, a centre based in the Democratic Republic of Congo that offers legal advice to families that did not know that help was available, and our home charities, which we have supported for many years.

Overall, the day was a huge success, with pupils, staff, family and friends alike enjoying themselves immensely while also supporting some very worthwhile causes.

September Saturday has started to achieve its full potential, with the money raised more than doubling in the past two years

Check out the timelapse image at www.youtube.com/user/septembersaturday



One of the fastest years in memory



The Lyke Wake Walk WELL MET BY MOONLIGHT

This year forty of the bravest, stupidest, or simply the most naive members of the Remove, gathered, as many have done before, on a clear Saturday afternoon in October to face the Lyke Wake Walk challenge across the North Yorkshire Moors, writes Dominic Smith (DD) proudly.

■ We watched as every other group left one by one into the cold night, all with good spirits and determined strides, until late in the evening, after some restless shut-eye we too finally set off, with Dr AK and Mr Hooper bringing up the rear. The Walk is a time-honoured Westminster tradition: simply put, the aim is to complete the roughly 40 mile route under a 24 hour benchmark. For our team the goal was a little tougher (some say more sadistic): to beat my brother's highly-ranked time of 13 hours and 13 minutes.

Weather is an important factor in a good Lyke Wake time; some years the walk has even been cancelled due to foul conditions. However, we had perfect cool, clear conditions with the bonus of a good moon. This meant that large stretches of the course could be done without head torches, a weird experience at 2 o'clock in the morning having



Weather is an important factor in a good Lyke Wake time; some years the walk has been cancelled.

been awake all day previously. The walk is without doubt one of the most challenging things both mentally and physically that I have done; as such the sense of friendship and camaraderie was tangible when we met other groups along the way and even more so as our stiff and somewhat crippled bodies greeted and chatted to others coming back into the youth hostel in dribs and drabs the next day. The elated sense of achievement was made all the sweeter by the knowledge that everyone completed the course in what was one of the fastest years in memory. Indeed, there were two groups posting sub-15 hour times, my

own managed to get a time of 12 hours and 43 minutes, the fastest time for some years and the brilliantly named 'Shahzaad Natt and the Supremes' team posted a time of 14 hours and 35 minutes. Far harder I think was the gallant performance by team 'Dobell' who walked for an insane 22 hours and 20 minutes.

Everyone brought home brilliant stories and sore limbs, while new friendships were made and others cemented. Special thanks must, as ever, go to the teachers who organised the walk and endured as little sleep as us, cooking breakfast and providing pit-stop food and drink breaks along the way.



Model United Nations CHINA IN THEIR HANDS

Model United Nations functions much like debating, but with an emphasis on compromise and solution rather than outright 'winning', report KRO and Christopher Leet (AHH) of this year's competitions.

MUN is divided up into committees of twenty students, each of whom takes a position on an issue based on a country's viewpoint. Each committee tries to create a resolution to solve this issue which will garner the support of at least half of the other delegates. Given the general argumentativeness of Westminster pupils, Westminster generally does rather well at MUNs, which is gathering pace again after a quiet couple of years.

In December, 21 pupils from the Sixth Form and Upper Shell attended a conference at the London Oratory School, representing China, India, South Africa, Portugal, Mexico and Turkey. During the day, news of a nuclear incident in Iran appeared, and the delegations worked together to write new resolutions quickly and to lobby pupils from other schools for their resolutions to be accepted. Yash Diwan, Isaac Kang, Christopher Leet and Cameron Joshi all made excellent presentations to the General Assembly and fielded questions from the audience confidently and articulately. As a result of their efforts, Westminster pupils won four awards:

- **Christopher Leet** (China – Security Council) – Best Delegate

- **Francesca Greenstreet** (South Africa – Human Rights Committee) – Highly Commended
- **Ellen O'Neill** (China – Human Rights Committee) – Highly Commended
- **Hui Liu** (China – Political Committee) – Highly Commended

In March, 15 pupils, including one German exchange student, attended a conference at the City of London Boys School. The pupils were addressed by British diplomat Marcus Hope OBE, and this set the tone for an interesting day in which Westminster pupils represented the interests of China, Azerbaijan, South Korea and Myanmar. A mention has to be made here for Westminster's China delegation. For reasons unknown, Westminster always seems to receive China as one of the countries it has to represent. Whether because of Westminster's place in the alphabet, or whether simply as a comment from the other London schools about Westminster's ethos, Westminster has sent out a China delegation

Westminster always seems to receive China as one of the countries it has to represent.



Given the general argumentativeness of Westminster pupils, Westminster generally does rather well at MUNs.

consistently for the past two years. The debates were of a very high standard and covered issues from censorship and freedom of speech to the use of IMF funds for an EU bailout and the Security Council had to grapple with forming a response to problems in Syria and Iran a year after the 'Arab Spring'. All of the pupils were very impressive – the Chinese delegation were 'Highly Commended' and the following pupils received individual awards for their contributions:

- **Piers Dubin** (Azerbaijan – ECOSOC Committee) – Best Delegate
- **Francesca Greenstreet** (China – Special Committee) – Best Delegate
- **Madeline O'Riordan** (South Korea – ECOSOC Committee) – Highly Commended
- **Christopher Leet** (China – Security Council) – Highly Commended



He opened his tightly locked palm with a smile.



The Greaze FOAMING FRENZY

The Greaze could perhaps be awarded the highly-sought-after title of the zenith of Westminster quirkiness, declares Andreas Ioannou (MM).



Unknown to his rivals, victory was his from the start.

■ The uninitiated may describe the 250 year-old ritual on Shrove Tuesday as a barbaric event in today's society and a far cry from the behaviour expected of a top public school. The adrenaline-filled atmosphere is reminiscent of ancient Rome's Coliseum, as is what takes place in the arena itself. New staff ready to admire the spectacle become pale with horror as old-timers recount past anecdotes and reel off endless lists of injuries of which dislocated shoulders and irreparable knee joints are also allegedly a part.

Some may be led, by the above descriptions, to believe that the Greaze is the nadir of Westminster's intelligence. However, this would be incorrect. Entwined with the animalistic attitude is one of strategy and tactics. And it was, in suitable Westminster fashion, intelligence which conquered savagery on the day and thus my own faith in Westminster

School was restored. Will Barrott of Milne's, having meticulously calculated the most probable trajectory of the pancake, positioned himself towards the back of the jostling competitors in such a way as to ensure the pancake landed right in front of his feet behind the other foolish contestants at which point he flung himself, quite literally, on top of a supposedly hairy pancake. Unknown to his rivals, victory was his from the start.

Perhaps the most amusing episode of the Greaze this year occurred after the tussle itself had ended. 'Fitzie', a burly and triumphant Upper Shell waved his piece of pancake to his friend; in reply, the latter who had previously been buried deep within the pile of schoolboys and one of the few in contention for the pancake, chuckled smugly and thrust out his hand towards the former. He opened his tightly locked palm with a smile, which faded to an expression of shock and confusion as, instead of the winning chunk of pancake, he found a large piece of green foam which he had inadvertently ripped from the protective mat. *Cogita ante salis* is now his motto, and thus learning has advanced.

HOUSE REPORTS

COLLEGE

■ After all the excitement of last year, with papal visits and the General Synod, it was in many ways a relief to those in College to be away from the spotlight for a bit, not least due to the realisation that we no longer had to attend hours of Abbey rehearsals, which always seemed to be strategically timed to cause maximum disturbance. This view was not shared by all, however, in particular the Fifth Form, who had yet to see a major service in the Abbey, and the Remove, who would finally have to come to terms with the fact that they would not in fact be able to attend the new King's coronation. Of course, our routine services, like Little Commem and Eucharists, continued as normal while three scholars made everyone in College (and the rest of the school) jealous by obtaining ringside seats to experience the Royal Wedding as the rest of the country watched on.

The tone was set for this year's sports events with Eugene Daley's twenty run cameo off the last over in House cricket, including a six off the last ball to take us into the semi-finals. Though there was no doubting the effort and promise, whatever the sport, the talent and determination which was so evident when devising team sheets in College library never quite seemed to materialise on the pitch. Perhaps this was not through any inadequacy in sporting ability but rather simply a lack of fortune, with the Fifth Form mistaking House Football for a FIFA tournament and preparing accordingly, the fact that eighty percent of the house was for some reason banned from playing in the Girl's Football, and that an elusive Mohan never seemed to turn up on the start line. There is one sport, however, which requires a purely cerebral approach, and a youthful College chess team, led by Charlie Houseago, retained the House Chess title convincingly.

Life around College has continued to be as entertaining as ever, with a lot of fun hidden behind the dull, hard-working appearance we like to put on. After hearing for years of Mr

Hargreaves' famous pasta nights in Grant's we decided to emulate the whole-House atmosphere by inviting the Dean for pizza in College, leading to a thoroughly enjoyable evening punctuated by a discussion ranging from the role of the media in law enforcement to genetic modification of human beings. The Dean was, as always, extremely witty, and as well as the more serious aspects of the discussion, the informal banter we were able to share with him was much appreciated.

It is with great sadness that College says goodbye to Mr Brocklesby, who has been at the forefront of College life over the last four years and the only member of the school teaching staff to have 364 birthdays every year. We are extremely grateful for all the hard work he has put in throughout his time here. Thank you also to Mr Feltham and Matron for guiding us through yet another challenging year!

GRANT'S

■ Grant's has heritage. Grant's has tradition. Grant's, the overwhelming presence of Yard, has spirit.

At the start of the year, the inevitable pressures of adding to Grant's history, already abundant in success, weighed heavily upon us. However, as Victor Hugo once said: "Faith is a necessity to a man. Woe to him who believes in nothing."

Glory in the Junior Bringsty races along with podium finishes in the Senior races and House climbing events demonstrates this. The girls achieved similar distinction. One would have thought reaching the semis in the football was enough for the Grant's ladies but they were hungry for success. They fought long and hard, and in the end it took Ashburnham cross-dressers to deny them the netball title.

Yet the zenith of our achievements came one sunny, February afternoon. Who would have guessed that on that non-eventful morning, history was to be rewritten?

Grant's finished the six-a-side House Football an almighty sixth. A new record.

Next came the 11s. We would deliver a full match report, but the hurt is too great. Refereeing decisions and a Pinter penalty robbed Grant's of their rightful place among the best.

But consider: "Even if you fall on your face, you're still moving forwards."

Even though our sporting prowess precedes us, we are much more than muddy boots and sweaty wristbands. Culturally, Grant's stands alone. The House concert was an opportunity to exhibit the core of Westminster music. The show must go on. And so it did, with the triumph of the House play. The Importance of Being Earnest was an appropriate choice for

The show must go on. And so it did, with the triumph of the House play.

Grants; not only was our acting preeminence able to shine but it also reflected our moral beliefs. We believe in earnestness, hence our second place finish in House Debating. These shenanigans just confirm our social superiority.

The continued and growing success of the Blue Army has one simple explanation. Our guide. Our mentor. Our leader. Our inspiration. Our Hargreaves.

After all, "one does not simply walk past Hargreaves's office."

RIGAUD'S

■ This year for Rigaud's has certainly been one of significant change. The arrivals of Mr Mann and Mr Salimbeni as tutors have added a spark of enthusiasm to the House, and of course, after seven years of dedicated service, Mr Tompkins stepped down as Housemaster to be replaced by Dr Williams. Boarding life has been decidedly tranquil: fruit has remained in the fruit bowl, duvets on their allocated beds, mischief firmly out of the picture. And crucially, thanks to our new window bars, we have all been saved from irrevocable extra-fenestral peril.



But where there is a will, there will always be a way. And the Rigaud's spirit has a unique flair for getting its own way. Proud successes >>>

HOUSE REPORTS



>> in House Chess, Fives and Running competitions rekindled the flame of Rigaud's pride. The Remove rewrote House Concert protocol with their last-minute Lion King renditions. The most we ever won in House Football was crockery, but at least we had the most fun doing it – the sight of our young Fifth Form protégés screaming *Ipsu Razu*, unprompted, before each game they played was deeply inspiring.

Rigaud's has as its founding principle a culture of, and reputation for, inclusivity and fun – two things which are not incompatible. Fortress Building – once we had overcome the procedural nightmares of blocking fire exits and returning each mattress to its rightful owner – was an activity that brought boarders of all years closer together. Fun, laughter and originality are the lifeblood of the Rigaud's community; we very much hope they will continue to be long into the future.

BUSBY'S

■ Busby's this year has remained the bastion of a traditional Westminster education, demonstrating on the one hand a veneration of cultural sophistication and on the other a primeval tribal loyalty to the House. Still unchallenged for the possession of the House Singing cup (though we remain ever-hopeful for an opportunity to defend it once more), Busby's Concert saw an evening of great musical sophistication climax in a pelvically-thrusting, hip-wiggling rendition of 'Don't Stop Me Now'. Taking a tactical last in House Chess we nevertheless soared to the giddy heights of victory in House Debating. Perhaps it was this raw Busbite intellectual prowess that aided our 6 and 11-a-side football teams to fight their way to the finals of both competitions, although a full complement of team masseuses was undoubtedly a significant stimulating factor. Concerns surrounding the slightly ignominious exit of the Lower School

team in the first round of their competition were nevertheless offset by the knowledge that training is already under way for Benjamin Botton's entry into the team in 2023. Busby's remains the only house to publish a quality House Magazine (the inferior Ashtree being more akin to a tabloid rag) and this year's Clarion not only introduced a few slightly unexpected new members of staff, but even offered an elusive glimpse of the meaning of life (beat that, Ashburnham!). This existential angst was echoed in the performance of Woody Allen's 'Death', which saw the hero pursued around a small town by death itself, although the play will perhaps be remembered more for its romantic climax and classic lines such as "They say a deranged killer has the strength of 10 men... I have the strength of a very small boy... with polio". Regardless of the forces of change that batter it, Busby's will no doubt continue to flourish, safe in the knowledge that whatever the circumstances, the Housemaster will keep smiling.

LIDDELL'S

■ The year started well with the Liddell's September Saturday Krispy Kreme stall proving an absolute hit, selling more than 700 doughnuts and raising more than £500 for charity. Furthermore, although we are not known as the most sporting House, we had early success with an excellent performance from the senior Towpath runners and later in the year a shock win for the Junior House footballers; with Sam Dunning and Jamie Draper both putting in great performances; well done to everyone involved. A special congratulations goes out to Tom Hage who broke the all-time Fifth Form record for the high jump at last summer's inter-House athletics day as well.

This year saw a return to the tradition of House plays with the Liddell's/ Hakluyt's production of the 'Young Idea' by Noel Coward. Under the directorship of Alex Bishop and Rachel Finegold, and featuring memorable performances from Jess Ormerod, Louis Prosser, Isa Ouwehand and Katy Hessel to name but a few,

the play had the audience roaring with laughter and was so popular we had people sitting on the stairs just to get a view.

The House concert was another fantastic success with impressive performances from everyone, just one of the highlights being Azmain Chowdury performing Coldplay's *Viva la Vida*.

Sadly this year we say goodbye to Dr. Ragaz, who has been a fantastic resident tutor, as she is going to be Housemaster of Ashburnham next year. We wish her the best of luck. Under the leadership of Mr. Page, as House Master, and Hugo Kent-Egan, as House captain, Liddell's has gone from strength to strength. We are all looking forward to another great year.

ASHBURNHAM

■ While in 'normal' years Ashburnham's policy of not buying a trophy cabinet is thoroughly vindicated, this year the trend has been bucked. Upon winning the House Rock Climbing competition, many thought we had reached the summit. Yet, equally glorious was our netball team (despite the fact that Strat and Will were not allowed to wear skirts). We continued an excellent run of House plays with a hilarious performance of 'Death' by Woody Allen, and against all odds argued our way to second in House Debating. With two trophies under our belts (more, rumour has it, than in the entire noughties) we then demonstrated the magnanimous spirit for which we are famous by ducking out of House football in the qualifying round. At September Saturday we raised more money for Phab than any other House with our already legendary bouncy castle. Raising money for charity may not be a competition, but we definitely won.

However, it is not quite all smiles: it is with sadness that we report the departure of Andrew Johnson, our Housemaster. It is thanks to him that we have a reputation as the most charitable house, both in his personal dedication to causes such as Phab and in his exhortations to the well-meaning yet frequently lazy folk of Ashburnham. We speak for the whole House when we say that he was





a genuinely understanding and committed Housemaster, always happy to talk over problems with a recalcitrant student and ensure that Ashburnham became a House that people are genuinely proud to be in. It is for this, as well as the insanely brightly-coloured day rooms which he let us paint, that we will remember him fondly. We wish him the best of luck at his new school, which, from what I have heard of it, sounds like it was made with Mr Johnson in mind. At least it's not Milne's.

Some AHHfer thoughts:

'Ashburnham is not just a load of people who weren't sure where to go for Maths.'

'Victory in the House netball was simply the culmination of years of dedication and preparation. It was the ultimate send off for Ashburnham's Remove...'

'AHH Fifth Form achieved stunning success in the House Football... by winning one match.'

'House Singing: Because Ashburnham never really did subtle.'

WREN'S

At the start of this year, this writer had the pleasure of co-directing the Wren's House play. It was... well... I'll go with shambolic; by way of example I may have electrocuted myself trying to do the lighting, but it all came together and more importantly we had a brilliant time. The fact that we managed to enjoy ourselves, put on a brilliant show and cope with all our work without nervous breakdown must say something. The whole experience actually reflected a lot of things I will remember about Wrens. I wouldn't want to cheapen anything by putting it down to something as clichéd or cheesy as, 'House Spirit,' but I do not exaggerate when I say my great experience both with the play and in general, has been 100% down to the lovely atmosphere created by the friendliness of the people involved.

It is this easy-going atmosphere that I will remember about Wrens. Since I've been here, particularly this year, I have felt comfortable wandering into any day room just for a chat (excepting maybe with the terrifying Upper Shell). I've walked to lessons with Fifth Form and Sixth Form alike, and I've even received

Fans called it boring, but we just kept on winning.



complimentary paper aeroplanes through the window from the Lower Shell as I sat in College Garden.

Maybe it's the fact that we're in a beautiful building, or just on the way to lunch, but there always seem to be hundreds of people from other Houses around. This diversity means one can walk out of a conversation about US politics and into one about favourite childhood cartoon characters in less than three steps with a background music taste ranging from Rick Astley to Rachmaninov. It's hard to put a source to our House pride. My favourite was in our ability to build paper chains that challenge modern science, breaking Guinness records and numerous health and safety regulations with equal satisfaction. And yes, our Lower Shell do have a cupboard for a common room. But it's character-building and cosy; perhaps too cosy... Anyway how many cupboards with a view over the oldest maintained monastic garden in the world do you know of? All I'm saying is there's a reason they call it the Wren's-Dryden's corridor, in

that order. Oh and we nailed the Gumbleton, again. Thank you Wrens, Wrenites, Mr Wurr, Wren's tutors, Wren's Parents, Wren's cleaners, Wren's hangers-on etc, have a good one, I know I have. Ah, I'm getting all nostalgic.

DRYDEN'S

The Dryden's scarlet is no ordinary colour. It is made from the blood, sweat and tears that each Drydenite sacrifices to further the glory of the Red Army. If the passionate cries within the table tennis sweatshop were condensed into a house shirt, it would look something like that of Dryden's.

It has been a year in which the House's horizons have been broadened, and its strengths solidified. Another devastating loss in House Cricket was put swiftly to bed by a runners-up performance in House Tennis, before the Play term began with Dryden's amassing by far the most money at September Saturday. The inaugural House Carol Service, created by the die-hard Drydenite that is Mr Edlin, is already a fixture in the House calendar. Great team chemistry, and sharp shooting from Bryce 'Jackie Moon' Leavitt, put Dryden's within touching distance of its second House Netball victory in as many years.

The Dryden's boys House Football squad was utterly dominant. For the fourth time in five years the 'golden generation', led by Ben Cooke and Sammy Skipper, won the House six-a-sides, brushing Busby's aside in the final, only to then score a sensational eighteen goals in three games to lift the eleven-a-side trophy too. Fans called it boring, but we just kept on winning. The biggest shock came in the first-ever girls' House Football. Contrary to predictions prior to kick-off, Dryden's finished bottom. Even so, gritty determination and sparks of flair were there for all to see. The younger footballers in Dryden's almost added to House's pile of silverware, but the attacking play that drove them to the semi-final bodes well for the future. Similarly, great performances were on show from all ages at the House Concert.

In 2012 of all years it is clear that, though Westminster doesn't do the Olympic Games, if it did, it would probably go to the superior half (fine, two fifths) of Wren's corridor.

HAKLUYT'S

There is something particularly wonderful and idiosyncratic about Hakluyt's, other than, of course, the melodious music from Mr Hopkins' study or the habitual Hakluyt's smell, both of which permeate the entire house. Although Hakluyt's resembles somewhat a linear settlement (excuse the Geographic jargon) with the staircase never far away, its position in Yard is arguably unrivalled. Whilst having one's morning coffee or milk chocolate digestive (thanks to the long-awaited provisions now in HH), one is able to look directly over Yard, with the school's ethos feeling almost tangible. This is something I shall particularly >>

HOUSE REPORTS



>> miss about Hakluyt's, along with the particularly naff decorations which always emerge just before Christmas.

To stop here would be to ignore the House spirit which fills its walls and burns as strongly today as ever. The Blue Army has, once again, proven to be a frightful force on the football pitch. Our female battalion made history by becoming the first team to win girls' House 'football' and the boys recorded a heroic victory over Milne's to achieve 3rd place later in the year. A further highlight has been the joint HH-LL house play, 'The Young Idea' by Noel Coward, which was a triumph and provided a night of amusement for all.

Now, to the future: a great year of Hakluytians are leaving. Yet, the customary smell will linger, the sound of the piano will continue to instil a sense of warmth in the House, and above all, the girls' football victory will find its way into the record books, a source of inspiration for future generations.

PURCELL'S

■ This year has been one of both distinction and routine for the girls of Purcell's. Some things of course will always be a constant; the factions of *Geordie Shore* and *Downton Abbey* will continue their battles over the Common Room TV, the sportswomen of the House will yet again romp home to mud-smeared victory in the Bringsty Relay (a nod here to Nicola Mason and Laura Cavenagh), and forlorn-looking boys will inevitably litter the pavement along Barton Street.

However, several efforts on the part of the House should not be missed. At the end of July last year, we pulled off a 24-hour cycle ride for the after school club, Westminster House. Although the effects of sleep deprivation may have slightly unhinged some members of the house (towards the end of the marathon our Head of House, Ariane Moshiri, produced the

revelation that Westminster Abbey looked 'almost... three-dimensional'), it was a bonding experience for this year's Remove, and fantastic training for the late-night efforts which UCAS would demand in the following Play term. Whilst being woken up at three in the morning in order to take my 40-minute shift is not an experience I wish to repeat, Ariane's rousing combination of cheer-leading and disco dancing got us through the night, and we raised over £4000 for Westminster House.

Other than this, there have been boarders' outings (unashamedly girly trips for manicures

We pulled off a 24-hour cycle ride for the after school club, Westminster House.

and ice skating), film nights (a less-than-girly screening of 'The Full Monty') and the Purcellite's traditional sale and distribution of Valentine's Day Carnations (two rounds of which have taught me that romantic limericks, a favourite of the Westminster boy, however sincere or anatomically explicit, can never be anything except ridiculous). All in all, it has been a stand-out year for the girls of Barton Street – let's hope that the invasion of boys from next September won't spoil the fun.

MILNE'S

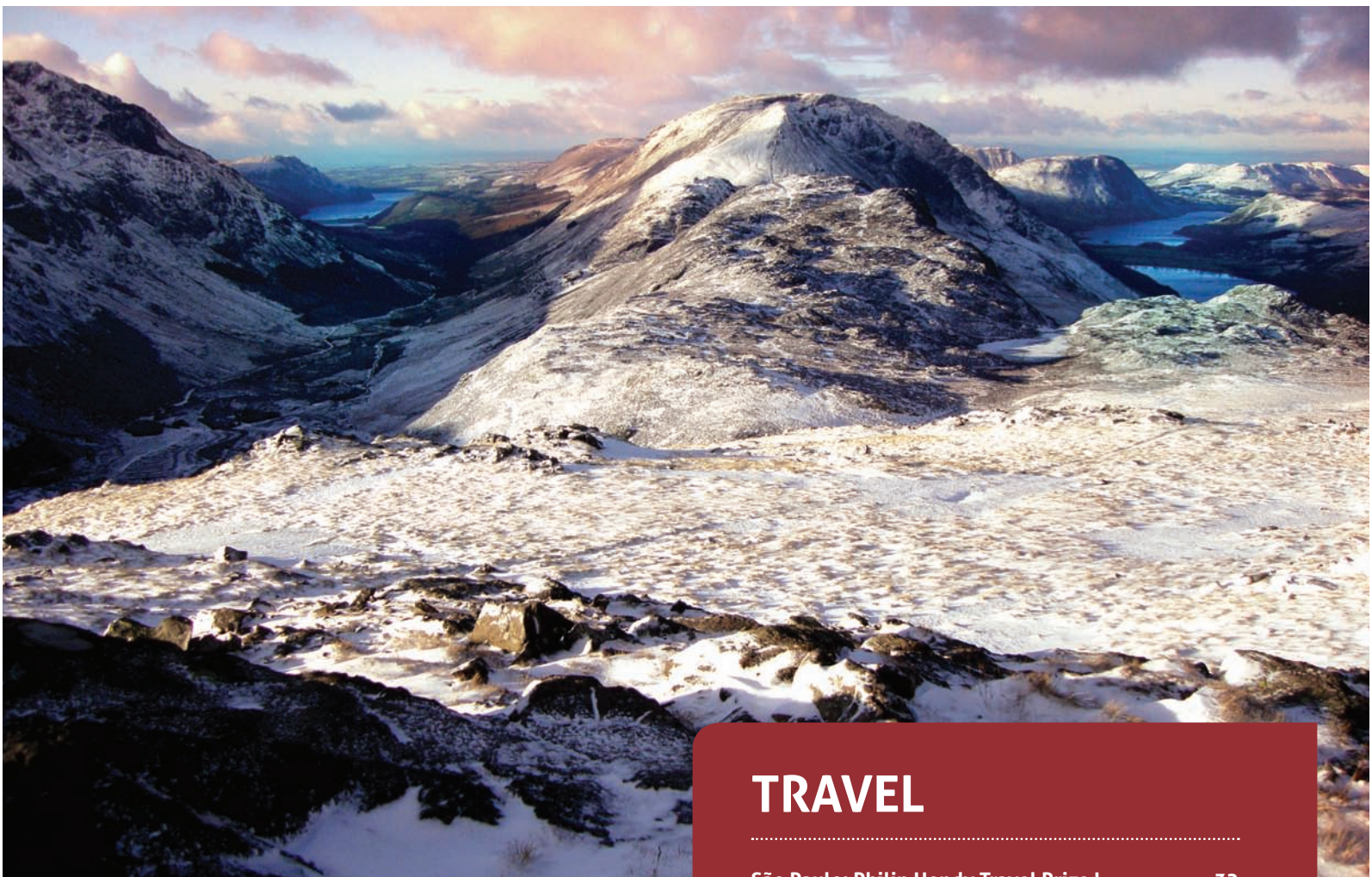
■ Fifteen years since its creation, Milne's continues to keep Dr Hartley's study full of silverware. Things got off to an ideal start with a sizeable victory at the Long Distance Races in September, the third Towpath victory in succession. Consistency was the key, as Milne's was the only House to place in the top four in every category, even without star athletes. Further athletics success continued in March, where Milne's retrieved the Bringsty Relays from Ashburnham, which included an impressive run from Oscar Satchell-Baeza to bring home the win for the seniors, as well as the overall competition. As of March 2012

Milne's have won six out of the last eight school running competitions, and the hard work of younger members such as Nicholas Clanchy, Andreas Ioannou, Mo Barry-Wilson and many more showed this is clearly going to continue. Elsewhere on Vincent Square the girls reached the final of the first girls' House football competition, whilst the senior boys reached the semi-finals in both the six-a-side and eleven-a-side tournaments. The highlight was a stunning goal from the half way line by Mylo Portas as part of three goals in the last three minutes to beat Liddells' in the third place play-off 3-2 in the six-a-side competition.

Besides sporting success, Milne's flourished in other aspects, with Louis Willis and Grace Linden taking to the stage in the final of House Debating, and Nicholas Williams captaining the Milne's team in a fine endeavour against College in the House chess competition final. Most notably perhaps was the inaugural Milne's-only House Concert in early March, which showcased the extraordinary talent Milne's has. More than a quarter of the house performed to a very high standard, from Beethoven to John Williams and Jon Foreman, and including self-composed acts from Fergus Brooman-White and Evan Kountouris, alongside a very good turnout. While Milne's showed that although it could take success, it could also give, with Henry Wilson-Smith leading the Milne's front at September Saturday, raising hundreds of pounds in a couple of hours on the Tombola, which also showed the enormous generosity of the parents of those in Milne's in providing the prizes. Furthermore, a large proportion of the House has participated in civic engagement, with Maria Ouvarova picking up the school volunteering award last summer, whilst this year the proceeds from the House Concert going to The Choir With No Name, which Poppy Ellis Logan has worked hard to promote, this not even touching on the efforts of many others.

If nothing else, this year shows the ongoing strength in depth and House spirit that is inherent in Milnites, such as the support for the famous tradition that is Mr. Crole's House quizzes, besides the obvious success of its members.





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São Paulo: Philip Hendy Travel Prize I ACTION PAINTING

'São Paulo is...very good place,' Alex my taxi driver was telling me, his accent a weird mix of South African and Brazilian, relates Gabriel Cagan (DD), of his Philip Hendy Travel Prize trip last August.

■ A string of beeping horns rang out, and four or five motorbikes whizzed chaotically past, almost scraping the edge of Alex's car. 'In Cape Town' he went on, 'people say "ah the blick man, you should stay away from the whut man!" but here nobody cares what you look like.' I was in Brazil, and eagerly awaiting, amongst other things, my imminent transformation into a footballing god.

Some have called it an urban jungle. Others a dump. But I soon saw that São Paulo is about its people, buzzing all the time, especially after



dark...and it doesn't look bad either. I was staying near the bustling Avenida Paulista, the central road of São Paulo, on which MASP, the flagship art gallery of the city, and arguably the whole of Latin America, stands. From the outside it's a huge block of concrete, framed by dusty-looking thick red blocks; inside it's a massive, spacious collection of European paintings (including works by Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso and Manet) and, on its lower floor, several high-quality Brazilian prints, most by artists I'd never heard of.

From MASP I went on to the Pinacoteca, set within the Praia da Luz, an oasis within a part of the city infamous for drugs and prostitution. Armed police were already positioned around the gates before noon – viewing art has never been so action-packed. Inside were Gerhard Richter's small abstract paintings, Brazilian paintings from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and a strange totem pole with monkeys on it. It was only on leaving that I learnt of the Pinacoteca's former function as a torture chamber for the Brazilian government, a haunting reminder of how far Brazil has come. My next stop was the Lasar Segall Museum, a small, modern white house in which Segall used to live, paint and sculpt, and which nowadays contains a huge amount of his output.

At the Modern Art Museum (MAM) there was an authoritative exhibition on the Brazilian painter Candido Portinari (whose own paints poisoned him) which proved valuable for my Personal Investigation. Also useful was the all-you-can-eat Brazilian buffet. Other highlights of the park were Oscar Niemeyer's Auditorium (think a giant sugar cube with a huge red tongue) and the awesome Museu Afro-Brasil, packed full of objects showing Brazil's African culture.

Just before reaching the airport I felt that I had seen it all. But I was quickly proven wrong. The land beside the motorway was completely covered in *favelas*. Absorbed by this glimpse of poverty in the distance, something closer caught my eye; while the traffic lights were red a guy had leapt onto the motorway and started doing the most outrageous skills with a football I will ever see. "He very good no?" Alex said. It was the perfect note to end the trip on. I am very grateful to the Art History Society for giving me the chance to go to São Paulo.

There was an authoritative exhibition on the Brazilian painter Candido Portinari (whose own paints poisoned him)





Tokyo: Philip Hendy Travel Prize II SKELETON IN THE CLOSET

In Tokyo, although I experienced a small after-shock at breakfast one morning, it seemed to me that there were few signs of the March earthquake. The city seemed to have been coping very well, writes Giulia Gentili (WW) of her Hendy-sponsored trip to Japan.

■ I had travelled to Tokyo to study the relationship between Ukiyo-e prints of the Edo period and the Ghibli Museum's *Spirited Away*. I became interested in this when I started to wonder why it was that Japanese art looked the way it did. The more I read the more I began to notice a similarity between the prints and popular Manga cartoons. As *Spirited Away* was one of my favourite manga-style films and had a great deal in common with the prints, I decided to focus my study on that.

Before the trip I had to make sure I knew exactly where I wanted to go and where these



places were due to the immense size of the city. I prioritised the Tokyo National Museum, which has the largest collection of Ukiyo-e prints, and the Ghibli Museum, which explains the production of the movies themselves.

I spent most of the time travelling from museum to gallery using the fantastic, air-conditioned Tokyo underground. Although I do not speak a single word of Japanese other than the standard "arigato!" and "konichiwa!" it was surprisingly easy to get by as signs were written in English characters and everyone was willing to help even if they didn't speak a word of English. I also managed to visit the spectacular Imperial Palace, an ancient building with wonderfully manicured gardens



right in the centre of the sky-scrapers of the business district.

Though I intended to look at the differences between the contemporary Japanese art and the well-known prints, I was fascinated by a particular print made by Hokusai, who also made the famous *Great Wave off Kanagawa*. The print that caught my eye was a depiction of a skeleton called *The Ghost of Kohada Koheiji* (1830) and tells the story of a vengeful ghost who peers over a veil to watch over his wife and her new lover. This piece really fascinated me as I had never seen a similar image of a skeleton. With a mixture of Japanese style and Western blending of colours, the print seems neither at home in western tradition nor in Eastern. Having compared it to skeletons and other depictions of death contemporary to Hokusai's, none had a similar style or meaning. This trip not only supported my syllabus work but has ignited an interest that will, I believe, stay with me for the rest of my life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Art History Department for giving me the opportunity to go and explore, leaving me with some of the most memorable moments in my life.



The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

HEARTLESS LAUGHTER IN THE RAIN

So enthused were we by the prospect of spending the next few days walking across the Welsh countryside that we did not notice the steady decline in conditions until we were assaulted by hailstones driven by gale force winds as we scaled the dizzying heights of the mountain, concede Kshitij Sabnis (QSS) and David Wong (QSS), who were on their final expedition in the Brecon Beacons as part of the Award.

■ The night before, we had set eagerly about preparing our equipment for the following four days in anticipation of our meeting with our Assessor, the relaxed and pleasant Jean Casha.

Now, to the accompanying patter of raindrops, we began an ascent of the slopes of Pen-y-fan.

We found we had deviated from our intended route and had to make a beeline for our destination. However, we hadn't accounted for the mounds and the frequent rivers, finding ourselves often either lying in the heather or waist-deep in deep, narrow streams. Despite these we powered on, arriving alive and kicking at the campsite. We cooked our rice and beef jerky, and settled down for the night, hoping

vaguely any overnight rain would not soak the clothes we had left to dry on a nearby fence.

We boys had decided on a tactic of spending the days on a ration of Snickers bars, and compensating with a feast in the evening. The girls, however, did not agree and proceeded to carry out a sit-in protest, while we were left doing star-jumps in the sunshine to stay warm. The previous week's downpours were beginning to inflate the river, and what had been until the previous day a simple ford had now become a raging torrent. On reaching the campsite some time later, we found the other Westminster group, and spent the few remain-

Our heartless laughter was soon silenced when we found the area filled with midges.



ing hours of daylight gossiping. Once the sun set, the fun started, our antics involving deodorant flame-throwers, rescuing a sheep and saluting passing cars.

Theory has it that the third day of such expeditions can be the hardest to get through, and it's true, the other group had left the campsite before we managed to stick our heads out of the tents. We got our heads down and started walking, making steady progress over the course of the day. In late afternoon, we found our route blocked by a barbed wire fence forming the boundary to a coal mine. With the law and Westminster logic in mind, we proceeded to create a seesaw-style ramp from a plank to get us over the fence. Spotted as we tried to sneak round a set of office buildings, we explained our situation to a miner who set us on our way along the access road.

Arriving at the campsite on the final evening, we heard for the third evening in a row Charles' startled exclamations at finding his rucksack wasn't as waterproof as the sellers had claimed, and that his goose-feather sleeping bag was once again soaked through. Our heartless laughter was soon silenced when we found the area filled with midges.

