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THE ELIZABETHAN
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Above:
Abbey from Dean's Yard.

Left (top):
Iceland. Photographed by Simon Wurr.

Left (bottom):
The Oxford Schools Debating Champions.



SALVETE

DR STEPHEN SPURR

Dr Stephen Spurr, the new Head Master was interviewed for *The Elizabethan* by Max Ziemer (HH), Emma Cannon (AHH) and Natasha Lloyd-Owen (AHH).

Dr Spurr is a typical headmaster in many ways: he believes in giving pupils a well-rounded education and allowing them to soak up fully all the advantages of studying in such a thriving cosmopolitan city – essentially everything that would be expected of what we imagine will be a successful head of Westminster. When asked how his opinion of the school met with his expectations he is comfortably positive, as he has been throughout the year so far, and it is clear that he really does enjoy his work. But this is nothing new; any pupil walking casually around the grounds or sitting through Latin prayers on a Wednesday morning would know this already. He says good morning to every pupil and considers it a mission to make the somewhat tedious Latin Prayers into an

“He is very pleased to be in London which he described as a sort of city state, like Ancient Athens – a social, cultural and economic beacon for the world at large.”



Above:
Dr Spurr chats
to pupils.

Right:
Dr Stephen Spurr.

exciting event. It was only when the interview was interrupted by a phone call that we really began to learn something new about Dr Spurr.

He apologetically picks up the phone and then coolly answers in Italian, “Pronto”. The phone is set down and he returns to the sofa. When Emma asks whether he was conversing in Latin, he laughs – she is not joking.

This was how the real interview began. What we really want to know about Dr Spurr, honestly, is what he is like outside the school gates and smart pin-stripe suit. His love for Classics (his degree of choice) came through immeasurably. As you can imagine, Latin prayers are here to stay. A scholar in both Latin and Greek, it is figures such as Plato and Aristotle that inspired him to the role of tutor.

For Dr Spurr, it is not hard to be motivated as a teacher; this was demonstrated when we asked him what his ‘hobbies’ were: Egyptology and Archaeology, before he mused absentmindedly, “Do headmasters have time for interests?” When he does get an opportunity he cuts himself off completely, spending much time abroad. He spent the first three years of his life travelling on Safari; born “under canvas”, he has visited all corners of the earth, teaching at Sydney Grammar School and Clifton College in Bristol. Now he enjoys travelling round Europe, climbing in the Alps and pruning olive trees in his olive grove in southern Tuscany. Dr Spurr also shows a huge interest in modern languages, speaking Italian, no doubt useful when he taught at the University of Rome, as well as reading Latin and Ancient Greek. After beginning his career teaching at Universities, Dr Spurr found that the emphasis on research rather than teaching meant that he preferred the life of a school master, and eventually rose through the ranks to become a housemaster at Eton.

Taking over what is perceived to be one of the top schools in the country must seem like an especially

SALVETE

CHRIS SILCOCK

Chris Silcock joined Westminster from the Royal Navy. After school and university he became a Seaman Officer and his first 16 years were largely spent at sea on Her Majesty’s Service in Hong Kong, the Mediterranean, Gulf and the Caribbean as well as two years exchange with the US Navy in California. He has also served in the Falklands and on Fishery Protection duties around the UK. *Anno Domini* moved him behind more than one desk in the MoD and Fleet HQ, although good behaviour ensured a return to sea to drive 2 Destroyers. To join call 1028!

daunting task. So how do first impressions compare to expectations? “The whole school has been very welcoming,” he says. He is very pleased to be in London which he described as a sort of city state, like Ancient Athens – a social, cultural and economic beacon for the world at large. In terms of challenges on the horizon, Dr Spurr believes that training his pupils’ minds to their highest level is crucial: Westminster must strive to maintain, even raise, its own high intellectual standards in the face of decline elsewhere. In an increasingly interlocked world, he explains, with fast-emerging economies, he wants to equip Westminster with the brain power and social and cultural awareness to excel in any situation anywhere in the world.

The Head Master has made a conscious effort to familiarise himself with the pupils and staff of Westminster. He feels that if he makes the effort to approach people he will become more accessible and has attempted to spend “at least 5 minutes with each pupil in the school”. During his time with the individuals he found the pupils very friendly and receptive and more than willing to share their ideas, and after this interview we can only say we feel the same way about him. Yet learning seven hundred names is obviously a punishing task for anyone, and Dr Spurr has spent much of this year concentrating on the Remove so that they can take full advantage of their final year at the school.

When asked how he felt about the inspectors’ criticisms that Westminster is “lacking a sense of community”, he was quick to defend the school. “How do you define community?” he asked. He sees Westminster as having the reputation of being individuals, “There is a difference between being individuals and individualistic.” He believes that individual strengths can work together within the school as a community. Someone once asked him how many people “worked” at Westminster; his answer was 900 (students and all the staff). If all of them can see themselves as making up a cohesive community, then they can also look outwards to the benefit of others. He wants the school to continue to attract clever pupils wherever they are and from a wide range of family backgrounds, thereby continually renewing the school community and having a helpful effect, hopefully, on society at large.



SALVETE

ABIGAIL CAVE-BIGLEY

Abigail Cave-Bigley read English at Balliol College, Oxford. After completing her PGCE, she returned home to Birmingham where she taught within the State system, at Lordwood School. But the attractions of London proved too strong and she moved to work at South Hampstead High School. Since joining Westminster, she has enjoyed taking full advantage of the cultural opportunities that the location of the school presents, and can often be found after-hours in galleries, theatres and lecture halls. The School Expeditions Society enables her to further a love of the outdoors in the excellent company of pupils and colleagues. When left to her own devices, she likes putting pen to paper and enjoys nothing better than reading a good book.

DANIEL GELDERD

Daniel Gelderd comes from glamorous Birmingham. He studied Mathematics at Worcester College Oxford but left after three years to take up his real passion of cooking. After working for free in a small French restaurant for six months but being regularly screamed at by the chef, he decided to leave to pursue his real passion of teaching at Westminster. His hobbies include Rock ‘n’ Roll dancing, hockey and, of course, cooking.

GILES HAYTER

Giles Hayter studied at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he specialised in Topology. Having afterwards dabbled in music production and gardening in Northamptonshire, he moved to London to take up a teaching post at Westminster in 2005. His previous experience of teaching was in front of classes of 75 in rural Western Kenya. His spare time he is mostly spent seated in front of a piano or trying to organise trips to sub-Saharan Africa.

SAM BALDOCK

Sam joins the Biology department following teaching posts at Parkside Community College, Cambridge and The Godolphin and Latymer School, Hammersmith.

Above
(top; left to right):
Chris Silcock and
Abigail Cave-Bigley.

Above (bottom;
left to right):
Daniel Gelderd
and Giles Hayter.



Above (top; left to right): Sam Baldock and Teehan Page.

Above (bottom; left to right): Aidan Sproat and Ransford Agyare-Kwabi.

Above (top; right): James Harrison.

Above (top; opposite page) Peter Goddard.

SALVETE CONTINUED

He has also taught at The Red Balloon Learner Centre, the UK's only specialist school for victims of bullying. He read Zoology at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge where he spent a lot of time in waders measuring mus-sels and watching monkeys flirt. Outside school he is most likely to be found celebrating the low-brow.

TEEHAN PAGE

Teehan Page teaches Religious Studies and comes to Westminster having taught at Winchester College and Tonbridge School. He lists his interests as Singing, Skiing, and Semantics. Although no longer quite at the top of his game he enjoys playing hockey, tennis and cycling on the flat. His perfect day would start with breakfast on a balcony overlooking the Matterhorn, followed by a morning's heliskiing, and continue with lunch in Bayreuth before singing the title role in Wagner's Siegfried. The day would conclude with a large glass of malt whisky in the world's greatest city – London. He is reported as being delighted when the previous Head Master offered him a job at Westminster with the words, 'You'll do!'

AIDAN SPROAT

Aidan Sproat has joined the school to teach maths and as resident tutor for Busby's, and hopes that teaching at Westminster will satisfy his passions for mathematics and music, both of which he was fortunate enough to be able to study at Trinity College, Cambridge. He is a keen pianist and trombonist, and is unable to refuse any opportunity to play the tuba badly. He also enjoys conducting, and was musical director for a number of musicals and operettas whilst at university, where he also conducted the university brass band and swing band

RANSFORD AGYARE-KWABI

Ransford Agyare-Kwabi joined Westminster straight from Newham Sixth Form College as a Technician in the Technology department in January 1996. He became a teacher of Electronics two years ago after the departure of Bill Phillips. He gained his Electronics degree from the University of North London and is currently researching hybrid mobile telecommunications for his PhD at Queen Mary, University of London. He is a keen footballer and rock climber.