The route on the last day involved climbing to a ridge then walking along. After four days of walking some people just wanted to get to the top, while others, already wearied, decided on a more steady approach. Thus the group was stretched out over a kilometre, with each person only just able to see the one in front.

From the top of the ridge, though, it was all downhill, and arriving at the shores of a tranquil reservoir we were warmly welcomed by Dr Prentice and our Assessor. We were treated to the fresh fruit and muffins we had been promised the previous night, a nice touch after days of tortilla wraps and beef jerky.

Many thanks are due to Dr Prentice, Mr Fair and Sophie Lagrange not only for organising this trip, but also for always greeting us with wide smiles and making this trip so enjoyable.



Munich German Exchange OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY

Our typical day started extremely early, often with a bracing bicycle ride, as we went to school, Gymnasium Puchheim, with our exchanges, reveal Flavia Lagnado (BB), Kitty Russman (HH) and Milo Constable (RR).

■ Spending time with our exchanges and getting to know them and their families better was one of the highlights of the month. The lessons were very different from what we are used to, but it was interesting nevertheless to experience them first hand. Lessons were followed by a trip to places ranging from Dachau concentration camp to the Paulaner brewery. Some days also consisted of day trips – a favourite of ours was hiking up the Eisbach and walking along the beautiful Partnachklamm. All of the trips, however, were very enriching and we learned so much about the culture and history of Bavaria. We spent many an enjoyable hour reading plays, whether during breakfast at the Literaturhaus or over a picnic in the Englischer Garten.

Of course, going to Germany for a month does involve speaking quite a bit of German! It was definitely something we were all apprehensive about, but once we arrived we were relieved to find that we were actually capable of communication on a daily basis. Our hosts were very helpful and kind enough to speak slowly (and not in a tough Bavarian brogue) and clarify for us anything lost in translation. It would be safe to say that all of us improved our German massively and even picked up colloquialisms along the way.

However, Munich was about more than simply improving our German and working – it was also a time for us to have fun and to experience 'typisch Bayerisch' pastimes. We were thrown into the deep end on the first weekend, visiting Volksfest (a mini Oktoberfest); dressed in lederhosen and dirndls, dancing on tables, and swigging tankards of German Weissbier – the non-alcoholic variety of course. We spent many afternoons by the lakes dotted around Munich, barbecuing and basking in the sun. It wasn't all sun and fun, however, as Luke found out when his shoes started foaming in the torrential rain when we visited Salzburg.

We all became very close over the month, both with our fellow Germanists and with the teachers. Spending so much time away from our parents was something new for a lot of us, and it helped us mature. We'd like to thank everyone who put so much effort into organising it for us and making it a fantastic month; in particular Herr Hennig, Dr. Baughan and Bianca Hix who devoted an enormous amount of their time to ensure that the exchange ran so smoothly and was such a memorable experience. It was an unforgettable month in which we learned much about Germany, its culture, language and ourselves.

Lower School Climbing

SPIRITS AND BEASTS AMONG THE ROCKS

In the past two years, there have been two Lower School climbing trips, to Catalunya and the Lake District. In both cases, armed with shoes that defy gravity, plenty of ropes and gear, and some formidable instructors, Westminsterers were let loose on huge rock formations, with interesting results, reveals Pip Woolley (BB).



■ In the Summer expedition of 2011, Dr AK and Dr Evans took a group of city-bred Westminsterers to live in a hippie commune in the Spanish Mountains, in Catalunya.

The days involved home-grown, vegetarian meals, climbing huge rock walls in deserted mountains, and going to the toilet in an outbox with a view that discarded the need for toilet reading. On the first night, we decided it would be a good idea to walk up to the rock face we could see in the distance from our base camp. Needless to say, it was further than it seemed, and by the time we reached the face, we were fully exhausted, and the sun was sinking. What followed was a life-threatening race down the slope back to camp, stopping

to rescue a smaller group of boys who had got trapped in a thicket, trying to avoid the wrath of Dr AK. We were unsuccessful. So, with the feeling of adventure still in our heads, we set off the next morning to find our way, down bumpy tracks and rough 'stairs' on the side of a cliff, to a set of routes that challenged us all. The climbing was fantastic, and the banter was spurred on by Ciccio being pulled up the hardest route, to his delight and our dismay. After a hard day's climbing, we always found that a pool or a Spanish restaurant could solve the aches of the day. We were so isolated up in our commune that one night we found ourselves waiting on the road for just over half an hour as wild horses blocked the road. Once we got out of the jeep and started feeding them, they were the friendliest animals, despite taking much persuading to finally let us up the track to rest. All the people living where we stayed were incredibly friendly, with Gee and Rob taking us to the routes, ready to lend a hand or laugh at our ineptness. The trip was incredible, and the climbing fantastic.

In Play Term, Paul, who had been staying with us in Catalunya, took us up to the Lake District for more, if slightly wetter, climbing. Meeting up with our second, Irish instructor, who knew his extreme sports, we set off for a week of extreme climbing. Staying in a youth hostel was a completely different experience to the commune in Spain, but was still enjoyable. The climbing was just as enjoyable,

Harry's favoured method, 'Beast Mode'

and the walks to the climbs were filled with stunning views. Paul was a firm believer in not wearing shoes, and he soon converted the majority of the climbers to his view, sparking many spiritual, silent walks, shoeless, along the hills. This experience was heightened at the top of Glass Slipper, a slab climb with almost no apparent holds. Finlay and I discovered a new way of climbing, dubbed 'Spirit Mode' where one simply appeared to glide up the route. This replaced Harry's favoured method, 'Beast Mode' where he simply throws himself at the route again and again until one of them crumbled. The mix of Upper and Lower Shells introduced a healthy air of competition, with those above trying to impress their skill on the younger year. Dr AK had the same motivational impact of making fun of us climbers, only to have it hurled back at him, much to Paul's delight. The atmosphere on the trip was unparalleled, and the climbing, again, great.



Skye Climbing

OVERVIEW

Attending the trip for my fourth year in row, I can tell you it always begins the same way, recalls an experienced Dominic Smith (DD).

■ A motley crew of climbers, D-of-E-ers, and those simply out for a great time in the Isle of Skye's magnificent mountains, gather at Euston station, laden with camp stoves, climbing equipment, tents and supplies ready to board the sleeper to Inverness.

Arriving at our lodge at Sligachan, nestled beneath the red and black Cuillins which tower up either side of the valley, we quickly pulled out our boots and walking clothes for an invigorating warm up. The closest peak to the lodge is that of Glamaig which practically rises out of the back door. Its steep flanks which glow red in the evening sun and give the ridge its name, proved tough work although you quickly reap the rewards with fantastic views as you rise from the valley floor. A fighter jet flew by, well beneath us in the valley, sending its sonic boom echoing around.

For us climbers, the next day brought the first of many around the island doing what we love the most. We trekked up to the iconic Basteir Tooth amongst the Black Cuillins this time, where a lot of the younger climbers had their first taste of rock or even their first taste of real climbing. More and more fantastic climbing and walking followed, both in the mountains where we also bagged ourselves a Monroe as well as on the sea cliffs beneath the famous lighthouse at Neist Point and the picturesque bay of Staffin.

For climbers and walkers alike, this trip never ceases to be exhilarating and also unites the group of people that choose to come and sample this island's delights. This is why I've been back four times and will certainly be back for more long after leaving Westminster.

As ever, a huge thank you must go to the staff that organise the trip and, perhaps even more importantly, cook us the meals that keep us going when we're all starving and cold after a hard day's walking or climbing! Long may this expedition continue so that as many people as possible can experience some of the best mountain scenery in the nation.

A fighter jet flew by, well beneath us in the valley

Peak District Climbing SHOELESS AND NUTS

On the first exeat weekend of the year, six of us travelled up to the Peak District along with Dr AK and our instructor, 'Mountain-man' Paul, relates Harry Lewis (LL).

■ In the pub, we met our other instructor, the hilarious Dave, and we later returned to the campsite in order to settle down for two days of intense climbing.

We went up to the classic gritstone crag, Stanage Edge. We were here to learn the fundamentals of 'trad' climbing, such as learning to place our own gear in the rock and building solid anchors. Being split into two groups, half of us with Dave and the other half with 'only-eats-nuts-and-raisins' Paul, we started climbing on some of the area's classic routes. My group was the less experienced of the two, so we spent a while learning how to properly place gear into the rock, as well as building anchors while perched precariously on top of the cliff with Dave.

After this and some time spent failing to learn how to coil properly a rope from Dave with his machine-like speed-coiling skills, we finally got round to our first trad lead. The combination of excitement, fear and calm focus that comes from climbing

After a long day of rock, blood and fear we headed back



above your own gear, knowing that it is the only thing there to protect you in the case of a fall, is indescribable. It was a terrifying (but controlled) experience for all involved. After this Dave showed us how to rig top rope anchors, which we set up in order to climb some of the harder routes, and after a long day of rock, blood and fear we headed back up for supper.

The next day we headed back to Stanage for some more climbing, both trad leading and top roping. After this and some bouldering with Dave's small piece of insulation matting substituting for a crash mat, we said goodbye to Dave and 'doesn't-wear-shoes' Paul and headed back home, with Dr AK buying Jed and me a pack of cookies en route to make up for our having been unable to afford lunch over the course of the trip. We left for the Peak District a babble of inexperienced fools, and returned as hard-core trad climbers.

Gliding in Yorkshire

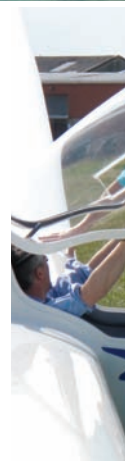
EYE IN THE SKY, HEART IN MOUTH

Returning for the second year, the excitement that I experienced sitting in a warm, cramped canopy was no different to the very first time that the signal was given to the winch to hurl the ASK 21 glider to a thousand feet in less than half a minute, exclaims Akshay Sabnis (QSS) excitedly.

■ The acceleration, reaching sixty miles per hour in less than three seconds, when coupled with the unbelievably steep rate of ascent and the wild rush of adrenaline that follows, makes the launch into a unique and exhilarating rollercoaster. Unlike last year however, the four of us who had returned to Wolds Gliding Club were unable simply to enjoy the breathtaking ride, as we were put in charge of controlling the launching glider almost from the outset. Meanwhile, the three beginners, accompanied by an enthusiastic Miss Wethered, were facing the terror of being told by the instructor on their maiden flight that they were in control of a constantly crashing plane, and the provision of a parachute which no-one really knew how to use did little to ease their nerves.

The downside of endlessly going round in dizzying rings to climb to three thousand feet is the nausea that results

Flying isn't as chaotic and terrifying as it sounds. The lack of engines causes a relatively quiet and peaceful atmosphere in the air, and the views of sleepy Yorkshire towns surrounded by endless fields is soothing. The landscapes improve dramatically if you can find a thermal – bubbles of warm air rising from the ground that gliders can circle round in to stay in the air. The downside of endlessly going round in dizzying rings to climb to three thousand feet is the nausea that results, though many of us preferred to quietly retch in the front, rather than face the shame of asking the instructor for a sick bag.





Instruction took the form of John Norman, the head instructor at the club, and Dr Boulton, who brought to his teaching the firmness of the Under Master, as well as endless hours of patience as we constantly tried to land on hangars and industrial estates, rather than the specified runway.

The time spent on the ground was also packed with action, with radios to operate and gliders to push around the airfield in addition to improving the aerodynamics of the aircraft by removing dead bugs and bird droppings from the wings every morning. One afternoon, we had the privilege of witnessing an aerobatics display, and we also managed to squeeze in two very filling pub meals between the takeaways and DVDs that occupied the other evenings. The enjoyment of the week was aided by the good weather, which meant that over the five days, we were able to spend almost four hours in the skies, spread across up to twenty flights. We returned to London, utterly addicted to this fascinating sport, and full of fond memories of an exceptional week.



Lower School Expeditions: Active Eryri CLASH OF WARRIORS

I actually thought it would be quite fun. The group of boys set to go to Outward Bound in Llanberis, in North Wales, was twenty strong; quite large, and there were some good friends and people of comedy value amongst them, acknowledges Sam Dunning (LL).

■ I exchanged the previous years' thermal underwear for sun cream and my gamble paid off: my second trip to Wales treated me to a similar experience as my first. This fine weather merely embellished the Welsh countryside, where lush green woods contrasted mightily with the stark grey-sided valleys where generations of miners had dug with pickaxes and then dynamite, to leave bare, astonishingly flat slate faces.

Having noticed these features on the journey, I knew that what would make this trip would be the activities. So it was: gorge scrambling consisted of clambering over boulders and climbing around and jumping into rock pools on the way up a gorge with water flowing, in some places at great speed, down towards us. Climbing and clambering is always something I enjoy but not to be hindered by ropes and heavy equipment was liberating. The rocks were green with mosses, the water was clear and the sun shone softly through the lush leaves, creating surreal and wondrous green and orange patterns of light. These amazing surroundings captured our imaginations and provided a welcome rest from the usual grey and neon comings and goings of London.

We had a sample of this same strange, wet, green Welsh environment on the hill next to our accommodation. It was here that we often went in the evenings and here that we encountered real Wales. We were on this hill, sitting on rock coloured by lichens when we heard shouts in the throng of trees that lay between the centre and the nearest houses of the village. We listened acutely and were thrilled to discover that the strange noises we could hear were not English but Welsh! About a minute later three Welsh kids, who must have been about nine, came up the hill under the trees towards us wielding weapons that in their

imagination were clearly the swords and axes of heroic warriors but looked more like branches.

We humoured them.

"Do you speak English?" we asked.

"Welsh-" one said, but another added,

"Yes, I do."

"Can you read and write?," said my friend Tom.

"We can", one said – he seemed to be doing most of the talking, "but *he* can't", and he pointed to the third of the boys.

"Where are you from?"

One of them, the leader, with the biggest stick and mouth, replied: "I'm from just over there-" and here he interrupted himself, "- I'm from London!"

Tom said: "But we're from London and we don't know you".

This definitely confused the leader and in response he wielded his blade/branch and cried: "You want a fight!?"

I replied: "Oh please don't hurt us."

"Do you want me to hurt you?," said the leader.

"No", I said. Sam couldn't hold in his laughter at this point and it burst out. The warriors standing before us looked offended and the leader wielded his really quite sizeable weapon at me. I laughed too at this point and the boy actually lunged! I turned round and the stick hit my foot, for I was sitting on a rock slightly above them. We ran away down the hill, laughing. The leader hurled his weapon at us and it must have hit a tree and broken for I heard a snap and look back to see him, dismayed. As we hopped in to our coach and drove away in the dusk, we could see the faint shadows in the trees of the disgraced trio of nostalgic heroes, their silhouettes just standing out through the branches, epic, against the orange sky.

Beijing Exchange in London NUMBER FOUR IN BEIJING

The Beijing exchange is the culmination of the long-standing relationship between Westminster and Beijing High School Number Four, comments Alex Lee (DD).

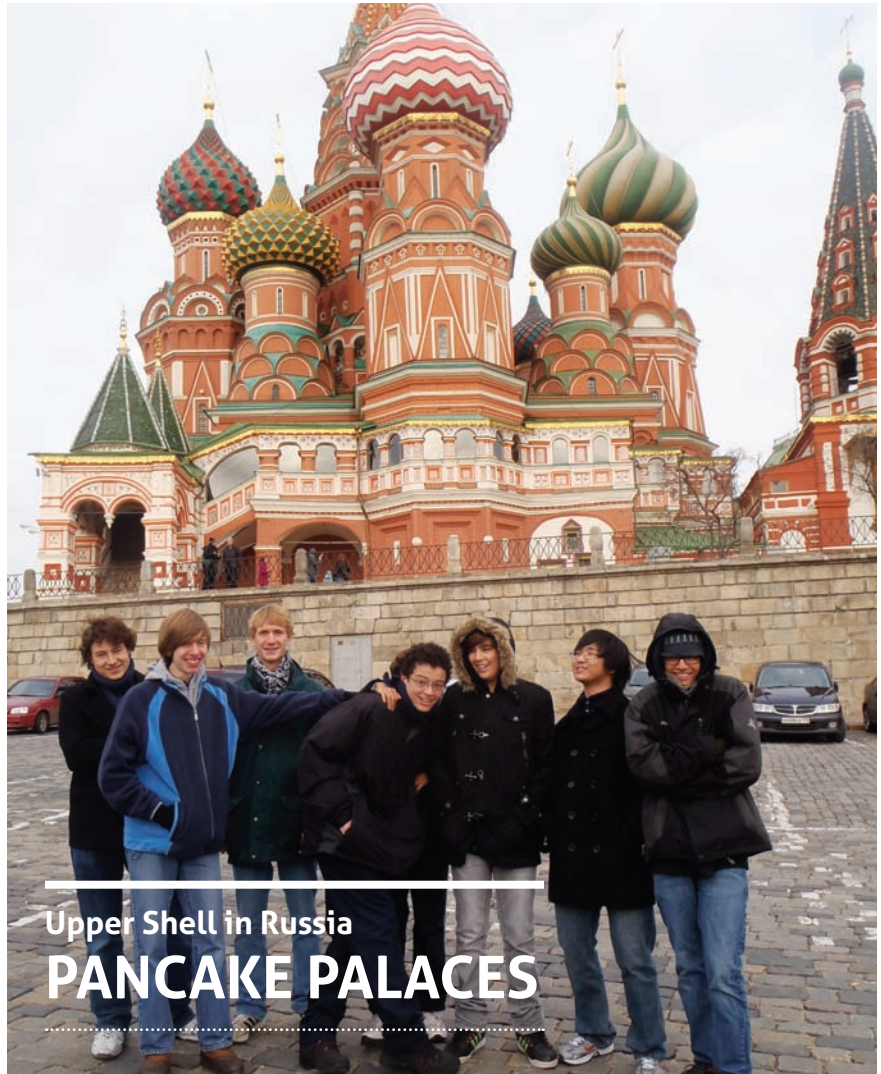
Over a week in September, a dozen Westminsters played host to a similar number of pupils from Beijing High School Number Four. The Beijing exchange allows us to learn more about the culture and language of China as well as befriend someone from across the globe.

Despite their obvious jetlag, our partners integrated immediately with us. The exchange involved our partners participating in all our activities, inside school and out. Our exchanges' attendance in our classes

Some of us take subjects that are not exactly common in Beijing or even Asia

was extremely interesting, especially because some of us take subjects that are not exactly common in Beijing or even Asia in general, such as German. Our exchanges lived up to their school's reputation as one of (not the fourth!) best secondary schools in Beijing. Outside school, our partners experienced many of the amazing activities that London offers, including art galleries, a West End Play, visits to St Paul's Cathedral and the Monument plus, most importantly, Westminster Abbey.

Our exchanges' week-long stay ended much too quickly, and I think that all who participated in this year's exchange will agree with me when I say that we eagerly await the trip when we travel to Beijing in March.



Upper Shell in Russia PANCAKE PALACES

We piled into the *mikroavtobus* which would be our vehicle during our stay in Moscow, and set off, surrounded by marvellous columns stretching into the distance: Russian traffic. Only some three hours later were we home and dry in the Hotel Cosmos, preparing ourselves for many a late night, confesses Forbes Anderson (GG).

Alas, it was not to be. After the spectacular sights we witnessed each day, after the sheer amount of sightseeing, walking, talking, and listening, after all the pancakes from *Teremok* and *Shokoladnitsa*, when night descended there was a distinct lack of energy.

Russia is an amazing country. The weather was cold and the traffic was heavy, but this had very little effect upon us. The day after our arrival we were thrown headfirst into sightseeing. First stop: Red Square. And how beautiful it was, how magical. There was a fantastic, patriotic quality to the buildings – from the majestic St Basil's Cathedral in all its elegance and splendour, to the towering walls of the mysterious Kremlin, to the extravagant and glamorous GUM department store (all even more magnificent when viewed floodlit by night).

In Moscow we explored such diverse and intriguing places as the Tretyakov Art Gallery, home to ancient icons and equally stunning modern paintings, and the very amusing and mind-bogglingly brilliant Russian circus, with its bears riding motorcycles, orang-utans mimicking humans, and daredevil trapeze artists.

After two days in Moscow we had to wish it *do svdanya*, as we were whisked off to St

Petersburg by night train. Gliding slowly out of Moscow, we awaited our second destination with bubbling anticipation. Moscow had been an exquisite city – could St Petersburg match it?

The answer was: yes. In fact, it far *out*-matched it. Whereas Moscow was very similar to London – many concrete tower blocks and being disorganised and sprawling – St Petersburg's elegant layout gave us a sense of symmetry on the banks of the River Neva.

Here we were greeted by more pancakes. Lots more pancakes. In fact, at one point “*Teremok Palace!*” was exclaimed. Here we witnessed Russian folklore at its wackiest and most entertaining, and Russian ballet, ‘The Corsair’ at the Mikhailovsky Theatre, at its most beautiful. One of the highlights of the trip was the grand and prestigious Winter Palace, a building that has few equals. Its rooms are filled with gold and gems, undoubtedly the Russian Versailles.

Although we were able to sample only a small portion of Russian culture and just some of the secrets Russia keeps under its fur hat, what we did see made it a thoroughly awesome experience: it was a real pleasure to have such an opportunity to go somewhere so special.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award BOIL-IN-THE-BAG WITH NOUS

The great outdoors and Westminster's do not go hand in hand, complains Alex Bishop (LL).

■ For most, map reading is an exercise for a Geography exam and any walk further than Hooke merits a taxi. Nevertheless, several intrepid Upper Shells spent three days in October in the reputedly wet and windy conditions of the Lake District as part of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Laden with packs weighing 15kg or more and faced with the prospect of boil-in-the-bag meals and army rations to live on, we set off in September to YHA Ambleside on Lake Windermere. As it happened, the weather was beautiful and we quickly rose to the challenge of facing a laden 50km walk in just under three days. In four groups, we set off blindly like lemmings, into the unknown. The first day quickly sorted the men from the boys, but thanks to our practice expedition in July and some navigational nous, everyone managed to reach the first campsite in one piece, some a little later than others. However, in the spirit of competition and not wishing to be outdone the second time around, all of the groups upped the ante and by the third day one group was almost running to reach the finish.



As part of the expedition each group had an aim on which a presentation would be made at the end; one group collected species of beetles and another looked at light pollution. I can safely say that over those three days we all learnt something, whether it was about the big-eyed-no-eyed wolf spider or just about being patient. Despite some differences we all had an amazing time. Thank you very much to the wonderful assessors: Mr. Moore-Hurley, Mr. Symes and Mr. Boar and a huge thank you to the ever-calm and collected Mr. Hawken for organising the trip.



All of the groups upped the ante and by the third day one group was almost running to reach the finish

Upper Shell in Cadiz FLAMENCO DREAMS

For some, the task of spending five days with a Spanish family in Cadiz was a daunting one, reveal a trembling Ziding Zhang (BB) & Thomas Jordan (BB).

■ Yet by the end of the *cinco días*, we were desperate to remain for a few days more. Each morning, we awoke to a huge paella and a quick flamenco welcome from our parents before heading off to our lessons with the beautiful Patri, our teacher for the week. Although hard to concentrate at times, due to the splendour of our *profesora*, we quickly sped through the complications of the Spanish past tenses faster than Señor Berg's 'arrow of time' could ever teach us. After a hard morning's work, we strolled back through the town to our house, where yet another paella was waiting for our >>



>> lunch. This fuelled us up for an afternoon on the beach, where the golden sand became the hallowed turf of our very own 'Theatre of Dreams' in which our invincible side, lined up in an innovative 3-8-5 formation, destroyed many a German tourist team.

One sunny day, we endured the sweaty coach journey to the glorious city of *Sevilla*, where we were tricked into spending several hours gazing upon the delights of various monuments. However, despite our perpetual interest, the lure of the rows of souvenir shops was too much for even the most avid of sight-seers. Our final night presented us with one last surprise: a Flamenco performance. The

show was an exhibition of rhythm and excitement, as displayed by the bopping of Señor Witney and the broad grinning of Señor Berg, and with the number of bottle-caps on our their table mounting up, rumours began circulating that there might be the possibility of a special encore from this vibrant duo. Unfortunately, this never came, but this took nothing away from the fantastic finale to an unforgettable trip. Thanks to the families, teachers, and the vibrant duo that is Berg&Witney, to be known henceforth as Bwitney.

Upper Shell in Granada SPANISH LIFE

Urged on by the music of the Gypsy Kings, we arrived in Granada, a place we had, in the months leading up, talked so much about but could hardly have imagined, sighs Angus Goalen (WW), who pines yet.

■ We were swiftly hustled off with our respective hosts, ours the lovely Carmen. Throughout our week Carmen showed us the kindness, generosity and hospitality that came to be the common theme amongst all the Spaniards we met, who were fiercely proud of their city and truly showed us the best of it. Our days were divided up between lessons, excursions and relaxation, and what a place to be exposed to all three! *The Don Quijote* school where we spent our mornings was hugely effective, the warmth of the lovely teachers truly reflected in the leaps and bounds we made in our Spanish, mastering new areas of grammar that had seemed tricky and giving us even more confidence in our speaking than we had imagined possible.

Granada, though, is a city of rich history and fascinating culture and armed with the energetic and magnificently bearded Ramón we visited the most diverse of areas, the Albaicín, the house of Federico Lorca, Sacromonte and of course the magnificent Alhambra which



The dancers, though amazing at first, were put to shame when a fearless Mr Brocklesby volunteered himself

hardly disappointed, the impeccably detailed architecture and stunning scenery truly transporting us to Granada's Arabic roots in the most peaceful fashion. We spent the time

left wandering around absorbing the vibrant culture that Granada offered and enjoying the delicious tapas on every street. The trip would not have been complete without seeing Flamenco, the traditional Gypsy dance, now so embedded in Spanish culture. The dancers, though amazing at first, were put to shame when a fearless Mr Brocklesby volunteered himself, his moves impressing even the most die-hard Flamenco enthusiasts. Having to leave such an incredible place after such a short period of time was hard; Granada has truly been everything we could have envisioned and more. A huge thanks to both Miss Leech and Mr Brocklesby who made the trip possible.



CERN Laboratories COSMIC CHATTER

Excitement was in the air at CERN as only a day before our visit, there had been an announcement regarding the experiments currently underway in search of the Higgs boson, writes a thrilled Bhavna Choraria, who led a joint trip to the famous laboratories in December 2011.

■ The Physics department, in conjunction with Paddington Academy and King's College London, organised a trip to the CERN Laboratories near Geneva for sixth form pupils.

On the first morning, we were shown the proton source and early stages of proton acceleration, where we learnt about the details of the complex operation at CERN. Before lunch, pupils built their own cloud chambers in small groups and were able to detect, for themselves, cosmic muons entering the Earth's atmosphere. We visited a magnet testing facility and were able to gain a sense of how huge a collaboration the experiments at CERN are, with thousands of engineers and physicists from around the world working together.

We were lucky enough to stay on the CERN site itself, where all the roads are named after important physicists. We ate in the canteen, surrounded by physicists of all shapes, sizes, ages and nationalities. To be seated at a table and hear all around chatter about particle physics in a huge range of accents and languages was entertaining, fascinating and inspiring.

On the second day at CERN, we were very lucky to get the chance to go 100 metres underground to see the CMS detector, on the LHC ring, for ourselves. When the LHC is in operation, radiation levels here are too high, but, as the holidays were approaching, the collider was being shut down so was safe enough to visit. The scale and complexity of this feat of Physics and Engineering brought home how incredible the whole facility is. A quick visit to the control centre of the LHC and to the AMS centre, where we sighted a Nobel prize winner, rounded off a fantastic trip. Pupils from both schools benefited from seeing the reality of research in particle physics, but also from meeting and working with each other.





Lower Shell Berlin Exchange FRIENDS REUNITED

Our partners were right, London Underground isn't that reliable, but after only a few problems we all stood in front of Westminster School very excited to see our partners again. On Saturday evening we all met up and enjoyed Guy Fawkes Night firework together, a real highlight and a great beginning to our week in London, write visiting pupils Katharina Altinok and Laura Luedicke.

■ On Monday we spent the whole day in school. Following assembly in Westminster Abbey we were given a fantastic tour of the school and Abbey and were all very grateful to Dr Boulton and Herr Hennig for their time and knowledge.

During an amazing week we went to the National Gallery, the Natural History Museum, the Museum of London Docklands, the Tate Modern and watched the Changing of the Guards in front of the Buckingham Palace. In the afternoon we did different things with our exchange partners. We went to the cinema, ate traditional Fish'n'Chips or just went shopping.

All in all we had a wonderful time in London. We hope we can stay in touch with our exchange partners. In my opinion, if you have a chance to do this exchange, you should take part in it. You meet new friends, learn something about other cities and while you are having fun you can practise your English, or German whilst you are in Berlin.

We would like to send a huge thank you to all the Westminster families, the Housemasters, matrons and teachers for this wonderful week!

Paul Kutzner reveals his experiences staying in a boarding house:

Firstly I want to say a big thank you to College Hall for the amazing breakfasts! Generously, all the students and the teachers in my

house were very hospitable and helpful. The only bad thing I can say about boarding in Westminster school is that we had to be back in school at 7.15pm; that's not very helpful if you want to see everything of London in one week.

Westminster School and London are great and this exchange was a very good experience for me and I'd love to come back as soon as possible.



Lower Shell Berlin Exchange BERLIN – DU BIST SO WUNDERBAR

Even though we arrived nervous about our week in Berlin staying with a group of German teenagers we didn't know, at least we were amused by the fact that Dr Baughan was too scared to fly with us, boast the LS Germanists.

■ We spent the first weekend with our host families who were, throughout the week, incredibly hospitable, kind and generous with their time. On Monday morning we spent our first day in a German school. The differences between Westminster and the Beethoven Schule were interesting and marked. For example, the classes were larger but there was no school uniform. During the rest of the day Herr Hennig took us on a fantastic walking tour of Berlin, starting with history but ending with chocolate.

Throughout the rest of the week Herr Hennig, Dr Baughan and Dr Boulton shepherded us kindly around Berlin and looked after us brilliantly. We visited churches, ate sausages, photographed jellyfish and even did a bit of shopping surrounded by some of East Germany's most depressing buildings. A big thank you to the teachers, the school and our host families for a great week.

Lake District

ON EDGE IN CUMBRIA

The Lake District walking trip caught the earliest of December's snow, writes a chilly Jerome Mockett (LL).

■ Departing on the last day of the Play Term, ten intrepid explorers joined Mr Sharp, Mrs Sharp and Dr Kowenicki in scaling some of the Lake's finest and toughest peaks. These included the treacherous Grisedale Pike and other peaks around Keswick.

Battling against freezing temperatures, knee deep snow and erratic blizzards, the conditions really put Black's Mountain-Wear of Victoria Street to rigorous test. Whilst the odd leaky boot and holey sock caused the occasional grumble of frustration, a testament to the equipment was not only our survival but also the preservation of persistently high spirits. However, kit isn't everything, and an inch-thick 1970s cream ski-balaclava can only maintain one's spirits for a while; the real reason for the trip's success was the beauty of the surrounding landscapes and the unbridled enthusiasm of the staff involved. Many thanks to them in particular for a great trip.



Classics in Sicily

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THUCYDIDES

Knowing the Classics department's love of dishing out unseens at a moment's notice, I wasn't remotely surprised at the sight of a mountain of translations, stretching back into a dusty past when men read Sallust for enjoyment, being slammed down in front of us as we boarded the Gatwick Express for Sicily in October, chronicles an initially fearful Eddie Millett (BB).

■ With a brow-beaten sigh, and to the sound of Mrs Sharp's warnings ('this is pointlessly hard and marking it will be comedy gold'), I knew it was going to be a long week. Airport shopping was clearly not on the menu: Mr Mylne and Mrs Sharp deemed Ovid a far more relaxing way to while away the delayed hours before our flight.

However, alongside lashings of Greek grammar, and the positive signs that my translation attempts were improving gradually – the guffaws at marking it, as well as the graffiti of red pen, started to fade – the trip was enormous fun. Trips to Syracuse, Camarina and Gela, as well as a road-trip out to Agrigento, in the 'civilised bus' blasting out ABBA all the way, were fantastic. It really allowed us to get a perspective on the geography of the land where the arrogant, underprepared Athenians tussled with and were eventually resound-



ingly defeated by the plucky Syracusans, as Thucydides powerfully recounts in Book 7 of his *Histories*. Or does he just make it up as he goes along? Discuss...

Soaking up the Sicilian spirit, whether in the seafront bars of Syracuse, Xenophon in hand, or at Mass in the Duomo, originally a temple to Minerva, exploring the grimly-named Quarries of Paradise where 7000 Athenian POWs died while composing Latin epithets, or fortifying ourselves with excellent Italian coffee provided by the welcoming hosts at our farmhouse accommodation, the week passed by in a colourful blur. A huge thank-you to Mr Mylne and Mrs Sharp, as well as to Harry for his indispensable conversational Italian skills, for planning such a memorable trip!



Durrell Wildlife Park, Jersey ENTERTAINING GREAT APES

Late at night, after only a minor encounter with the police at Gatwick airport, we arrived in Jersey to visit the world famous Durrell Wildlife Park, record Thomas Holdaway (DD) and Rory Meryon (MM).

■ In the morning we woke up excited and ready for the day ahead. Our guide, Naomi, showed us round 'Kirindy Forest' where we gazed at some very laid-back lemurs who were sunbathing in the hot Jersey sun. Before lunch we were given the chance to look around the park on our own, and we discovered many wonderful animals, such as the Andean bears.

After lunch we had to prepare a snack for the park's gorillas. From various nutritious items we were tasked with making a parcel that would both provide food and be entertaining for the gorillas. This is called enrichment, but whether for us or the gorillas it isn't possible to say.

We studied enclosure design and had to give a presentation on our specific enclosure. This gave us a deeper insight into the lives of the animals and keepers living in the park. Later that evening we drove into the capital, St Helier, to go bowling.

After waking early to see the sunrise we were all in good spirits when we came to use Durrell's online database to study the distribution of species across the world. Unfortunately the computers were painfully slow and couldn't even handle Internet Explorer! After 20 minutes, we gave up. Afterwards, we handled a snake: this was definitely some people's favourite moment. The snake's scales felt very strange against one's skin and its flexibility and strength was awe-inspiring. Afterwards we received an interesting talk about reptiles. Naomi just about managed to answer all our questions. Shortly after, we were on a plane back home, pondering the lessons we had learned in Jersey. Thanks to Miss Leonard for organising such an amazing trip.



We studied enclosure design and had to give a presentation on our specific enclosure.

Chile Exchange in London

UNFORGETTABLE, LEGENDARY, ECCENTRIC



The words "eager" or "excited" would be crude understatements of how attending Westminster School for a month of our summer holidays felt when finally boarding the plane that would take us to England, writes an excited Deborah Trumper of The Grange School.



■ Fernando Orrego, Nicolás Bitar, Andrés Riveros and myself were also delighted that our teacher Carlos Córdova accompanied us, which was a real privilege. So we were given the amazing chance this year to participate in the student exchange trip that would show us how one of the best schools in the world works and what living in London is really like.

Different expectations of what this trip would be like had filled our minds for weeks before actually departing and though we discussed them at length, nothing could have prepared us for the legendary, intimate atmosphere we felt from the first day at Westminster, and that ever-present feeling that something unforgettable was about to happen whenever we walked around the school grounds.

The morning prayers held inside the actual Westminster Abbey that we were able to attend twice a week with all the pupils left us speechless and in awe every time. Just like the John Locke Society meetings with unique, important people did by never failing to provide endless subjects to discuss during lunch times. Other things we were privileged enough to enjoy were the epic tea times after school and the cool common rooms every House in the school has where we could go relax, play some chess or table football with other pupils when we had some free time. After-school sessions of intense tourism were routine for us every day, and we had so much fun visiting museums, parks or just walking around the streets with an ice cream in hand that the cold winter weather was quickly forgotten.

Every day we enjoyed at Westminster could not have been as great if it wasn't for the teachers and pupils. We were amazed at the complexity and cultural variety of the students, with whom we shared funny, extensive conversations about each other's lives in either Chile or England, and many laughs and excellent moments during sports lessons such

as football. Class time was never boring, either. Teachers were always passionate about their different subjects and very kind to us, despite giving us occasional homework and asking us questions too early in the morning for us to be able to answer. The truth is, everyone in the school who we got to know made us feel at home; they taught us so much about so many things that we will always remember them very fondly.

Now, to begin describing London one can only begin with the very reliable, slightly eccentric Tube system. Seriously, we loved it. No journey was ever dull and in the end we always got to where we wanted to go. During the lovely holiday week we varied between walking and using the Tube, and so we really feel that more than just enjoying the traditional places such as the London Eye, National Gallery or St. James's Park which were just unbelievable on their own, we got to know the real city and discovered many unique details London has to offer. This was the other beautifully thrilling side of the trip.

We would like to thank Mr. Córdova, our great teacher, for always taking care of us, and Mr. Witney for constantly making sure we were surviving properly and receiving us so kindly. Last but not least, our exchange partners and their families; Merlin Beyts, Adam Bonser, Vikram Jayaswal and Leo Nelson-Jones. We already think of them as great friends and are looking forward to receiving them during their coming visit to Chile. This whole experience has meant so much for us, we will never forget it and despite it being over we don't see it like the absolute end. We have changed and grown: this trip just brought us to a new beginning.

Art History in Barcelona

DELUGE OF ART

Gaudí, Miró, and Picasso; Montjuic, Las Ramblas and the Eixample; Sangria, tapas and a caña at Els Quatre Gats; all featured on the Remove History of Art trip to Barcelona, where art and architecture complemented music, culture and sightseeing, reports an engrossed Tom Barrie (WW).

■ Following in the footsteps of Ernest Hemingway, Ramón Casas and Antoni Tàpies to name but three, we visited the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, trod the winding Gothic back streets of the city, and even had the luck to experience a performance of traditional flamenco off the Ramblas (despite a small accident involving sangria – classic Jake!). The trip contained all aspects of our Art History course, with breath-taking Gothic churches to visit like Santa Maria del Mar and Barcelona Cathedral, Romanesque frescoes and Renaissance altarpieces in MNAC, and of course the influence of Gaudí, *modernista* architect extraordinaire, which could be seen everywhere. When we weren't visiting the city's shrines to Catalan art, we were given free rein to visit sights like the Sagrada Família, Gaudí's tribute to the city, which after almost 130 years of construction is still baffling contemporary architects. Alternatively, some chose to take a cable car to the top of Montjuic, the hill overlooking Barcelona which offers epic vistas of the Eixample and Gothic quarter, as well as some highly recommended ice cream. Seeing Picasso's juvenilia in the Picasso Museum was a particular highlight, providing an insight into the adolescence and development of one of the geniuses of 20th century art, as also was experiencing still lives by Zurbarán and Meléndez up close, something that cannot be replicated anywhere else in the world. Seeing the works we had studied for real gave us much more insight than seeing them on a whiteboard in the classroom. The crowning moment came when we got tickets to a concert of classical guitar by Manuel González in the Palau de la Música Catalana, Barcelona's answer to the Royal Albert Hall, but with added stained glass, mosaics and giant busts of famous composers looming out from the walls. An overwhelmingly exciting experience, the trip was an excellent way to get an in-depth understanding of Catalan art, to get to know our fellow Art Historians better and, in a sense, to end what was likely our last school trip on a high. Many thanks to Dr Cockburn, Mrs Chappell and Mr Walton for taking us during their half term.



Finland Ice Marathon

PICKLE WITH ICE

We arrived in Finland and straight away we were hit by the cold. This came in the form of aerial bombardment with snowballs, strategically placed in order to cause the most discomfort possible, shivers Thomas Critchley (RR).

■ We were there to take part in the Finland Ice Marathon, an event which is held once a year on a frozen ice lake next to a town in the centre of Finland called Kuopio. This event draws in competitors from all over the world who race each other around a seven and a half kilometre long circuit for a variety of distances.

To race we had to use a type of skate hinged at the toe, much like cross country skis, but they took some getting used to, and for a couple of hours on the first day we were allowed to skate around the track so that we could put our best foot forward for the race the next day. That evening our moonlit way was heightened by bonfires beside the track and adding to the atmosphere were extravagant fireworks and impressive figure skaters.

The next day was race day, and for all the racers this meant an early start and getting dressed for the relatively warm -12 degrees celsius. There was great anticipation and excitement at the starting line and then the race began. Dotted around the circuit were people handing out sports drinks and a supposed Finnish specialty, the pickle, and these small things helped us make our way through the whole race, which was thirty kilometres for some and forty-five for others. The experience was unique; everything was jaw-dropping. Every Westminster finished and one Upper Shell, Oskar Ulvestad managed to finish a mere ten minutes off the time of the professionals

in his two hour-eight minute long forty-five kilometre race.

After the end of the race we were all wiped out, yet we still had enough energy to enjoy the benefits of the sauna, followed quickly by the freezing cold of the snow.

After the end of the race we were all wiped out, yet we still had enough energy to enjoy the benefits of the sauna

It is tradition on this trip to visit the restaurant Harald's in the town centre and although it may sound perfectly normal, it is a Viking-themed restaurant. The waiters wear authentic dress, horned hats and all and yes, there is a dish called 'Olgar the Giant's Broadsword', but luckily we were also able to sample some local cuisine, for example reindeer stew and bear sausages.

The next morning we took the bus back to the airport and we had gone, leaving behind us a hospitable, cold and beautiful town. Many thanks to our teachers for a unique trip.



It wasn't surprising that Upper Shell students made up the majority of the numbers, as preparations for the process begin very early.

US Colleges Visit PREPARATION IS THE KEY

Higher education in the US is becoming increasingly popular in the UK and Westminster certainly provides students with a plethora of resources for applying, with our own advisor on American University Applications, discloses Mayowa Sofekun (AHH).

■ I had known for a while that I wanted to apply to the US, so when the opportunity arose to visit East Coast American colleges, I couldn't help but jump at the chance. It wasn't surprising that Upper Shell students made up the majority of the numbers, as preparations for the process begin very early. In the autumn we were visited by admissions officers from various institutions, including Harvard, UPenn, Columbia, Swarthmore, Stanford, Georgetown, Duke, Brown, Virginia, and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Given the distances, it is a challenge to visit eight universities on the East Coast – I'm surprised that we managed to fit it all into a week!

In February our group of mixed Upper Shell and 6th Form pupils flew in to Philadelphia with Dr Ragaz and Dr Boulton and within an hour were off to get dinner. Thus began Angus' and Varge's search for the Philly hoagie – a long roll of bread filled with a variety of meats, cheeses, vegetables, seasonings and sauces, recommended by a Pennsylvanian on the plane.

The next day we were up early to visit UPenn, meeting OW Benjamin Parry. Being taken around by an 'unofficial' tour guide really gave us the insight we needed. Everything was off script and being able to hear about his personal experience was helpful. Going on a cultural tour of Philadelphia was interesting and our teachers gave us mini history lessons outside the grand train station, Independence Hall, and Liberty Bell.

Our visit to Swarthmore College was perhaps the most surprising of the trip since it was the place we knew least about. Our hosts, including Vice-President Jim Bock, were most helpful and welcoming in explaining what a Liberal Arts education consists of, and how it all works. Once again we were able to meet with an OW, Isaac Epstein, who was able to proffer further insight into life at Swarthmore, a rural education compared to the urban life of UPenn, being the half-way point between Philadelphia and the Big Apple.

Each university has its own character. At Princeton, a question and answer session with the admissions officer was useful in assessing what we had to do to gain a place at such an institution. We then began the long drive in our two rental vehicles to New York but we had laptops, music and games to get us through the road trip. We even had scrabble which Dr Boulton thought would be difficult to play, given the fact that he was driving. What he didn't realise is that it was on the iPad.

Columbia University in the City of New York, was like being at Westminster – a secluded area within the city – they even have

their own Yard! It was full of OWW; we met up with four in various years and were able to garner much information. One thing that stood out to me is that applications to the US really are personal. There is no particular stress on any aspect – a big difference to the UK. Hearing about the varied interests of these four suggested that US colleges are truly looking for the well-rounded person.

New York presented an opportunity for sightseeing. We went to the Whitney Museum as well as Carnegie Hall and Times Square. Dinner at the best-ever burger restaurant in SoHo was hilarious – and we learnt how to play Mornington Crescent.

On Monday morning we had the opportunity to attend classes at Yale. I have a particular interest in Art History and took a class on French Gothic architecture, which went well with my Art History studies on the Early Gothic churches. We were able to meet with OW Will Benet, and we all took a leaf out of his book. His preparation was key to his success as he received offers from various top institutions. Our tour guide, Ngozi, was very helpful (and funny) and made Yale one of our favourite universities.

The last university was Harvard, one student with a particular interest in engineering going off with Dr Ragaz to visit MIT. Having an OW at Harvard, Max Dikkers, (whose sister we met at Columbia) made us realise how much Westminster prepares you for an education in the US. He was the person that Harvard wanted because he had made Westminster the opportunity that it could be by taking advantage of as many opportunities as he could.

By the end, we could not believe how fast time had flown. The value of being able to see for ourselves what the US has to offer was truly amazing. A website or university prospectus simply does not do it justice and hearing from the 'inside' through OWW was the most useful aspect of the trip. I realised just how much more I really want to study in the US and that I need to start preparing now! Many thanks to Dr Ragaz and Dr Boulton for organising and accompanying the trip.



The flight from Munich was very short and in a flash we were suddenly all sitting on the train that transported us directly into the centre of London, write pupils Nuran El-Maghary and Susanne Roggenkamp, who arrived for a great time in London during the exchange in February.

Munich Exchange in London CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

■ Upon our arrival our English exchange partners greeted us in a very friendly way and in the evening we got to know our host families and the neighbourhood the families live in.

In our first week we got used to the daily routine at Westminster School and to everything that came along with it. Especially going to Abbey on Monday and Friday mornings was different from what we are used to and we were impressed by the close connection to such a historically important church. Our school days started with two or three lessons in which we accompanied our English exchange

Milne's Fifth Form in Alston HIDING IN THE LAVATORY

We left Milne's after a nutritious lunch in College Hall. Mr Crole had brought along three cameras, one normal, one for film and one panoramic. He would use these cameras to record the trip, something which we were excited about at first, though maybe lost our appetite for towards the end of the trip, records a nervous Christos Ioannou (MM).

■ We were all hyped up and expecting a lot from the outing, especially after hearing the exaggerated comments from other houses. The journey to Alston was tiring and we had to be on our best behaviour to avoid Mr Crole's camera from catching any embarrassing moments. At the house we ate dinner, found out the dorms, and went to sleep reasonably early, at about 02.30.



After breakfast was cleared away everyone jumped into the minibus for the short drive to Vindolanda to see the excavations of a Roman fortress on Hadrian's Wall. We were lectured by an expert on site and then had some free time to go and explore the area. After lunch we headed down to the Beamish Open Air Museum, which tells the story of life in Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian times. We were set a task: to find the frog. That was it. With a little

help from Dr Hartley we found a painting of it on a wall, at least.

Wednesday was all about William Wordsworth. We started the day in the Lake District where he would walk for hours on end composing his poetry. We passed countless waterfalls and had lunch by a stream in the woods. Admittedly, the scenery was inspiring, though perhaps not so much to allow us to write our own poem about it. For that, we recruited a

partners to give us an impression of how teaching is held here in Westminster School. Soon we noticed the differences to our school at home. We were really impressed by the much closer relationship between teachers and pupils and the way everybody works together. After having lunch at school we normally went off on a trip to see the many interesting sights and museums of London.

The four weeks raced by and we gained so many valuable experiences. We had a wonderful time and we are all very thankful for the experiences we got. We know that this would not have been possible without the great commitment of Westminster School, its teachers, Housemasters, Matrons and most importantly our host families who did everything in their power to make us feel welcome and who made our stay unforgettable.

Above all we are grateful to Mr Hennig for organizing the exchange and taking such good care of us and to Mr Supperstone who made a big effort to include us in his lessons and showed us the law courts. We hope that the partnership between our schools will remain strong in order to continue to provide such a unique cultural and linguistic immersion and we are looking forward to hosting our partners in July.



Canterbury Art History

AMAZING MASONS

It is difficult to imagine now how overwhelming Canterbury cathedral would have been to twelfth century pilgrims, confesses an awed Sive Curran (HH). Photos and Powerpoints pale in significance to the experience of the real thing.

few words from Coldplay's *Paradise*. We visited Wordsworth's cottage and spent the evening by a lake skimming pebbles. Mo hit top with 14 bounces which, I must say, is very impressive.

On Thursday we went to spend the morning in the ruins of Finchale Priory. We had the whole site to ourselves for hours and we made the most of it. We played an epic game of sardines in which I hid inside the wall of a ruined lavatory. I was joined by only Robert Wang after a good 40 minutes. We then waited together for another half an hour while everyone else searched in vain. When we got back to the minibus, we saw with delight that it had sunk into the mud. Together we collected sticks to make traction for the wheels to grip. This took us a great deal of time but we finally managed with a group push to get it moving again. We continued to Durham Cathedral where we were, once again, given a talk by an expert. After a tour around the cathedral we were given two hours in the town of Durham which raised countless laughs and smiles from all of us.

On Friday we cleaned the house and began the long journey back home. I would like to thank Dr Hartley and Mr Crole on behalf of all of us for such a fantastic and enjoyable trip.

■ The gory murder of Thomas Beckett and a stone-mason who fell to his death from the scaffolding: Canterbury has certainly seen its share of excitement. But for many it was the less sensationalist aspects of the cathedral, like where the monks used to live and sleep that really brought the place to life. The corona and the lone candle marking the pre-Dissolution resting place of Beckett served to demonstrate just how important relics were to a medieval audience.

The columnar piers and clerestory windows were brought to life by our truly inspirational guides: the Surveyor of the Fabrics, one of the Canterbury stone-masons and our own Mrs Chappell. We even had the unusual opportunity to go up into the roof space, for those who could stomach the height, giving us a totally new perspective of the architecture and really allowing us to get under the skin of the place.

For me the highlight of the whole day was the trip to the stone masons' yard. With so much focus on the architecture of the cathedral it is all too easy to forget those who created it, as well as the stone masons who are still working on the painstaking, and eye-wateringly complicated, restoration. Not only were we shown the processes of calculating the size and shape of each block but we were even given a go at being a stone mason ourselves. Armed with a huge variety of oddly shaped tools most

With so much focus on the architecture of the cathedral it is all too easy to forget those who created it.

of us tried out our chiselling skills, with a few so enthusiastic that it was difficult to persuade them to surrender their mallets.

So with a new found understanding of the cathedral's history, a greater impression of its sheer scale and more than a few aspirations to become stone masons ourselves we wended our way back to London.



Beijing Exchange THE ILLUSION OF SUCCESS

It is impossible to be unaware of China. It's incredibly rapid growth and looming presence in world affairs means that it is rare to find the country far from the headlines, states Alice Bexson (DD).



In thirty years' time our contemporaries and exchange partners will be running that superpower.



■ This creates an impression of wealthy cities with towering skyscrapers, albeit under one party rule. In our minds it is 'westernising' swiftly. At least, this is what I thought when I stepped onto the plane at Heathrow.

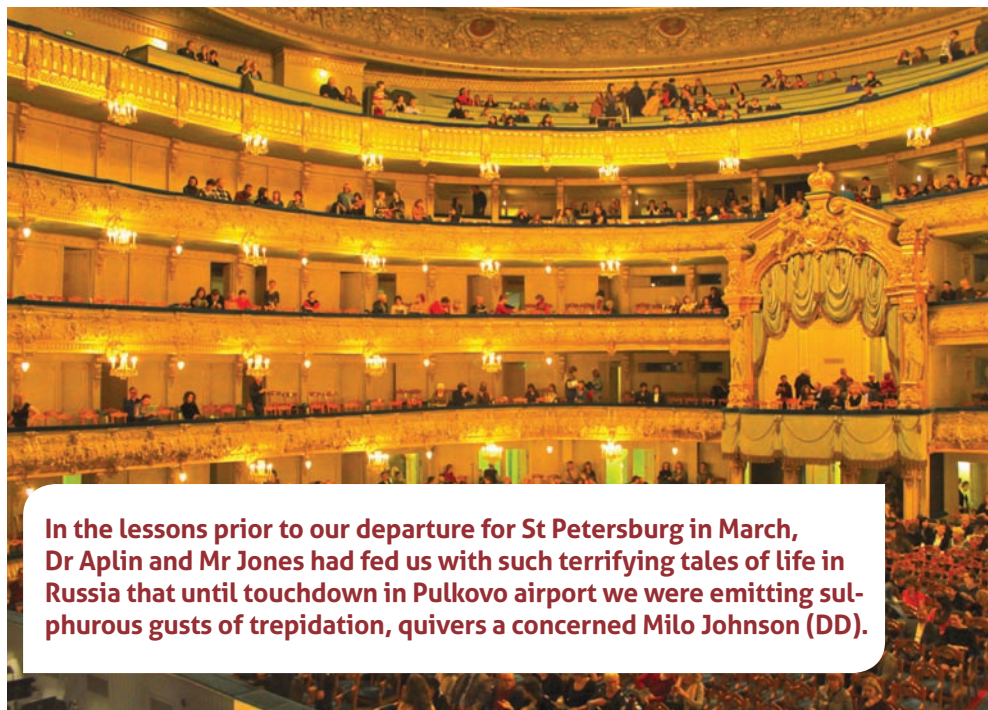
As our wheezing minivan struggled through the heavy Beijing traffic (and I thought the Victoria Embankment was bad) on our quest to reach the hotel before nightfall I began to realise the scale of my misconceptions. The Westminster/BHSF exchange is designed to give pupils of our two schools of similar status in our relative countries the opportunity to experience the life of our partner. We had spent the first two days in Xi'an (just two hours and significant turbulence into central China) and then returned to a markedly different and more progressive feeling in Beijing for the remaining seven days. We visited an incredible number of places including the summer palace, the terracotta army (disappointingly displayed as more of an industrial production line than a feat of human engineering), the stunning Forbidden City, and the inescapable displays of the Communist Party's might in Tiananmen Square, as well as the Great Wall which is particularly memorable due to my misguided expectation of arctic conditions one hour north of the glacial gusts in Beijing leading me to wear almost every piece of clothing in my suitcase, a vast mistake. This aside, the view and sheer architectural accomplishment of the wall was breathtaking (and not just because of the gradient), although I couldn't help but feel that China's heritage was only being resuscitated for the benefit of the tourist industry than for history itself.

Sixth Form in Russia

FEAR AND CLOTHING IN ST PETERSBURG

Due to BHSF's conspicuously paranoid attitude to exchange students we were only able to spend one night with our exchanges and the spent the remainder in a very small hotel near the school, situated in a vibrant *hutong*, a traditional and disappearing alleyway housing system. What struck me was the colossal difference between my life and that of my partner. The school itself was enormous with a subtly clinical feel of 'churning out champions' with incredible facilities and bizarre military-style exercises for thirty minutes every morning. The forty-pupil-strong classes were taught in small classrooms where the teachers rather than students moved between lessons and the privilege of class debate that is commonplace at Westminster is denied. My exchange's three room apartment in outer Beijing had no shower or bath and an incomprehensible hybrid of a western/Chinese toilet, though despite the (typically) cramped conditions her parents made me very welcome despite my halting Chinese.

China is the supposed future world superpower. In thirty years' time our contemporaries and exchange partners will be running that superpower, but in my opinion the enormous difference in maturity and life experience between students of our ages in London and Beijing could hinder this growth. China is undoubtedly a fascinating tale of two countries and in reality the 'economic superpower' is often only visible in a small district in certain cities. Outside this, the 'other' China needs to be willing run a marathon to catch up so the country can move forward as one, and current educators in China need to realise that communication and social skills and knowledge of the world outside of China are more important than university exams.



In the lessons prior to our departure for St Petersburg in March, Dr Aplin and Mr Jones had fed us with such terrifying tales of life in Russia that until touchdown in Pulkovo airport we were emitting sulphurous gusts of trepidation, quivers a concerned Milo Johnson (DD).

■ We had been prepared for such terrors as certain pneumonia if we didn't insulate ourselves from the extreme weather, conscription to the army should we neglect to wear our slippers indoors, fatal journeys to the deepest, darkest forests if we took any of the St Petersburg taxis, and imprisonment for smiling. But the climate was tropical, and we sunbathed on the banks of the Neva in Hawaiian wreaths and sunnies as the ice gradually melted and floated downstream. We avoided conscription by the skin of our teeth and steered well clear of taxis, rather opting for the metro, which left us in no mood for smiling. At the beginning of our stay we were easily distinguished by our jolly faces, yet by the end we were hardened Petersburgers, as glum as the next.

The feminists in our group were repulsed by the visible inequality between men and women in Russia – the men were grim compared with the breath-taking women, the latter sadly restricted to the kitchen at all hours of the day yet still unable to deliver food that suited an English palate. Meals were indistinguishable, each involving a base of cabbage, sesame and dill, and the proximity of the toilet to the dining area in Russian homes presented a real dilemma for the more prudish.

Armed with spanking new student cards and with cheap museum entry in our sights, we wormed our way through the long list of sights such as Pushkin's apartment, the Russian Museum, the Museum of Monsters – containing exhibitions of both pickled mutant babies and wax models of Africans and Asians



– and the Hermitage itself, a trove of treasures amassed in a building of both historical significance and architectural splendour. And each expedition was punctuated by a trip to the inescapable *Coffee Chaos*.

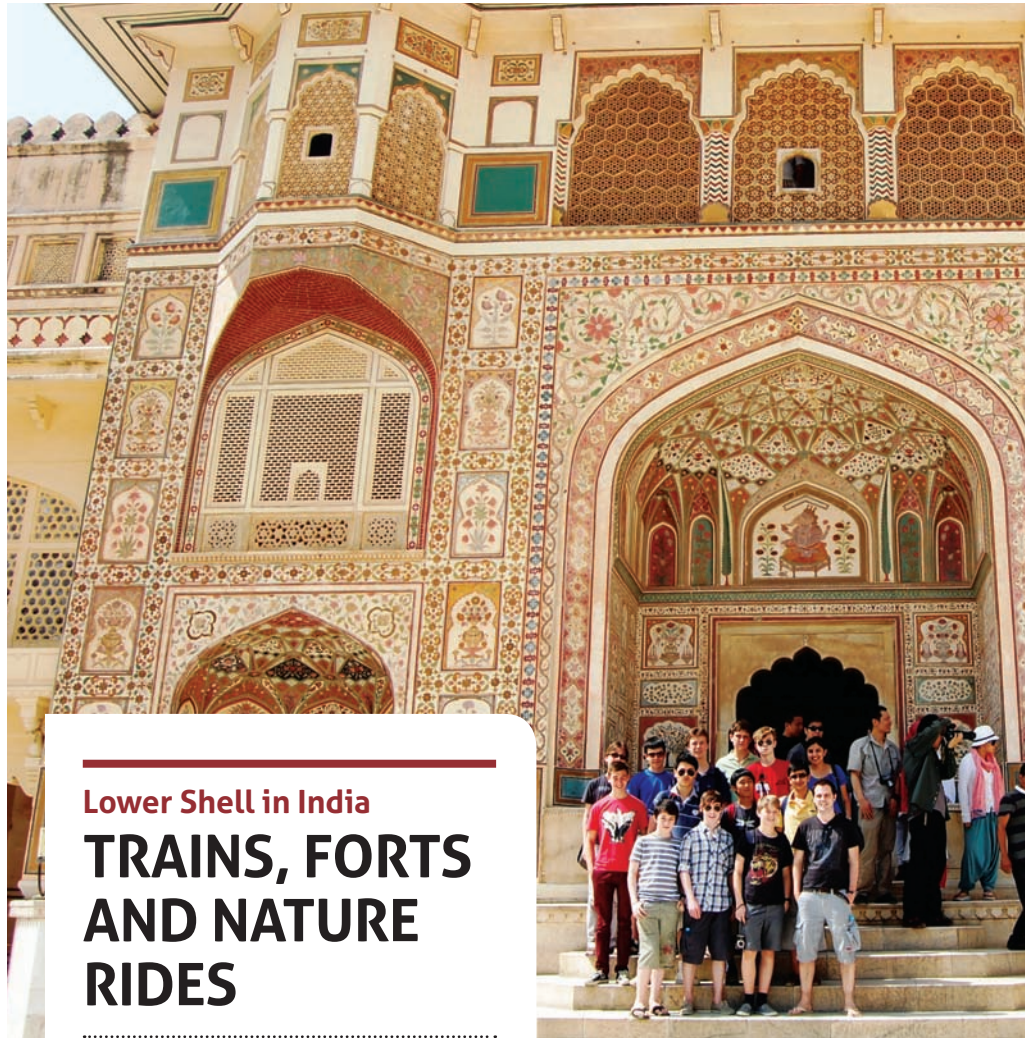
We were fortunate enough to go to the Mariinsky Theatre, where we saw the ballet of *Anna Karenina*, featuring the best ballerina in the world alongside male counterparts who were impressive in more than one dimension. Another evening outing was a performance of *Lord of the Flies* in Russian, from which we gleaned the ever-useful vocabulary for "kill the pig!". The combination of ten days of language school, relentless mental strain in overcoming the language barrier, and the quenching of our thirst for culture left us exhausted but contented. We are truly grateful to the teachers for organising a most rewarding, enriching and enjoyable trip, one that none of us will be forgetting soon.



Geography in Swansea THE SECOND BEST VIEW

The Geography field trip that departed on the last week of the Lent Term strove to explore both the physical and human facets of the Gower Peninsula as well as its surrounding settlements, notes Jerome Mockett (LL).

■ Perhaps to some it lacked the pomp and splendour of the countless 'rival' Easter trips. To some, prospects further afield beckoned: scouring Eastern Europe for linguistic elegance or exploring Parisian culture in the spring-time, some perhaps even scrutinizing the Eastern Seaboard for whatever interest it might offer. But to the keen geographer, Swansea was where the smart money set off to. With a wealth of fascinating examples of urbanisation, economic structural changes and the modernisation of traditional industry, the city itself provoked hours of exploration, debate and analysis. Beyond the urban heart of the region, the suburbs quickly dissolved as arterial roads led out into the sparse and exceptionally beautiful rural landscape of the Gower peninsula. Following visits to some of the outstanding beaches that the coastline boasts, it was no surprise to find out that the peninsula had been deemed an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the 1960s. In tracking the course of the River Illston from its mouth to source and even past 'Britain's 2nd Best View' at Three Cliff Bay, Geographical knowledge was tested by the utterly engaging and unsurpassable method of seeing it all in the flesh. The trip was sweetened further by persistent, glorious sunshine of which we were told it "had never been, and probably will never again be, seen in Wales". Whilst the weather and scenery were undoubtedly catalysts, the success of the expedition can only be attributed to the thoughtful planning and excellent organisation of Mr Harris and Miss Leonard who ensured a fantastic week.



Lower Shell in India TRAINS, FORTS AND NATURE RIDES

As soon as we arrived in Delhi, we were warned that our trip, the first ever Lower Shell expedition to India, was an experiment, reports Theo Tindall (QSS) tremulously.

■ With this ominous warning fresh in our minds we began the classic tour of North India; visiting sights including Delhi, Udaipur, Jaipur and Agra.

After spending two days touring Delhi, including the breath-taking 73 metre tall minaret, Qutub Minar, we boarded the overnight train to Udaipur, which we were promised would be an 'experience'. Despite our fears the journey passed without incident, with the exception of one member of our group, whose 'Delhi Belly' forced him to spend much of the night familiarising himself with the traditional Indian squat toilet.

However, all this was forgotten when we arrived in Udaipur, the beautiful City of Lakes. On our first day we visited the city palace, a local market and temple, before some traditional Indian dance in the evening. The next morning brought our second 'experience', horse-riding in a nearby village, a far less traumatic experience than feared. In the afternoon we went for a relaxing boat ride on Lake Pichola and then caught another overnight train to Jaipur, this time with a friendly mouse staying in our compartment.

Jaipur, with its striking red sandstone buildings, was immediately popular with our group and for many of us, our favourite city. As well as visiting the famous local sites, in-





Art History in Paris

GRANDEUR AND GOTHIC

When we began our Art History course, the Easter trip to Paris was already being spoken about with much excitement. So, along with a jam-packed itinerary, we were fortunate to have the expertise of Dr. Cockburn, Mr. Walton, and Mr. Johnson, who was making his last of many Art History trips with the school, exclaims an enthusiastic Rupert Henderson (GG).



cluding the beautiful Amber Fort, we also took part in some more unusual activities; an elephant ride and a visit to a school run by i-India, a charity dedicated to helping street children in and around Jaipur. Although we only stayed at the school for a few hours, it made a huge impression on us all and left many of us wanting to do more.

In the evening we had another 'experience'; driving to the local cinema by auto-rickshaw to see the local Bollywood blockbuster, a film so good that we could only manage an hour of it, forcing us to noisily leave midway.

We then drove through the countryside to Ranthambore, a national park famed for its tigers. We stayed there for two nights, spending time relaxing and on safari. Though we had been warned that it was unlikely we would see a tiger, luck was on our side: we sighted one on only our second attempt.

After our second night in Ranthambore, we began the seven hour drive to Agra, stopping only for food and the abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri. Once in Agra, we began with a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, a sight far better in real life than in pictures. We finished our trip with a brief visit to Agra Fort before driving back to Delhi to catch our flight. Huge thanks to Ms Choraria and Mr Baldock for arranging this wonderful trip.

Just a few hours after leaving London, we were in The Louvre, diving straight in at the deep end with three whistle-stop tours. Dr. Cockburn led us through rooms with paintings from the Neo-Classical and Romantic periods, where it was particularly exciting to see Géricault's *Raft of the Medusa* (1818–19), an 'old friend' from the classroom. Equally illuminating experiences were had with Mr. Walton, looking at the Early Italian Renaissance paintings of Fra Angelico, Cimabue, whilst Mr. Johnson took each group to the stunning Gothic sections on the other side of the museum. Here we discussed how the division between concepts of design and art was irrelevant in the Gothic period, stopping to take in an intriguing Greek sculpture of a hermaphrodite along the way. After this, we all felt the calming effects of the interior of Notre Dame, having already been impressed by the might of its façade. The stained glass here really was exquisite.

We set off early the following morning to St. Denis, where Abbot Suger created the Gothic style in 1140. We had studied St. Denis in great detail in the classroom, but being able to go to the building expanded and cemented our knowledge. With a charismatic guide who assured us she wasn't being rude by calling the vaulting 'sexpartite', we seemed to run through the entire history of France, looking at many a royal tomb, including that of Marie Antoinette.

Next stop was the Jacquemart-André museum, a 19th Century house and collection. Although the diversity of the art was impressive, the overall grandeur and elaborate decoration of the house was what made this museum special, many of us imagining ourselves attending a Parisian ball whilst

descending the theatrical marble staircase. This sumptuous experience was perhaps topped that evening by the Sainte-Chapelle, commissioned by Louis IX where we attended a performance of Bach Sonatas.

The next day moved us firmly into the realm of modern art, starting with the Musée D'Orsay where we were sent on a treasure hunt for nearly 30 works, including paintings by Cézanne, Degas, Manet and Van Gogh. Highlights included Manet's *Olympia* (1863) and Van Gogh's *Church at Auvers* (1890). At the Musée de L'Art Moderne, Dr. Cockburn led us through the Fauvism to Cubism section. With Mr. Walton, we underwent several drawing challenges testing our visual analysis, culminating with sketching one painting upside down, without looking at the paper, whilst looking at another painting. But the greatest challenge of the day for some was learning appropriate dance moves for the jazz club that evening. On a raised platform in the Champ de Mars, Mr. Johnson demonstrated his dance skills so well that when we arrived at the club, the dance floor was invaded by swinging Westminsterers.

Our final stop was the Centre Pompidou, notable as innovative modern architecture in its own right. Heading straight to the top we arrived at a spectacular view looking over the entire city, before going to look at the Cubists, Dada, and the Surrealists, a highlight being Hausmann's *Mechanical Head* (1919).

The trip repeatedly proved that nothing beats seeing great works of art in person. Spending these four days with great art, great teachers, with friends and perfect weather in Paris was a fantastic experience, and one that fuelled our interest in and understanding of the subject.

Biology Field Trip

WISDOM OF THE ELDERS

Your typical Westminster Sixth Form Biologist will relish sharing their understanding of the latest medical advance or genetic technology, but ask them to identify a dandelion and they will turn pale, divulges Sam Baldock, Head of Biology.



Our annual attempt to rectify this was rather compromised this year by inclement weather, but at least the abundance of mud and rain meant the biodiversity we were learning about could really sink in. Over the course of two days we worked furiously to sample and identify a miscellany of animals and plants (everything from brown leeches and brambles to bank voles and birch trees) in the freshwaters, woodlands and grasslands of the North Downs. Hot squash and flapjacks kept our spirits up after a morning spent waist-deep in the river and the distant glow of the flying-insect trap guided our way to bed after a late revision session. There was time for a little (enforced) fun, where in the Biolympics 2012 teams Russia (eyeliner moustaches), Italy (bedsheet togas), Australia (towels) and more (unprintable) were narrowly beaten by Team France (striped plastic bag gilets) for the vending-machine prizes. After a fiendishly difficult test on twig classification we returned to school with our damp Wellies and a burgeoning chest infection, but above all with a newfound ability to tell an alder from an elder.



Charlotte Hempstead (RR) tweets her report.

History Trip to Aachen and Cologne

CHARLEMAGNE AND REUNIFICATION

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 27th Mar
On da plane!!!! C u tweeps in an hour
#aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 27th Mar
@CharlesM thinks it's a good idea to start singing "Deutschland, Deutschland uber alles" on a crowded train of German commuters #massivehumiliation #aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 27th Mar
Time for dinner. Eating at pub. Drinking age in Germany is 16. #schoolrulesstillapply #aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 27th Mar
@GeorgeB "All I'm saying about her is that Darwin will be proved right and natural selection will fix it"
#historysetbanter #aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
Hitting up the #townhall at #aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
Foto op: Charlemagne and all his laydeeeees
#aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
#townhall has one remaining Carolingian wall. Fresco w/ChM's signature on it!
#aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
Appaz we bombed everything here and that's why the treasured historical artefacts are damaged... #dontmentionthewar #aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
And on to the cathedral... Writing on wall says "All the world under Austria" #definitelydontmentionthewar #aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
ChM's bones buried here! Gold reliquary has his skull bone in it... creepy...
#reallifehistory #aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
So it was the French who stole everything from the cathedral. Luvin the tour guide
#politicallycorrecthistory #aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
Made it onto train for #cologne w/minutes 2 spare. Blame it all on @Pangonis
#aachen2K12

So it was the French who stole everything from the cathedral

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
@GeorgeB nosebleed... passport guy asks if he got in a fight w/Charlemagne. George says he won #havingfunatcustoms #aachen2K12

History Set GPB RB1/HY7 28th Mar
Back in England... So tired... #aachen2K12
24 hrs of pure cr@@Z!!!
See the full twitter feed tweeted by @madz_or with the hashtag #aachen2K12

Fifth Form in Greece

SUN, SAND AND SPARTA



Ruins and riots: just another day in the life of the Westminster Fifth Form on their Greek Odyssey, remembers Thomas Lindsay (DD).

■ Upon arrival in Athens we were greeted by our very own 'battle bus'. We spent the rest of the day circling Athens, which had cunningly concealed itself in a fog bank.

Over the next week and a bit we explored the ruins of the birthplace of the West, discovering how the Oracle of Delphi got high and sprinting at the race track at Olympia. As well as these well known sites we also visited places on the more obscure end of the spectrum such as the Temple of Apollo at Bassae, which was re-discovered by an OW more than two centuries ago. Arrival in Sparta prompted choruses of '300' quotes which became old very quickly. Spartan Sparta is hardly visible at all today, the present ruins being Roman. Mr Low decided that he would tell us nothing about any of the ruins, and left us to entertain ourselves.

In the massive Treasury of Atreus we had a round of Latin Prayers, to the bewilderment of the German tourists.

Another highlight of the trip was Mycenae, where we saw the famous Lion Gate and the room in which Agamemnon was murdered by his wife. In the massive Treasury of Atreus we had a round of Latin Prayers, to

the bewilderment of the German tourists who came in with us. We also went to Corinth, which is, like Sparta, mostly Roman as it was razed to the ground as a warning to other Greek states. The ruins were nonetheless very impressive, as was the Corinth canal which we had lunch by.

After Corinth came Athens, the finale. Spotting the Parthenon during our first night in central Athens was brilliant, and visiting the Acropolis the next day did not disappoint, despite the restoration work on the Parthenon itself. The Athenian Agora beneath the Acropolis was massive and we sat where Socrates taught thousands of years ago. In Athens we were reminded of Greece's current economic state by distant bangs of protest against government austerity measures. Despite this, Greece seemed to be in a far better state than the media likes to convey, with its people always friendly and willing to help despite our stuttering language.