VALETE JAMES HARRISON

James Harrison, who leaves us at the end of Trinity Term this year to take up a Classics post at St Paul's, joined the staff in September 2001. Apart from a brief pre-University stint teaching at a prep school, Westminster was his first school posting, for which his preparation was not only academic (Scholar and Head Boy at Merchant Taylors, then Balliol, Oxford) but included two years in business, first with a management consultancy and then with a small lighting factory. Their loss was Westminster's gain; James has brought to his teaching a dogged and extremely conscientious approach which never allows him to cut corners and has been a sobering model for the rest of us. This is the kind of stuff we write in references – all true, sincere, and very worthy, and there's no doubt St Paul's is lucky to be able to poach him from us. But here, more importantly, we record how much his colleagues and pupils will miss him personally, and for so many reasons.

His talents (all worn lightly and modestly) are enviably many, and enviably strong; he is an excellent sportsman and a good singer as well as a genuinely bright and enthusiastic scholar. In the school, in Wren's where James has been a tutor, and in the Common Room we have seen him use his gifts and contribute with enormous energy and good humour. He is generous with his time and personal attention, utterly lacking in malice or artifice, and universally appreciated as one of the nicest and most cheering people to have around. As his departmental 'boss' I shall personally miss him hugely, along with his persistent but always positive questioning and debating of almost everything we do. We wish him, his wife Polly and their two little sons every happiness for this next stage, and confidently predict that the St Paul's boys will benefit from having James 'on their side'.

JBK

VALETE PETER GODDARD

Peter Goddard was appointed as Domestic Bursar in 1991. Westminster School had never had a Domestic Bursar before so we were not sure what to expect, but over the years Peter became a much loved member of the community. Amongst many achievements he was instrumental in setting up the new telephone system, helping furnish all the new buildings, in helping host Baylor University and setting up our own laundry service in school.

His passion for the school was to be seen every school holiday when he devised and conducted a school tour for the general public. Many tourists return year in, year out, to hear Peter on the beauties of Ashburnham House and the Busby Library. I am delighted that he has been asked to continue these even after his retirement.

Above all Peter is a delightful colleague, unfailingly helpful and friendly. An intelligent man, he is one of the quickest people I know to spot hypocrisy and high-handedness. Throughout his time at Westminster Peter has had to deal with some difficult personalities, yet he remained both philosophical and chirpy. Most of the time....

I will miss Peter a great deal. He was, in the very best sense, a loyal servant of the school – and given his background in the Army, understood the nature of faithful service. Peter is exceptional; I will always regard him with affection and as a very special part of my time at Westminster.

GG

I shall miss Peter greatly. He has given me support and encouragement throughout my time in the School. In a recent conversation with Peter I asked him about his reflections on the School and the individuals he has shared it with. In truth I was hoping for some meaty revelations, but as always he showed an uncanny ability to cut through any shady motives I might have, and instead spoke with easy affection about the various Bursars and

the Head Masters he has worked to. He included some kind phrases on the generosity of a certain governor who was not 'too posh' to seek him out and offer him thanks on a tricky project he had undertaken on the School's behalf. Finally though, his overriding preoccupation was that it should be clear that he has loved both his time at the School and his day-to-day experiences of it as its first Domestic Bursar. That speaks volumes for the man; he is quirky, idiosyncratic and particular; he has a well-established sense of what is right and what is not; Peter also has the rare habit of good manners. Most importantly, he has the capacity to give himself and his working efforts and energies to us. It simply astonishes me that, for a man who in his own proud words has, 'only been unemployed for two weeks of his working life,' the fact that he should have chosen to share so much of his career with us is amazing but perhaps in keeping with the School. I was touched by his remark that he 'always knows where he is on the Pink List because he 'is just before Nick Stevenson who started two weeks after' him. It made me question why the School's support staff do not have their own register of service.

I have been lucky in knowing Peter as a friend and a colleague. As a colleague he has never let me down; indeed he has often saved both my bacon and my red face when examination logistics or Sixth Form Entry mayhem have threatened to turn to chaos. That they never have is largely owing to his versatility in problem-solving. I have seen him reasonably furious; sometimes his fury has been directed at me – rightly so for some potentially embarrassing omission on my part which has increased the already high pressure he is working under. I have also seen him genuinely concerned for the well-being of Karim, Bill, George (and before him John) and for the safety and security of the pupils, his colleagues in the Common Room and the offices above it. As a friend I have been privileged to hear about his love and admiration for his wife and two daughters and his delight in his dachshunds. His thoughts on his future include moving from his present home to just outside the New Forest, where he and his family can enjoy both the countryside they love so much, and his caravan. As Peter has unfolded his plans I have learned to respect Mrs Goddard's patience; he has secured an entire room in their new home for his major hobby, making Meccano models. I remember with awe the terrific model which had pride of place in his side of the Liddell's Arch Office. He is a keen amateur historian and a critic of literature as well. Peter is not unique at Westminster for having a diverse range of interests – many of his friends here have enviable depth to their 'hinterland'. He is perhaps unique in his honest and unpretentious enjoyment of his interests, conveying his enthusiasm in a warm and touching way.

He surprised me early on by his generosity in presenting me with a case of wine at the end of a particularly difficult exam year. I thought it a kind and unexpected offering; it was one he continued with on a yearly basis without remark. When my daughter was born he was one of the first to ask to see her and to sympathise with the wakeful nights infants bring. I have a strong affection for Peter and I know that one of the things he is hoping for in retirement is to become a grandfather again. He will make a very good one and offer an example which his grandchild will feel proud to follow. Tracy Morris (Griffiths)



VALETE HAIKU

"Summer morning in yard

he stoops to gather litter

for the last time"

Nick Stevenson



PAGEANT OF ST EDWARD

In October, Westminster pupils joined with those from Greycoat Hospital and Westminster City School to create and perform 'The Pageant of St Edward' in the nave of Westminster Abbey.

This was part of a week of celebration of the founding of the abbey by Edward the Confessor one thousand years ago. Literally a never-to-be-repeated experience! Until the next millennium...



VALETE RICHARD STOKES

It is rare indeed in school life that pupils, parents, fellow teachers and heads of schools unite on any matter, let alone to acknowledge a teacher of unique talent and achievement. Teacher is my key word for Richard Stokes, and it is surely for his quality – or extraordinary qualities – as a teacher at Westminster that he would most wish to be remembered.

A valedictory tribute should not read like an obituary. Richard is vividly alive and it is his choice to move on to new worlds of scholarship and intellectual discovery. If I use the past tense it is in recognition of the fact that, for over thirty years and with six generations of pupils at Westminster, he has been a marvellously distinctive source of quality and excitement in learning at the highest level: a rigorous and uncompromising taskmaster, but passionate and compelling in his advocacy of German language and literature. I can write from the triple perspective of, for a while, headmaster and colleague, as parent of one of Richard's pupils, and as one of so many within and beyond the School who have enjoyed his friendship. Add a fourth perspective: as partner on the tennis court where his remarkable skills and relentless energy led to victorious decades against school pairs; a superb, and highly competitive, games player who spent countless hours helping those much less talented on many and various fields of play.

From the headmaster's point of view (I had better say from this headmaster's point of

view), Richard was a wonderful ally. No respecter of Westminster myths, but a resolute believer in the reality of Westminster's true qualities. Of course those red or green shoes and the idiosyncratic tielessness did not fit in to the conventional mould, but no-one could have offered more or been more willing to take things on, or displayed less concern for self-advancement or personal glory. He accepted what he was asked to do as, for example, in his stints as Head of Modern Languages and Head of German. Though he did not wish it, he was prepared to accept a housemastership if it could help in a tricky situation (what an interesting house it would have been!). He created and perpetuated the annual German exchange. His concern for excellence in the teaching of languages (at a time when modern languages came under threat in popular demand) was exemplary and infectious. And, of course, he brought to Westminster talents which no school had the right to expect or enjoy. Richard's friendship with some of the most distinguished musicians in the land, his reputation as a language coach for singers, the scholarly and revealing programme notes which enlighten audiences in the major concert halls of London, the translations of songs from different languages – these led to a series of unforgettable concerts at the School by, for example, his old pupil Ian Bostridge, Goerne, Holzmair, Imogen Cooper, Felicity Lott, Roger Vignoles, Eva Meier; a wonderful bonus for the School.

For pupils both past and present, Richard was and is an inspiration. He is unequivocally dedicated to their success but sees success in terms which exceed the purely academic. To the astonishment of my son, the learning of German words became fun; classes appreciated his lack of formality and unpatronising approach to the sharing of language and culture (and, on occasions, wine). Language gained fresh meaning. Stories abound of classes dedicated to 'Die Zauberflöte' or 'Figaros Hochzeit'; a pause outside his classroom would invariably bring strains of a Schubert song or a Mozart aria, sometimes even the authentic Stokes voice proving a point in fervent harmony. A Chemistry teacher with an Upper Shell class provided diversion after a long practical by playing some Mozart – and was amazed to find the class joining in because they knew it all already. Amusingly, pupils also perceived that there was a dapper

side to Richard; beneath the mothly jumpers was a 'nice shirt'. And his expeditions to Cabourg and elsewhere were the stuff of legend as demonstrations of the art of enjoying life to the full. No wonder the loyalty of former pupils remains so keen and profound; and of their parents, too. Richard has a shrewd understanding of the young, a perception which can clarify and guide well beyond the immediate precincts of the classroom, and this has been of immense support to many an anxious and uncertain mother or father.