Many thanks have to go to the two Nikoses: our driver and tour organiser who consistently managed to find the best hotels and food wherever we were. The Westminster (and Eton) staff who accompanied us were spectacular: Mr Coward, Mr Ireland, Mr Smith and Mr Low and his wife. Particular mention must go to Mr Smith for keeping us up to date with the latest developments in the world of Arches, and Mr Low for not only organising the trip but also reminding us of the best test to judge a statue's quality (look at its bottom). Not to be forgotten is of course David Low, who not only managed to put up with us all but also kept our phones busy throughout the trip.

More Trips: Part 1

IN PICTURES



India
Lower Shell



Les Menuires
Skiing



Alston
Milne's



■ On May 24th we set off from St Pancras station, destined for Le Puy-en-Velay, near Lyon. We reached Le Puy, spent the night in a pilgrim hostel, and for the next 77 days we walked – a total of 1000 miles. Up the Massif Central, through the Landes, across the Pyrenees, along the wide treeless Meseta plain, and over the mountains of Galicia. The scenery was endlessly varied, frequently dramatic, and it was exciting to be constantly surprised by new places.

On August 8th, we arrived in Santiago de Compostela. The entry to Santiago, with its magnificent romanesque cathedral, and massive Obradouro Square, was probably the most exciting moment of the whole walk. Pilgrims arriving every few minutes, falling on their knees, hugging each other, singing – had we really made it too?

It was a thrilling adventure.

We met masses of interesting people of all nationalities, all friendly and delightful. A Pole with a chest-length beard who had walked from Warsaw, an 80 year old Frenchman who was on his 7th pilgrimage, two Spaniards riding unicycles and many others. Some were doing only a part of the pilgrimage, but all had a personal reason which drove them forward. We stayed in pilgrim hostels, sometimes in monasteries and convents, and visited hundreds of romanesque churches along the way.

A pilgrimage is “a purposeful journey to a place of personal significance”. It is something common to all religious faiths, and this is possibly the most famous Christian route. The rhythm of walking allows the mind to wander as it will. We thought about ourselves, and our relationship with others, we reflected on our lives, on what was really important and what was trivial. I hope we have returned with a clearer view of our real priorities, from which everyone with whom we come in contact will benefit.

Santiago de Compostela ON THE PILGRIM TRAIL

We had never done a long-distance walk before, and at times it was pretty demanding. The worst day was in Southern France when the temperature touched 42 C, there was no shade and the path was very hilly; that was the only point at which we nearly gave up! But this was no ordinary journey, writes Carla Stevens, Study Skills Coordinator, who went on pilgrimage last summer with her husband Bryan, following in the wake of millions to Santiago de Compostela, a pilgrim destination for over a thousand years.

More Trips: Part 2 IN PICTURES





SOCIETIES AND LECTURES



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Cultural Perspective

CAKE CEREMONY

Rhian Williams' (PP) entry for the 2011 Cultural Perspectives essay prize caught the examiner's eye with a poignant tale of language traps and cake missed.

■ Having parents from completely different racial and cultural backgrounds has enabled me from a young age to be fortunate enough to feel like I belong not only in England, where I have lived for my whole life, but also in Japan, my mother's country. This essay shall discuss the differences between the two countries in terms of language and how this highlights cultural differences between the two societies.

Japanese differs drastically from any European language due to its grammatical ambiguity. There are no articles, no distinction between singular and plural, no genders for nouns, pronouns are rarely used and there are not many verb tenses. For example, if you were to say *'igirisu ni ikimasu'*, this could mean any of the following: *'I am going to England'*, *'I go to England'*, *'I am going to go to England'*, *'I will go to England'* or *'I would go to England'*. This

linguistic ambiguity is very much reflected in the ambiguous nature of the people. Whereas in England it would not be considered inappropriate to answer a question with a direct 'yes' or 'no', it would be rude to do so in a Japanese context. Indeed there are many different variations of words to mean 'yes' and 'no' in Japanese for this very reason. Instead of saying 'no', people often tend to opt for a safer *'I don't know'*, *'I'll think about it'* or *'I probably don't agree'*. A good example of the differences between the two cultures with regard to the use of these words would be when my mother's Japanese friend came to Britain to study English and when asked by her host family whether or not she would like some cake she declined the offer. In truth, she did want a slice of victoria sponge, but she felt that she could not say so, especially after only being asked once. A few hours later, she returned to the kitchen to discover that the family had devoured the entire cake and that there was not a crumb left for her to eat. She was shocked. This story illustrates the fact that whilst in Britain one is expected to respond directly to such questions, the Japanese feel differently. Indeed one is often not encouraged to say 'yes' to offerings of food until the question is repeated at least three times.

Another way in which the use of language

Many people who live in Tokyo who have originated from the countryside tend to converse at home in their own dialect but speak 'Tokyo Japanese' when at work

highlights cultural differences is with regard to dialect. Whilst in Britain many people tend to embrace their regional accents and it is considered acceptable for people to use vocabulary from their part of the country, it is seen as a

A few hours later, she returned to the kitchen to discover that the family had devoured the entire cake and that there was not a crumb left for her to eat. She was shocked

huge embarrassment for a countryside dweller to speak in a rural dialect when in Tokyo. Therefore, many people who live in Tokyo who have originated from the countryside tend to converse at home in their own dialect but speak 'Tokyo Japanese' when at work or when meeting strangers. My mother for example, speaks *'kansai ben'* (the dialect spoken in the South-West of the island) to her family, but in standardised Japanese to everyone else. I believe that this concept of regarding the speaking of a dialect to be embarrassing largely reflects the Japanese tendency to want to conform. Japan

can be considered a 'classless society' due to the fact that people desire to be uniform regardless of their socio-economic background. It is also true that the desire for uniformity is purely superficial, which explains why people



still comfortably speak in their own dialects within the confines of their own home.

Japanese is unusual in that the speech of women collectively differs from that of men and vice versa. This difference in language use can be detected even in toddlers. For example, there are many words and grammatical structures which a man could use without disapproval but would be considered vulgar should they be uttered by a woman. In my opinion this reflects how the society views the gender difference: women are still subject to a great deal of injustice, whether it be with regard to employment or a general sense of inferiority. For example, even nowadays it is rare for a man to be able to cook and it is considered likely that a married man have affairs outside marriage whilst the wife is expected to put up with this without complaint and it is her duty to look after her husband.

Finally, the superficially formal nature of the society is reflected in the extensive grammatical system (including prefixes, suffixes and different conjugations of verbs) used specifically to express politeness. In fact there are even three different forms of polite language, ranging from polite to humble through to respectful, depending on how formal one wishes to be. There are also far more phrases in Japanese whose use is considered compulsory even when between friends, which would sound strange to the foreign ear. For example, *'you are tired'* is often said after asking somebody to complete a task for you. I believe that this apparent need for the excessive use of formality in the language reflects the fact that Japanese people tend to be less friendly and welcoming upon first meeting than their British counterparts.

In conclusion, I believe that these linguistic differences highlight cultural differences and show differences in how a society functions and how people wish to present themselves to others.

John House Art History Prize

LÉONOR FINI AND LA SORCIÈRE

Maria O'Hana (DD) won this year's prize with her essay on the role of the witch in Leonor Fini's work from 1935 to 1957. The essay considered the relationship between Fini's art and specific events in her life, as well as her role as a female artist involved in the Surrealist movement, including the extent to which the Surrealist men's views on women and witches conditioned her artwork and influenced her perception of the witch figure. An extract is published below.

■ Léonor Fini sustained an interest in all things mythical and monstrous throughout her artistic career. It seems probable that her fixation with the embodiment of the *femme-fatale* through the female monster was rooted in her involvement with the Surrealists, who had been greatly fascinated by classical monsters and the possibility of creating a 'modern myth'. Yet Fini had always remained on the fringe of this movement, avoiding the shame of being labelled or categorised as part of their sphere. In deviating from the movement, she embarked on a journey in which she would explore the symbolism of the female monster, developing an intimate relationship with the creatures which were to feature in her work.

These figures and creatures appear to be of an introspective nature, and so, in order to understand the symbol of the witch and the thoughts and ideals which she projected onto it, it is important to be able to understand Léonor Fini as a person. Fini was a very complex and peculiar character, fêted for her Amazonian-like spirit. She was detached from the conventions of society, living with seventeen cats which would swagger across the dinner table, savouring guests' meals without any restriction. Her domineering personality translating itself onto her relationships – she lived in a *ménage-à-trois* on more than one occasion – dictated the course of her relationships, ensuring that she in no way appeared to depend on her male lovers, who included Max Ernst. Fini insisted that "Women marry because of fear of a lack of money. But I have always earned a living..."

Her independence and self-worth can be considered admirable, yet they also demon-

strate her need to detach herself emotionally.

This perpetual concern with female power can largely be attributed to particular events in her childhood: born in Buenos Aires in 1907, Fini was forced to flee with her mother to Trieste, having suffered under her abusive father. Herminio Fini sent for his daughter to be kidnapped on several occasions, and this resulted in Fini being dressed by her mother in boy's clothing during her upbringing in Trieste. This ultimately gave rise to Fini's interest in the concept of androgyny, which would later come to feature recurrently in her work. This left Fini with psychological traumas and a great mistrust of men: "As a child I felt constantly in the shadow of some dark obscure menace."

Her inauguration into the socialite circle of Paris would result in Fini lavishing herself with designs by Chanel and Schiaparelli. She was a voluptuary at heart, and became a regular attendee of extravagant costume balls, claiming that she "used to arrive late, about midnight, light-headed with joy at being a royal owl, a large grey lion, the queen of the underworld."

Whilst life in Paris gave fruit to her flamboyance, her involvement with the Surrealists, together with the circumstances of the *époque*, spurred the blood in her feminist vein. She lived in an age where women were beginning to demand the right to work and vote in France, yet were still enslaved by bourgeois conventions. In addition to this, the majority of the male Surrealists regarded Woman as nothing more than a *femme-fatale*, muse or lover. Fini was appalled by the subordination of women within the movement and the fact that they were subjugated to Breton's misogynist and exceedingly sexist remarks.

The Gumbleton Prize

A LONDON STORY

This year's Gumbleton creative writing prize was won by Grace Linden (MM) for her poem based on the set topic, London.

■ But who can this be?

Moving alone in the morning darkness
Like an ink drop through the scrolling streets—
Does she know the way?

Does she see how the houses are stirring,
how the grey air is lightening— but only slowly?
How the air is cold, her small hands are cold
in the dusk, her breath is pale then lost,
and each step sounds one step closer, and one
further away

But of course, this is an every weekday journey
- home to school then back again;
everyday is today, and today is everyday,
Except when it's not, and she doesn't think
you really ever can say...

traffic, but little, gleaming
then neon in the gloom
1st class same day dry cleaning
the overcomers church,
paving stones grim then bright
then dark then light
straight lines,
once, twice, space,
close, hush
but not for long.

I stepped into Ava's room before I left
it was all warm and dark and close, I could
hear her breathing— the little body in the
carry-cot.
Now coming down the front steps I stood
for a moment, the cold air was shocking.
And that dark close little room, I don't know,
all I know is accounts
but listen to the rumbles of the waking world,
see the heavy sky

I forgot my scarf but I can't go back or I'll be late.
All I have now is one foot in front of the other
but I can't go back I can't go back—
I don't know, but now it seems like that room
is like a warm heart that beats in a cold body,
I don't know but I'm afraid.

*Build me a shelter of oyster shells
Father's gone to sea,
Mother's gone to fetch him
So please remember me*

Don't worry, don't worry yourself, don't be
afraid— miserable thing, why do you cry out?
The city is silent amid myriad voices, essen-
tially still in the depths of its clay.

But now turn right up kingsland road, cutting
through via ashwin street
and the deserted warehouse— she can feel the
great emptiness behind the dimmed windows.
All this used to be forest long, long ago— can
you see the ghostly trees crowding? But don't
be silly, they are all buildings now, the stags and
wild boars are cars and buses and the rivers are
roads— and she is just a shadow scurrying up a
side street and joining the main road.

Moving up kingsland road the murmurs have
become an irregular roar.
up up up faster, breath catching
she won't miss the train
but a sudden energy compels it
skip, step then step again
one foot in front of the other
over and over and over...

then dalston kingsland station,
more people, multiplying shadows
in the sudden bright lights, the dried blood
bricks and orange signs aglow

Down the steps things are greyer and there
aren't yet too many people— on each side the
platforms rise into great banks of weeds. She
once saw a rat among the nettles, and now she
never sits on the wall with her back to them but
sits on the bench instead. The train comes qui-
etly nowadays— it used to rattle in in dark blue
and green but now it slides in purely in white
and orange, the doors beep and you enter.

I'm already here— got on at hackney central,
got a seat too. But you see,
Peter asked me to call to wake him
around 7:30, so I'm already away.
I can see his grave sleeping head on the pillow
I don't want to wake him.
Let him lie there, the man in my heart,
let him lie a minute longer

but I can't— he'd be annoyed and so
I'll call him—
listen to his sleepy voice wishing me a good day
and for a moment we are like two children at
either end of two tin cans on a string and then
he is gone...
Does anyone else here have the same secret?

whisper it or say nothing at all
for fear of letting it loose along
this great jointed metal cylinder
for as long as it's inside me it's safe—
to say it would be cheapening
so I'll stay silent and harden my eyes

Then canonbury station, one long pale grey
stretch of pavement
then the bridge and the high walls with their
myriad pastel signatures
its around a century since they played release
and a pick a pin and
jimmy-jimmy-knacko up on mildmay street —
all those children are
gone and the bridge is like a buffer between
you and your rail-way track soul

Why is it that every old woman I see these days
makes me think of Grandma?
listening to her and her memories makes me
feel hollow and cold, lacking because I have
lived all my life in London, I've never known
anyone die, struggled, cooked, all that stuff—
because its true, you can't make good proggy
mats out of polyester blouses. The clouds hang
like fine white hair, I can see hours in the office
ahead of me, except I don't want to — I want to
listen to my Grandma, my substantial Grandma
and her stories that never lead anywhere but
round and round and repeat like a spell but
not so sinister. What can I possibly say that
would fill a hospital room like a quilt? You do
whatever, whatever you do but don't make me
tell you about it all, my mouth is dry and my
head hurts from the early morning — such great
spaces, be mild with me

highbury and islington:
you should see the crowds
that will come later, muttering
thronging, massing, silent
breaths that come in clouds

I ask myself: who first said 'mind the gap take
your litter with you doors will open on
the left hand side help point this is a

london overground service to richmond?
 who painted the pattern I'm sitting on?
 fluorescent lighting, water dispensers and
 conical paper cups – who thought them up?

there's much we don't understand my grand-
 mother and me

on then, on then, she closes her eyes
 because the sun is coming on stronger
 rails like ribs
 walls run up
 then down, open
 then closed
 will the things to come be like what there was
 before?

You should have seen this station the other
 night
 near on midnight black as anything except for
 the light on the mist made a pale hall with walls
 of shifting fog. It was so cold, we walked
 together
 to the station and she kissed me four times
 first one cheek then the other, then one cheek
 then
 the other – my face was warm but hers were
 cold so
 her kisses burned, if this is comfort then that
 must have been pain, except lovely as anything.
 Her train came
 first and left me behind eyes wide like an idiot –
 the night was so quiet and full of promise

but then at school I was so shy again
 my voice froze and my –
 hands started twisting of their
 own accord – she was so nice
 to me, and I couldn't say anything
 didn't want to? but I did, I really
 did

past camden town and she's high up
 among the roof-tops where the sun rays
 hang a loose sash around the chimney stacks

Is it still so cold outside?
 no matter how far wrong you've gone
 can you still turn around?
 even a train?

glorious pale sun
 brightness all unbound
 the shadows of the window bars sweeping
 across the floor
Poor Jonny is a-weeping, a-weeping, a-weeping
Poor Jonny is a-weeping on a bright summers day

See how the sun fills my eyes, my mouth
 How it covers the tangled veins of my hands
 So lovely, but a bit too bright – I close my eyes

and it all burns orange
 why was that young woman staring at me? I
 hope I don't look funny

I dropped a mug this morning, just let it fall out
 my hands and smash
 I don't know why though, maybe it felt funny
 all of sudden having more
 than one of everything. Anyway the sound was
 an awful shock, brutal even –
 like sharp but heavy too – I felt it in my stomach.
 Oh my Dave my poor David my lovely man –
 the train moves too fast
 the train moves too fast
 how do you get like this,
 with your days scattered like ash?

Anyway, I cleared up as quick as possible because
 I knew what they'd say, that they'd think what
 they think
 my goodness me why home, not home, never
 home
 I don't want, I don't ever want but what if I
 have to?

Thank god for this silence then, and for the
 lovely sun.

kentish town now, in kentish town
 about a hundred years ago
 a monkey clawed at a woman's
 skirts as she was visiting its zoo
 and gave her an awful scare –
 a month later folklore declares
 she gave birth to a baby with a monkey's head
*Of course the doctor done away with it. Mother didn't
 see it, but she used to tell us what it was like.*

but she's past the penultimate stop now
 nearing gospel oak the buildings stop
 and for a moment there's a thin bank of trees –
 the slender trunks whip past, bare so you can see
 the building site beyond them, eternally build-
 ing, what are they doing there?
 too late to find out, for she's at the station, off
 the train and down the steps
 it's properly morning now, people about, but
 the sun has dulled and the
 twin railway bridges cast chilly shadows so on
 up and turn left – the sudden
 open space of the heath is a shock of green and
 mounting earth

cycling up here reminds me of Suffolk –
 freewheeling down a rise in the rolling ground
 I could feel you over my shoulder but I would
 never let you catch up, going faster and faster
 as the old bike shook and cracked beneath me
 the sky was white and empty and open
 as the ground was snatched away beneath us
 faster and faster
 down the slope
 faster and faster
 cry out!

let the note
 split endlessly
 in the freezing air
 why this silence? why the empty sky?

I remember again going through the cemetery
 on our way back and stepping fastidiously clear
 of the graves so as not to disturb the dead by
 treading on them, silly though because there
 were probably centuries of dead in that ground,
 all piled up under everywhere you might care
 to put your feet –

once up here I passed a couple lying on the
 ground together
 I wanted to ask them:
 didn't they think of the miles and miles of cold
 earth beneath them?
 their small warm bodies perched above un-
 knowable depths,
 the stones and bones and buried things, endless
 dead earth –
 but maybe I'm just a bit morbid, besides they
 would have thought I was totally mad.

Nearly at journey's end up highgate hill,
 the cars passing before the still trees
 the sun is less fresh now, the morning
 ready to ripen and then melt away

Which is worse:
 arrival,
 just after,
 or just before?

She does not know yet how to look unafraid of
 all the obscure rhythms, the winding paths
keep awake, keep listening, don't let us scare you away
 remember all these changes, for a city is not a
 simple space
 no horizon, and silence is never absolute here
 a shadowplay, a maze: trace lines, make maps
 mark the edges of a many myriad hidden circles
 impossible to comprehend.
 blink once, blick twice to frame
 the slipping moments, hold them fast...

Too late: journey's end.

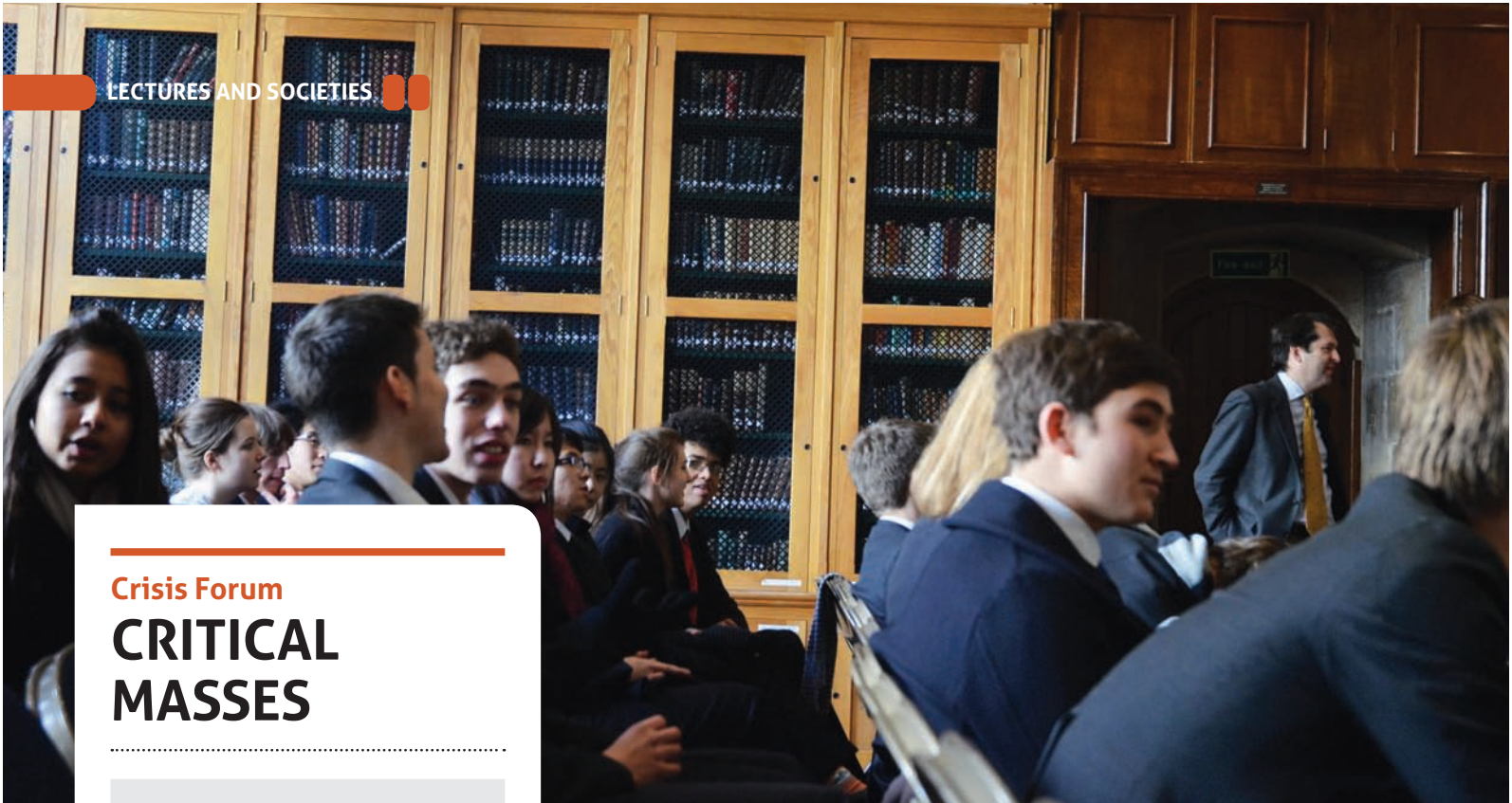
2011

PRIZEGIVING

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| History Upper Shell | James Adams | LL |
| French Fifth | Darius Afkhami | AHH |
| Stuart Leaf Prize: German | Edward Aldred | RR |
| Peer Supporter | Genna Aldridge | PP |
| Design & Technology Upper Shell | Lachlan Alexander | MM |
| Spanish Upper Shell | Pettinga Alexander | AHH |
| Peer Supporter | Henry Allberry | RR |
| English Upper Shell | James Alster | DD |
| History Upper Shell | James Alster | DD |
| Latin Upper Shell | James Alster | DD |
| Religious Studies Fifth | Kavi Amin | RR |
| Russian Upper Shell | Joseph Andreyev | WW |
| Art Fifth | Kofi Arthur | BB |
| Chemistry Fifth | Tom Ashton | QSS |
| Religious Studies Upper Shell | Harry Balfour-Lynn | BB |
| Stuart Leaf Prize: French | Nannette Balfour-Lynne | GG |
| Art Fifth | Josh Ballance | MM |
| Geography Sixth | Alex Ballard | GG |
| French Fifth | Matthew Bannatyne | QSS |
| Martin Leake: History Second | Matthew Bannatyne | QSS |
| Electronics Upper Shell | Udayan Bannerjee- | |
| | Bulchandani | RR |
| Gumbleton: English First | Tom Barrie | WW |
| Martin Leake: History Third | Jamie Baty | AHH |
| Published Author: Chemistry | Lindsay Baxter | PP |
| Peer Supporter | Ben Bayley | QSS |
| Economics Remove | Patrick Beardmore | BB |
| Electronics Remove | Patrick Beardmore | BB |
| Published Author: Chemistry | Will Benet | DD |
| Instrumental: Music Woodwind | Will Benet | DD |
| National Merit Scholarship | Will Benet | DD |
| Peer Supporter | Susanna Bennet | CC |
| French Upper Shell | Zaeem Bhanji | GG |
| Drama Lower Shell | Alex Bishop | LL |
| Hugo Garten Prize: German | Billy Bolton | LL |
| Harvard Book Prize | George Bradbury | BB |
| Peer Supporter | Sam Brodsky | AHH |
| Chemistry Sixth | Callum Bungey | HH |
| French Upper Shell | George Bustin | RR |
| Greek Sixth | George Bustin | RR |
| Phillimore: English First | Gabriel Cagan | DD |
| Whitmore: History | Gabriel Cagan | DD |
| Philip Webb Prize: French | Rosemary Carpenter | LL |
| Walker: History | Rosie Carpenter | LL |
| Peer Supporter | Rosie Carpenter | LL |
| Physics Sixth | Ed Carter | AHH |
| Cheyne: Maths Senior | Martin Chan | WW |
| Maths Upper Shell | Aditya Chander | HH |
| Music Upper Shell | Aditya Chander | HH |
| Special Award: Drama | Edward Cherric | DD |
| Biology Lower Shell | Azmain Chowdhury | LL |
| Greek Upper Shell | Azmain Chowdhury | LL |
| Maths Remove | George Christofi | WW |
| History | Christopher Rowe | HH |
| Biology Fifth | Nicholas Clanchy | MM |
| Geography Fifth | Nicholas Clanchy | MM |
| Martin Leake: History First | Nicholas Clanchy | MM |
| Head Master's Prize Head Girl | Rosie Colthorpe | WW |
| French Sixth | Victoire Courtenay | MM |
| History of Art Remove | Leon Craig Cohen | HH |
| Biology Sixth | Jamie Cranston | RR |
| Phillimore: English Third | Jamie Cranston | RR |
| Fred D'Arcy: English | Jamie Cranston | RR |
| English Society: English | Jamie Cranston | RR |
| History Remove | Flora Curtis | AHH |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| Latin Upper Shell | James Dai | AHH |
| Latin Fifth | Eugene Daley | QSS |
| German Remove | Ellie Daniel | CC |
| Physics Fifth | Nicholas Daultry Ball | GG |
| History Lower Shell | Michael Davin | AHH |
| Music Lower Shell | Michael Davin | AHH |
| Physics Lower Shell | Michael Davin | AHH |
| Maundy | Indi de Graaf | MM |
| Drama Sixth | Daniel de Lisle | BB |
| Religious Studies Sixth | Daniel de Lisle | BB |
| Peer Supporter | Nina de Paula Hanika | DD |
| Peer Supporter | Imogen Dean | GG |
| Religious Studies Lower Shell | Jonny Digby | DD |
| German Upper Shell | Piers Dubin | LL |
| History Fifth | Sam Dunning | LL |
| Biology Upper Shell | Adam Evans | VV |
| History of Art Sixth | Rachel Finegold | HH |
| Religious Studies Sixth | Rachel Finegold | HH |
| Peer Supporter | Daisy Fletcher | AHH |
| Physics Fifth | Amar Gandhi | QSS |
| PE Fifth | Quentin Geczy | MM |
| Peer Supporter | Cosmo Godfree | GG |
| Russian Upper Shell | James Gunn | QSS |
| Stuart Leaf Prize: Spanish | Arav Gupta | MM |
| Spanish Sixth | George Hage | LL |
| Gumbleton: English Third | Miranda Hall | AHH |
| Latin Sixth | Jess Hao | GG |
| Electronics Lower Shell | Tom Hartley | HH |
| IT Lower Shell | Tom Hartley | HH |
| Drama Upper Shell | Rupert Henderson | GG |
| Phillimore: English Fourth | Arthur Henderson | LL |
| Art Sixth | Katy Hessel | LL |
| Elizabethan Photography: | | |
| 'Fencing' Second | Thomas Holdaway | DD |
| 5th Form Creative Writing: | | |
| English Third | Thomas Holdaway | DD |
| History Fifth | Thomas Holdaway | DD |
| Geography Upper Shell | Luke Hone | HH |
| Art Upper Shell | Riki Houlden | DD |
| Maths Upper Shell | Riki Houlden | DD |
| Gumbleton: English Second | Leo Howard | AH |
| Chemistry Remove | Richard Howell | DD |
| Geography Remove | Richard Howell | DD |
| Neale: History | Richard Howell | DD |
| Spanish Remove | Peter Huhne | GG |
| Published Author: Chemistry | Miles Huseyin | WW |
| Electronics Lower Shell | Andreas Ioannou | MM |
| Maths Lower Shell | Andreas Ioannou | MM |
| Spanish Sixth | Ben Ireland | RR |
| Phillimore: English Fourth | Jade Jackman | PP |
| Religious Studies Fifth | Maxime Janbon | GG |
| Maths Lower Shell | Akash Jayasekara | QSS |
| Biology Upper Shell | Vikram Jayaswal | QSS |
| Chemistry Upper Shell | Vikram Jayaswal | QSS |
| Spanish Upper Shell | Vikram Jayaswal | QSS |
| Chemistry Fifth | Jared Jeyaretnam | BB |
| Art Upper Shell | Milo Johnson | DD |
| Stuart Leaf Prize: Russian | Tristan Jones | WW |
| Elizabethan Photography: | | |
| 'Gaudi Interior' Third | Jerome Kamm | LL |
| Chemistry Upper Shell | Isaac Kang | QSS |
| Biology Sixth | Hannah Karet | BB |
| German Remove | Horace Keating | RR |
| Religious Studies Upper Shell | Keelan Kember | BB |
| Electronics Remove | Jack Kemp | DD |
| Physics Remove | Jack Kemp | DD |
| Greek Lower Shell | Nicholas Kenny | MM |
| Russian Lower Shell | Nicholas Kenny | MM |
| Chemistry Sixth | Hugo Kent-Egan | LL |
| Greek Lower Shell | Daniel Kim | QSS |
| Maths Fifth | Daniel Kim | QSS |
| Maths Sixth | Joshua Kirklin | WW |

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----|---|----------------------|-----|
| Martin Leake: History First | Henry Kitchen | AHH | Maudy | James Sherwood | DD |
| Peer Supporter | Zazie Lawson | BB | Economics Sixth | Emma Shillam | WW |
| Elizabethan Photography: | | | Greek Remove | Il-Kweon Sir | GG |
| 'Piano Duet' First | Hugo Leatt | RR | Russian Remove | Il-Kweon Sir | GG |
| Solti: Music | Hassal Lee | HH | Maudy | Stephanie Smith | HH |
| Design & Technology Upper Shell | Christopher Leet | AHH | Peer Supporter | Clemmie Stebbings | WW |
| Phillimore: English Fourth | Ally Leigh | PP | English Lower Shell | Alistair Stewart | RR |
| Published Author: Chemistry | Gabriella Lewis | HH | Music Lower Shell | Alistair Stewart | RR |
| Geography Sixth | George Lewis | GG | Maudy | Alex Stewart | HH |
| Peer Supporter | Corty Linder | MM | Spanish Lower Shell | Charles Strachan | GG |
| French Lower Shell | Gaetano Lo Coco | GG | German Lower Shell | Alistair Stewart | RR |
| Geography Lower Shell | Gaetano Lo Coco | GG | History | Henry Tann | DD |
| Religious Studies Lower Shell | Gaetano Lo Coco | GG | Maudy | Henry Tann | DD |
| Phillimore: English Fourth | Siobhan Lyons | WW | Art Lower Shell | Rory Taylor | RR |
| Solti: Music | Betty Makharinsky | BB | Instrumental: Music Brass | Ivo Tedbury | HH |
| Gumbleton: English Third | Alex Male | WW | Music Remove | Ivo Tedbury | HH |
| Physics Upper Shell | Stefan Marjanovic | MM | Instrumental: Music Strings | Elliott Thompson | MM |
| French Remove | Claire-Emily Martin | WW | Chemistry Remove | Sophie Timmis | MM |
| Spanish Remove | Claire-Emily Martin | WW | Chemistry Lower Shell | Marius Tirlea | WW |
| Music Sixth | Daniel Marx | GG | Latin Lower Shell | Marius Tirlea | WW |
| Geography Upper Shell | Vikram Mashru | DD | Electronics Upper Shell | Fred Tomlinson | DD |
| Electronics Sixth | Nicola Mason | PP | English Remove | Ted Tregear | BB |
| Art Remove | Rosie McBurney | PP | Mitchell: History | Ted Tregear | BB |
| Geography Fifth | Bonar McGuire | WW | Latin Remove | Ted Tregear | BB |
| PE Fifth | Bonar McGuire | WW | Instrumental: Music Singing | Ted Tregear | BB |
| Whitelegge: Music | Jack McNeill Adams | DD | Drama Upper Shell | George Troop | HH |
| Russian Sixth | Sacha Mehta | QSS | English Upper Shell | George Troop | HH |
| Biology Fifth | Rory Meryon | MM | German Upper Shell | George Troop | HH |
| Phillimore: English Third | Izzy Millar | GG | Geography Remove | Alice Tusa | BB |
| Phillimore: English Second | Edward Millett | BB | Religious Studies Fifth | Sam Tyler | HH |
| Gumbleton: English Third | Edward Millett | BB | Art Remove | Ursula Underhill | HH |
| Greek Remove | Edward Millett | BB | Drama Remove | Ursula Underhill | HH |
| Gibb Prize French | Ata Mohajer-Bastami | BB | Peer Supporter | Ursula Underhill | HH |
| Economics Sixth | Theo Morris-Clarke | AHH | 5th Form Creative Writing | | |
| History Sixth | Theo Morris-Clarke | AHH | English: First | Eugene Valetsky | GG |
| Greek Upper Shell | John Morse | BB | 5th Form Creative Writing | | |
| Biology Remove | Edward Muffett | BB | English: Second | Hugo Ventham | QSS |
| History of Art Remove | Isabel MuirGreyCoats | | Latin Fifth | Hugo Ventham | QSS |
| History | Verity Myers | DD | Maths Fifth | Hugo Ventham | QSS |
| History Sixth | Bea Natzler | WW | French Remove | Noah Viner | QSS |
| Economics Sixth | Madeleine O'Riordan | GG | History of Art Remove | Livia Wang | PP |
| Christopher Clarke Civic En | Maria Ouvarova | MM | Fred D'Arcy: English | Timir Weston | WW |
| English Remove | Beatrix Parnaby-Price | MM | Maths Sixth | Benjamin Wetherfield | HH |
| Peer Supporter | Beatrix Parnaby-Price | MM | Music Sixth | Benjamin Wetherfield | HH |
| JECA Performance Award: Drama | Will Peck | LL | Maths Remove | Felix Williams | MM |
| Peer Supporter | Will Peck | LL | Maths Sixth | Nicholas Williams | MM |
| Head Master's Prize Head Boy | Will Peck | LL | Latin Sixth | Harry Winter | GG |
| Biology Remove | Patrick Perryman-Owens | QSS | Art Sixth | Faye Wong | DD |
| Cheyne: Maths Junior | Kwesi Peterson | QSS | Martin Ball Piano Music | Jonathan Wong | GG |
| Music Upper Shell | Kwesi Peterson | QSS | Gumbleton: English Second | Jake Wood | WW |
| History Remove | Helena Pike | AHH | Fred D'Arcy: English | Jake Wood | WW |
| Philip Webb Prize: French | Lily Pinder | AHH | English Society: English | Jake Wood | WW |
| Biology Lower Shell | Ali Porteous | MM | History of Art Sixth | Jake Wood | WW |
| Published Author: Chemistry | Younus Porteous | MM | Religious Studies Remove | Albert Woods | DD |
| English Lower Shell | Ali Porteous | MM | Published Author: Chemistry | Louise Yang | AHH |
| History Lower Shell | Ali Porteous | MM | Geography Lower Shell | Stanford Yao | QSS |
| Martin Leake: History Second | Proudfoot Mark | GG | Physics Lower Shell | Stanford Yao | QSS |
| Greek Sixth | Alice Pullen | MM | History | Michael Young | HH |
| German Sixth | Alexander Rafter | AHH | Spanish Lower Shell | Gabriel Zackon | RR |
| Physics Remove | Will Reid | RR | Physics Upper Shell | Alexander Zargaran | AHH |
| French Lower Shell | Max Reynolds | AHH | Art Lower Shell | Yikai Zhang | QSS |
| Greek Remove | Poppy Rimmington-Pounder | MM | Chemistry Lower Shell | Yikai Zhang | QSS |
| Religious Studies Remove | Xinlan Rose | DD | German Lower Shell | Yikai Zhang | QSS |
| French Sixth | Christopher Rowe | HH | Latin Lower Shell | Yikai Zhang | QSS |
| German Sixth | Katerina Russman | HH | Cheyne: Maths Junior | Yikai Zhang | QSS |
| Electronics Sixth | Kshitij Sabnis | QSS | Cricket: 1st XI Most improved player | Kit Winder | LL |
| Cheyne: Maths Senior | Kshitij Sabnis | QSS | Cricket: 1st XI Player of the Year | Alex Stewart | HH |
| Physics Sixth | Kshitij Sabnis | QSS | Cricket: 2nd XI Player of the Year | Arthur Henderson | LL |
| Peer Supporter | Benjamin Sales | BB | Cricket: U14 Player of the Year | Kavi Amin | RR |
| Peer Supporter | Damini Satja | RR | Cricket: U15 Player of the Year | Ollie Iselin | BB |
| Latin Remove | Claire Sheridan | DD | | | |
| Oli Bennett: Drama | James Sherwood | DD | | | |



Crisis Forum

CRITICAL MASSES

January 2012 marked the inaugural Crisis Forum meeting, a panel-based discussion consisting of both Westminsters and a professional in the relevant field to answer questions concerning the new challenges facing society, both domestically and internationally, reports Matteo Leibowitz (HH).