As with the very best of teachers, there was so much to learn from Richard, and I valued deeply those moments, all too rare in busy times, when his treasure trove of musical knowledge could be shared. I know of his loyalty as a friend, to myself and to particular colleagues past and present. He will continue to be an inspiration in his life and work beyond Westminster. I have a special memory of him: in those happy, far off, days when the Common Room seemed to have time to enjoy a musical evening, Richard was prevailed upon to sing. He knew full well what he could not do vocally, but the result ('Fading Away') was unforgettably eloquent and moving, completely serious and committed, and full of love for the wonder of such arts: 'Du holde Kunst...'

David Summerscale



THE YEAR BOOK

When after some debate the first Year Book began in 1998, I suppose there were two ideas uppermost in our minds, writes PDH.

One was to provide a novel diversion for sometimes grumpy leavers – something which would provoke them into owning up to their imminent departure. The other was more egalitarian. Back then, too many of the then rather sparse entertainments for leavers were restricted to the luminaries – school monitors and the like. A half page of A4 on which each departing pupil could say what they liked (more or less) was an uncomplicated way to begin to redress the balance.

Every departing pupil, however illustrious or obscure, deserves equal recognition from the school. The fact that, right from the start, the vast majority of the Remove took the trouble to send in an entry suggests the initiative was not unappreciated. The content of their entries has, however, become increasingly foreign to anyone over the age of about twenty. The Book's first year predated the school network and so virtually all entries were handwritten, usually in something approximating to prose. Within two years, the prevailing demotic had shifted to gangsta rap. Syntax, like spats, became something for fogeys.

Eight years on, the popularity of the Year Book seems, for the moment, assured. Inscrutable as entries often are, they reinforce my sense that most departing Westminsters are a balanced and optimistic lot. Some year groups are more obviously integrated than others, and some feistier, but there is much in common: above all, loyalty to friends and a general readiness to see the School itself in positive terms – certainly as somewhere not short of entertainment value. They also have their eyes fixed on the future – quite rightly.

Above:
Awaiting the start
of the Greaze.

Below (left):
The Year Book.

Above:
Pageant of St Edward
in the nave of
Westminster Abbey.
Photographs courtesy
of Dean and Chapter.

Below:
Richard Stokes.
Photographed
by Colin Wagg.



"The mammoth shift from the 'Family Dining' style of eating lunch to a cafeteria style has finally taken place."



LIFE AS A QUEEN'S SCHOLAR

Jocelyn Turton (CC) explains the curious life of a new scholar in College.

Little did I know, as I stood with what seemed like hundreds of other hopeful scholars, but was probably only about 60 boys, in Little Dean's Yard one rather chilly May morning last year, that within a matter of months I would be taking part in the rituals of an institution which dated back over four hundred years. We were all there to take the Challenge, Westminster's scholarship exam, and a few days later I learnt that, along with seven other boys, I had been elected, as I learnt to say, to enter College.

Since joining I have discovered a whole host of customs and traditions which date back to the mid sixteenth century, when Queen Elizabeth I decided to found an academic institution in which her future advisors would be educated. She decreed that 40 boys from a poor background should become the Queen's Scholars who would be educated in Latin, Greek and Scripture. This tradition has survived – with a few additional subjects and to include boys from all walks of life – up to this day, a testament to one of the established beliefs that I soon discovered at Westminster, which is that old customs should prevail.

Even though I had seen round College before taking the Challenge, actually living there was very different to anything I had experienced before. For example, I discovered that every morning one unfortunate member of the Fifth Form has to get up and make his way round the house waking up ill-tempered older boys at 7.30 a.m. This process, I was told, is known as Tenner. In fact this is the aspect of College life for which I felt best equipped, since I am frequently dispatched by my cowardly parents to wake up my morning-averse older brother, who doesn't like to greet the day much before two in the afternoon.

Very soon after our arrival we eight new scholars discovered that we were to be part of an induction ceremony in the Abbey, during which we would go through the



"I discovered that every morning one unfortunate member of the Fifth Form has to get up and make his way round the house waking up ill-tempered older boys at 7.30 a.m."

ritual of wearing our 'Abbey Dress' and being formally handed our gown by the Captain of the Queen's scholars. Abbey Dress consists of pinstriped trousers, waistcoat, tails and white bowtie, none of which any of us had worn before. Many of my election rather dreaded the idea of standing up in front of the whole school looking like a bunch of penguins but when the day came all ran smoothly. In fact, it felt really exhilarating to be part of a ceremony which had been taking place annually for over four hundred years.

I am sure we new scholars will discover more traditions as the year progresses, and may even initiate a few of our own over the next five years.

A FAREWELL TO FAMILY DINING

Max Ziemer (HH) bids a sad farewell to a long tradition of Westminster's table manners as the kitchens finally go completely modern.

This year has witnessed one of the most monumental changes that Westminster has seen for a long time. No, I am not referring to the induction of a new head master, but the change in eating routines. The mammoth shift from the 'Family Dining' style of eating lunch to a cafeteria style has finally taken place. Now the lunch routine of yesterday's Station days has become every day's. For those who do not understand the subtle differences between the two, 'Family Dining' consists of going to the lunch hall at an allotted time, sitting down at a table with the members of your house, and eating the food that is on the table in front of you. 'Cafeteria' on the other hand is better represented as a mass free-for-all with everyone barging to get into the lunch hall quick enough so that they can find a seat with their friends lest they have to sit with the teachers.

There are positives to come out of the change; College Hall insist that they have been able to offer better quality and choice of food for all since the changes were implemented. The decrease in labour costs whilst retaining the same budget means an improvement in the quality of food is possible. The cafeteria-style of self-service allows people to take how much they want or need, and this in turn cuts down on the amount of waste.

However, I am against the changes, mainly for social reasons, as they reduce the amount of time that one has to spend with one's housemates. Tutor lunch, although it officially still exists, has become a thing of the past. At the peak time of around 1 o'clock it is hard enough to find a seat in Grant's dining hall at all, let alone one next to your tutor, and the teachers prefer to sit together. It increases the amount of sectionalism in the school, as each group of friends has lunch together each day of the week. Last year, the compulsory half hour that one had to spend was the only interaction that some members of the house would spend with their housemates, and this widened the sense of



Above:
College Hall Dining
– close up.

Left:
Grant's Dining Hall.

community around Westminster. If you were to ask pupils if they noticed a difference in the quality of food provided this year compared to last, then there is little reaction, the general perception being that the quality has stayed the same.

Although some aspects of the changes are not that popular among the school, it is a change that has been made for the better. Pupils still get to meet with their tutors regularly at Wednesday morning tutor periods, and house interaction is only ever going to be present if the house members combine to want it. I think that the increase in numbers at Westminster (this year's Sixth Form being the largest ever) has made these changes necessary and is only part of the school naturally evolving to suit present conditions.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL P.H.A.B.

PHAB 2005

In the run-up to Westminster's 30th anniversary hosting PHAB, Andy Johnson, the Westminster School organiser, looks back on the most recent event.

In 2005 Westminster School hosted its 29th Annual Phab (Physically-Handicapped Able-Bodied) course for a week in July. Phab is a fully residential course in which several of our Sixth-Formers live and work in School alongside a similar number of guests with various physical and/or mental disadvantages ranging from cerebral palsy through disabilities resultant from road traffic accidents to Down Syndrome. From a basis of little or no previous experience, our pupils act as residential carers as well as working in art, music, drama and film workshops with the guests – showing the output of those workshops in a public presentation at the end of the week. During the afternoons and evenings Phab organizes collective activities off-site for guests and hosts, ranging from a karaoke night to trips to West End shows, museums, the zoo, and much more besides. The week is physically and emotionally demanding but, as any participant will testify, also enormous fun. The community spirit that developed amongst guests, hosts and staff this year was superb; and the Sixth-Formers who participated were, from an organizer's point of view, impressively thoughtful, dedicated, successful and entertaining. I am delighted that so many have remained in contact with their new friends made on the course. I would like to express my thanks again to the School for continuing to support Westminster Phab, to my colleagues for giving of their time to help, and especially to the pupils who made the 29th Phab such a success. We are all looking forward to Phab's 30th birthday next summer.

Here, Izzy Finkel (AHH) offers a personal account of her participation in PHAB last year.

Peeing. Getting undressed. Wiping your bum. These activities rarely show up on the pages of this magazine, partly because it seems rude to discuss them, and partly because most of us see them as non-events that slip between the interstices of the other things that seem worth mentioning. As a group of 26 sixth-formers found out on the Westminster 'Phab' course over the summer holidays, for some people these basic activities are far from

ignorable. Getting them done requires not only lots of time but cooperation – you *have* to talk about them. So although it took the troupe 2 hours to get ready in the morning (in most cases a reflection of the hosts' hair-styling routine and not the guests' disability), working together on these things helped to break the ice and formed friendships faster than the formalised small talk we might be used to. As the laughs peeling down Wren's Corridor informed us, showers turn out to be much more fun when there are 4 of you. Personal hygiene was not all we had time for, however. Our days were jam packed with a huge range of trips and activities. In the morning, we split into groups for art, drama, film and music, and our efforts culminated in the jungle-themed Phab Show at the end of the week. In the afternoons, there was hardly time to breathe between a schedule that incorporated visits to The London Eye, Kew Gardens, Madame Tussauds, West-End shows, art galleries, shopping trips, Thames cruises, lounging in the park and hanging out in yard listening to one guest's new boom-box.