■ The first meeting, led by Michael Clark, welcomed Mr Robert Parker, a member of Credit Suisse's investment committee, as the expert witness. Mr Parker started by looking at the sub-components of crisis, namely political and economic aspects, and continued by analysing how they affect markets, economies and the financial system.

He managed to reassure the packed Lecture Room, stating that 'crises are not unusual; in fact they are quite normal,' referencing both the 55% inflation rate that threatened the UK during the mid-70s and the so-called *Tequila Crisis* in 1994, in which Mexico defaulted on its loans.

In February, the Crisis Forum's second meeting, this time chaired by Maddy O'Riordan, welcomed Professor Phillip Booth, Programme Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, to discuss the whether increasing the budget deficit would stimulate the economy.

Professor Booth immediately stated that he did not believe that any sort of fiscal stimulus would lead to economic growth during a recession. After acknowledging the common Keynesian argument that 'austerity should wait for an economic boom', he claimed that we could be sure that 'naïve Keynesian prescriptions' about deficit are as wrong as we can be sure about any macroeconomic theory.

In his opinion, the aftermath of fiscal stimulus would be an increase in taxes, such as

VAT, because the budget deficit would inevitably at one stage have to be balanced. This, he predicted, could lead to a much-feared double-dip recession.

He followed on by dismissing the famous 'multiplier theory', stating that there was no evidence to suggest increased borrowing led to an increase in GDP, and that the multiplier in indebted countries, such as the UK and the USA, was 0. His speech was followed by questions from the pupil panel.

Maddy O'Riordan once again chaired the Crisis Forum in March, which this time welcomed Jim O'Neil, chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, and the man who coined the term BRIC, an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India and China, four countries with rapid economic growth.

The forum adopted a more open debate structure, with questions coming from both the panel as well as the floor. Alex Momeni opened the debate, asking whether the prediction of the Eurozone's economic growth at 1.6% for 2012 was too high considering what

For the Eurozone to fall Germany must also fall

was happening in both Greece and Portugal. Mr O'Neil justified the growth figures by reminding the audience that Germany's economy made up 33% of the Eurozone's economy, and therefore for the Eurozone to fall Germany must also fall, something which seems rather unlikely.

Joseph Kelen followed on by asking the extent to which the recent 'revelations' at Goldman had affected the firm. O'Neil was to quick to disregard the importance of the situation, claiming that there had forever been a 'constant fascination with Goldman Sachs', which in the long term had been good for 'our culture'.

Perhaps the most interesting question came

from David Bradbury, who asked whether Mr O'Neil, if given the chance, would drop the 'R' from the term BRIC. O'Neil's graphs however showed that the change in size of Russia's GDP over the next decade would in US\$ be behind only that of the USA, China and India. Russia's increase of nearly \$2 trillion was higher than that of the Euro area in total.

Dr Robert Niblett, the Director of Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, was invited to speak at the last Crisis Forum of the academic year in April. By contrast with previous meetings, Dr Niblett moved the emphasis from one of economic crisis to that of political uncertainty, particularly regarding the uncertain future of the European Union.

He began by stating that a political crisis, such as the one we are currently witnessing, results from both different cultural instincts as well as competing national interests. He also stated that the fervent distrust between the markets and politicians led to a vicious cycle, which results in economic, social and political calamity.

Dr Niblett continued to outline the varying factors needed to maintain political stability and avoid a crisis. He argued that both Germany and France's relationship was the most significant factor in determining stability, although because Germany wants to be seen as strong yet not suspected, and France did not want to give up political power, a successful European political recovery may not be such a realistic outlook in the short term.

However, Dr Niblett finished his fascinating lecture by proposing that the Eurozone will hold together for the remaining months of 2012, with Greece fully intact. In his view, the pain of the breakup would be worse than maintaining it. Due to the fact that over 50% of Germany's exports are sold to countries within the EU, the collapse of the union would mean Germany's current low unemployment rate would reverse, leading to catastrophe.

2011 Durrell Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society MADAGASCAR CONSERVATION

Madagascan Conservation was the theme addressed by the 5th annual Durrell lecture on the 22nd of September at the Royal Geographical Society, reports Jerome Mockett (LL).



■ Budding Upper School Geographers took their seats in what promised to be an informative insight into 25 years of conservation work by the Durrell Foundation. The talk was conducted by three active members of the Foundation and began by introducing the charity; established by the author Gerald Durrell and his wife Lee in 1986, today the trust has over 40 projects working in 15 countries worldwide and focuses on the preservation of nature in a sustainable manner. The talk consisted of three accounts of the work in Madagascar and emphasised the wide variety of species, from the Giant Jumping Rats to the Madagascar Periwinkle, a tiny flower whose medicinal value has directly contributed to the survival rate for child leukaemia leaping from 20–80%.

The talk went on to discuss how the charity has tried to address conservation through tackling the country's social problems, funding education into sustainable farming methods and the benefits of firebreaks as well as through training, enabling the sparsely trained female population to begin to work.

The talk highlighted what encouraging work the Foundation was capable of as well as the need to support its ambitious plans for the future. Afterwards, Lee Durrell expressed her pleasure at seeing the Foundation appealing to a younger generation as well as her desire to address a larger Westminster audience in the not so distant future.

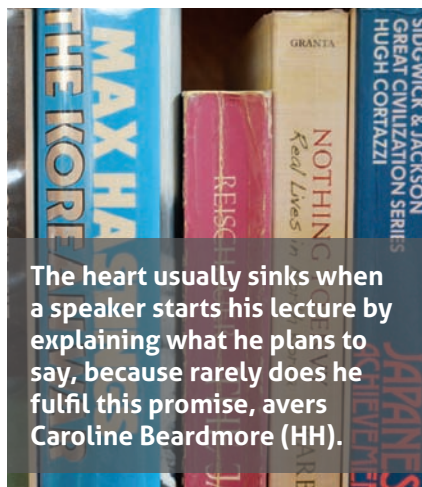
See also the school visit to the Durrell Wildlife Park (Travel section: p. 46) – Ed.

The trust has over
40 projects working in
15 countries worldwide



The Camden Lecture

Sir Max Hastings

COMPROMISES,
COMPROMISES

The heart usually sinks when a speaker starts his lecture by explaining what he plans to say, because rarely does he fulfil this promise, avers Caroline Beardmore (HH).

So when Sir Max Hastings, ex-*Daily Telegraph* editor and historian, said he would speak about the history of the individual, to provide a “global portrait from the bottom up” of the Second World War, it seemed entirely possible that we were unlikely to hear fully about such a fascinating topic.

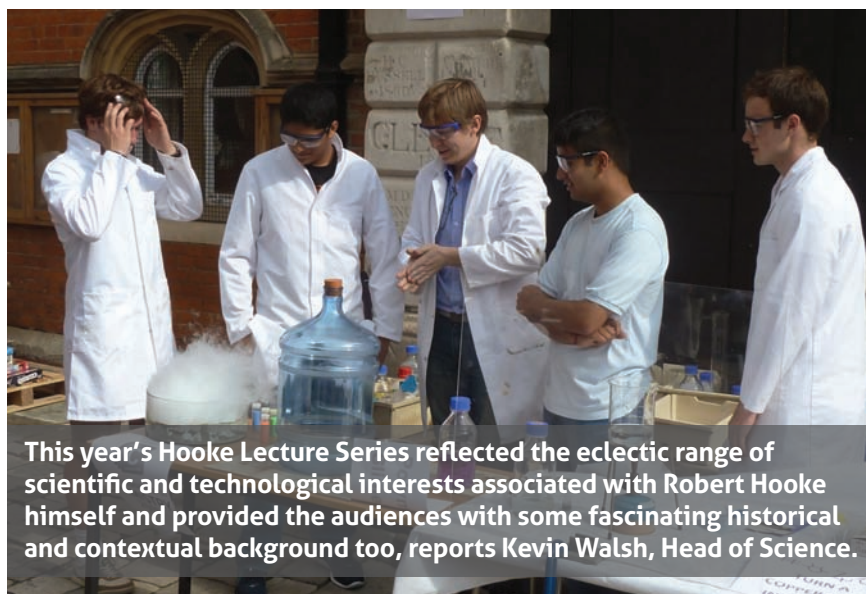
Such pessimism was unfounded, and the audience was treated to an excellent lecture on precisely what had been promised. The “global portrait” was created through facts, statistics and anecdotes woven together to offer a total image of the war neither too densely packed with statistics nor too dependent on humorous stories.

Sir Max avoided an overly eurocentric account of the War, placing it in the context of the British Empire, which had, he noted, 4/5 of the world’s population “under its control”, not “on its side”. In India, against the background of a loyal army, more troops were used to deal with Nationalist Indians than to fight the Japanese. Many probably sympathised with the future Prime Minister of Egypt who asked “How can I fight for British freedoms which are denied to me?”

The lecture focused on both high-level diplomacy and the effect on the man in the street and the “moral compromises” that everyone involved had to make. Sir Max gave the examples of Churchill’s personal compromise in allying with Russia, the decision not to deliver food aid to India, and cannibalism during the siege of Leningrad. Sir Max contrasted it with the common modern attitude towards the war, to see it as a “fabulous romp”, and lamented the glossing-over of the “moral exhaustion” which millions felt when peace came.

The Hooke Lectures

INVISIBLE ELEMENTS



This year’s Hooke Lecture Series reflected the eclectic range of scientific and technological interests associated with Robert Hooke himself and provided the audiences with some fascinating historical and contextual background too, reports Kevin Walsh, Head of Science.

The series opened with Prof Martin McCall (Imperial College) and his talk *Lies, Damned Lies and Tricking the Light Fantastic*. This was a wonderful exploration of the theoretical background to strange extreme optical phenomena such as super lenses and invisibility cloaks. Although there is a long way to go experimentally, such artefacts are really not stuck in the realm of science fiction. Clearly. In *Gods, Devils and Alcohol*, Dr Peter Wothers of the University of Cambridge showed that shampoo contains more interesting elements and compounds than one could ever imagine. His thorough and entertaining examination looked not only at their chemistry but at their historical, cultural and social sides too. Dr Simon Wilshin is a physicist who works at the Royal Veterinary College, a curious combination of disciplines but then cockroaches are no ordinary creatures. The UK and US military are particularly interested in the way they move and *RHEX Tremendous* was a fascinating and revealing talk, augmented by a robotic cockroach, about how detailed physics and engineering studies of cockroaches are inspiring military and civilian benefits. The final talk of the series was *The Curious Lives of the Elements* given by the author Hugh Aldersey-Williams. Behind every square of that famous periodic table (which, according to the speaker, doesn’t actually exist) lies a tale of enterprise, intrigue and surprise and this proved to be an evening of amusing and amazing snapshots from Hugh’s popular book ‘Periodic Tales’.

My thanks to all involved in the staging of the talks and to the many who supported them so well. Hooke would, I think, have approved.

Detailed physics and engineering studies of cockroaches are inspiring military and civilian benefits.

2011

TIZARD
LECTURE

The Westminster School /Imperial College Lectures

CUTTING EDGES

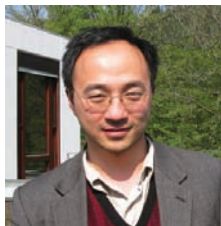
The Westminster School/Imperial College Autumn Lectures evolved from the desire to maintain links with pupils and their institutions that have become part of the successful Future Foundations summer schools hosted here annually just after the end of the Election Term (see the Summer School report in the main School section), records Dr Kevin Walsh, Head of Science.

■ The multi-disciplinary work which takes place at Imperial has especially broad appeal and is, needless to say, right at the cutting edge of scientific and technological research. These characteristics are always reflected in the choices of topics and the backgrounds and academic pedigree of the speakers.

In the first of the three talks in the 2011 series, Dr Timothy Constandinou spoke about the development of silicon-based microchip technology and how it has been particularly applied in the field of neuroscience. His descriptions of how a carefully-implanted electrical brain probe effect a neural pathway interface were memorable. The ability for such devices to compensate for and even control deficient sensory and motor function in patients is astonishing: the example of how Parkinson's Disease can be controlled in some cases was particularly striking.

Prof Tony Cass delivered the second talk, about the burgeoning applications of nanotech-

nology in medicine. This is an extremely exciting field of research and development; although the suggestion that micro-engineered proteins might be a somewhat specialised



The third and final talk was given by Dr Yang-Hui He (pictured). Entitled "Muss es sein: an epitaph to a string quartet", it was a thorough introduction to the much-debated String Theory and the areas of physics into which it has developed. With some experimental results from CERN imminent, he informed and entertained his audience with energetic and enthusiastic authority. He exuded a love of his subject and animated theoretical physics in a way many present never thought possible.

All the talks were held up School and were very well attended. It was pleasing to welcome students and their teachers from a large number of other schools across the city of Westminster and we hope they will continue to share the wonderful experiences brought to us by Imperial. We are very grateful to Dr Konstantin Nikolic for his help in arranging the talks, a role he has taken on voluntarily from the late and much-missed Judit Nagy.

A thorough introduction to the much debated String-Theory

area, the impact on both medical diagnosis and treatment is profound and few of us will be fortunate enough to avoid the help it will offer.

Chemistry and Physics Competitions

STATISTICAL GOLD

■ Westminster chemists were in their element in the inaugural Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, which was held in the Election Term of 2011. The two hour paper is designed to stretch and challenge the best 6th Form chemists in the country and three Westminsters; Callum Bungey, Kshitij Sabnis and Charlie Houseago were awarded Roentgenium Certificates, placing them in the top 1% of all entrants. They were awarded their certificate along with a commemorative trophy at the Houses of Parliament by Dr Julian Huppert, MP for Cambridge, and a PhD in chemistry.

These three and 23 other hopefuls also took part in this year's Chemistry Olympiad which saw eight pupils achieving a Gold Certificate, including Callum Bungey, who scored the highest mark in the country. As we go to press Callum is preparing for round 2, which could lead to a place in the British Team.

The Chemistry Research Group continues



to be as productive as ever, with experimental projects leading to three articles going to press this academic year. Two were published in the Journal of Chemical Research and one in Education in Chemistry. All were student-run projects and we will be recruiting 6th Formers for the research group in the Election Term 2012.

In Physics, Kshitij Sabnis and Charlie Houseago gained gold medals in the British Physics Olympiad this year, but did not get as far as the British team. ETC with CJRU

John Locke Society

FROM EVEREST TO UKIP, OR TOP TO BOTTOM WITH THE JOHN LOCKE SOCIETY



This has been a year of change for the John Locke Society. The middle-aged economics teacher in charge was replaced by a new middle-aged economics teacher; one old student chairman with silly hair and a posh voice gave way to two new student chairmen with silly hair and posh voices; last year's group of scientists, philosophers, politicians, journalists and artists were out, to be replaced by a dynamic crop of artists, journalists, politicians, philosophers and scientists, records Theo Morris Clarke (AHH) resoundingly.

■ We got off to a flying start with Jon Snow, who related to the packed room his account of Uganda under Idi Amin and his hopes for the future of journalism; unlike many in his field, he sees the rise of online news not as threat but opportunity. After this contemplation of the future, we retreated more than two millennia into the past with Janice Li's intriguing discussion of the Terracotta Army. The variety of our speakers' topics was impressive: the experimental psychologist Professor Usha Goswami took us to the forefront of research on dyslexia, while Warwick Pethers passionately defended Gothic architecture from those who saw buildings as simply "machines for living in".

Given John Locke's field of study, it seems entirely appropriate that the philosophers were well-represented: Alain de Botton expounded his thesis of 'Religion for Atheists', a doctrine already in practice throughout large swathes of the Church of England, according to the Chaplain; the Reverend Vernon White, canon theologian of the Abbey, probed the very meaning of truth; while, some months later, Professor Simon Blackburn led us through the debate over moral absolutes and Projectionism – with the ensuing debate continuing long after the end of the talk. Politics, too, had its day in the form of UKIP's Nigel Farage, whose fiery oration was followed by an excellent set of questions from the floor.

However, we did not have our heads entirely in the clouds. We witnessed magic tricks galore with magician Paul Roffman in his talk 'How not to become an investment banker', were treated to footage from the very top of Everest thanks to the explorer, film-



The Society oscillated between the transcendent and the painfully worldly.

maker and writer Matt Dickenson, and were given a whistle-stop tour through the modern history of animation by the charismatic Oscar-winner, Andrew Ruhemann. Another definite crowd-pleaser was Oleg Tinkov, the Russian entrepreneur whose exuberant demeanour and disdain for Putin won him many friends in the audience. While Westminster students are renowned for asking difficult questions, many a speaker has won over the audience through responding to such questions: Clive Humby managed to convince us that Tesco really isn't that bad (a few weeks after Mary Portas convinced us that it is, in her passionate defence of the British high street). James Harding, the Editor of the Times, faced the difficult job of

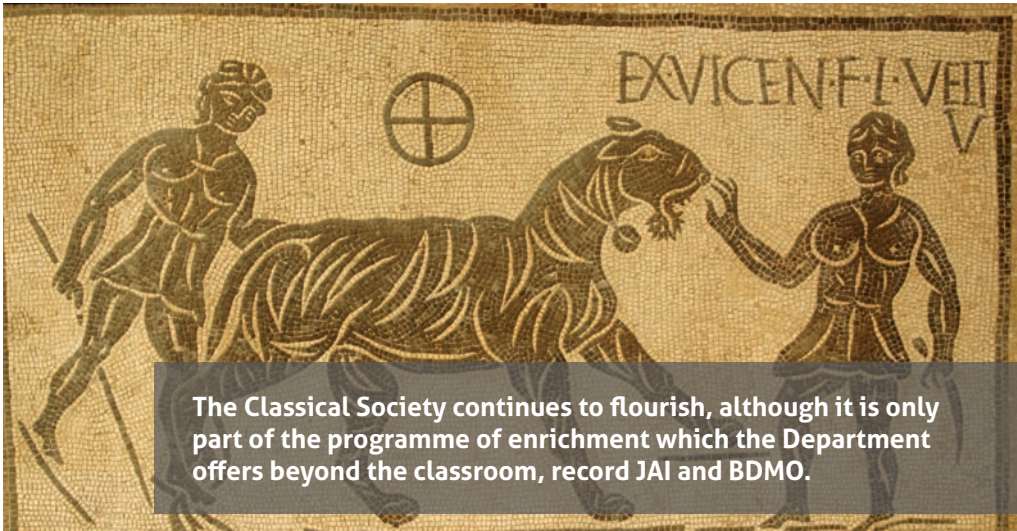
defending the Murdoch press, impressing us with his honesty, while John Hood led an engaging yet controversial discussion of the state of higher education in Britain and America.

At other times the Society oscillated between the transcendent and the painfully worldly. We would hear of Sam Littlejohn's changing the lives of those in the Congo or Max Benitz's moving experiences with the soldiers in Afghanistan one week, only to be transported by Anthony Gormley's astonishing imagination the next. Sir Nicholas Serota neatly bridged the gap between the two, discussing how to find meaning in art while remaining fully aware of its place in society. We look forward to three last talks by Martha Lane-Fox, Professor Jean-Marc Dewaele and Nicholas Vester.

I would like to thank not only our wonderful range of speakers, but also those students who contacted them and those on the committee whose efforts ensure the day-to-day running of the Society. Most of all, we must thank Mr Simpson for being the most tireless, dedicated leader of the society that we could possibly hope for.

Classical Society

OLYMPIC LEVEL POETRY



The Classical Society continues to flourish, although it is only part of the programme of enrichment which the Department offers beyond the classroom, record JAI and BDMO.

■ The year began with a talk on the transmission of texts from antiquity from Dr Nigel Wilson, recently retired from his Tutorial Fellowship at Lincoln College, Oxford. He presented a beautiful collection of images in the traditional style, using a slide projector. These images of papyri with passages from the *Iliad* and the *Aeneid* engaged the pupils who tried their best to read the original texts. Dr Wilson shared his profound erudition during discussion and took questions on the Archimedes palimpsest, which is especially close to his heart.

Dr Mark Williams, Research Fellow at Lincoln College, Oxford, delivered an excellent talk on the Druids in the Ancient World. He drew on a wide literary frame of reference, and his expertise in Celtic Studies and ability to connect with his audience delighted the Society.

Professor Richard Seaford, who holds the chair in Greek Literature at Exeter University, delivered an inspirational lecture on the cult of Dionysus and transformations in Greek Tragedy. He studied a passage from Euripides' *Bacchae* and used this as evidence for the ritual which lies behind the play. Perhaps spurred on by this, many pupils enjoyed their trip to the Oxford Greek Play. Aeschylus' *Choephoroi* was a superb production which used humour to forestall the audience's expectations. The famous scene when Orestes murders his mother employed nudity tastefully.

Mr Antony Smith left Westminster in 2006 and will take up a lectureship at Magdalen College in Oxford in September. His DPhil involves writing a commentary on Book 1 of Seneca's *de ira* and he came to talk to the society on 'Time in Virgil's *Aeneid*'. He encouraged his audience to question from whose perspective the similes and the shield ekphrasis were presented, an especially interesting introduction to focalisation.

Dr Gail Trimble, a Tutorial Fellow at Trinity College, Oxford, lectured on 'Catullus

and the Epyllion', locating Catullus 64 within its cultural context. Her reconstruction of the *Io* of Calvus and her discussion of allusion, irony and narrative was compelling. Perhaps less compelling was the chorus of Euripides' *Hecuba*, but this Greek Play at King's College, London, was rescued by a towering performance from Georgia Pierce as the bloodthirsty slave-Queen who continues the cycle of vendetta violence after the Trojan war.

The last visiting lecturer of the year was Dr Armand D'Angour of Jesus College Oxford, a specialist in Greek and Latin poetic metre who has been given the task by Boris Johnson of composing a Pindaric Ode for this year's London Olympics. Dr D'Angour spoke on the importance of metre and musicality in the understanding of classical verse, even going so far as to sing various fragments of ancient lyric to their original melodies. He had also beforehand set the challenge of translating a passage of verse into Latin or Greek metres. Despite the short amount of time available, this was done admirably by Harry Winter and James Alster, the former producing Latin elegiacs and the latter Latin alcaics and Greek trimeters.

Under the Aegis of the society our pupils did well too in the London Classical Reading Competition. The Sixth Form Greek set won with their Greek Chorus, as did Kent Vainio for his reading of a piece by Aesop. Finlay Stroud, Jonathan Richmond, Victoria Hingley, Daniel Thanki and Barnaby Smith all took second place in their sections. The year has also included a number of lectures from both the staff and students, ranging from the god Dionysus, the philosophy of Plato, the progress of Roman history, and ancient initiatory cults. It has been a great pleasure that there has been space for everyone concerned to share their own specific enthusiasms in the Classical Society, and we hope for a similarly exciting series of events next year.

Ben Jonson Society

AN EYE FOR LITERATURE

The first meeting of the Ben Jonson society this year gave us the chance to hear acclaimed poet Clare Pollard read her poetry and tell us about her newly published anthology, *Changeling*, reports Sive Curran (HH).

■ For the budding poets in the audience it was intriguing to hear Pollard's first collection of poems, *The Heavy-Petting Zoo*, which she published while still at school. Pollard has recently made the move from confessional poetry to work that is more politically aware, drawing inspiration from current affairs as well as from folktale and ballads. Taking us from Pendle witch-trials to war-torn Iraq, Pollard challenges the stories that we tell about ourselves and others.

Next, Professor Jonathan Bate came to speak about *Shakespeare: Staging the World*, curated by Bate and Dora Thornton for The British Museum. Reminiscent of *The History of the World in 100 Objects*, the exhibition

Arguably the object that excited most discussion was the eye of Edward Oldcorne

seeks to evoke Shakespeare's world and writings through an array of contemporary objects.

Arguably the object that excited most discussion was the eye of Edward Oldcorne, a Catholic martyr hanged, drawn and quartered for his part in the Gunpowder Plot, which is fabled to have flown out of its socket with the force of Oldcorne's decapitation, was caught by a recusant onlooker, and placed in a silver reliquary. Another highlight were the early variations of the Union Jack, indicating what our flag could have looked like if another pattern had been chosen. For those excited to get their teeth into some real analytical Shakespeare from one of England's foremost academics some were perhaps disappointed. In an exhibition tailored first and foremost for the imminent London Olympics, Bate seemed to be trying to make Shakespeare acceptably international rather than shedding light on other more literary features of his work. However, for those wanting a glimpse of the world in which Shakespeare lived and wrote, Bate provided an intriguing insight.

Biology Society

SHOCK TREATMENT

Other exciting talks have included an overlap with the Environmental Society about endangered mountain gorillas from Tilly Cook. David Attenborough once said, “The natural world is the greatest source of intellectual interest and excitement,” and this certainly seemed to be so when the new Biology Society Committee led an outing to the Natural History Museum in January to visit the Veolia Wildlife Photographer of the year exhibition, during which Westminsterers of all ages explored the museum ‘after hours’.

Additionally, Biology Society was taken to a whole new level of Hooke for a surprisingly popular rat dissection in March. In the remaining weeks, the committee looks forward to adding to the range of events with more meetings and a potential outside speaker.



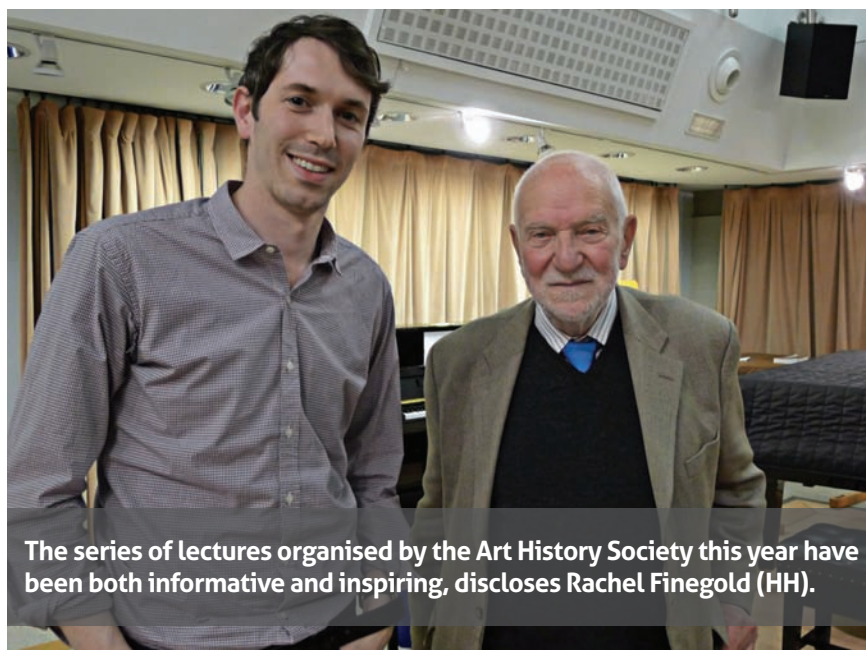
The fortnightly meetings of the Biology Society opened at the beginning of the Lent term with an electrifying talk about shock therapy from Chenduraan Kailayapillai that stirred debate about treatment for mental illness, confess Gabrielle Michotte (CC) & Katriona Hilliard (PP).

Art History Society

CULTURAL GAIN

We were lucky to have the chance to host an exhibition of the paintings of Isis Olivier (OW), a contemporary artist exploring depictions of the female form juxtaposed with cartographic imagery. It was a unique and exciting addition to the Art History programme.

The first three lectures were linked thematically to our course on the spread of the Italian Renaissance, which fuelled interesting debates in the classroom. Michael Douglas-Scott’s challenging lecture addressed the notion of national identity in Renaissance Venice. He argued that the art of the city was based on a somewhat disingenuous foundation of mythical history and political prowess. This unusual subject contrasted well with Richard Stemp’s focus on the different patrons in the city of Ferrara. It was interesting to explore the correlation between the nature of the patron and the art that they commissioned. A subject that stimulated discussion was the notion of cultural loss – much of Ferrara’s artistic treasures were seized and relocated by the Pope in the sixteenth century. This provoked questions in terms of the importance of art to civic identity. Caroline Brooke’s lecture on 15th century Florence facilitated the continuation of this debate as she spoke on the role of civic



The series of lectures organised by the Art History Society this year have been both informative and inspiring, discloses Rachel Finegold (HH).

pride and economic prosperity in influencing state and individual patronage.

We were very fortunate to have been able to hear the late Professor John House talk with such zeal on the subject of French Realism. He illuminated the ways in which artists of the period embraced innovation, referring to their significance in the lead-up to Impressionism. Professor House also presented the essay prizes awarded in his name, for the extended personal research projects undertaken as part of the Pre-U syllabus.

The concluding event in the Art History Society calendar was an exciting opportunity to hear Sir Anthony Caro in conversation with renowned journalist Alistair Sooke (OW). Sir Anthony spoke compellingly on the motivations behind his career in sculpture, his relationship with Henry Moore and the challenges he faced in establishing himself as a young artist. It was a privilege to gain such a personal insight into such a distinguished character in the art world, and a fitting way to round off a diverse and engaging series of talks.

Debating Society

SPEAKING UP FOR WESTMINSTER



This has truly been a year to remember for Westminster Debating, announces team captain Barnaby Raine (GG).

After years of extraordinary dedication to Debating, Richard Allnatt left the school at the end of last year, leaving Bijan Omrani to take over the hefty burden of 6am starts travelling all over the country to debating competitions. Mr Omrani has done an impressive job and we are grateful to him for the hard work he has put in to maintaining and building on the successes established by Mr Allnatt. Westminster made the Final of the illustrious Cambridge Union Schools Competition, beating almost 1,000 teams from all over the world. Barnaby Raine and Charles Malton narrowly lost that Final on a split vote of judges. Barnaby and Louis Willis then went on to win the Oxford Union Schools Competition on a unanimous vote, and were the top team going into the Final at the Durham Union Schools Competition, where Barnaby was ranked highest speaker in the competition and Louis was 4th highest. Westminster, again represented by Barnaby and Louis, topped off the successes by becoming the first school ever to win the SOAS Schools Competition for the second year running.

At the time of writing, the talented Will Kitchen and Archie Hall have made the final

round of the International Competition for Young Debaters, a particular feat given both boys are only in the Fifth Form and qualified second from their London regional round, beating three dozen other teams. Internally, Charles Malton and Chenduraan Kailayapillai won the House Debating Competition for Busby's, flying the flag of progressive values by opposing a motion that would have defined marriage as exclusively 'between a man and a woman'. Thanks are owed to all those who have taken part in competitions, as well as to Dr Evans and Mrs Cave-Bigley who gave up evenings and weekends to accompany us to those competitions. We are especially indebted to our excellent coach Ben Jasper and to Mr Omrani for what has been among the most successful years in the history of Debating at Westminster, a year in which the school, unlike any other, has been represented in the finals of every major competition in the country. The spirit of challenging entrenched opinions and being unafraid of what Karl Marx called 'ruthless criticism of all that exists' is one we do well to nurture.

Maths Society

RECOUNTING



Maths Society is the new society in which pupils both present and discuss mathematical problems which take them beyond the syllabus and what's covered in the classroom, recounts Francesca Greenstreet (CC).

Pupils present on subjects which interest them. So far we have covered: Infinitude of Primes, followed by a fantastic presentation of the very complicated topic – Wallis' Product, The Euler-Mascheroni product and Zeta functions, Cantor's Diagonalization argument and the cardinality of sets. Although still a relatively small society, members are keen to prepare talks which are always well received. Personally, it is always wonderful when you watch a peer go through a long proof and to watch them reach the desired answer – better than reading about it in books! Difficult problems become much more comprehensible when explained by someone with an expertise on the subject, which is what makes Maths society a wonderful place for the sharing and receiving of knowledge.

History Society

ALL IN GOOD TIME

First there was the Norman Conquest. Then the Orange Revolution. Now the R7 History Society Coup, declare Theo Morris-Clarke (AHH) and Ariane Moshiri (PP).

The Westminster History Society has, for years, languished in the shadows of UCAS. This year with an eclectic bunch of Historians and non-Historians, we were determined to resurrect it, with the unfailing help of Dr Buchanan and Mr Mann. The society started off well with an existential questioning of the very nature of history, thanks to the ever-eloquent Dan de Lisle. Whether people came for the brownies or the probing analysis of pertinent historical matters has yet to be established. Nevertheless, every other week someone had the opportunity to inspire further a group of peers from all years of the school. Our internal speakers alone supplied an impressive range of talks: from Charles Malton on Charlemagne, via Ben Brind on Genghis Khan and right up to Mez Belo-Osagie's discussion of Black Leaders in the 20th Century. We could, rightly, lay claim to being the most cross-curricular society: our joint talk on medieval heresy encompassed deep theological matters; Charlie Hempstead's discussion of the thirteenth century English economy drew a great crowd from the History and Economics departments; and Lily Pinder drew us into the dark world of conspiracy theories...and not to forget Kristian Bagger's meta-talk on the History of History.

Yet the society was also blessed with a wealth of external speakers, as diverse as our home-grown talent. Professor Rodriguez-Salgado enlightened us with a tangled tale of politics and piety in early modern Europe, Dr Peter Frankopan took an arguably revisionist take on the launching of the First Crusade, followed by a visual Hollywood account of the Vietnam War by Peter Riddick and a revealing lecture by the eminent, and oddly familiar, Professor Clanchy on Medieval Crime. We were, nonetheless, even more spoiled by the end of term with the final climatic talk by Sir Max Hastings, who reminded us that wars are not fought by bellicose nations, but by ordinary nineteen year olds who have yet to have their first kiss.

Environment Society

OH BEEHIVE!



I remember the first meeting of this year's Westminster environmental society, proclaims President Archie, also known as Archie Stonehill (DD).

■ Barely eight of us converged in Dungeons for the handing over of the Presidency, under the careful observation and control of our beloved leader, Dr Evans and our charming man behind the scenes, Mr Moore. With my position solidified and the name of G-Unit chosen, we quickly bonded and decided upon a programme of recruitment and raising awareness. This worked. By the next meeting we were sat in College Garden with around 20 members. This list has steadily grown and now we are 35 strong and span three years. A unit of this calibre has seldom been seen in the Environmental world and our achievements

give us much to be proud of. We initiated the first Environmental cake sale(s), enjoyed a St Paddy's Day shag, created a strong lobbying group in the School council and set up the framework within the society to push for more and more radical changes. Recycling was our objective. Objective achieved. Recycling bins are sweeping the school and being cleared almost as quickly. If you do not have one and want one: you will soon. The Environmental society is big, powerful and driven – it is legion; for we are many. It cannot stop, will not stop, until every item is recycled and there is a bee hive on Hooke. Twitter: @westmenvirosoc



October marked the inaugural French Society, presented by the new head of department Dr Blache, records Matteo Leibowitz (HH).

French Society

RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

■ Speaking about the Dreyfus Affair of the late 19th Century, he described how the political scandal split French society into two opposing groups, the Dreyfusards, supported by eminent social commentators such as Emile Zola George Clemenceau, and the anti-Dreyfusards, supported by the leading anti-Semite Eduard Drumont. His in-depth description of the events that ensued in the accusation of Captain Alfred Dreyfus enticed the thirty odd students and teachers present in D11, and made for an exciting beginning to what became a thrilling lecture series.

The topic for the second meeting of the French Society was secularisation in France. Emile Chabal, an Oxford professor, discussed

Hispanic Society

FRANCO AND FREE DISCUSSION

The first Hispanic Society lecture of the term invited journalist and historian Julian Stewart to talk on Life under Franco and the Transition to Democracy, recalls Jerome Mockett (LL).