If any pupils joined Phab with the aim of doing something arduous and worthy to boost their CV they will have emerged disappointed. This is because Phab is genuinely good fun. This is not to say that you aren't given a new perspective on disability and your own life blessedly free from it; we were faced all the time with challenges that most people would never normally encounter. These were compounded by the problematic school buildings. "Disabled access" clearly meant very little to Christopher Wren (did he do the plans for College?), who we cursed on the nightly lift of wheel-chairs (occupant included) up 2 flights of stairs to bed. What stood out the most though, was the spirit of cooperation between the staff, the hosts and the guests. Throughout the week, Phab was full of such surprises, from the quality of Mr Ullathorne's Elvis impression to the fact that the guy communicating by tapping his head on a button connected to a computer was the one with the funniest one-liners. On leaving Phab you feel like you've left a cult because no-one quite understands the feelings of unity, exhilaration or the hilarious moments you've been sharing. Thinking back, the parallels to a cult are multiple because by the end, severe sleep deprivation is another feature of the course... But it must be said that even after having rejoined the real world, I'd still love to go back. Thanks to AJ and all the staff that took part, and best wishes to the lucky ones who'll be taking part in Westminster PHAB in its 30th anniversary year.

BIG COMMEN

The triennial celebration of the school's benefactors was watched this year by Michael Theodosiou (CC).

The commemoration of the benefactors of Westminster School is an event that takes place every year. However the 'Big Commem' we held this year is not an annual event. Only once every three years do we celebrate on such a grand scale, making it all the more an occasion when it is. Indeed it is possibly the largest event in the school calendar, the abbey at full capacity with students, parents, Old Westminsters, the entire Common Room and many others affiliated with the school. Furthermore it is an occasion of the highest ceremony, everyone in formal dress, with the highlight of the evening being the procession and placing of roses on the tomb of our most esteemed benefactor, Queen Elizabeth I. The procession comprises a number of acolytes, banner bearers and the Queen's Scholars, who chant psalms in Latin, which, in the darkened abbey evokes an atmosphere of great solemnity and a sense of the time in which the school was founded, bringing us closer to what we are celebrating.

This was my second experience of 'Big Commem' and, being closely involved in the rehearsal of the event as a sixth former rather than a fifth former, made me feel much more a part of the ceremony, instead of being over-awed by the abbey as many new Westminsters are. Furthermore, watching how seamlessly the ceremony was performed on the night was very rewarding after the long hours put into rehearsing. The presence of the new Headmaster also made the ceremony refreshingly different. It is an historic occasion not to be missed.

HOUSE SINGING 2005

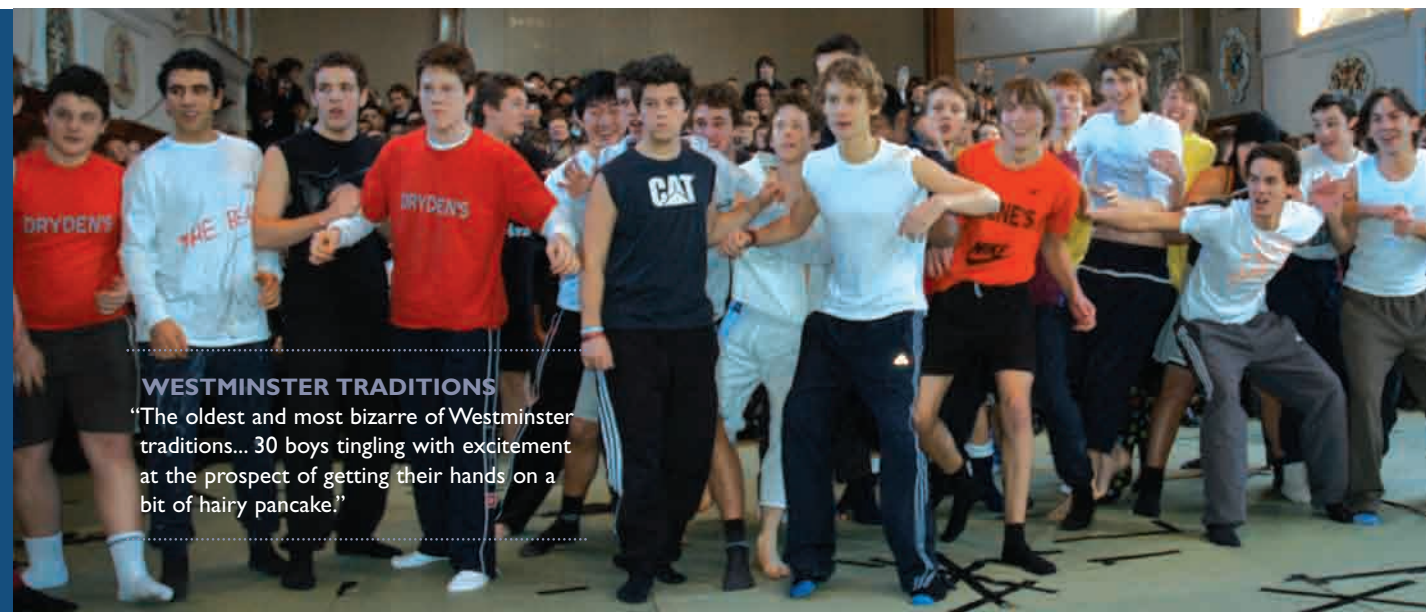
Max Ziemer (HH) enjoyed the dulcet tones of a select group of singers this year.

The first major school event under the new regime, House Singing is one of the biggest house events of the year and for years has caused even the most stubborn of Westminsters to feel some house pride. In previous years it must be admitted that the event could be described as disorganised, if not chaotic, but this year it was to be very different. Fitting 700 rowdy pupils Up School was a health and safety issue and the numbers had to be culled. Thus only six houses, as opposed to last year's eight, got through the preliminary rounds into the final event on the Monday night. Not only this, but unless your house was performing in the show, you would not be allowed to attend, another drastic measure to keep the numbers down. Overly controversial measures for some, but they were changes that had to be made. Worrying rumours were spreading through the school that 'House singing as we know and love it has been killed' and on that Monday evening everyone who had tickets entered Up School with a certain amount of trepidation.

Needless to say the event went off without a hitch. There was no blatant disregarding of fire safety regulations, yet at the same time the house chants and camaraderie maintained the spirit of the occasion. All the houses held their own, starting with Ashburnham, musically very good with Maroon 5's *'This Love'*. Busby's showed up in numbers and sang the Bee Gees' *'I'm a believer'* with great gusto, with special mention going to Joe Scantlebury for his solo performance during the second verse. He was so involved in the moment he seemed to forget there was an audience at all. Milne's sang *'Go West'* as an ensemble and College's *'Octopus's Garden'* was perhaps let down by the new rule stating that their Fifth form were not allowed to dress in drag, putting paid to another age-old tradition in the house. Purcell's were musically sound with *'Uptown Girl'* as well but lacked enthusiasm, due in part to their much smaller size in comparison to other houses. The best was definitely saved until last with Hakluyt's rendition of an Elvis classic *'A Little Less Conversation'* deservedly taking the top prize. The king of rock 'n roll would be proud. The winning song was then performed again, amidst the traditional jeers and protests from the runners-up (Ashburnham and Busby's) that they had been cheated.

All in all, the evening showed that just because an event is more organized and less dangerous does not mean it has to be any less fun.

Above: In Abbey.



WESTMINSTER TRADITIONS

"The oldest and most bizarre of Westminster traditions... 30 boys tingling with excitement at the prospect of getting their hands on a bit of hairy pancake."

ACTIVITIES: 2005 – 2006 SCHOOL YEAR

Above (top):
Showtime.
Photographed
by Jamie Stoker.

Right (top):
Summer fête.

Right (middle):
Taking a break in the
Yard. Photographed
by Ben Golden.

Right (bottom):
Iceland Trip.
Photographed
by Simon Wurr.

Far right (top):
Voga in Venice.
Photographed
by Joe Gross.

Far right (middle):
Rehearsals for the
Westminster School
Concert at St John's,
Smith Square.

Far right (bottom):
Camping on the Isle
of Skye as part of the
Duke of Edinburgh's
award scheme.



THE GREAZE

Max Ziemer (HH) is surprised not to discover enlightenment on a heaving ruck of fighting schoolboys.

Standing in the dungeons in February, waiting to be called up to participate in the oldest and most bizarre of Westminster traditions, were 30 boys tingling with excitement at the prospect of getting their hands on a bit of hairy pancake.

Trying to explain the tradition of the Greaze to a non-Westminster is generally greeted with strange looks. Why would schoolboys fight for a pancake made out of horse-hair? Having witnessed three previous Greaze's myself I was not sure I knew the answer. But this year I was a taking part in it and I was sure that I would soon know. Surprisingly, jumping onto a heaving ruck of fighting schoolboys does not represent the path to enlightenment. The only conclusion I can draw is that, apart from some masochistic tendencies, we do it for pride; pride at taking part in the oldest of school traditions, pride at being the champion, pride at earning the 'play' that is granted by the Dean (even though we seem to earn it every year, no matter what happens) and the chance to say in forty years time, when hopefully the Greaze remains alive and well, that I took part.

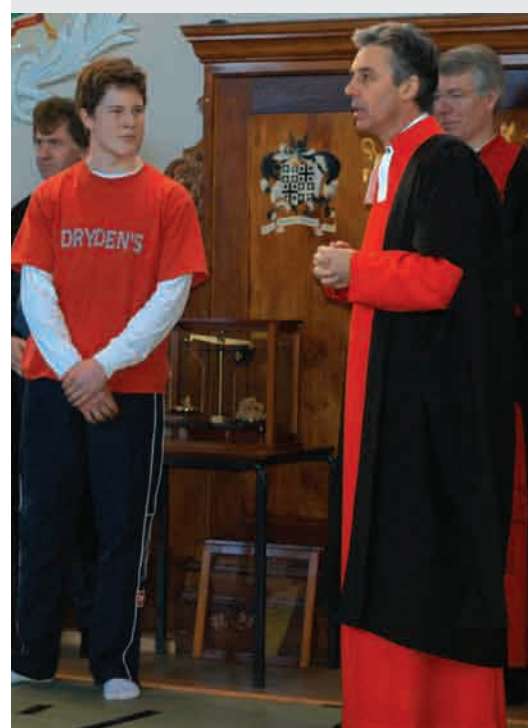
This year was a particularly bizarre year, as the pancake was captured early on, unbeknown to the majority of those involved. Thus the standard ruck ensued with everyone grabbing to get their part of the pancake, but there was nothing to grab for. The winner was Sebastian Bray of Dryden's Upper Shell, and he will no doubt treasure the experience, as I'm sure anyone who has seen the Greaze will, long after they leave Westminster.

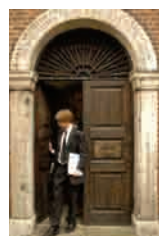
Above:
Participants limber up.

Left (top):
The tussle: boys
demolish the
'hairy pancake'.

Left (bottom):
The Head Master
announces the result.

Photographed by
Tom Henderson.





Above (top):
Mystery at the
Summer fête.

Above:
College door.

Below:
'Richard and Hugh'
photographed
by Jamie Stoker.

BUSBY'S

Second place in the House Singing, with *I'm a Believer*, was a welcome start to this year, setting the trend for a series of enthralling house events. Music was top of the list, with a concert showing that everyone in the house has something to offer: from well known pieces to our own less prolific composers. Mr Sproat, the new house tutor, did not delay in helping to ensure a smoothly run evening, although sadly declined to show us his own musical talents. Maybe next year, Aidan! As per usual, Busby's sporting prowess offered fierce competition all year round, winning second place in both the Bringsty Relays and the House Netball. The House Quiz Night certainly tickled the grey cells, raising over £700 for charity, and the paint-balling trip will not soon be forgotten. As always, Busby's was at the forefront of the drama scene with a promising house play in the pipelines for next term – any ideas welcome.



COLLEGE

As a new girl in the house this year the past two terms have been a wonderful way to experience the house's traditions and become part of its community. Being new can be a nerve-wracking experience but I found I was welcomed at once, both staff and pupils being constantly helpful and friendly. The College kitchen quickly became one of my favourite places to spend time (and not just because of the delicious cakes, Matron, who is also new this year, provided on birthdays). Being involved in House Singing at the beginning of the year was a good way to get to know my fellow house members and revealed hitherto unsuspected depths of house spirit, including a house chant, even if we didn't win!

The Queen's Scholars all played an important part in the Commemoration service this year, performing their Latin Psalms with precision and gusto. College takes an active part in all areas of life at Westminster, from sport, where we had the great success of winning the Bringsty Relay and participated enthusiastically in house netball and football, to charity where we held a very popular cake sale to raise money at the end of term.

Overall, this year has seen the College students continue to thrive in an atmosphere of intellectual stimulation and fun. We very much look forward to what next term brings: the line up includes house events such as our house concert.

GRANT'S

Beauty and truth are self evident. They need no coarse advertisement or exaggerated emphasis. So it is with Grant's. Of course, we could boast of our achievements in athletics (thanks to Tom Samuel), or our struggles on the football pitch (thanks to Nat Gordon), or our supremacy in both music and drama (thanks to Soumaya Keynes and Ben Vanderspar), but this would be to gild the lily or sweeten the nectar. The key note of Grant's is humility, humility topped by lashings of modesty. It is not for us to chant our praises or blow our trumpets. It is not for us to point to the envy of other Houses or remark upon their misfortunes. We Grantites are a simple folk who toil in our own field, achieving (almost by accident) spectacular academic results along the way. Of course, we know that every member of the School would like to come to Grant's but, though many are willing, few, alas, are chosen.

Next year, with the encouragement of the Housemaster and his sterling collection of House Tutors we hope to achieve even more. Ours is a constant striving towards perfection, both spiritual and intellectual. Never let it be said, of any Grantite, that she or he was smug or complacent. Bless each and every one us!

RIGAUD'S

The summer refurbishments have illuminated Rigaud's and made sure that the friendly aura of our yellow brick foundation has at last been mirrored on the inside. The subtle hues and shades of Mr Tompkins' refashioned House reflect the 'work hard, play hard' atmosphere and have at last brought Rigaud's into the next millennium. Change has come at a cost however with the departure of our delightful matron Mrs Amos, but it was a loss tempered by the arrival of Mrs McGoldrick, another cheery influence about the house. Indeed all this change has seemingly paid off for our seasoned athletes; spear-headed by the fives' grand master, Edward Miles, our house has at last found the riches so longed for. Victory in the House six-a-sides football competition saw Rigaud's finest peaking at just the right time; it also showed the quality of our youth ranks. In all likelihood the legacy will live on a few more years. The house netball team also managed to see off the competition to bring home a well deserved second trophy for the year: "*Ipsu Rasi*" friends. Sadly such success failed to carry into the House singing competition in which our solid rendition of the Queen classic 'Don't Stop Me Now' was not enough to defend the title. So, briefly a wounded animal, we then recovered and our musical prowess shone through in the impressive house concert. As always the house is looking to the future and the currently veiled exterior holds the promise of a new top-floor

flat as well as better boarders' quarters; more prosperity beckons. It becometh not Rigaud's to ignore the academic side of things, and with all hope the fine youth of our great establishment will do themselves justice come June. Godspeed.

MILNE'S

Not much silverware has come the way of Milne's this year, though with many competitions, including sports day, still to come that could change. However despite our lack of measurable success, our house spirit has been second to none (there should be a prize for that).

The year began with the House Walk from Richmond to Putney, a chance for the House to get to know each other, and House Singing. Again we failed to make the top three but the general consensus was that we should have 'been at least second. However our musical reputation was restored in February with the joint House concert with Ashburnham.

The Christmas term saw the biennial Milne's House Play which was both acted and directed by members of the House. This year three Chekhov comedies were produced, ably overseen by Mr. Hemsley-Brown – not least because some actors didn't know their lines three days before the first night. Christmas is also the time when Milne's sings puts on a Carol service for the local centre for the elderly.

Lead by Mr. Crole and despite being press-ganged into singing, the fifth form, along with several musical members of the Upper School were very well received by the residents.

Milne's has traditionally been strong in athletics and this year, while falling slightly below expectations, was no different: there was a strong performance in the Bringsty relay and the Towpath. There were also some mixed results in football: the team performed above expectations in the 6-a-side but below in the 12-a-side. Milne's also got through to the second round of the netball. There are many house events still to come, including the swimming and athletics.

And the Mumby Prize (for the person who tries the hardest for the House but never quite makes it) is still wide open...



Above:
Face painting at
the Summer fête.

Below:
Football.
Photographed
by Jamie Stoker.



LIDDELL'S

Through my fourth year at Westminster, I have come to appreciate what a truly *unique* house Liddell's is. I feel sure that hearing our efforts in the House Singing Competition would instantly confirm this to the most trenchant critic; I trust, by the way, that everyone realises that we just let Busby's (or whoever it was) win.

Our exploits in House Football showed fully our ability to play fairly; not much else, but definitely fairly. Most of the time. Nonetheless, heartiest congratulations to everyone who took part; just try and win next time, OK? Much the same situation seemed to arise in House Chess and House Debating – still, we can take some pride in the fact that so many people were on the Debating Team that no-one was up twice, except for Captain 'Scarlet' Jackson. So at least they're keen. In both the Bringsty Relays and the Towpath – well, we didn't come last. Forgive me if that seems rather more impressive than it actually is.