■ Having worked briefly as a translator of Franco's letters as well as a reporter researching various parts of the regime, he provided an informative insight into what life was like under Franco's regime as well as discussing democracy, Spanish socialism and the lingering presence of ETA since 1968. The talk was also interspersed with stories of life in Madrid and throughout he spoke of interviews with the king and senior political figures and even of being threatened with his life by the secret police. The talk was exceptionally informative and an excellent inaugural talk to this year's Hispanic Society.

controversial topics such as the banning of the burka and the absence of the church in education.

Secularisation was swiftly followed by a lecture about Molière, given by Joseph Harris (OW). He provided a detailed background to 17th century French theatre as well focusing on 'Les Femmes Savantes', considered Molière's masterpiece.

Next came an insightful and intriguing talk given by Professor Michael Hawcroft of Keble College, Oxford. Like Joseph Harris, he specialised in 17th century French theatre, and in particular Racine's *Andromaque*. He began his lecture by asking the noticeably-full D11 room, with an unusually large proportion of Remove students, what the subject of *Andromaque* was. After several feeble replies he explained how French playwrights defined *sujet* as the time and place of the work. He continued by scrutinizing the preface, written by Virgil, and questioning the extent to which it's subject differed from Racine's interpretation, ending his hour slot with a convincing argument for why they were actually strongly linked.

John Stace Geography Society

OVER THE TOP: A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

This year all began back in July when John Stace himself, in flesh and blood walked among us, flying over from New Zealand so as to inaugurate the new presidential team write Alex Ballard (GG) and George Lewis (GG), President and vice-President respectively.

Since that time the JSGS has swept through the school like a tornado sweeping through the Great Plains when a mesocyclone takes in cool air. Our rise has been much like that of China; their dominance of the trade of manufactured goods is much like our dominance of the intellectual currents of the school.

Appropriately, China was the topic of the first student lecture given by two of the society's bright young things, Miss Vymeris and Miss Kitchen. Much as an anticyclone brings stable and sunny conditions, this lecture ushered in bright times for the society with

our Monday Lecture series. Many a fascinating lecture was given, including the tales of our very own Mr Wurr. Sir Nicholas Young, head of the British Red Cross, was our Kilimanjaro and capped a thrilling year.

But the JSGS is much more than the most scholarly of societies. We see ourselves as a family, nurturing young talent with Geography quizzes and embracing old hands with Christmas cards and a party. Much like the Himalayas, we continue to grow to new and record breaking heights.

English Society

OF GODS AND MADNESS

The last few terms have seen a smooth transition into a new group of English Society members, affirms Jack Lennard (HH).

Although the majority of these are in the Sixth Form, we have had regular attendees from most years of the school, including the Fifth Form and the Upper Shell. With the new members have come some fascinating talks and

discussions every Monday lunchtime. An excellent example of this was Hamzah Ahmed's talk on Lolita, producing a discussion on the differences between the Russian and English translations of the text, and John Phipps' enlightening views on the poetry of WB Yeats, giving us a brilliant insight into the incantatory nature of some of his poems. We have also had the pleasure of hearing one or two talks from our Upper Shell members, including an incredibly detailed analysis and historical background to Oscar Wilde's masterpiece *De Profundis* by Gaetano Le Coco. We have also encouraged multimedia presentations to the Society, such as the use of recorded spoken word, as employed by Ellen O'Neill in her talk on Sylvia Plath. The term ended with a discussion of belief in Neil Gaiman's contemporary work *American Gods*, showing that the Society has the scope to discuss not only classic literature, but also more contemporary and unorthodox works.

Economics Society

GETTING IT RIGHT?

The current economic uncertainty has generated much discussion and debate within the Economics Society, which was reborn at the beginning of this academic year, comments Francesca Bastianello (BB).

Enthusiastic members of the upper school gave talks on a weekly basis on various topics, ranging from the Eurozone's Crisis to Behavioral Economics, from the Future of the Euro to the evolving role of developing countries, from PIGS to BRICS and many more. Society meetings have been well attended by members of the Lower School, who have often asked thought-provoking questions.

Alongside these talks, the Society also had the pleasure of inviting external speakers and teachers to offer their views on the hot topic of the most recent financial crisis. Bill Winters, ex Co-CEO of JPMorgan and member of the Independent Commission on Banking, led us through the main problems which lie at the origin of the crisis. He delivered an interactive lecture on 'Financial Markets, Capitalism and Creating a Level Playing Field: Can we ever get it right?' and challenged us to think about possible solutions which could provide a way out of the crisis. By the end of the talk, he had convinced us all that it is possible to get it right!

Our own Mr Fair followed up with a fascinating talk on 'GoodWork in Banking: Why the financial bubble burst'. Unfortunately, it seems that GoodWork in Banking – which is based on a constructive co-ordination of excellence, engagement and ethics – has been fading fast during the past few decades, and the result has been incredibly disruptive for the future of the financial system. Education and awareness are what Mr Fair believes represent part of the solution to this declining situation. It was a useful insight into what might have inspired our resident Scottish economist to choose his profession!

All of us who have been involved with the Economics society have greatly benefited from and enjoyed this new, student-led forum. Many thanks to the organisers and those who attended in making it an exciting forum.

Law Society

AROUND,
ABOUT AND
UNDER

The Law Society's extensive programme this year was insightful, informative and encompassing, declares Jerome Mockett (LL).

■ Unveiling a wide sphere of judicial education, the society strove to provide persistently intriguing talks on an extraordinary circumference of topics. It was appropriate therefore that the inaugural speaker had crossed the globe, landing in London having flown in from the University of Melbourne: Professor Austin Lovegrove enlightened a positively northern hemispherical audience on the Australian Judicial system about which to a man we were all firmly in the dark. However following what proved to be a truly engaging and enthralling hour, the audience met Professor Lovegrove's conclusion with truly fascinating questions, of the type only possible when one is genuinely interested.

The society was also fortunate enough to receive a talk from Mark Strachan, QC, on the opportunities that the discipline presents in the context of travel. The title was somewhat deceptive, in that Mr Strachan not only provided an intriguing insight into the potential for travel, but also into a wide variety of other possibilities that studying law presented. It was an inspiring and extremely informative talk, complemented by various absorbing and humorous anecdotes that made for another exceptional evening.

Lower Shell Geography Quiz
BATTLE LINES

■ There was a picture round in which we had to guess the country from a picture of a famous landmark, such as Halong Bay, Vietnam. In another we had to guess the country from facts, such as populations and land area e.g. population of Germany: 80,000,000. Our team got to work and we won round after round, gaining a ten point lead over our nearest rivals until the final quick-fire round. Mr Wurr's team stood up, and quickly reeled off ten answers before the time was up. Our scores were level – if we could just answer one question, we would be Lower Shell champions. We were very confident until about half way through the allotted minute, where we realised we hadn't scored a single point. All we needed was that one elusive point. We needn't have worried though, as we scored five points in quick succession, thus winning the inaugural Lower Shell Geography quiz.

It was easy to tell there was a fierce rivalry between them. The enormous crowd of five pupils were on the edge of their seat as the first round got underway. The scene was thus set for the first ever Westminster Lower Shell Geography quiz. The teachers stood proud behind their respective candidates, of which I was one, proclaims an eager Thomas Holdaway (DD).

Wave Society
CULTURAL
DELUGE

High culture got sexy at Westminster this year, finds an excited John Phipps (RR).

■ It was love at first sight. Looking across the cobbled expanse of Dean's Yard from Wave Society HQ at the healthy, the affluent, the languorous masses of pupils, all of us fell in love with the future. And rightly so! for what else might the gilded youth do, we reasoned over mugs of tea and chocolate, but throw themselves with the utmost of their youthful exuberance into the splendiferous cultural possibilities that foggy London might toss their way? and so began the happiest story I have ever heard.

Well, strictly speaking it began near Russell Square, in the Renoir Cinema, as we gazed at the silver screen. and there gazing back at

us was who else but Gary Oldman's George Smiley, in Thomas Alfredson's *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy!* The film was a revelation, and across the remarkably handsome assortment of young ladies and gentlemen, I discerned a sense of shuddering excitement. They wanted more.

And then there we were at the Degas! With barely enough time to sit down and have a pinch of snuff, no fewer than twenty-six of us were storming the corridors of the Royal Academy with an intellectual and spiritual vigour I have never seen equalled.

Did we go on? Could we go on? Do superhero bears fight crime in the woods? Of course we did! Next came the Grayson Perry at Her Majesty's British Museum, a revelation to all involved, and following that we found ourselves watching The Almeida's production of *The House of Bernada Alba*, and then on, to see *The Artist*, and then the Picasso show, and more, and more...

But essentially what is it, you may ask, that makes the Wave Society special? It is not the events themselves, but what comes after. It is, friends, the sensation after having brushed against genius for a few seconds, not just that we have been given pleasure, but that we have been humbled.



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Choir residency at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

SAINTS AND KINGS

In October, many members of the school choir had the pleasure of attending a residential course near Bury St Edmunds, chirrup Charlie Houseago (QSS) and Jerome Mockett (LL) in unison.

■ During this time we were resident at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, singing evensong each evening in the magnificent setting of the cathedral as part of their daily services. Gothic revival, it lies amidst the clustered ruins of the great 11th century abbey, shrine to St Edmund, Saxon King of East Anglia. Singing forty minute services on five consecutive nights – and learning most of the music during the week as well – was immensely challenging, but also very rewarding. The selection of music was exceptional; a broad spectrum from Purcell's chilling *Hear My Prayer* to the modern atmospheric work of Eric Whitacre. These contrasted with the medieval chants that seem to ring clearly long after the Biblical echoes had faded into the darkness of the nave. Many of those in the Bury St Edmunds choir had not sung a set psalm before, but by the end of the week we were sounding like a professional cathedral choir.

We stayed at Culford School for the duration of the trip, and travelled into Bury St Edmunds every night for evensong, but in addition to the large amount of singing on the course, we engaged in numerous other activities at Culford School, such as swimming and a five-a-side football tournament, and of course a nostalgic viewing of *The Blues Brothers* to



which certain anonymous members knew each and every syllable to each and every line. On Wednesday we split into two teams for *Battlefield Live*, and spent the morning shooting lasers at each other and screaming our heads off (which was fantastic for evensong that night!). There were many special moments on the trip, including the highly entertaining choir tour cabaret – with a show-stopping performance by Mr Hindley, and a late-night rehearsal in St Mary's Church, but the high-



A choral master class with Stephen Cleobury, Director of Music at King's College Cambridge, which has one of the most renowned cho- ral traditions in the world.

light of the trip was our visit to Cambridge on the Saturday morning. This featured a choral master class with Stephen Cleobury, Director of Music at King's College Cambridge, which has one of the most renowned choral traditions in the world. We also had the opportunity to watch the King's College Choir rehearse for their evensong, at which we were guests. In a building whose architectural features are so uniquely beautiful and with such unworldly acoustics, it was unsurprising that the choir left, for once in utter silence. All in all, the trip was very educational chorally, as well as being an immensely enjoyable experience.

ADRIAN BOULT CONCERT

The annual Sir Adrian Boult Memorial Concert is one of the early highlights of the musical year at Westminster. This twenty-fifth concert, featuring eight members of the highly acclaimed Nash Ensemble, certainly lived up to everybody's expectations, declares Aditya Chander (HH).

The evening featured two immaculately crafted yet markedly different pieces of chamber music: Johannes Brahms' *Clarinet Quintet in B minor* and Franz Schubert's *Octet in F major*.

The *Clarinet Quintet in B minor*, composed in 1891, was one of Brahms' last four pieces of chamber music. He was inspired to compose this work after hearing the playing of clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld, and modelled it after Mozart's much loved *Clarinet Quintet*.

The composition possesses a wonderfully autumnal, melancholic quality that evokes nostalgia and a sense of taking leave of the world – perhaps supported by the fact that Brahms had written his will earlier in the year, although he was actually to live until 1897. The clarinet is masterfully integrated with the stringed instruments, and Brahms succeeds in giving it prominence without writing the part in a true *concertante* style, a style that Mozart favoured in his work.

The reduced Nash Ensemble presented a wonderfully nuanced rendition, with notable attention to detail. Clarinetist Richard Hosford captured the spirit of the piece with his incredible range of dynamics and technical facility, particularly in the slow second movement, where the movement's middle section sees Brahms call upon the much favoured Hungarian style, with a wild, improvisatory, rhapsodic episode for *tremolando* strings and a virtuosic solo clarinet part.

The string quartet of Stephanie Gonley, Laura Samuel, Lawrence Power and Paul Watkins played with a palette of colours that could only be realised by the most experienced chamber musicians, culminating in a most striking performance of a challenging work.

After the interval, the Nash Ensemble expanded to deliver a very different and contrasting work, Schubert's *Octet in F major*, a piece composed in 1824. This work from the late Classical period shares many features with the *Septet in E flat* by Beethoven, composed twenty five years before this. The scoring is identical apart from the addition of a second violin, and both works are in a six movement form (with two slow movements and two minuet/scherzo movements).

This work is a wonderful showcase for the ensemble, in particular for the first violin and the clarinet, exploring the limits of the technical abilities of the players and effects that the individual instruments can achieve. The fast movements bristle with vitality and virtuosity, and the slow movements possess a grace typical of pieces of the late Classical period. The writing is distinctly Schubertian – for instance, the development section of the sonata form first movement explores various keys which are far removed from the home key, and often the textures are complex with several rhythmic patterns superimposed but nonetheless fitting seamlessly on top of each other.

The musicians achieved an incredibly polished execution. The technical demands on the players were pulled off effortlessly, and the phrasing was lucid, bringing with it a very natural sense of expression, especially from bassoonist Ursula Leveaux in her prominent passages. Moreover, it was clear that the players were sharing in their love of music, and sharing that love with the audience that evening.

For me, the most exciting part of the performance was the beginning of the finale. The music is clouded with a very Romantic atmosphere, a page in slow F minor, containing shimmering *tremolando* strings and carefully prepared dissonance; then the atmosphere clears to lead into a dance-like *allegro* resuming the energy of the previous fast movements. The Nash Ensemble perfectly captured this mood, with *crescendos* and *diminuendos* led in terms of intensity from the double bassist Duncan McTier.

Chamber music is exciting in concert, as there are fewer barriers between the performers and the audience compared to a large scale choral or orchestral concert. The Nash Ensemble delivered two utterly engaging renditions of two exceptional pieces of chamber music, and communicated their commitment to and passion for music making in an unforgettable concert.



St John's Concert MUSICAL MULTITUDES

I know it's an unpopular point, but aficionados of school music come with a mixed agenda – we do love the music but we come to support our sons and daughters and our pupils. This year's concert contrived to delight its audience on both counts, declares David Hargreaves.

■ The combined strength of the school Orchestra and Choir which assembled for the concert in November read like a list of screen credits for a Cecil B de Mille biopic. The opening piece – Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Concert Overture* must certainly have been known to most of the audience, if more often by its usual name of *Fingal's Cave*. The story, well attested, is that he was moved to compose it after a visit to Staffa in 1830. It is, of course, wonderfully atmospheric – a maritime drama, if you like. Aditya Chandler led the orchestra with great panache, and it was also striking that the strings, and maybe the 'cello section in particular, were in such fine form. Kristian Bagger had a particular exposure on the clarinet and carried all before him.

The two centrepiece performances of the concert were led by a pair of quite extraordinarily talented soloists. David Wong's performance in Mozart's *Clarinet Concert* was entirely memorable. Rather like *Fingal's Cave*,



It has been a particular joy to hear Westminster pupils' choir

it contains the additional risk for an amateur orchestra playing to an amateur audience, that it is very well known. As the soloist enters, the clarinet repeats the opening theme and then traverses the whole range of the instrument with several flourishes. It is at heart an enigmatic piece – even the optimism of the Allegro opening movement is undermined by darker and wistful moments. It was also one of Mozart's final completed works, and his final purely instrumental work. It is memorable, especially, for the delicate interplay it demands between soloist and orchestra. Daniel Wong has great technical skills, and established his presence even within the opening bars. Indeed, one of the memorable aspects of the performance was the level of communication, and the wonderful symmetry of phrasing, established between soloist and orchestra – it might have been Chamber music.

The great pleasure of enjoying an equally charismatic performance directly afterwards seemed extraordinary. Jack McNeill Adams' decision to perform Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un gentilhombre* was marvellously vindicated.





The concerto's four movements were based on six short dances for solo guitar by a 17th century Spanish composer Gaspar Sanz. Rodrigo composed the concerto in 1954 at the request of guitarist Andrés Segovia, who evidently was the *gentilhombre* referenced in the title. Jack himself fully explored the percussiveness of the guitar – but his ability to interact with the orchestra played expertly to the strengths of Poppy Ellis Logan and Kiran Laidlay in the reduced wind section, and to Emily Harper's piccolo and Sarah Shone's flute.

It has been a particular joy to hear Westminster pupils' choir, perhaps especially in recent years. Anyone returning from the interval expecting something anticlimactic was rapidly forced into a reappraisal with a soaring performance of Bach's *Magnificat*. While it is a work of faith and exultation, there is no hint of triumphalism here, nor of bombast. At its simplest, he devised the five-part chorus to proclaim God's glory, and the five soloists some of the more ruminative passages. It is also a remarkably compact devotional work – lasting under half an hour. Given its twelve different sections, and the fact that each one is quite devoid of any standard form, this economy is all the more astounding. This rendition was made all the more memorable by some great continuo playing by Daniel Marx, Antonia Skinner and Guy Hopkins. Among the soloists, it will be hard not to remember especially Betty Makharinsky's crystalline soprano, and the glorious *misericordia* of Aditya Chandler and Henry Taylor.

I heard a story recently about Westminster musicians playing in St John's, Smith Square. It dates, I believe, to 1970 or 1971. The recently-arrived Head Master, John Rae, turned up ready to marvel and applaud the precocious talents of his pupils. The problem was that there were only six of them. Everyone else was a hired professional. 'John', so my informant relayed, 'was absolutely furious'. This year, we had over fifty of our pupils in the orchestra and over ninety in the Choir. I dislike improvement measured against such a crude calculus, but this concert gave reassuring evidence of wonderful growth and progress.

Contemporary Music Concert ACCESSIBLE ALL EARS

The Contemporary Music Concert is not only an annual evening of astonishing performance talent drawn from across the school but also the opportunity for Westminsters to demonstrate the extraordinary strengths in composition that run throughout the school, a strong tradition in the Music Department running back for decades, claims Michael Clark (RR).

■ Few performers in other settings could imagine a preparation process where the scores themselves are amended, edited, and perfected by the composers personally at almost every rehearsal, and yet these pieces remain in the mind of the audience on equal terms with the works written by fêted professionals. These compositions, written by members of the school ranging from the Lower Shell to the Remove, were played not only by small ensembles but by the full School Orchestra, an opportunity rarely afforded at even some of the most prestigious music schools. It is this setting that allows the listener to seek to understand the currents and ideas that underpin musical development, with the audience being treated to Adam Bonser's gripping *Passing Storm*, with its unmistakably Wagnerian underpinnings overlain by wonderfully diverse influences, followed by Charles Ives's *Central Park In The Dark*, with two conductors conducting separate orchestral sections simultaneously, a new concept to many in the audience.

One of the highlights of the evening is the idea that many of the audience, who may have not had much prior experience of contemporary music, will understand for the first time the extraordinarily diverse range of styles within a genre that is all too often unfairly lumped together and called inaccessible. The concert this year did a fantastic job of conveying an idea of the breadth and scope of music within the 'contemporary' genre, from Messiaen to Berio, Hindemith to Paul Patterson. The versatility of the evening was perhaps best conveyed by Benjamin Wetherfield, who played Olivier Messiaen's *Première communion de la Vierge* and followed it with his own composition of a piano duet that with its instant percussiveness could hardly have seemed less like the Messiaen that had just been played. The depth of the School's

Partly serialist, partly a retrograde inversion of serialism

commitment to composition was best captured by Aditya Chander, whose ensemble piece *Crépuscule en Hiver* immediately evoked comparisons to his piece of the previous year, with its spacious atmosphere and huge differences in its uses of timbre to his previous offerings. The multifaceted talents of the performers were perhaps ideally personified in Daniel Marx, who went from playing the School organ in his own composition to being one of the two conductors in Ives's *Central Park*; and Betty Makharinsky and Rachel Ballard, who have in many prior concerts dazzled audiences with their virtuosity in great Romantic traditions, yet tonight played together in a Luciano Berio duet that was partly serialist, partly a retrograde inversion of serialism. Steve Reich was much in evidence, both through Jack McNeill Adams' stunning performance of *Electric Counterpoint*, continuing the tradition of a performance of one of the 'Counterpoint' pieces at every Contemporary Concert, and in Joshua Ballance's composition, with Reich's inspiration evident through its repeating figures and instrumentation.

Unplugged Concert COVER NOTES

Throughout the year, the Music Department puts on various concerts, showcasing many different genres of music, both classical and modern, but nothing quite like 'Unplugged' – a concert of contemporary music, with acoustic backing, claims James Sherwood (DD).

Organised by Mr Kyle, the concert featured thirty students performing songs, mostly covers, but some original as well. The singers were supported by a four piece band: double bass, piano and guitar, along with guest percussionist Jody Linscott, who has performed with artists such as Paul McCartney and Elton John. The concert really brought out a different side to songs that we know so well, and the performers' own takes on the songs did justice to our favourite songwriters. The evening was rounded off by the Boarders'



Choir, with a rendition of *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, resulting in the whole audience leaving with a smile on their faces. Overall, the concert was extremely enjoyable, and another strong showing of some Westminster's unexpected musical talent.

Strings CD

PLAYER PERFECTION



When the Strings recording was first announced after an orchestral rehearsal early in September, it was greeted with much excited muttering, says Joshua Ballance (MM).

Mrs Barry assured us that we were very lucky to be making a CD, as it was usually the choir who did this, so when we left that evening there was only one topic of conversation. After a quick series of auditions, the newly-formed string chamber orchestra arrived for our first rehearsal one Friday evening, everybody wondering what the repertoire was going to be. We were presented with the Tchaikovsky *Serenade*, a fiendishly tricky and rather substantial work. Secondly the Elgar *Serenade for Strings*, a simpler piece, both to put together, and in the individual parts. And finally a piece that was described before its first performance as "a queer, mad work by an odd fellow from Chelsea," but which is undeniably one of the pinnacles of the string orchestral composition: *The Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, by Ralph Vaughan Williams. This piece was extremely complex, as it involves a main orchestra, a chamber orchestra, and then a solo string quartet.

With the music sorted, we began rehearsing in earnest – almost every Friday evening we would cram in a rehearsal. Some took place in the school gym, others in the lecture room, but although we were interrupted by exams, concerts and injuries, Mr Garrard and Mrs Barry kept our spirits up as we rehearsed these delicate pieces in finer and finer detail. As term drew to a close there was worry as to how it was going to come together.

When we first arrived the MMC hall was filled with wires and microphones, all of which we were forbidden to touch, and once we'd unpacked and tuned we were given a pep talk about how we were going to hate it. It would be torturously slow, incredibly repetitive, going over the same few bars again and again, but that it would all be worth it. And so, we started rehearsing.

We began with the Elgar *Serenade*: we played, and played, and played. Again and again we'd go over the same things as something wasn't quite right, take after take. The

worrying thing was, this was meant to be the easy piece. After lunch we returned to the hall knowing what we were facing and continued recording. With Mr Recknell following closely and invariably commenting, "Cellos, tuning," it started audibly to get better.

As we neared the end of the day, Mr Garrard decided that we would play through the Tchaikovsky to see what condition it was in. It was clear that it would need a lot of work, so Mr Garrard decided not to record it, which meant we could spend the next morning on the Elgar, and be able to get the two remaining pieces into perfect condition.

The next day, we knew what to expect, and I think for most people that meant that the next session was easier to do. As the Elgar drew to a close we felt very pleased; it had taken a day and a half, but we'd recorded a lot of takes, and hopefully concealed amongst them there was a good recording.

Next, the Vaughan Williams, definitely the trickier of the two. Some pupils from the Choir School and the Under School would be joining us on our final day, and so the afternoon gave us a chance to rehearse more. Again, the refrain was "Cellos, tuning." With lots of open fifths and often no *vibrato* to cover up dodgy intonation, we had to be completely in tune.

The next morning we were joined by younger players for the main orchestra, but also by an OW, Ivo Tedbury on bass in the Chamber Orchestra. When this piece is played in cathedrals, the chamber orchestra is often put quite a way away so that it sounds more atmospheric. For our recording the solution was to put us on the other side of the hall with a different set of microphones. The piece started to take shape, and I think our playing got better and better. Finally, the clear up began. It had been an exhausting three days, and a long term of rehearsal before it, but thanks to Mr Garrard, Mrs Barry and Mr Recknell we got through it, and probably made quite a decent CD as well.



Choral and Orchestral Concert

CONSOLATION AND THE LIVING

Since this was the second consecutive year that the Lent Term choral concert was held in the Barbican, the evening has become a tradition – as one wag deemed it – and after the ground-breaking concert last year which saw Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* performed in the 150th anniversary year of the Unification of Italy by the Choir and Orchestra of Westminster School with the Westminster Choral Society, it has quickly become fixed as one of the major events of Westminster's musical year, writes Guy Hopkins, quondam Head of Music.

texture with Beethovenian compositional technique and clear references to the Baroque choral and contrapuntal traditions of Bach. Yet the work is also highly personal and deeply compelling as Brahms sets passages of his own choosing from the Lutheran Bible rather than the Latin liturgical text of the Catholic Requiem Mass. This is a work which focuses on the consolation of the living rather than the universal drama of the Mass and the Day of Judgement.

From the hushed, tender opening phrases of the first movement to the climactic and exultant passages later in the work the choral sound was rich yet finely judged with text that was clear and authentically German. This is a work which gives the choir plenty to do with few rests and plenty of stamina is required. Excellent preparation and discipline were evident. The orchestra gave an excellent account of themselves in a tricky score where all the players must be aware of other parts and their own role within the whole which is often contrapuntal and 'unidiomatic'. There was a rich and unified string sound for which at least part of the credit must go to the outstanding leader, Rachel Ballard. There were also confident and expressive woodwind solos from Sarah Shone – flute, Josh Ballance – oboe, David Wong – clarinet, and Poppy Ellis Logan – bassoon.

Soloists Matthew Hargreaves – baritone and Patricia Rozario – soprano, brought great personality and intensity to their music; Hargreaves' resonant and crystal-clear account captured brilliantly the contradictory nature of faith from the perspective of one who contemplates death yet hopes confidently in salvation. Rozario in the still rapture of *Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit* brought a remarkable motherly, tender quality to this music of intense consolation.

Conductor Tim Garrard drew everything together with a calm authority and shaped a remarkably spacious and contemplative performance while guiding and balancing the ensemble with great skill. This was truly an evening to remember.

■ The Barbican is considered by many to be the finest large concert space in London and as such it is a splendid showcase for the school's collective musical talent. The participation of the Westminster Choral Society involving parents and friends of the school, enables Westminster to perform the largest scale choral works from the repertoire, as was the case with the evening's main work – Brahms' incomparable *Ein Deutsches Requiem*.

The programme opened however with Sibelius's epic tone poem *Finlandia*. The excellent programme notes by Ben Wetherfield reminded us that the piece was written as Finland was aspiring to independence from Imperial Russia and though not explicitly political, nonetheless quickly became associated with the nationalist dream. Within seconds of the start, the orchestral brass had set the tone with the work's powerful opening crisply articulated and finely controlled. The body of sound from the orchestra was most impressive as the movement gathered pace and the different sections of the orchestra were finely contrasted with conductor Tim Garrard shaping a thrilling performance all around.

Brahms' German Requiem is greatly beloved by audiences and performers alike and it is not hard to see why. Musical inspiration and invention are in perfect alignment as Brahms' work remarkably draws together various strands: contemporary harmony and orchestral



The choral sound was
rich yet finely judged





Student Drama SINISTER COMEDY

Edgar and Annabel and *The Mandragola*, the double bill of student-directed productions was an inevitable source of anticipation in the dark weeks of early December, relates Jerome Mockett (LL).

By the rapturous applause and the excited chattering that escorted the audience from the premises upon the night's conclusion, success was undoubted.



■ Upon stepping out of the cold and into the Millicent Fawcett Hall on the first night of the performance, there was a lingering feeling that both directors Archie Stonehill and Tom Parker-Brooks had taken on board a weighty responsibility in the decision to direct two fascinating yet ambitious plays. However by the rapturous applause and the excited chattering that escorted the audience from the premises upon the night's conclusion, success was undoubted and doubts expelled.

The first to be performed was *The Mandragola*. Machiavelli's flamboyant tale of Callimaco (James Aldred), a desperate protagonist, infatuated by the beautiful but married Lucrezia (Martha Murphy). The solution to the dilemma was a cunning plot to win her heart by exploiting the naivety of her trusting husband (Rupert Henderson), involving a corrupt priest (George Troop), an untrustworthy middleman (Ali Porteous) and an unreliable waiter (Max Reynolds). As the plot might suggest, it was a tale of unparalleled absurdity and rich with comedy. The acting complemented this, exploiting Machiavelli's *Commedia dell'Arte* style, encouraging improvisation and gross exaggeration. Perhaps a moment that captured this 'working' of the script was the unexpected emergence of George Troop's Scouse accent in a Florentine alleyway, ridiculous, charming and utterly hilarious.

The second production was Sam Holcroft's play that debuted at the National Theatre last year and was met with exceptional reviews; 'Holcroft plunges us into an Orwellian near-future dystopia' read one, 'both baffling and

very funny' read another. Stonehill had picked an ambitious project that may even have been fresh in the memory of many in the audience. However, in adopting a futuristic approach to a futuristic play, with bright lighting that reeked of energy and with electronic music breaking up scenes, the staging alone did justice to this fascinating play. Compelling performances came from the fierce George Grylls, as the head of a governmental spy ring to the pairing of Imy Wyatt Corner and Barnaby Raine as agents attempting to act out a conventional lifestyle in order to evade capture. The humour sprang from the absurdity of the scenes. This was exemplified perfectly by the climactic interchange between the four agents in which Holcroft juxtaposed the dulcet tones of Clarissa Wigoder and Robert Oldham playing Playstation Singstar, stage left, in order to muffle the sounds of secretive bomb making, stage right.

Both performances were exceptionally well thought out, rehearsed and executed and credit must be allocated to all involved. On the second night the cast and audience was delighted to welcome the author Sam Holcroft, and former Westminster teacher Lyndsey Turner who directed the National production for a thoroughly enjoyable Q and A session after the performance. Ms Turner revealed that Archie and the cast had spookily made identical cuts for the same reasons to the original text as the National production itself. It was a fantastic accomplishment by both cast and crew to fulfil two difficult plays potential and subsequently produce an evening of excellent theatre.



**The Revenger's Tragedy:
The School Play
BAD BLOOD**

From raunchy affairs to illegitimate children and grisly murders, Mr Barton's production of *The Revenger's Tragedy* was undoubtedly one of the dramatic highlights of the year, proclaims Sive Curran (HH).

■ In an exciting and often violent portrayal of ambition and desire in an Italian court the play, written in the early seventeenth century, demonstrates a vivid satire that was sure to intrigue and captivate the audience. It undoubtedly did so; an excited buzz was ever-present around the school on the days of the production. The story of a man, Vindice, trying to achieve justice for a woman he once loved, *The Revenger's Tragedy*, shows the consequences of vengeance spinning out of control; where deception and deceit lead to a gruesome end for all involved.

Directing and performing a Jacobean tragedy is no mean feat and the cast certainly achieved their aims, even drawing upon the affinity that ruthless ambition in the 17th Century has with modern times. Middleton's excoriating satire of the Italian court was brought to life through the at times humorous, at times dark lead character Vindice (Piato when disguised), brought to life by Tristan Jones. He was supported by a no less talented cast, including a hilarious portrayal by George Troop as the Duke, providing some comic relief among the surrounding macabre

plotting and seductions. As a whole-school production, *The Revenger's Tragedy* was exciting for the way in which different year-groups worked together.

Though male roles dominated in the play, Siobhan Lyons' portrayal of Castiza and Ellen O'Neill's as her mother Gratiana stood out as being compelling, not least for displaying how corruption and money can break down even the strongest of the filial bonds so beloved by Middleton's more famous contemporary, *WS*. In a play of graphic spontaneous butchery and casual bloodbaths the emotional betrayal of Castiza by her own mother was arguably the most shocking moment of the play, and was acted with consummate power.

The incredible costumes had more than a few members of the audience jealous to try them on, with the flamboyant regalia sported by Tom Parker-Brooks standing in particular. Contemporary attire really brought



A Jacobean world in the centre of modern London.

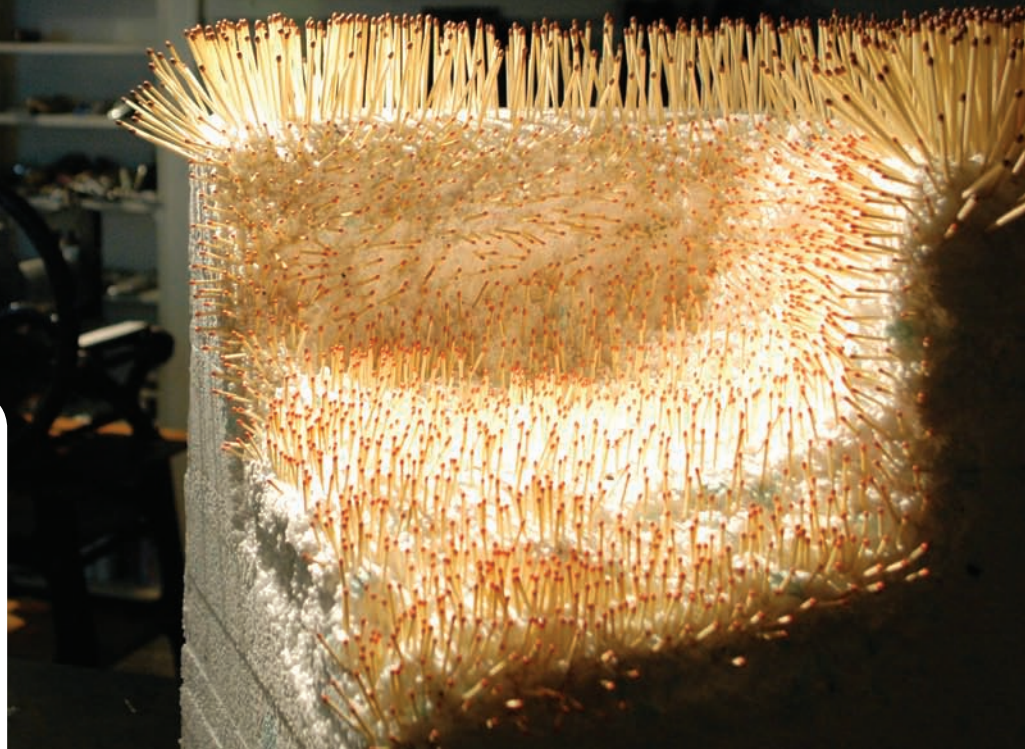
the play to life, creating a Jacobean world in the centre of modern London. All the while the subtle manipulations of the set continually seemed to expand and enhance the stage-space, with stair-ways and alcoves appearing seemingly out of nowhere. The perfectly-timed curtain manoeuvres being performed back-stage by Isa Ouweland showed just how pivotal the working of those behind the scenes was to the production.

By the end of the play we are left wondering whether, in Vindice's position, we would act differently. Certainly some kind of 'wild justice' is achieved in the bloodbath of the last scene. Although the costumes set the play in its Jacobean context, corruption and lust are as ever-present in our society as they were then, making the production all the more intense and relevant. Engaging and witty from start to finish, *The Revenger's Tragedy* certainly achieved its aims; then as now 'when the bad bleeds, then is the tragedy good.'