But we won the House Ergo Competition! Congratulations to all those who helped achieve this historic triumph, particularly Shahrazad Khan, Ed Winters-Ronaldson and Tom Boles (personally I've never heard of Ergo and have no idea what it is). In Drama we have continued to supply some of the school's hot talent, with Sofia Barclay, David Clare

and Julian Harvard-Barnes all acting their socks off in The New Season Revue, 'Pericles' and 'Danton's Death'.

Wrapping up as quickly as is humanly possible: may we extend our warmest thanks to our new Matron, Rosanne Morgan; we hope she will enjoy her time in the House (no, that's not a contradiction in terms).

So, come through the Looking Glass sometime, into the Wonderland that is Liddell's: we have a new banister on the staircase now!

WREN'S

What is Wren's? The would-be Backstreet Boys? The Inter-House Badminton Champions? Feltham's barmy army? College's foundations? The house that didn't come last in the Towpath? The guinea pig for the school's new electronic registration system? The thing is, none of these really do us justice. Wren's is the backbone of your Westminster experience. It's the place where the housemaster looks after your every interest, supports your every decision, but never really feels like a teacher. It's where your tutor invites you round for drinks and dinner at his house. It's where the remove play pool against the fifth form, the lower school outrun the upper school at the Towpath, a fifth former takes my rightful place on the football team, the upper shell and lower shell share a day room and all in the space of half a corridor. It's

where you can take part in any team, play in the house concert, act in the house play, just because you'd like to give it a go. It's where you grow up with a group of people that you've known ever since you went round a terrified circle introducing your name and favourite subject. I suppose what I am trying to say, is that it wasn't just the upper shell's poor falsettos that prevented us from showing you "the meaning of being lonely".

DRYDEN'S

This year was Dr. Boulton's first year in charge, and the house has continued to thrive. The House Play saw its return with a production of Peter Shaffer's "Black Comedy"; it was a stunning success, both nights sold out and fifty people were turned away on the second. For the fifth year running Dryden's "was robbed" at House Singing, but despite this setback, we rose up and excelled where it mattered most, with a crushing victory in the House Chess final against our arch-rivals, Wrens.

Along with the expected academic brilliance, Dryden's also shone on the sporting front. It has become one of my favourite pastimes to admire the gleaming silverware hoarded in Dr. Boulton's throne room. The house fives team successfully defended their title as champions, and the "Red Army" rose to the challenge, after a poor first

showing, to win the 6-a-side House Football Plate.

Dryden's exists in one of the smallest physical spaces within the school, but as a result the spirit in the house is quite special, and something the departing remove will greatly miss. I am sure the success of this year will continue and prove that size does not matter.

HAKLUYT'S

Writing about a subject so dauntingly amorphous as the house of Hakluyt's is a task of some delicacy. I might go as far as to say that even the esteemed Mr Kemball may not yet have discovered the full intricacy of the beast...

It would be churlish to dwell on its multifarious triumphs in the sporting arena; one comes to accept the unrelenting string of victories as an inexorable part of Hakluytian life: House Singing and the 11-a-side House Football tournament were both gleaming testaments to this fact. It would be even more churlish to omit any reference to the stunning 3rd place in the Bringsty Relay. The next highly anticipated events on the horizon are the Athletics Competition, along with the gladiatorial house concert on the 12th of May. But, in truth, success is a very small component of our identity.

It may be that a large part of the house's persona can be attributed

to its geography. An omniscient perspective of Little Dean's Yard from the comfort of one's day room makes one wonder why one should go out at all. Indeed, its convenient location contributes to the fact that it has arguably been the centre of the school's glittering social scene. Sadly, this illustrious position is intermittently undermined by the powers-that-be, who insist that only the elite Hakluytian fraternity be allowed to enjoy the space...

But in the end, the aforementioned considerations seem inadequate to encapsulate the essence of this particular house. Perhaps one of its most salient traits is how its members bear no identifiable brand. In some respects, Hakluyt's challenges the very notion of what it is to be a house by simultaneously failing and succeeding to shape its students after any ideals. The driving ethos seems to be to allow each individual to choose their own path in every aspect of their personal development. Talk to any Hakluytian, and you can be sure that they are a product of their own heuristic self-discovery: a wealth of idiosyncrasies, and finally, a fount of gratuitous grandiloquence.

PURCELL'S

This year has been very busy for Purcell's. The year started with qualifying for the finals of the house singing competition with Uptown Girl. Musically, Purcell's has been contributing in

all areas of the school, the choirs and the orchestra, as well as in 'A Little Night Music'. And there is still the Purcell's house soiree coming up which nearly every member of the house has signed up to perform in.

Purcelians don't just excel musically, we do consistently well in sporting events against other girls in the school. The Purcell's team did brilliantly in the House Ergo Competition and ran bravely in the Bringsty Relay, despite the fact that one member managed to split her knee open in the warm up before the race had started. Unluckily in house netball we encountered Busby's in the first round. We played well, but lost to Busby's after they scored first in sudden death. We definitely have high hopes for success in Sports day!

On Valentine's Day every year, the whole school digs into their pockets to buy a carnation for that special someone. The 'angels' of Purcell's deliver carnations with messages from friends, couples and secret admirers... this year, the carnations managed to raise over £700 to sponsor two orphans in Africa and give money to 'Alone in London'.

In September, Miss Tucker (the old College matron) came out of retirement to look after us Purcelians for the Play Term. At Christmas, she left to start a new life in Australia. We have been lucky enough to acquire a brilliant new matron, Mrs. White.



Above (top): 'Joe' photographed by Jamie Stoker.

Above: Burlington Arch (detail).



Above (top): 'Music'. Photographed by Nidal Al-Juzi.

Above: Basketball in Yard.



FUN RUN

On a bright Sunday in March, some 80 pupils and teachers donned their Fred Flinstone costumes and ballerina gear for the fourth annual fun run round London's central parks. Covering some 7 miles round St James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, the aim was to have fun, run and collect sums of money in sponsorship for two charities. Runners not only have to raise the sponsorship but to chase the money up afterwards. Twice as much running, in fact. Fastest time this year went to Tom Samuels (of course), while the jury is out on the best costume.



Above and right:
Fun Run
photographed by
Tom Harrison and
James Hooper.



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ICELAND TRIP

"We trekked through the National Park, our guide fondly informing us of how he killed his chickens, which starred in *Batman Begins*, filmed on this very glacier."

Above:
Iceland Trip.
Photographed
by Nick Maloney.

Left (top):
Mountaineering in
California. Photographed
by Ben Bonnerjea.

Left (bottom):
Paris Trip.
Photographed
by Jamie Stoker.



EASTER 6TH FORM SPANISH TRIP 2006

GRANADA

Over the Easter holidays, Mr Craft and his wife Angela – despite the paperwork imposed by the Health and Safety Executive – agreed to take ten members of the 6th Form to Granada in a quest to broaden their knowledge of the culture and language of Spain, reports Felix Grovit (BB).

We attended around 6 hours of Spanish oral classes per day at the *Don Quijote* Language School, conducted by Juan and Susana, both of whom were great fun and probably deserve medals for coping with Alfred Enoch.

However the trip wasn't all about work and Granada is a great place for cultural and historical outings and activities. One Saturday we followed the *Ruta Lorquiana*, a series of visits to sites in and around Granada where the Spanish poet and playwright Federico García Lorca lived and worked; we also visited the house of his birth in Fuente Vaqueros on the outskirts of the city. Following this, we made a trip to the town of Santa Fe where Queen Isabella of Castile and King Ferdinand of Aragon famously negotiated with Christopher Columbus in his attempts to raise money for the voyage during which he would discover America.

Of course, no trip to Granada is complete without a visit to the former Moorish stronghold, the *Palacio de la Alhambra*: the panoramic views over Granada from the tower tops of the military section made the gruelling uphill hike well worth our while; the tours through the old Arab palace, The Court of Lions and the gardens of the *Generalife* were among the highlights of our visit.

We were lucky enough to discover Granada during *Semana Santa*, the holy week preceding Easter which, as in many parts of Spain, is celebrated by long processions consisting of *penitentes* – men and women dressed in long flowing robes wearing tall, pointed hats covering their faces: the most famous of these is the *silencio* in which Christ's crucifixion is depicted, accompanied by a procession of penitents with chains around their ankles,

following on in absolute silence, the only sound being the scraping of the chains on the pavement. It was a real spectacle for all who witnessed the event, even if the resulting congestion on the roads meant that getting back home for our 10:15pm curfew was impossible!

We enjoyed many different leisure activities, such as Spanish singing lessons during which we were introduced to classics such as *¡Que viva España!* and *La Bamba*, as well as the less conventional *Rock de la cárcel* – the Spanish version of Jailhouse Rock. Flamenco lessons with the lilliputian Carmen were a real highlight too, confirming that all Westminster boys have two left feet. We even took time out from classes to spend a day on the *Costa Tropical*, working on our suntans. Another memorable event was the football match between Granada CF and some other nonentity, both teams demonstrating why they were in the Spanish 3rd Division; the introduction of proper English football fans was greatly appreciated by the local Spanish supporters – all thirty of them – who turned to us to spur on the home side to achieve an undeserved 1–0 victory.