The Art Department RISING AND REVOLUTION

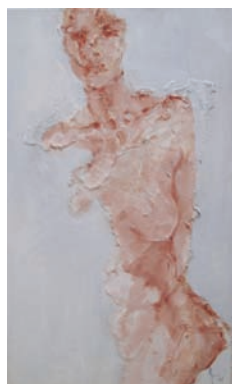
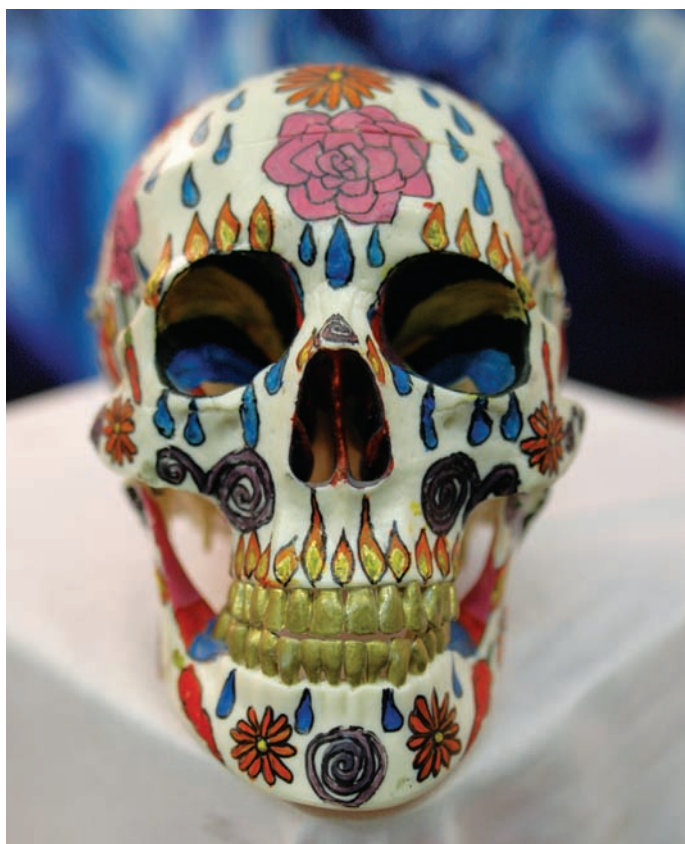
As ever, the immense pull of Westminster attracted some key speakers to the Art Department for the 'Artist Talks' programme, outlines Simon Crow, Head of Art.

Andrew Stahl, Director of Studies and Head of Painting at the Slade School (UCL) gave a superb account of his work from his undergraduate days to the rich colourful indulgences of his most recent work. He is a phenomenally productive artist and we not only loved his work, but his honest and thoughtful account of their creation. The contrast was David Murphy, a young conceptual artist with much to say – his work was deeply considered, beautiful, inventive and he succeeded in mesmerising us. His concepts, underpinned by deep research, allowed him to create stunning and beautifully crafted objects. Brilliantly, Suki Chan, a contemporary artist, came to talk about her work, and most importantly of all asked for volunteers to talk about Revolution. She will be using the spoken accounts of Westminster pupils in an installation this summer in Bristol, '100 Seas Rising' – 100 school desks with speakers projecting voices. We were delighted to exhibit the stunning, delicate, inspirational textile work of Hilde Funaki, who we also invited back to judge the (her) Funaki Art Prize. The theme this year was print-making – May Sutton picked up the Senior Prize with Hugo Keays (much to his surprise) receiving the Junior award – Tom Parker-Brooks and Archie Squire-Lindsay were the runners-up. The gallery also played host to a 'welcome' exhibition by John Woodman and a work in



His work was deeply considered, beautiful, inventive.

progress show by CROW. This continued in a joint exhibition of their work at the Menier Gallery in Southwark. There have also been a series of superb one-man shows under the newly launched Solo project. John Woodman has encouraged Remove pupils to host their own site-specific exhibition – the work can be seen at www.soloschool.co.uk Another exciting year, altho' we do say a fond farewell to Amanda Jorgensen, bound for a new challenge as the Head of Department at Stowe.



Working with the Artist

ISIS OLIVIER EXHIBITION

I enjoyed getting to know Isis Olivier in the build up to the exhibition as I showed her around the school: she'd not returned to Westminster since her school days in the 1980s where she shared an English class with Nick Clegg, discloses Katy Hessel (LL).

■ Fascinatingly, she furthered her studies at medical school. She says this formed the foundation for the subject matter; the close contact between the body and her recent collection of oil paintings.

"I've sailed around her left breast" a visitor beamed, peering closely at one of the pieces in the School's exhibition of her work last September.

Isis Olivier uses maps to illustrate and define nude fragments of the female form. Her work is astonishingly beautiful and the fragments of maps, often old and faded, combined with oil and mixed media, create a subtlety which gently draws the spectator in.

There is a sensual beauty and truth in Olivier's work and the use of maps is fascinating. Maps describe – they are keys in a search, they guide the user, they lead and they point. Maps give a philosophy – and the maps help us to linger over the shapes of the human body.

I was privileged to be asked to co-curate this exhibition, and in discussion with Olivier we decided that the exhibition should try to

both reflect and develop the organic way her ideas are expressed in her pieces. We both focussed on achieving an introduction of the figure, by starting the exhibition with paintings revealing the least fragments of flesh framed by the contour lines, to those exposing the most. Her choice of media was most effective as it was not exclusively paint, but a culmination of mixed media. This emphasised the aesthetic of the works as they became increasingly tangible as the spectator was guided around the room, almost as though they were personally unravelling the skin off the body.

The use of lighting was key. I was determined to show off the beautiful textures Olivier had created when sculpting her prints of fragments of the body. The light highlighted these creases as though they were acting as veins giving a sense of depth and movement within the body.

Olivier currently resides in Provence, France, where the sinuous lines of the hills influenced artists such as Cezanne and Van Gogh. I was most intrigued by the subject

matter: how the female form relates so much to earth, and I discovered she wanted to emulate the female body reacting with earth, referring back to the concept of the natural woman's figure embedded in the earth.

At Westminster you can get a feeling that you are absolutely at the centre of something. Yes, physically it is a school in the centre of London. But right now it's more than that because we are here at the time that London is entering the 2012 Cultural – as well as Sporting – Olympics, hugely significant on the world stage. Westminster School forms part of the Art constellation. Here Isis Olivier began her career in Art, and here in her most recent exhibition, she brought her art home to the place where she first learnt her craft. To have co-curated an exhibition with Isis Olivier – a female pioneer a generation ago – was a remarkable experience and begs the question, which of us will be returning to exhibit our work in the future?



Galapagos marine iguanas
Natasha Hedegaard



Look Up
Hugo Leatt

Westminster Photography
**WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION**

WINNER

- Galapagos marine iguanas
Natasha Hedegaard

RUNNER UP

- Look up
Hugo Leatt

COMMENDED

- Chameleon running away
Sandy Crole
- Bug's eye view
Dominic Smith
- Hiding place
Hugo Leatt
- Graceful seagull reflected
Hugo Leatt



Chameleon running away
Sandy Crole



Hiding place
Hugo Leatt



Bug's eye view
Dominic Smith



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Season 2011–2012 FOOTBALL 1ST XI

P:29 W:15 D:9 L:5 GF:66 GA:36

2011–12 was by Westminster's standards remarkable, competing as we do against schools with big football reputations that have huge advantages in terms of numbers and facilities. This year Westminster 1st XI showed that they could compete and win at the very highest level of Independent Schools Football and that they were the equal, and often the master, of anyone that they played.

The team's success was built around a strong central spine allied to pace out wide. In defence, they were well-organised, compact and hard-working whilst in attack they utilised the width, moving the ball with accuracy and speed as well as possessing the ability to score goals from almost anywhere. The team equalled the 'living memory' record for most wins in a 1st XI season as well as remaining unbeaten by any school side for the last four months of the season. They were unbeaten as runners-up in the North Division of the SIS League, and reached the last 16 of the ISFA Sixes and Boodles ISFA U18 Cup, agonisingly losing out on penalties in both having been seconds away from 1–0 wins in normal time.

Amongst many highlights the defeat of Hampton was arguably the complete performance of the season. With defensive organisation and pacy counter-attacking, Westminster deservedly beat the side that was to win the ISFA Cup. In the League, there were excellent wins over Bradfield and Forest as well as the demolition of Chigwell. There was the satisfaction of spoiling Harrow's 100% record and the spirit shown at Lancing when a 2–1 deficit was overturned at the death, uphill and into the wind.

All these will live in the memory, and yet, in spite of the success, the season was tinged with disappointment and thoughts of 'what-might-have-been' if it weren't for the curse of penalty shootouts and 1–1 draws. Exiting all three Cups on penalties was a bitter pill to swallow – thrice! Just as galling was the fact that we drew so many matches in the second half of the Lent Term when really we should have shattered the record. In many, we dominated but didn't kill off the opposition, and



the last-gasp equalisers by St Paul's and City of London were hard to bear.

Individually, captain Forrest Clancy and Ollie Iselin were selected regularly for the Full ISFA U18 & U16 England Independent Schools' squads respectively – the first time

**They were the equal,
and often the master,
of anyone that they
played.**

that Westminster has had representatives in both of these sides simultaneously.

They were only two of an outstanding team though, starting with goalkeeper, George Grylls who became an excellent shot-stopper and ball distributor. Kwesi Peterson at right-back enjoyed a tremendous second season and his Messi-esque runs were a sight to behold, although he searches still for that elusive goal. Sammy Skipper was a rock in defence, improving especially. He was third-highest goal-scorer, netting eight times, a mighty impressive

haul for a centre-back. Seb Foster found his niche when he moved to centre-back early in the season. Strong, quick and good in the air he showed why he was an integral part of the side. Nicholas Jones made left-back his own through hard work and determination, whilst Johnny Church was an invaluable squad player at both centre and left-back.

Out wide right, Ollie Knox had pace to burn and was crucial in getting in behind the opposition, providing numerous goal assists as well as scoring important ones himself. Mylo Portas was a 'perpetual motion machine' on the left flank, giving his all, his long throws a potent weapon. In the centre, Clancy and Iselin complemented each other with the latter's discipline and work-rate giving the former the chance to express himself creatively. Forrest unlocked defences on a regular basis with a venomous left foot. He never scored a routine or ugly goal (twelve in total), and he led the team with passion. So good was Ollie's performance and decision-making that it was easy to forget he was playing two years above his age group. His was a remarkably assured first season. Ben Leslie played two years up also promises much for the future up front or on the left of midfield. A goal-scorer is invaluable and Ben Cooke will be missed perhaps more than anyone: he finished as top-scorer again, netting 23 times – one shy of the School record. He was deceptively quick, creating goals from nothing for himself and others.

There were promising contributions from Alex Winter and Ollie Draper before injuries curtailed their seasons, and, Anthony Pulsford was the perfect holding/defensive midfielder when we played a midfield five. George Bustin and Milo Johnson showed the potential to match this success next season.

The team were a privilege to work with and a credit to the School, deserving of enormous praise and recognition. I thank them wholeheartedly for their hard work and commitment and wish them every success for the future.

I would like to thank all of Football Station's staff and coaches for their efforts throughout, and particularly the 1st XI coach, Paul Barnes for his knowledge, communication, enthusiasm and straight-talking, as well as the parents and staff who supported all season. **JDK**



FOOTBALL 1ST XI: RESULTS

- **St. Andrew's Boys Club (H):** Won 3–1
- **Alley'n's (A):** Lost 0–2
- **ISFA Sixes (Charterhouse):** Group Stages: St. Columba's 2–0; Bradfield 2–1; Bolton 1–0; Won Group. Cup Last 16 – Charterhouse 1–1 (Lost on pens).
- **Eton (H):** Drew 1–1
- **Norwich (A; ISFA Cup):** Won 5–0
- **Brentwood (A):** Lost 0–1
- **Chigwell (A; ISFA Cup):** Won 1–0
- **Old Westminster's (H):** Drew 4–4
- **Winchester (H):** Won 2–1
- **Latymer Upper (H):** Lost 1–3
- **St. Bede's Hailsham (H; ISFA Cup):** Drew 1–1 a.e.t. (Lost on pens).
- **Chigwell (A):** Won 7–1 (Cooke 4)
- **Bradfield (H):** Won 1–0
- **Lancing (A):** Won 3–2
- **Charterhouse (A):** Lost 0–1
- **KES Witley (A):** Won 3–1 (Cooke 3)
- **Forest (H):** Won 3–1
- **Highgate (A):** Drew 3–3
- **Aldenham (A):** Won 5–2
- **King's Canterbury (A):** Won 6–0 (Leslie 3)
- **Hampton (A):** Won 2–1
- **KCS Wimbledon (H; LIS Cup):** Drew 1–1 a.e.t. (Lost on pens).
- **The Oratory (H):** Drew 1–1
- **Corinthian Casuals (H):** Lost 1–3
- **St. Columba's (A):** Drew 1–1
- **Harrow (H):** Won 2–1
- **St. Paul's (A):** Drew 1–1
- **John Lyon (H):** Won 5–0 (Cooke 3)
- **City of London (H):** Drew 1–1
- **Dulwich College (A):** Won 2–1

LEADING SCORERS

- **B. Cooke: 23**
- **F. Clancy: 12**
- **S. Skipper: 8**

Season 2011–2012 FOOTBALL 2ND XI

P:24 W:9 D:4 L:11 GF:51 GA:54

■ In my first season coaching the 2nd XI, I set out to achieve two things: to work hard preparing for matches off the pitch; and to play flowing and attacking football on the pitch. I am very pleased to say both of these objectives were met.

We began the season with two defeats – one against Allyn's and one against a strong Eton 2nd XI – but all of us knew our best was to come. In the following game we were 5–1 victors against Brentwood, which instilled much satisfaction and confidence in the dressing room. Notable other results included wins



against Winchester, Lancing, the Oratory, St Columba's, John Lyon, and City of London, and draws against strong Harrow and St Paul's sides. We also showed a lot of gumption in a narrow 3–2 defeat against Bradfield College's accomplished 2nd XI.

Credit goes to Oscar Satchell-Baeza for scoring 19 goals, including 4 hat-tricks, and to Lian Rose and Anthony Pulsford who led the team gallantly throughout the season. Milo Johnson always gave 110% to the team when he was not playing for the 1st team, and George Bustin and Toby Goodman are perhaps the two footballers who improved the most.

I would like to thank the whole squad for some thrilling football and plenty of laughs, Matt McEntegart for his high intensity training sessions and the many parents who cheered us on from the touchline, even at some of our most distant away matches. **NAF**

Season 2011–2012

FOOTBALL 3RD XI

P:20 W:3 D:3 L:14 GF:27 GA:65

■ The 3rd XI enjoyed a spirited season. Their commitment was outstanding and when the team gelled they were a pleasure to watch.

At Alley'n's, a good strike from Noah Dickens and pressure from Louis Ariss forced a 3–2 win. Eton then outgunned the boys 4–0, who fought back at Brentwood. With an Ariss goal, Tommy Walters played well but defensive frailties conspired in a 2–1 reverse. Hugo Kent-Egan and Dom Drey-Brown scored against the OW III's, but the game ended 2–4. At Winchester, Westminster played their passing game, but despite one close call Winchester held on for a 2–0 victory.

In a spirited performance against the Common Room, player-manager Dom Sando came off the bench too late. The boys opened the scoring when Will Ariss beat Mr Ireland from close range. The Domestic Bursar scored twice, as did First XI coach Paul Barnes, in a comfortable 6–3 victory for the CR XI. Some great saves from Pettinga indicated how he was developing into a good reserve goalkeeper. Latymer won a tight game (2–3) in which Westminster gave everything they had. Dickens and Jerome Mockett showed leadership in the 1–0 loss at Bradfield, where Drey-Brown was outstanding at left-back and Nick Schwartz almost equalised in the dying moments.

At Highgate despite a good defensive performance, the home side held on for a 1–0 win.

The 5–0 defeat at King's is best written off but the extraordinary feat of both Ariss twins scoring hat-tricks in the 7–1 thrashing of The Oratory offered the chance to end the season on a high. James Aldred scored on his debut there, as did Charlie Drayton at Harrow, albeit in an unhappier 5–1 defeat.



It is always good to beat St. Paul's. With Drey-Brown scoring, we earned a 2–1 victory in the eleventh minute of injury-time. Against John Lyon a depleted home side rallied to beat Westminster 2–1. A cracking 3–3 draw against City, in which Noah Dickens was excellent and a disappointing 6–0 loss at Dulwich ended an enjoyable season.

Thank you to Mr. Hayter, Dr. Williams and Paul Whittle for their coaching. **JAI**



Season 2011–2012 FOOTBALL U16A

P:13 W:5 D:1 L:7

■ On paper the results do not always do justice to the football played by the U16A team this year. The fluent passing, the movement off the ball, and the skills on display were often far superior to the opposition sides. In addition there was a great team spirit. The midfield dynamos of Ali Porteous and Captain Ji-Min Lee were both tenacity personified. This with the skill and pace of Zi Ding 'Zinedine' Zhang and Will Stevo coupled with the quality wide play of TJ and Vard made this a midfield to be reckoned with. The defensive unit consisted of four from Ciccio Coppola, Charles Murphy, Angus Goalen, Max Kehoe, Rory Taylor and DEJ – a solid crew who gave it everything. The prolific goal scoring of Henry 'H-Mac' McNeill meant that the team only failed to score in one match, and opposition defences often had real difficulty containing them.

The season began with a 1–0 victory at Allyn's in blazing sunshine. Next up came Eton who were too strong, winning 3–1 in a good match. The game of the season was a 4–3 nail-biting win at Brentwood – the pendulum swinging each way throughout this thriller of a match. A 2–2 draw at Winchester did not do justice to Westminster's domination, however at Charterhouse an immense defensive effort and a David Vardanyan master-strike gave a deserved 1–0 win against a very strong side. The team fought manfully but failed to break Bradfield who prevailed 4–2. Aldenham were easily dispatched 3–0 at home, before a tight match with an unbeaten Highgate team ended in a 2–1 loss. The second term started brightly with a comfortable 3–0 victory at King's Canterbury, but defeats to St Paul's, Harrow and Dulwich dampened the latter part of the season. Better to remember its first half and some of that great flowing football.

The individual stars of the season were the captain Lee, the outstanding Ben Foster-esque keeping of Kenki Matsumoto, and the Odemwingie-like finishing of McNeill. Many thanks must go to Bleu the coach, and to those B team players such as the talented Eddy Khalil who made it a squad to be proud of. **CJRU**

Season 2011–2012 FOOTBALL U15A

P:25 W:6 L:19

■ One's enjoyment of a holiday is often dictated by what happens at its end. An enjoyable trip back in first class can compensate for a week of drizzle and sibling disharmony. Curiously, this idea can be applied to school sport too. After a season with more metaphorical drizzle than blazing sun, the abiding memory of the U15A season will be the dominant 4–1 home victory over local rivals Dulwich College on the final Saturday of the Lent term.

The season began, as so many seem to, with a 2–1 defeat at Eton in the rain. That said, there were certainly positives to be drawn. After a close home defeat against Brentwood, the team won a resounding 5–1 home victory against Royal Russell School in the first round of the ISFA Cup. The second round against Bedales allowed an emphatic 7–0 victory. Too often, however, the boot was on the other foot, with Westminster conceding soft goals just as they gaining the ascendancy, the most heartbreaking example being the 3–2 defeat away at Lancing, having led 2–1 with a few minutes to go. The ISFA campaign ended with a 2–0 away at national footballing powerhouse Millfield, although the nature of the performance was once again encouraging.

Having opened the Lent term campaign with an emphatic victory at King's Canterbury, Westminster then produced some of their best football of the season in the second half of the local derby against St Paul's. Although better in possession and passing, it is unlucky that this could not be converted into goals. Despite a 6–0 victory over St Benedict's, this set the pattern for the season. Its final fixture against Dulwich was approached with hope rather than expectation. Although this is usually one of the toughest fixtures of the season, Westminster was able to hold them to a 4–1 victory.

McGuire scored 17 goals over the course of the season, with Sam Bates close behind on 16. Ollie Tuch ran the midfield with intelligence and maturity throughout the season. **GAB**

Season 2011–2012 FOOTBALL U15B

P:17 W:9 D:4 L:4 GF:63 GA:33

■ Last year on a balmy Saturday in July, Alfreton Town FC stunned the footballing world by thrashing Sheffield Wednesday 14 goals to nil. Such scorelines are a rare event – rare that is unless you have been following the U15Bs this season. For they too achieved a cracking 14–0 result against Kingston Grammar School – a school which prides itself on the number of Olympians it has produced, yet I'm sure weren't quite expecting the Olympic-sized defeat which our boys gave them.

Before this match, the U15Bs had already had some cracking wins week after week; 1–0 against Eton, 3–0 against Allyn's, 1–0 against Winchester, 4–1 to Chigwell and 4–1 also against Charterhouse. And they certainly weren't shy in terms of goal scoring – when away at Kings Canterbury, we didn't seem happy until we had slotted in an incredible 11 goals with Kofi Arthur and Thomas Critchley both scoring hat tricks. Deft skills were being demonstrated across the pitch – George Salmon and Robert Winter at centre back certainly saved our bacon on a number of occasions and Dan Andreyev, although taking up right back, still managed to assist on an impressive number of goals (28 at the last count!). Furthermore, the midfield combo of Eugene Daley, Sasha Foss, Gabriel Gurmail-Kaufmann and Alex St. John were working well together and Kofi Arthur upfront was showing some great footballing nous.

The team has really had an impressive season, achieving some results which they should be very proud of. Many thanks to all the players, including those I have not had chance to mention. Thanks also to the many parents who have shown support to the team at their various matches.

After Alfreton Town's 14–0 result, their chairman, described his young team as having "a positive attitude which showed other sides how the game should be played". Certainly, if he had seen the U15Bs this season, he would have witnessed a very similar ethos. **JAM**



Season 2011–2012 FOOTBALL U14A

P:19 W:8 D:2 L:11 GF:64 GA:68

■ The U14As have come on leaps and bounds this season. In the first match against Eton we showed a lot of potential, but through a lack of organisation we conceded too many goals. The following string of games allowed everyone to settle into their positions, and although it included some disappointing losses the team worked hard and recorded good victories against Alleyn's, Chigwell and KES Witley. Their hard work and great team spirit was best shown in the performance against Forest which saw them come back from 2–0 to gain a draw. We ended the first term strongly with a fantastic victory away to Highgate. Our fast tempo frustrated a very strong Highgate team, culminating in a few great goals, notably Zak Khaliq's stunning half volley near the end.

Lent term started in the same vein with a convincing victory over King's Canterbury, a solid draw away to Latymer and, although we lost, a very good performance against Hampton, who were the best team we faced all season. After this we had a frustrating string of close losses through lapses in concentration. After focusing on this problem in training, everything came together allowing us to record three straight victories against John Lyon, Kingston GS and Dulwich to end the season in style.

All of the boys deserve great credit for their diligence and commitment through the season and they have all improved immensely. Max Clark has set a fantastic example as captain both on and off the pitch, Zak Khaliq showed great progress, and Kazuki Kinukawa performed to a consistently high level. The entire back four worked hard to improve throughout the season and ended it with a fantastic performance against Dulwich. Barnaby Graff's impressive 20 goal tally showed his quality.

The entire team would like to thank Cecil Nyako for his amazing work as coach and also to the many parents who turned up to support the team throughout the season. **CMCK**



Season 2011–2012 FOOTBALL U14B

P:18 W:5 D:2 L:11 GF:43 GA:59

■ As ever the U14 squad took time to develop, with over 40 Fifth Form hopefuls trialing for the two teams in September. There were some talented players to choose from.

The U14B coaches attribute the first result against Eton to the fact that we hadn't had a formal training session yet. Once this commenced, and Mr Robinson was able to develop the intricacies of our 4–4–2 system, the results started to come in, with good victories against Alleyn's, Chigwell and Charterhouse as well as a hard-fought draw against Winchester. Ivo Trice was proving a reliable goal scorer, and Zak Khaliq's six goals in one game earned him promotion to the A-team where he remained all season.

The 'Alston dip' took effect after the Christmas break and whilst the team took turns to recite poetry down a Victorian lead mine near Alston, results were hard to come by. However, two rallying victories at the end of the season were no more than the team deserved for all their hard work.

Players to look out for in the future, not yet mentioned, include: ever-battling Andreas Jespersen, calm and composed James Chapman, silky-skills Michael Jennings and super-quick Mo Barry-Wilson. There are plenty of others who played their part and there is certainly a solid platform on which to build next season. **RK**



Season 2011–2012 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

■ Although girls football was introduced to Westminster last year, in 2012 we have seen it has become a properly established station. With the help of two Chelsea coaches, our own training area, a new kit and an enthusiastic squad, Westminster Girls have been breaking school football records.

Spending the Play term in intense training, Junior, our coach, noticed that there was a lot of work to be done. Taking us through basic to complex drills (including a master session of heading, chesting and kneeling the ball), there certainly were some bleak times. However, our ball control and skill soon improved – with the knowledge that we had to persevere for our forthcoming matches.



Our season began with a learning experience in our game against City of London. Despite the loss, we were able to spot our flaws and with the help from coaches and our passionate supporters we immediately improved on them in following training sessions. Soon enough, after nail-biting draws in subsequent matches, we finally achieved a well-deserved win on Charterhouse grounds.

It is a shame to be leaving the team, but we are leaving the squad in the safe hands of numerous Sixth Form players, who have been showcasing their talent this year.

We hope to come back to play in Westminster leavers' matches in the near future!
Gracie Fletcher (AHH)
and Elle Manners (AHH)

Season 2011

CRICKET

1ST XI

P:14 W:8 D:4 L:2

Having lost the nucleus of the record-breaking 2010 team, this was an excellent season's work from the 2011 side who managed to win a number of very close games by means of all-round team effort. Their record bears comparison with other 1st XIs bar the record-breaking ones of 2009 and 2010, and they finished the season very strongly, winning five of their last six matches.

The season began inauspiciously though with heavy defeat by a strong MCC side followed by a bore draw against Aldenham where we couldn't capitalize upon a good partnership between the captain, Alex Stewart and Jack Burdell.



The closest finish I have ever been involved with!

The next match, against Sir George Monoux in the London Schools' U19 Cup, was the closest finish I have ever been involved with! Too many extras allowed the opposition 135-6 in 20 overs and the 1st XI were struggling until Burdell and Kit Winder (21) left 9 runs needed off the last over, which became 5 to win off 2 balls. Leo Nelson-Jones hit the penultimate ball for four to bring the scores level with wickets lost the same. The game paused whilst rulebooks were studied to ascertain who would win if the situation remained the same, and it was Westminster who held the upper hand by virtue of more runs scored off the bat (114-113!). Nelson-Jones just had to keep the last ball out - which he did! Westminster had squeezed through to the next round.



There followed a well-contested draw against Merchant Taylor's before the examination schedule meant that a combined pupils/staff side took the field against the Old Westminster's in the annual Jim Cogan Cup. Chasing 150 to win though, it was the pupils who did all the batting as Burdell played the outstanding innings of the season - the only century - hitting 13 fours and 1 six to complete a thrilling 5 wicket win.

The visit to Chigwell produced arguably the most complete all-round performance

of the season in a 58 run victory on an arid wicket. Solid batting from Burdell, Nelson-Jones and Winder (28) laid the foundation but it was the late cameo from George Bustin that facilitated an imposing total. The bowlers kept it tight and the fielders kept their nerve to complete four run-outs as Chigwell floundered under pressure.

Next came the biggest disappointment of the season as we were knocked out of the LSCA Cup by eventual winners, Newham V1th Form College. The defeat was self-inflicted as

RESULTS

- **MCC:** Lost by 130 runs. MCC 223-6; 1st XI 93.
- **Aldenham:** Match drawn. Aldenham 161-9; 1st XI 130-7 (A. Stewart 46, J. Burdell 33)
- **Sir George Monoux (LSCA U19 Cup):** Won by virtue of scoring more runs off the bat (114-113). Sir George Monoux 135-6; 1st XI 135-6 (Burdell 42)
- **Merchant Taylor's:** Match drawn. Merchant Taylor's 217-9 (L. Nelson-Jones 3-83); 1st XI 149-6 (Stewart 44, F. Spoliar 30)
- **Old Westminster's (Jim Cogan Cup):** Won by 5 wkts. OWs 149-8; 1st XI 153-5 (Burdell 101*)
- **Chigwell:** Won by 58 runs. 1st XI 198-8 (G. Bustin 41*, Nelson-Jones 37, Burdell 30); Chigwell 140.
- **Newham V1th Form College (LSCA U19 Cup):** Lost by 2 runs. Newham 115-8; 1st XI 113-7 (K. Winder 38).
- **Charterhouse:** Match drawn. Charterhouse 185-1; 1st XI 14-3.
- **John Lyon:** Won by 1 run. 1st XI 170-5 (Stewart 55, Nelson-Jones 45); John Lyon 169-5.
- **Butterflies:** Match drawn. Butterflies 94-3.
- **Lords & Commons:** Won by 7 wickets. Lords & Commons 154 (Nelson-Jones 5-45); 1st XI 155-3 (Stewart 85*).
- **St Dunstan's:** Won by 96 runs. 1st XI 177-9 (K. Winder 31); St Dunstan's 81 (Winder 3-7, Stewart 3-12).
- **Kingston GS:** Won by 26 runs. 1st XI 169-4 (Burdell 70, Stewart 52); Kingston GS 143-7 (K. Amin 3-19).
- **Alleyn's:** Won by 23 runs. 1st XI 139-6 (K. Sabnis 46*, L. McNeill 46*); Alleyn's 116 (Winder 3-18, D. Andreyev 3-26).



LEADING BATSMEN

A. Stewart: 364 runs at 30.33
J. Burdell: 350 runs at 38.88
L. Nelson-Jones: 171 runs at 21.37
K. Winder: 167 runs at 18.55

LEADING BOWLERS

L. Nelson-Jones: 21 wkts at 19.61
K. Winder: 13 wickets at 14.23
A. Stewart: 11 wickets at 32.27

Westminster conceded a profligate 21 wides, unforgivable in a limited-overs contest. No-one could keep Winder company for long enough against an able bowling and fielding side and 4 runs required off the last ball proved too many.

The elements then favoured us by ending the Charterhouse game with the opposition in charge before another last-ball thriller ensued against John Lyon. Stewart and Nelson-Jones' century partnership had seen Westminster post a good total but the opposition were up with the rate before hesitancy left them needing 4 runs off the last ball which proved too many as Stewart held his nerve with the ball.

Rain ruined the Butterflies game before a routine 7 wicket victory over Lords and Commons. Nelson-Jones' 'five-for' ripped the heart out of the Parliamentarians' innings before he played a supporting batting role to Stewart who hit 11 boundaries in his match-winning knock.

Solid batting meant that Westminster compiled a total way beyond St Dunstan's capacity although excellent seam-bowling from Stewart, Winder and Alessandro Venerandi (2-5) ensured victory. The Westminster innings was notable for U14, Kavi Amin, batting at 10, hitting his first delivery in 1st XI cricket for six!

Rain threatened to ruin the match versus Kingston GS but a 20/20 was possible and a superb 128 run partnership between Stewart and Burdell, combined with the off-spin of

prodigy Amin, proved the difference. The last match of the season saw us entertain local rivals Alleyn's, in what we felt should have been the line-up for the LSCA Cup Final in which the opposition were to prove runners-up to Newham.

At 52-6, the Westminster innings was in tatters but there were to be unlikely heroes as Kshitij Sabnis and Tennis star, Lawrence McNeill – talent-spotted in House cricket



– resisted all in an unbroken 87 run partnership. This gave us a chance thanks to excellent bowling from seamers Winder and debutant Dan Andreyev – another U14 prodigy. The *coup de grace* was applied by opening-batsman-turned-change-bowler, Fred Spoliar as he bowled the last man to bring the curtain down on the season perfectly.

Alex Stewart was named Player of the Year for his sound leadership as well as 364 runs and 11 wickets, and Kit Winder won the Most Improved award for his 13 wickets and several useful attacking cameos with the bat. The other outstanding all-rounders were Jack Burdell (350 runs) who kept solidly throughout and Leo Nelson-Jones who was the leading wicket-taker (21) as well as scoring nearly 200 runs. These were the stand-out performers but all the members of a large squad played their part at one point or another to make it another memorable season.

Thanks to all the staff and coaches for their efforts throughout the year, and especially 1st XI Coach, Paul Weekes, for his professionalism, enthusiasm and support throughout; to Groundsman Franklin Barrett and his assistant, David Wicks for all their unstinting hard work, as well as our most consistent performer, the Scorer, Tony Japhet. Thanks also to the parents who were frequent and welcome spectators. **JDK**

Pre-Season Tour to La Manga, Spain

CRICKET 1ST XI

The Easter holidays saw the Westminster 1st XI cricket squad of 15 pupils along with the Master i/c (JDK), the Groundsman (F. Barrett) and the 1st XI Coach (Paul Weekes) travel to the La Manga Club in Spain for their pre-season training.

They played four matches on tour; two against Emanuel School who were touring La Manga also, of which two were 20/20s and two were 40 overs per side. Westminster won both their 40-over matches with victories over Emanuel School by eight wickets and La Manga Select XI by 70 runs. However, they lost both the 20/20s, frustratingly by 3 runs to Emanuel and by 5 wickets to the strong Spain Development XI. Highlights with the bat were an excellent century (105) by Milo Johnson against La Manga, a swashbuckling 92* by Kit Winder against the Spain Development XI, a match-winning half-century (57*) by George Bustin against Emanuel, and a promising 44 by Alistair Stewart in a 143 run partnership with Johnson against La Manga.

With the ball, it was young off-spinner Kavi Amin who took the honours with two five wicket hauls (5-21 v Emanuel and 5-19 v La Manga) which saw him get into next year's Wisden before a ball being bowled in England. He was supported ably by all the bowlers but particularly left-arm seamer Sunny Amrat, who bowled well whenever called upon and



the standard of catching and fielding was remarkably good

took 3-21 v the Spain Development XI, and young medium-pacer, Dan Andreyev who finished off the last match by bowling the batsmen with consecutive deliveries to put him on a hat-trick the next time he bowls.

Throughout the matches, the standard of catching and fielding was remarkably good for

early season and the side was led effectively by the new captain, Leo Nelson-Jones, aided by vice-captain Kshitij Sabnis who kept wicket well including four stumpings.

As well as matchplay there was the opportunity also for net and fielding practices and some invaluable tactical meetings and debriefs in an enjoyable trip that it is hoped will enable the players to hit the ground running come the start of the English season. **JDK**

Season 2011 CRICKET 2ND XI

■ Kshitij Sabnis was our captain and anchor batsman. He was also an effective 'keeper, bagging seven stumpings in the three matches he played. Aneesh Shukla contributed tactically and vocally as vice-captain. With only five matches in a dramatically short season, it was difficult to establish match-winning consistency. However, Jerome Mockett showed us how to catch and bowlers Sam Glanville and Arthur Henderson each had spells of three wickets.

We again entered the London Schools' Cup competition, taking on First XI teams. One year we will play against our own 1st XI in the final but it wasn't to be this year.

As a new departure, we entered an Under 17 competition. In the first round, we played Forest School in a 20–20 match. Leo Nelson-Jones was the man of the match, scoring 55 and taking five wickets in four overs. Kshitij Sabnis took four stumpings. Somehow, though, we lost it.

As usual, we tried to give as many as possible of the very large senior cricket squad of 43 the chance to participate in at least one match. All were ably encouraged by our outstanding coaches. SCH, GPAB and MHF

Season 2011 CRICKET U15B / U14B

P:4 W:1 L:3 Cancelled:1

■ The U14B and U15B squads combined to form a team which fared well this season. In a high-scoring game at Highgate they lost by just 8 runs. Ben Brind (56*) and Sam Bates (53*) couldn't quite overhaul the target of 176, but the confidence they took from this game allowed them to beat Aldenham by 46 runs. Patrick McNamara (46), Jasper Baines (38*) and Max Reynolds (31) starred with the bat, while Patrick Brown's haul of 4–23 snuffed out the Aldenham chase.

Away fixtures at St Paul's and Merchant Taylors' are always difficult, and both were lost. A partnership between James Fairhead (57*) and Feargal Hanks (39*) at St. Paul's and a good bowling and fielding display to dismiss Taylors' for 106 deserve honourable mention. JAI



Season 2011 CRICKET U15A

P:10 W:5 L:5

■ It was a rollercoaster of a season for the U15 cricketers. There were highs: Oli Iselin's unbeaten 50 at Highgate and effective 60 at Chigwell, Alex Thomas' incessant wicket-taking and Alistair Stewart's captaincy. But there were occasional lows: Ben Leslie's injury side-lining him for the season; dominating Merchant Taylor's only for their number 11 to play out of his skin to rescue the match; and getting knocked out of the cup to a team we could have beaten. Throughout the season though, the side had a fantastic team spirit and there was enormous progress and improvement in all areas of cricket.