This visit was a real success – fantastic for improving our knowledge of Spanish language and culture but great fun too! Special thanks to Katherine and Harriet for being so entertaining, to Carlos Fain-Binda for his unforgettable impressions and, of course, to Mr and Mrs Craft for the wonderful overall experience!



UPPER SHELL GREEK TRIP

CHIOS

11 Upper Shells boarded the Olympic sewing machine for a 25-minute hop to Chios for the Greek Study Trip in April, writes Alexander Guttenplan (BB).

With us were Mr and Mrs Low, Mr and Mrs Sharp and David Low, who has the best acquaintance with the classics of any three-year-old I know. The profusion of Cheadles at the table betrayed what would happen on our first full day – the dreaded Chios Trip Mornings!

It starts at 8 am. This seems tolerably late, but it is not when you have been up revising/watching TV until 1 the previous night, and jetlagged on top of that. The early morning call caused me to leap six inches into the air, despite being horizontal and half-asleep. After being exhorted to get out of bed by Mrs Low, we went down to do last-minute revision over a hotel breakfast of everything from yoghurt to halva – in other words, sugared cement.

Then, it was time for the Cheadle test. It was a struggle to even stay awake, let alone answer the questions. Despite this, Yohan Sanmugam managed to only drop three marks over the entire trip. Others simply slept through it.

The rest of the morning was spent doing a barrage of unseens, divided into two groups by everything from hair length to most embarrassing middle name. I have been ordered on pain of death not to reveal Yohan's. We got through an average of 3 a morning, before going off for lunch and recreation at various sites. These ranged from the beach, to the mediaeval villages of Pyrgi and Mesta or "Homer's Stone" at Daskalopetra, where the teachers told us about the Roman ban on castrating oneself in public. Then, it was back to the hotel for a rest, followed by a Set Texts period before supper, and bowling afterwards at the Chios Bowling Club, where Andrew got strikes almost as often as he hit the ceiling.

"The teachers told us about the Roman ban on castrating oneself in public."

We got back around 11, and spent an hour or so revising Cheadle, watching films (the number of words from Lord of the Rings that are in the vocab list are astounding) and receiving prank calls from Ian Bott – until I scared him off by pretending to be a Greek businessman. The next morning, it was up again for more of the same.

Our final day passed slightly differently. We worked in the morning, but then, after a trip to the beach – where Alex Gilbert trod on a scorpionfish but didn't die – we visited the house of one of the taxi drivers for tea (minus Alex, who was in the emergency room of the Chios hospital) and a football match. We then packed, ready to go back knowing a lot more Greek.

The trip to Chios is highly recommended, and I would like to thank the adults who accompanied us, the taxi drivers – for driving, conversation, tea, and a lesson on Mastic farming – and John Chandris OW, who lets the group stay for free in his hotel each year.

Above: Chios. Photographed by Ralph Burton.



Above:
Pupils on the Munich
trip. Photographed
by Bella Sanders.

STUDENT EXCHANGE MUNICH

Ellie Buchdahl (CC) enjoyed her exchange trip so much, she almost forgot her native language, she claims.

As the plane left Munich Airport, I could scarcely believe that our four weeks in July in Germany were over. January seemed such a long time ago, when I had crept into Yard along with the other twelve members of the exchange group, surreptitiously cramming a biscuit into my mouth as everyone nervously wondered what the group from Munich would be like. “Hi, are you Ellie? I’m Tamy?” said a voice in embarrassingly perfect English, and I met my exchange partner. After a few uncomfortable silences in the first few minutes, we soon got onto a topic we could both discuss – odd relatives – and from then on we got on extremely well.

The Munich students had different programmes they followed each day, usually accompanying us to the first couple of lessons of the day, then going on day trips to London sights in the afternoon. They had a programme during our Exeat too, and needless to say some Westminsters tagged along occasionally. The worries about having to ‘put up with’ my German exchange for four weeks quickly melted away as we had a great time, sightseeing and shopping during the day and going out with the exchange group at night. When the time came for Tamy and the others to leave, I found myself looking forward to Munich in the summer...

And when summer came... in the mornings we cycled to school with our exchange partners and, after finding a spot somewhere amidst the mass of bikes where we could park ours and hopefully find them again, joined them for the first few lessons. As it was the end of their summer term, these were mostly quite relaxed, although we still had the bizarre experience of going to an English lesson (where they were reading a mixture of John Grisham thrillers and Frankenstein), as well as discovering that the school taught humanities subjects in English, so we had no excuse for embarrassing ourselves in (ahem) Geography for example. After ‘*Brotzeit*’ (break – their school shop sold pizza slices!) we had les-

sons with our teachers from England, where we studied German books or discussed any language problems. After this we either had the afternoon with our exchange partners – yes, German schools finish at one o’clock – or set off on our own day trips.

I could go on, but for the sake of the Editor’s word limit, here are just a few highlights from the Munich exchange:

- Cycling from Linderhof to Oberammergau and back again. Breathtaking scenery, a gorgeous palace, delicious food on the way.
- Dachau concentration camp: certainly the most poignant place we visited. The horror of the grey bleakness could only be ‘softened’ (for want of a better word) by the obvious effort the people of Dachau town had made to come to terms with their past.
- Travelling up the Zugspitze by cable-car and standing on the highest point in Germany.
- A day spent visiting the sights of Nuremberg, including the castle and the old town jail, and a visit to Salzburg in Austria, the birthplace of Mozart.
- Being in the audience for Mozart’s *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* at the Staatsoper in Munich.
- The medieval festivals in Kaltenberg and Burghausen and the Gemmering Volksfest – with all the drinking involved (of orange juice, naturally).
- The culinary delights: *Bretze* (giant pretzels), *Obatzda* (creamy cheese), *Spezi* (a mixture of coca-cola and fanta), *Schweinhälke* (a vast piece of pork), and of course the ubiquitous *Wurst*, from which the great Bavarian expression ‘*Das ist mir Wurst*’ (I really, really don’t care) originates. It’s a sausage, by the way.
- The lake parties and visits to *Biergärten*, involving some highly intelligent and philosophical conversations about milk – is it a food or a drink?
- And of course, that incredible moment when you realise that you are ordering in a restaurant or chatting to your exchange, and it suddenly dawns on you that you had forgotten you were speaking another language. Well, almost.

THRILLS AND SPILLS IN ICELAND

Khushaal Ved (CC) finds heat and light in the ups and downs of a Lower Shell trip to Iceland.

The in-flight magazine’s description of icecaps and barren landscapes made Iceland sound rather dull. But swimming in heated geothermal powered swimming pools, climbing glaciers, flying light aeroplanes to volcanically active regions and gazing in awe at towering waterfalls were just some of the things that changed my mind. Iceland’s total population is just 290,000, but it is scarcely smaller than England. Its location, perched on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, has made it a tourist hive, with approximately the same number of visitors as inhabitants.

Shortly after arriving, we visited the Blue Lagoon, a mere taster of Iceland’s tectonic activity: a swimming pool heated by a geothermal power station, where the temperature can reach 55°C, whilst the air temperature is just above freezing. Later, we left to see what Mr. Wurr referred to as “a cinema” to watch an action-packed film. In reality, the evening was spent watching a two-hour film on Iceland’s volcanic eruptions in someone’s shed.

Over the next two days we travelled on Highway One, a road that circles the whole of Iceland, where we barely saw a car and there were no traffic lights. We were accompanied by Siddi, our tour guide, who had the uncanny knack of interrupting Mr. Maloney or Mr. Wurr in his thick Icelandic accent whenever they spoke. We saw Geysir, the original geyser, in an area of vibrant boiling, blue-green tinged water where one pupil persisted in getting wet when the only non-dormant geyser, Strokkur, erupted, which it does only every 7 to 10 minutes.

Thingvellir, our next stop, was the ancient parliament site where one can see the Eurasian Plate and the American Plate, the two diverging tectonic plates. We then visited Gullfoss, a waterfall of outstanding beauty and also flew out to Heimaey, the only inhabited Westmann Islands. We took a light aeroplane to the site and drove up Helgafell, with craters of rich browns and reds, where if one dug deep enough, you could still feel

the heat. On the return journey we were also able to see Surtsey, the newest island in the world created by the eruption there in 1968.