The season began with losses to Highgate and a very strong Aldenham team but these were quickly followed by success at Allyn's where Rory Taylor was the star with bat and ball. JJ Fairhead's 42 against St Paul's was not enough to save that match, and the aforementioned loss at Merchant Taylor's threatened to disrupt the season. However, good victories against Chigwell and then Willowfield in the cup followed. This led the season to end on a high with victories against St Dunstan's and John Lyon, with TJ's bowling and Angus Mylne's batting producing the goods. Unfortunately the semi-finals of the cup eluded us thanks to Coopers Coborn, the eventual winners. The squad ethos was excellent with many players pushing hard for selection. The coaching by Mark Mason allowed the talent to shine, and our very own talismanic Scot Mr Fair shared the staffing duties with aplomb. All-in-all a hard-fought but enjoyable season of cricket. CJRU

Season 2011 CRICKET U14A

P:9 W:2 L:7 Cancelled:1

■ The U14A squad were keen and competitive. Their all-round talent was always evident though results do not quite reflect their ability. It was often the case that they played well for three-quarters of a match, only to falter under pressure.

Highgate took advantage of home conditions and their total of 133–5 was good, but made to look better than it perhaps was when Westminster folded to 87 a/o. At Aldenham, Rowhan Date's haul of 3–39 helped dismiss the home side for 144. Kavi Amin (43) and Ismail Salim (36) were in control, but a collapse underlined the frailties of the middle-order batting.

At St. Paul's some brilliant fielding led by Dan Wallis seemed to have broken the opposition. Chasing 107 to win, the St Paul's opening bowlers roared in and Westminster was dismissed for 57, meaning confidence was low ahead of the big game at Moor Park. Merchant Taylors' are the strongest of opponents and this year racked up 246–5. Sadly there are no draws in limited-overs cricket, but Westminster took some positives in their innings of 134–8, with Amin unbowed on 62*.

An exciting game at Allyn's went to the last ball, but Westminster could not score the boundary required and closed 4 short on 116–7. Callum Greaves (3–17) and Amin (3–35) were both among the wickets at Chigwell but conceding 179 left Westminster with 50 runs too many to chase. Salim enjoyed his innings of 41 but lacked support as the visitors were dismissed for 102.

An excellent victory in the cold at Charterhouse showed Westminster's bowling and fielding could exert considerable pressure. Disciplined batting from Eugene Daley and handy contributions all the way down, especially from Sam Bates, left Charterhouse to chase 113 for victory. Spinner Amin (4–24) used his variations to good effect and strike bowling from Date (3–7) secured a 41-run win.

Having to chase again at John Lyon led to a 46-run defeat, but the boys registered their highest score of the season (164–5) at home to St. Dunstan's with runs for Daley (41) and Salim (38), before dismissing the opposition for 115 and finishing the season on a resounding note of success.

Sadly the boys were missing their coach, Simon Massey, for some of the season due to illness. It was a shock to all when Simon died in December. He was a stalwart of Westminster cricket and will be sadly missed. The U14s wore black armbands in the opening fixture of 2012 and the award for player of the season will now be made in his honour. (An obituary for Simon Massey is published in Valette on page 19). JAI



Season 2011–2012

WATER

■ The summer rowing Events of 2011 did not quite replicate the stunning success of recent years. The National Schools Regatta was badly wind-affected and later abandoned, with medals based on a short time trial into a head wind. The Rugby schools were at last rewarded for herding their first fifteens into their crews. The Westminster top quad still managed bronze but to crews who had not even got close before now. A few Weeks later at Marlow the first quad impressed in placing third in Senior quads and the J15 second eight picked up their elusive first win. At Richmond regatta the J14 quad eventually downed their nemesis, beating St Pauls in the final. Nicola Mason had a field day winning in singles and two events in pairs with partner Hattie Taylor.

Spring brought success not just for the top Quad but for a few other crews who also wanted a piece of the action.

At Henley the first quad had a comfortable win over Molesey in the 2nd round but could not stay with Walton over the course and lost in the ¼ final by two lengths.

The new school year opened with some excellent results in the Pairs Head and Henley Sculls. George Bradbury won junior and

overall at the Weybridge Silver sculls to add his name to a trophy previously won by Sir Steven Redgrave and Daniel Topolski. Bradbury joined George Matthews in a quad with two Walton boys to dominate the Fours head, 17th overall and winning Juniors, before repeating his Junior singles win in the Scullers Head of the river, a feat not achieved since Redgrave himself. Other Westminster scullers were also in close attendance with Matthews 4th and Nick Scott 5th. In December the pots mounted up at Walton Small Boats Head before a stay at home this year training over Christmas.

Spring brought success not just for the top Quad but for a few other crews who also wanted a piece of the action. The J16s won at Quintin and Hampton and the J14s at Hammersmith and in Tideway matches.

In preparation for rough water the top Quad had a whirlwind trip to place third in Monaco in the Open Quads coastal event and then returned to win the National Junior Sculling Head on one day and the Fours division of the Schools Head on the next. At the NJSB the J17 and J15 crews were both 2nd, but both went one place better in the Schools Head winning Junior coxless fours and J15 coxed respectively. A few days later Sam Meijer returned the J15 national indoor [ergo] record to Westminster, for many years held by Ivor Vanhegan.

Easter camps for most of the Boat club in Ghent (Belgium), Sarnen (Switzerland) and Princeton (USA) have not only added to the medal tally quite considerably but also prepared the crews well for the 2012 regatta season. CDR

ELECTION TERM 2011

- **2011 International Belgian Championships (Gent).**
 U23 Quads – 1st;
 J18 Quads – 1st & 2nd;
 J18 Singles – F. Foster 2nd;
 J16 Fours – 1st (& 2nd in J18s), 2nd & 4th;
 J16 Eights – (J15s) 1st
- **Poplar Regatta. Westminster**
 (J. Gunn, N. Scott, D. Kim, W. Ripley & A. Gupta) won J16 Fours. 2nd in Girls Pairs, 3rd in Junior Doubles and 4th in J15 Eights. J. Bannenberg 3rd in Singles
- **Gravelines International Regatta.**
 J14 Quads: 2nd/7 & 4th/7
- **National Schools Regatta (Nottingham) Westminster**
 J14 Quads: 9th & 10th.
 J15 first Eight: 6th;
 J15 second Eight: 4th;
 Championship Double: 6th
 Championship Quads: 3rd & 12th;
 J15 Quads: 5th & 17th;
 J16 Four: 4th;
 Girls' Pair: 6th
- **Metropolitan Regatta (Eton)**
 Intermediate Quads: Westminster A – 2nd; Westminster B – 6th

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Coastal Rowing CHALLENGE PRINCE ALBERT II

■ In February Ivan Karpov, Nick Scott, George Bradbury, George Matthews and Nicola Mason (cox) chased the bright lights of Monte Carlo to compete in the Challenge Prince Albert II, an international coastal rowing event which this year attracted teams from across the world, from Spain to Ukraine, Italy to New Zealand. Regarded as the unknown entity among spectators on the sea wall, the team did themselves proud, battling the waves of the 8km course out on the Mediterranean to take Bronze in the Men's Open behind one boat with two Olympic silver medallists and another with the French National Champions. Given the fact that the Westminster crew had never competed in a coastal race before, this result really was a remarkable achievement and deservedly earned them the title of 'the ones to watch next year'. **SEL**



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• Marlow Regatta

Senior Quads: 3rd;
Junior Quads: second quad 4th;
J15A Eights: 5th;
J15B 8+ 1st

• Richmond Regatta

J14 Quads: 1st;
Girls' J17 Singles: Nicola Mason 1st;
Girls' Junior & Senior 2 Pairs: 1st;
J16 Quad beat Oxford Univ Lightweights then lost to Thames RC

• Henley Royal Regatta

Fawley Challenge Cup: 2nd Round
Westminster beat Molesey by 1 & 3/4 lengths.
1/4 Final: Westminster lost to Walton R. C. 'A' by 2 lengths

PLAY TERM 2011

• Pairs Head

G. Bradbury & W. Kimberley (OW) – 3rd/430.
Jr 18 Doubles: I. Karpov & G. Matthews – 4th/30, J. Gunn & N. Scott – 8th/30.
Jr Girls' Pairs: N. Mason & H. Taylor (Guest) – 1st

• Weybridge Silver Sculls

G. Bradbury: 1st in both Junior Trophy and Overall!
J17s – J. Gunn: 6th/19; N. Scott: 7th/19.
J15s – S. Meijer: 1st/19; C. Thomas: 5th/19; Q. Geczy: 6th/19

• Fours Head

Junior Quads – Westminster/Walton (G. Bradbury & G. Matthews + 2 guests): 1st (17th overall) 11th in J16 Fours.
J16 Quad: 33rd/47 in J18 Quads.
Westminster Girls Four: 29th/39

• Henley Sculls

J15s – S. Meijer: 2nd, A. Balgarnie: 8th, Q. Geczy: 9th. W Senior 2 – N. Mason: 3rd

• Tideway Match racing

J14 Octuples v KCS Wimbledon & Godolphin Latymer.
Westminster (Jones): 1st/8,
Westminster (Smith): 2nd/8

• Scullers' Head

G. Bradbury won the Junior Pennant – for 2nd year running – (17th o/all)
G. Matthews: 4th Junior (62nd overall);
N. Scott: 5th Junior (70th overall).
Girls – N. Mason: 4th

• Walton Head

Junior Doubles: G. Bradbury & G. Matthews – 1st (2nd overall);
Junior Singles: Bradbury – 1st (4th overall);
Inters Singles: G. Matthews – 1st;
J17 Doubles: J. Gunn & N. Scott – 1st
J17 Pairs: W. Ripley & D. Kim – 3rd;
J17 Singles: W. Ripley – 4th
J16 Doubles: D. Bradbury & T. Hanton – 1st;
J16 Pairs: A. Brochard & T. Lewis – 1st;
J15 Singles: S. Meijer – 2nd, T. Wu – 5th;
Girls' Junior Singles: N. Mason – 1st (top 10 overall);
Girls' Junior Pairs: N. Mason & H. Taylor – 1st

• Quintin Eights Head.

Westminster won J16 Eights.

• Hampton Head

J18 Quads: – 1st (G. Bradbury, G. Matthews, I. Karpov, N. Scott);
J18 Fours: Westminster – 1st (N. Scott, W. Ripley, J. Gunn, D. Kim)
J16 Eights: Westminster A – 1st

(H. Ramambason/C. Kerr/W. Wood/T. Lines/R. Dobson/O. Ulvestad/J. Ritossa/M. Chwu/A. Brochard)
J16 Eights: Westminster B – 2nd (6th overall), (L. Pinder/W. Frost/W. Moss/D. Bradbury/T. Hanton/L. Behling/R. Doumar/A. Matthews/T. Lewis)

J15 Doubles: Westminster – 2nd (S. Meijer & Q. Geczy);

J15 Quads: Westminster – 3rd (N. Lahoti/T. Wu/H. Venham/C. Thomas/A. Balgarnie)

J14 Octuples: Westminster – 1st (9th overall), (H. Ramambason/G. Padfield/J. Howard/A. Paulraj/L. Jones/G. Jabre/J. Edwards/E. Bentley/E. Davies)

• Prince Albert II Challenge (Monaco)

Westminster 3rd ahead of Marseilles RC and narrowly behind French National Squad and French National Coastal Rowing champions.

• Hammersmith Junior Head

J14 Octuples: 1st

• Tideway Schools match

J14 Octos – 1st: St Paul's, 2nd: Westminster A, 3rd: Dulwich, 4th: KCS Wimbledon, 5th: Westminster B (fastest B squad)

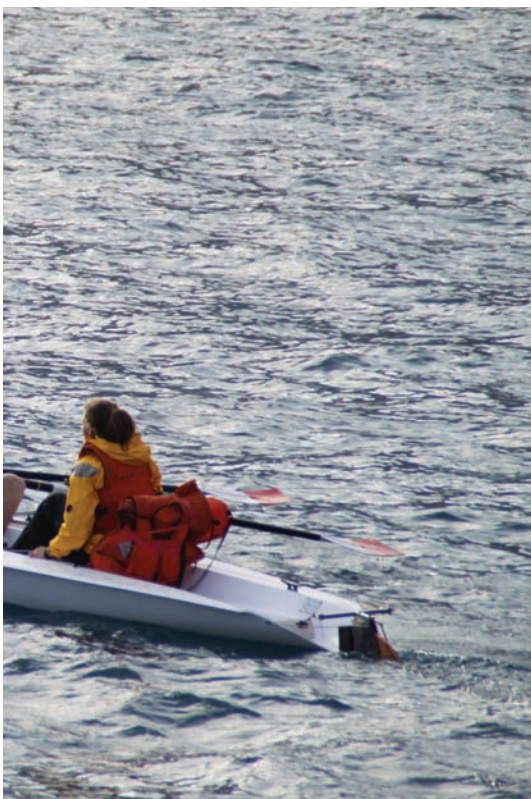
• National Junior Sculling Head

J18 Quads – 1st: (G. Matthews, I. Karpov, N. Scott, G. Bradbury).
J17 Quads – 2nd: (J. Gunn, D. Bradbury, D. Kim, W. Ripley).

J15 Quads – 2nd: (T. Wu, S. Meijer, C. Thomas, A. Balgarnie)

• Schools' Head of the River

Junior Coxless Fours – 1st: (N. Scott,



2011-12

CROSS COUNTRY

■ The Long Distance Races started the season on a real high, with Rupert Stuart-Smith (Juniors), Maxime Janbon (Inters), Su-Min Lee (Seniors) and Nicola Mason (Girls) winning their races, whilst Milne's retained their grip on the overall title. Hugo Kent-Egan then burst to prominence at the Towpath Cup and helped the School defeat a strong Old Westminster's team, with David Conceicao the fastest Lower School pupil.

Despite several key absences, the school secured 4th place out of 21 teams in the King's Trophy and for the 8th time in 9 years won the B team competition. Mo Barry Wilson's performance at the RGS Guildford relays was the highlight of the day as he stormed round the 2 mile course in close to 12 minutes. However, it was the growing strength of the Inters that was most marked at Harrow, where Andreas Ioannou, Armand Brochard and Nicholas Clanchy secured 2nd place in a 5-school match.



J. Gunn, D. Kim, W. Ripley).
Junior 4+ – 1st: (G. Matthews,
I. Karpov, G. Bradbury, D. Bradbury,
N. Mason)

J15 Fours – 1st: (T. Wu, S. Meijer,
C. Thomas, A. Balgarnie, N. Lahoti).

J15 Fours – 3rd:

J16 Eights – 4th:

J16 Fours – 6th:

• **British Indoor Rowing Championships (Nottingham)**

J15 Competition – 1st: S. Meijer
(1579m in 5 mins – new Championship & British record)

• **Belgian National Championships (Gent). Open Quads: 2nd –**

U23 Doubles: 1st – (G. Bradbury &
G. Matthews);

Single Sculls: 3rd – G. Bradbury;

J18 Fours: 3rd – (fastest J16 Eight)

J16 Doubles: 2nd – W (D. Bradbury &
S. Meijer);

J16 Single: 1st S. Meijer;

J14 Doubles: 2nd – (J. Plaut & N. Plaut)

• **Mercer Sprints (Princeton USA)**

Varsity Doubles: 1st – Westminster
(J. Gunn & N. Scott);

Girls Lightweight: 4th – Westminster
(N. Mason & G. Michotte)

Varsity Quads: 4th – (J17 crew

J. Gunn, N. Scott, D. Kim, W. Ripley);

Varsity 2nd quads: 3rd (J15 crew Q.

Geczy, S. Meijer, C. Thomas,
A. Balgarnie);

Girls Varsity Quads: 2nd –

Westminster/Long Beach RC

Westminster was the strongest team at the London Schools Championships



The GRIM has rapidly become a firm favourite for pupils in the Upper School: yet again the school claimed both first and second in the team results, with Hugo Kent-Egan (18th out of 2000) and Su-Min Lee (21st) the highest pupil finishers. As if this wasn't enough in a busy term, Su-Min then powered through a high quality field at the Alumni race to finish an incredible 7th out of 116 senior runners.

The Knole Run (21st out of 40 teams) was somewhat disappointing but perhaps reflected

the inexperience of the squad, many of whom were racing much further than they were used to and against competitors three or even four years older than themselves. However, for the ninth year in a row, Westminster was the strongest team at the London Schools Championships, winning not only the Seniors and Girls competitions, but also claiming third in the Inters and Juniors. The best individual performances came from Nicola Mason, Lucile Pannetier and Gabrielle Michotte (3rd, 6th and 8th respectively in the Senior Girls race) and Sammy Skipper and Su-Min Lee (6th and 8th in the Seniors), which earned all five a place in the London team at the English Schools Championships in Somerset.

February and March brought fierce competition as the courses dried out in the early spring sunshine. Milne's wrestled back the Bringsty Baton, the highlight of which was a complete Girls competition with over 40 runners, whilst Milne's won the Juniors, Milne's the Seniors and Purcell's the Girls competition. Mo Barry Wilson dominated the second Fifth Form St James's Park competition setting a new school record of 7:30 as five boys broke 8 minutes, and six pupils were selected to compete for the borough in the London Mini Marathon. The Highgate inter-schools match was a fitting end to the season, as Su-Min Lee raced to victory in his final competition for the school, and the Inters (2nd) and Juniors (3rd) also finished amongst the medals.

There is much optimism as we look ahead to next season, with a very strong current Upper and Lower Shell age group likely to firm the bulk of the team next year. The arrival of Mr Walton has made a huge difference to our weekly training sessions, as has additional help and encouragement from Dr Kowenicki. The future definitely looks pink! **SDW**

Crafty Old Westminsterers were a tough challenge

2011 TENNIS

Westminster enjoyed a promising 2011 season with some great wins across all year groups. Alex Henderson was welcomed as all-year round coach and is thanked by all for his work and enthusiasm last season. The 1st VI got off to a great start with a convincing 12-2 win against Mill Hill with both the pairs of Johnny Church and Henry McNeill and Gabriel Cagan and Alex Rafter recording 3-0 victories. The green grass of Winchester up next posed a slightly different problem, and we slipped to a 5-7 loss. Next came a more convincing win against Merchant Taylor's. Cagan, Rafter and McNeill all recored big wins in the singles, with Cagan and Rafter continuing their success into the doubles, helping us towards a 4-2 victory. The 2nd's fought hard to draw 3-3 against strong opposition, with Kenki Matsumoto and Nico Lewis wining both their singles and doubles. Harrow was another close contest, battling both strong wind and big serves to draw 3-3.

Cagan and Rafter's set against the Harrow 1st pair was particularly memorable, clawing the game back having been 2-5 down to go on to win 7-5 thanks to some impressive serving and Rafter's unstoppable forehands. The match against Haileybury saw a solid 6-3 win, with all three winning 2-1. The crafty Old Westminsterers were a tough challenge and a competitive contest ended 4-4, with both teams providing some excellent tennis. The last match of the season was the Youll Cup at Eton and Westminster's 1st IV set off in high spirits. Sadly the draw wasn't on our side as we faced a strong Claremont Fan Court in the 1st round. Despite a disappointing loss, we entered the Plate competition with renewed optimism which paid off immediately as Cagan and Rafter had little difficulty seeing off the Tonbridge 1st pair. Church and Ho were a little less successful against their second pair and it needed a comfortable singles victory from an assured Rafter to see us into the next round. Next we faced Merchant Taylor's, a match we entered with high hopes having defeated them earlier in the year. Unfortunately our first adventure at the Youll Cup didn't end as we had hoped but there was plenty to take from it and we will head back next year ready to push on

further! Despite the departure of Sam Brodsky and Raaid Sahabdeen, one of the most encouraging things this season has been the depth in the lower year groups: the first IV are looking forward to some strong games in the run-up to their final Youll Cup appearance. Alex Lee, Nico Lewis and Andrew Hilman will be pushing for first team places, the latter two in their final tennis season at Westminster. Although only in Lower Shell, McNeill and Matsumoto have had a taste of first and second VI play. In Fifth Form, Oli Tuch confirmed his top position, complimented well on court by Michael Lewin, particularly revelatory in their crushing defeat of Highgate. In the senior house boys' competition, Ashburnham narrowly beat Busby's to make it to the final where they beat Dryden's. In the girls' competition, Izzy Millar and partner Tillie Lloyd-Thomas were too much to beat Ashburnham pair Manners and Fletcher in the final and in the juniors, Dryden's beat Rigaud's in the final match. With very little change in the first and second team squads and with some additional mixed and girls' fixtures this season, we are looking forward to a successful 2012 tennis season!
Johnny Church (LL)

2011 FENCING

After some rather less-than-glorious school matches against Eton, Harrow and Tonbridge, two competitions rounded up Fencing this term: the British Schools Team Championships and the Public Schools'. At the former the Senior team (Thom Kwoh, Forbes Anderson and Tom Barrie) lost out on a medal by a single point and the Fifth Form team (Harry Bird, Tom Li and Robert Wang) finished third in the U15s. An outstanding success at the Public Schools' this year was Harry



Bird's third place in the Mount-Haes foil; this was the best result in this category for at least 8 years. Together with Robert Wang and Alexander Cheveley at 30th and

31st and also Tom Li, Arkady Shevchuk and William Kitchen in the top 64 this put Westminster in third place overall. Alexander Cheveley deserves special mention for a fantastic win through sheer determination against a much more experienced opponent in his penultimate fight. In the Junior foil Thomas Kwoh finished 29th, losing his final match 10-15 (notably his opponent ended in second place and didn't have such a close fight until the final). After a triumphant first two rounds of pools Sebastian Burgess finished 34th and Forbes Anderson and Daniel Kim both ended in the top 64. In the seniors Oliver Doe finished 55th, missing out on a further round by a single point. HRRS



The dedication shown by the core of this Senior group has been unsurpassed.

2011-12 ETON FIVES

■ This has been a very exciting season of Eton Fives at Westminster. It has been characterised by the emergence of some talented and increasingly competitive pairs, particularly at Senior and U15 level, which will enable the School to challenge the very best Fives schools over the year to come.

Enthusiasm for the sport has been unprecedented at U14 level, with large numbers of very able players putting in hours of practice both within and outside Station afternoons. The experience which Shah brought to his game made him stand out initially but over the course of the season several other players emerged to challenge his pre-eminence: Malik and Lim from within the Station, but also Wang & Graff impressed from outside it. Results over the season were mixed, with some fine victories against Charterhouse and Mill Hill and some good 'almost' moments, of which the performance in the Schools Nationals was one such: good experience, everyone won at least one match, but only Malik and Lim progressed beyond the group stages.

The U15 squad thrives with strength in depth: it has been a real pleasure to be able to call upon so many enthusiastic and skilful players for matches. Lewin and Islam were outstanding. Over the season they were defeated only a couple of times, and with stand-out victories early on against St. Olaves 1st pair and then against Charterhouse U16; at the Nationals they moved to the Quarter Finals without conceding a game. Bixer and Ashton hit a winning streak by the end of the season and reached the final of the Plate competition in the Nationals. Otherwise there were significant contributions throughout the season from Amin and Sinha, Critchley, Capstick, Ratiu and Kapoor.

What the U16 squad has lacked in numbers, it has more than made up for in spirit and ability. Merrett and Stewart competed excellently and with some notable victories, as at Berkhamsted, and were ably supported by Rule and Kenny. Sadly, competing School

events allowed only a single pair to enter the Nationals, but it was really encouraging to see Merrett and Stewart enter and compete strongly in some other National events over the season, sometimes against pairs much older than them. This sort of enthusiasm for the game and willingness to give up weekend time to participate as widely as possible, has been characteristic of them.

The Senior squad was unusual this season in that it was dominated by members of the 6th Form. Mehta, as captain of Fives, led from the front and teamed up very effectively with Houlden to form a dynamic 2nd pair. Tomlinson, Sherwood and Rowe all played with growing confidence and skill. But the season was dominated by the play of Alster and Nelson-Jones at 1st pair. They will be a hard act to beat next year. This season the highlight was their first-class performance at the Nationals: undefeated in the group stages they cruised past St Olaves 3 and outfought Berkhamsted 1 to become the first Westminster pair for several years to reach the quarter-final. Here they were out-gunned by a powerful first-seeded Shrewsbury 1. But the dedication shown by the core of this Senior group has been unsurpassed and the hours they have put into their Fives in the evenings and at weekends has been reflected in the progress they have made. I heartily praise them all for their commitment and their skill over the year. Mehta, Houlden, Nelson-Jones and Alster all thoroughly deserved their Pinks. The house competition will be played in the Summer term – thanks in advance to Ben Merrett for organising this event. Thanks too are due as ever to Matt Wiseman for his wise and inspirational coaching. **AEAM**



What the U16 squad has lacked in numbers, it has more than made up for in spirit and ability.



Season 2012

HOCKEY 1ST XI

P:11 W:7 D:4 L:0

2012 has been a good season for Westminster Hockey, with many new people joining the station taking numbers to near record levels and with considerable success on the pitch as well. The 1st XI remained gloriously undefeated, conceding only three goals to our 15 scored and featuring one hat-trick by Jack Aitken. Almost all of these games were fought against 1st XIs who had many more people available for selection.

It was only with great difficulty that we fended off an Eton hungry for revenge after their one-nil defeat early in the term, in a tense rematch culminating in a 0-0 draw. Against Alleyn's the contest was even tighter; after silencing their confidence with a swift short corner-goal, it took the full force of defence and midfield and one of Max-Naylor Marlowe's fingers (broken in action) to keep



the team undefeated. We drew 1-1 against UCS, conceding a late goal. St Dunstan's we beat 2-0 and (new fixture) we beat St Benedict's 4-0. In addition, we noted successes against both the Common Room and the Old Westminsters despite gallant performances from both. Commendations go to our goalkeeper Angus Mylne for some wonderful saves and also to Jacob Dutt who covered securely while Angus was injured.

There was other new talent: Alex Jones emerged from his old goalie kit to become an imperious sweeper; Lachlan Alexander commanding central defence; William Panetier storming down the wings and collecting

It was only with great **difficulty** that we fended off an Eton hungry for revenge

several goals as well; strong performances too by Joe Andreyev and Luke Bridges; and many other new players offering impressive cameos.

The younger teams claimed some notable achievements. The U16s led by William Barrott, played four matches taking the scalps of Reigate GS 3-1 and Trinity's B team. The U15s winning against UCS 2-1, leaving plenty of room to hope for future successes. All said this season has been an astounding success and experience. My fellow Removes and I are already anticipating returning for the OW match next year and to seeing the new team rise to their challenge. **Jamie Cranston (RR)**

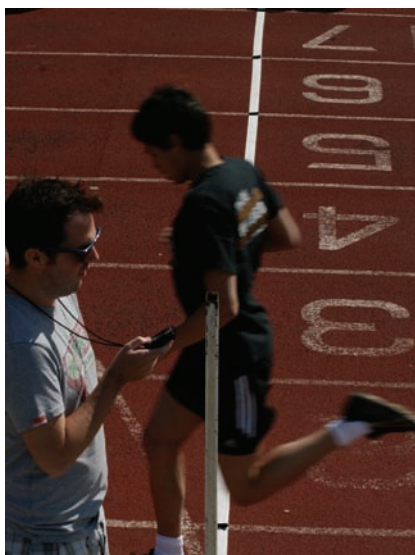


2011

ATHLETICS

Despite underhand accusations from some other Housemasters that the event organiser had rigged the scoring system and hand-picked athletes from the Registrar's list, Wren's emerged victorious in the Inter-House Athletic Sports from Grant's and Dryden's. In the age group competitions, Wren's won the Junior title, Busby's the Inters, Milne's the Seniors and Hakluyt's the Girls.

In total, three school records were broken, with Dom Williams (BB) surpassing his own



record from the previous year in the Senior 400m with a time of 52.0s, Charlotte Leysen (AHH) leaped an impressive 1.51m in the Girls high jump, whilst Junior Tom Hage (LL) also set a record in the high jump with 1.56m.

Aside from these records, there were several other noteworthy performances. In the Juniors competition, Marwin Kalo (WW) won both sprints and the long jump, Ben Godfrey (GG) dominated the 800m to win by 13s as did Alex St John (DD) in the 1500m. The Inters were no less impressive with Kwesi Peterson's (CC) 11.9s in the 100m and long jump victory standing out alongside Eden Fung (AHH) in the 400m and David Conceicao's (BB) solo 1500m victory. The Senior 200m provided a blanket finish but was just edged by Jonathan Wong (GG), whilst Mylo Portas (MM) and Sammy Skipper (DD) traded wins in the middle distances and Sacha Mehta (CC) won both the 100m and long jump. In the Girls competition, Yinka Ogunbiyi (HH) cruised to victory in both the 100m and 200m and Rosie McBurney (PP) dominated the long jump.

At the London Schools Championships three Fifth Formers represented the borough in the Junior age group: Ben Godfrey was just edged out of the medals and finished 4th in the 800m, a position matched by Bonar McGuire (WW) in the 400m whilst Tom Hage was 8th in the high jump. A healthy bunch of Westminsters took part in the mid-week Rosenheim League and in doing so improved their personal bests and gained invaluable competitive experience. My thanks go to Mrs Monro, Mr Botton and Mr Moore for their steadfast help and support throughout the season. **SDW**



2011–2012 NETBALL

■ The netball squad has enjoyed a great first season in the West London Schools' Netball League, with a strong incoming Sixth Form and some excellent Remove players. Despite experiencing a rocky start trying to replace our lost shooters, this issue was soon resolved, by Sarah Squared! (Sarah Shone and Sarah

Timmis) and we became (almost) unstoppable. The Lent term has been especially fantastic for the Firsts, maintaining our victories against St Benedicts', Godolphin and Latymer and South Hampstead and a strong win against Notting Hill and Ealing. One of the highlights of the season was the extremely closely-fought match against St Paul's, a victory that we narrowly missed out on by one goal. The Seconds have also enjoyed a good season, the highlight being a resounding win against South Hampstead. We have also managed to prove ourselves by coming in the top 5 in the league. The season was also rounded off with a fantastic house

netball competition and staff v leavers match. Despite some excellent play by some of the boys, it was the Ashburnham team, consisting predominantly of first team netball players and a very tall Will McFadden, that won the House competition, and equally in the staff game, despite some world-class shooting by Mr Ullathorne, it was the leavers' team who were more convincing winning 15–11. Overall, there has been much improvement this season and we hope that the team continues playing in this vein (maybe with a win in the new sports hall against St Pauls' next year).
Tillie Lloyd-Thomas (GG)



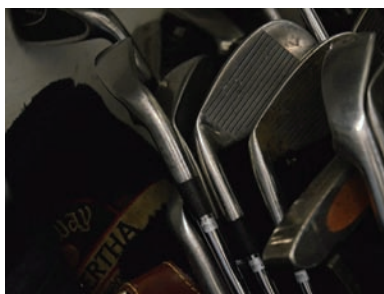
2011–2012 CLIMBING

■ Climbing Station continued to grow in popularity and numbers this year. The station has grown so much in fact that we now make the journey to Mile End in two groups. A far cry from the Station's humble beginnings where 10 people was considered a crowd! However, this growth comes as no surprise as the uniquely challenging experience of climbing is a pretty addictive thing.

Our success is not only measured in numbers. For four years we have entered the Independent Schools Climbing competition and for four years we have completely dominated, winning a large number of the categories every year as well as the magnificent overall trophy. However, next year will be more of a challenge as the other schools continue to improve rapidly. This means that the next generation will have to take up the torch and work hard to keep our title; though I have no doubt in their abilities as there are many extremely talented and keen climbers amongst them. The development of our own indoor climbing area in the new gym hall will certainly help them and future climbers and is a clear mark of our success. I'm only annoyed that I won't be at the school to witness its unveiling!

The title 'Master of Stone' and the legendary t-shirt that comes with it are honours indeed but the station's future is in very safe hands and I've enjoyed every moment, both on the walls of Mile End and on the incredible trips that we've had the immense privilege of being a part of. Dominic Smith (DD)

2011–2012 GOLF



■ Is this a first? Two OWs are currently in the Cambridge University golf team: Oliver Flynn (2003–2008 RR) and last year's captain of golf station, Carl Rietschel (2009–2011 GG). This year's captain has been Francesca Bastianello, the School's first lady captain of Golf station, we believe, although Catherine Robinson (1998–2000 BB) captained a School team.

We again entered the HMC four-somes national knock-out competition but were unfortunate to encounter Charterhouse in the first round. For the second time we also entered the one-day tournament against 17 other schools held in Pulborough, West Sussex.

Thanks are due to our encouraging 'pro' at the Central London Golf Academy in Wandsworth, Gary Clements, and to match manager, CJRU. Thanks also to the OW team for their generous and steady support, including financial support for extra coaching, for the School's players.

Anyone can join Golf station. Those who have no prior experience are especially welcome; we provide the tuition, clubs and balls. You don't even need special clothing.

Captain for the 2012/2013 season will be Rory Forsyth. SCH and JCW

2011–2012 BODYSTEP

■ Bodystep is the ideal station for girls who want to fit in a high intensity cardio-workout to our already hectic Westminster lives. This station, involving a height-adjustable step and some very complex moves timed to various contemporary soundtracks, allows us girls to partake in a Station where looking bedraggled and sweaty at the end is an achievement instead of socially unacceptable. Though admittedly sometimes our understanding of left and right is somewhat dubious, causing several occasions where a confused girl standing on the wrong side of her step then falls over her own feet, on the whole we are very good at getting into the spirit of things and are eager to perform the steps with a big smile and some crazy arm gestures. As ever Claire (our instructor) continues to hope that we will somehow manage to coordinate our feet, arms and voice as she continually tries to make us belt out the chorus lines from various songs, usually ending up with a feeble screech despite her pained efforts.

As usual Bring a Boy to Bodystep was a highlight of the year, as we relished the moment where we could show off our superior skills and ability to coordinate the entirety of our bodies, as opposed to the limited control boys have over theirs. The excitement of seeing boys decked in lurid lycra, and in one case a floor-length dress, was soon replaced with the need to prove ourselves and the station we so much enjoy.

Being a girls-only station, it is quite easy for Bodystep to be written off as an easy option chosen by those who don't want to participate in the more adventurous stations, but after an hour of heart-pounding exercise and dancing, the boys, very much challenged by the routines, had no choice but to accept Bodystep as an exhausting station requiring much more spatial awareness than others.

Chloe Ramambason (CC)

2011–2012

MARTIAL ARTS



■ It's been a real black-belter of a year for Westminster's recently resurgent Martial Arts (read: Judo) station, packed with enough *Osotagaris* – that's an leading-foot leg reap for the uninitiated – to sweep anyone off their feet, as Westminster's up-and-coming Judo team remains undefeated and mostly unchallenged. Trained under the expertise and care of the Tokei Martial Arts Centre's Larry, with new members joining for a slice of the action every term, the team are undoubtedly Westminster's first line of combat defence in the event of a ninja attack.

The big event of the year so far for the team has had to be the training session with our twinned school/passionate rivals Harrow, something that could very well become an annual tradition; both sides showed off their finely-honed *Ippon-seoi-nages*, *Yoko-shiho-gatames*, and even some *Ude-hishigi-juji-gatames*, and that's only starting to list the elaborately-named techniques at the fingertips of the fine men and women serving under Captain Kazimir Butrimas, a man reportedly so tough he can "crush biscuits with his bare hands."

There's some big news on the horizon for the team, too – the new sports centre near Vincent Square is planned to feature its own luxury dojo, conveniently located within a few minutes of the school, and the number of Westminster judokas increases *almost* daily! The Station's never been better, so make sure you throw a glance in its direction.

Kazimir Butrimas (WW)



2011–2012

SAILING AND KAYAKING

■ Every Tuesday afternoon, unknown to the majority of the school, a small but dedicated group of Westminsters make their way to Westminster Boating Base to take part in Sailing and Kayaking station.

Under the guidance of Mr Hooper we make epic journeys up the river to the Houses of Parliament or down to Wandsworth, often braving harsh winter conditions. When your hands are so cold you can't feel them it is inspiring to think that we are close to achieving the reputation of the footballers, the fitness of the swimmers and the greatness of the rowers! When the weather has been good we've also had some excellent sailing sessions, taking and jibing, leaning full back enjoying the full force of the wind in sails, pushing things to the limit, and sometimes beyond the limit... It is certainly strange to be in one of Mr Hooper's maths lessons in the morning and capsizing with him in front of Battersea Power Station in the afternoon.

Conversation covers just about everything, from literature to particle physics, although Chris our instructor quickly banned all maths-related talk. The banter is always of the highest quality, and we have all come to know each other much better since September. From kayaking down Chelsea Creak, dodging the barges while sailing and getting power boat rides up the river, no afternoon is ever boring. We have all come to really appreciate the freedom that the river provides: once out on the water there is a sense of tranquility and peacefulness that is unrivalled by other stations. Will Barrie (GG)



We make epic journeys up the river to the Houses of Parliament or down to Wandsworth, often braving harsh winter conditions.