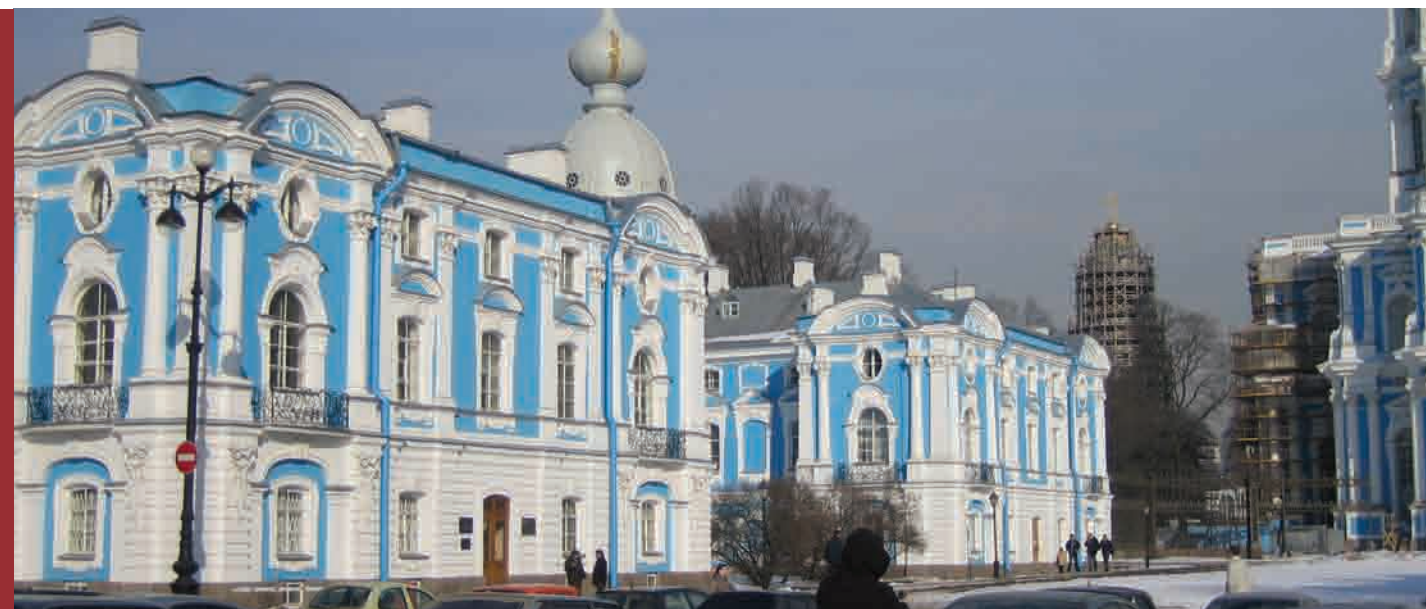
After continuing our journey eastward, we arrived at Skaftafell National Park, which is within walking distance of Skeidarjökull, an area prone to the rapid melting of ice into fresh water. We trekked through the National Park, our guide fondly informing us of how he killed his chickens, which starred in *Batman Begins*, filmed on this very glacier. We reached Jökulsárlón, 400km from Reykjavik and the location for the ice-chase in the James Bond film, “*Die Another Day*.” On the inland side of the lagoon are glaciers so large they stretch off and fill the horizon to every side. Where the glaciers meet the lagoon, they break off into giant icebergs which fill the lake with bizarre shapes.

To conclude our trip eastward before we headed back to Reykjavik, we visited Solheimajökull glacier, which was the only glacier we were allowed to climb up onto. We all trod carefully with the exception of Francis Jagger whose expertise in slipping and sliding (with the odd bit of running) down the glacier resulted in Mr. Wurr securing him a cross country spot for the season. That night there was a quiz where we found out about Mr. Maloney’s choral days, Mr. Wurr’s footballing talent, and, to everyone’s amazement, that Mr. Tocknell was born in Dorset and moonlights as a plumber.

The trip provided stunning lunar landscapes, comic moments and a greater understanding of the forces of nature. Thanks go to Mr. Wurr for organising the trip, Mr. Maloney for his witty one liners, Mr. Tocknell and the great woman behind him, Mrs. Tocknell.



Above (top):
Iceland Trip.
Photographed
by Nick Maloney.



CULTURE NEW YORK

In the October half term, around forty members of the Upper School went on a 'cultural trip' to New York city, writes Max Ziemer (HH).

'Cultural' is an apt a name for this trip as New York is packed with it. Apart from the numerous trips to museums, just walking around the city during our 'shopping time' or going out to lunch one could not help but pick up some culture of one kind or another.

On our first day in the Big Apple we were bundled, bleary-eyed and jet-lagged, into a coach to go on a tour of film and TV locations in 'the most-filmed city in the world.' Seeing such sights as the Plaza Hotel, Central Park, the 50's diner *Moondance* and the apartment building from *Friends* really gave us a feel of the city and enabled us to find our way around for the rest of the week. After lunch, a trip to the Museum of Modern Art was on the cards where we looked at masterpieces such as Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger* and Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. That evening we climbed (not literally) the Empire State Building for a magnificent view of the city at night.

Above:
New York
streetscape.
Photographed
by Sophie Clarke.



Each evening we had a group activity to attend. One night we went to see *Aida* at the Metropolitan Opera house. This four-hour epic Verdi masterpiece gave us a real taste of the high culture on offer in New York and we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Personal highlights included taking the metro to Little Italy one lunchtime, stumbling across an authentic Italian restaurant and enjoying the part of New York that not everyone gets to visit; playing '3 on 3' American football against some tourists from Leipzig in Central Park; and finally, ice-skating at the Rockefeller Centre.

For our last night all the boys turned out in their suits and the girls in their evening dresses for our night-time dinner cruise around Manhattan. The food was delicious, and after dinner we went upstairs onto the deck of the yacht just in time to view our approach to Liberty Island, lit up against a starless sky. After taking our fill of the New York sky-line we returned to the dining hall, where we took to the dance floor until we returned to the harbour.

Seeing great museums like the Guggenheim and the Metropolitan was an amazing experience and I am glad that we took the time to do so. New York has such a huge wealth and variety of experience jammed into one small island that I felt the five days we spent there were not nearly enough, but our mixture of cultural trips combined with free time for shopping and exploring left me feeling that I knew the city quite well. For the first time in my life I truly understood the meaning of the phrase 'culture shock' and on the plane home, apart from being exhausted, I felt upset to be leaving, though relieved to be leaving all the hustle and bustle. Many thanks to all the teachers who accompanied us and kept us safe, Dr Cockburn, Mr Stokes, Mr Tompkins and Mrs Sumner-Fergusson.

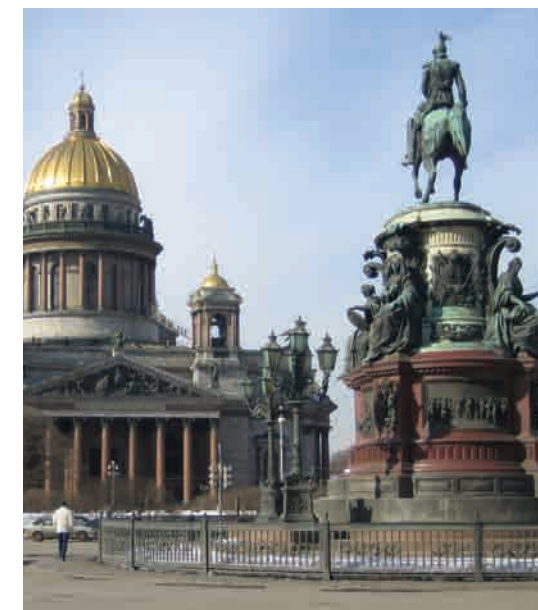
UPPER SHELL IN RUSSIA

On entering St Petersburg I was disappointed by its similarity to any modern, affluent city; on exploring I found that Russian society is far more foreign and interesting than that first impression, writes Guy Arnold (MM).

For example, a man in the street swigging from a bottle of vodka was neither an uncommon nor socially unacceptable occurrence. The average Russian conduct revolves around the idea of the ends justifying the means, especially in the case of driving.

Our hotel was 20 minutes from the centre of the city and driving from suburb to centre the contrast was marked; it was not dissimilar from travelling between time periods, firstly from the efficient and monotonous soviet-era slums and then to the opulent Tsarist Palaces of the city centre. Our first visit was to the Peter and Paul fortress and the final resting place of Tsar Nicholas II and his family (along with many of the other Romanovs). After being assailed by street vendors we went to the Battleship *Aurora*, one of the lasting symbols of the October revolution, whose guns brought about a change in the world order. Certainly the most striking place we visited was the Hermitage; it was not only the vast size of the collection that added to its magnificence (it is said to take 25 years to view every piece in the collection) but it also showed the extravagance of the tsarist era in the quantity of gold present in each of the rooms. This opulence was also apparent at Catherine's Palace the pinnacle of which was the Amber Room, consisting solely of intricately decorated panels of amber. Perhaps the most striking impression of our trip to St Petersburg was the knowledge of the giant sacrifice made by the citizens of St Petersburg in surviving the Siege laid upon them by the Germans during the Second World War. Indeed they believe, probably rightly, that the resilience shown by Russia's population during the war was the key factor in Hitler's defeat.

Moscow was less impressive: the influence of the west was apparent throughout the city, partly from the number of McDonalds. Nevertheless the Kremlin was



Above: Smolny
Left: St Isaac's
in St Petersburg.
Photographed
by David Ellard.

"The most striking impression of our trip to St Petersburg was the knowledge of the giant sacrifice made by the citizens of St Petersburg in surviving the Siege laid upon them by the Germans during the Second World War."

very impressive and marking the route of the Red Army across Red Square was particularly awe-inspiring. Moscow was less of a catalogue of Russian history than St Petersburg, despite being the older and arguably more Russian of the two Cities. It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip and recommended to all.



A FEW DEGREES OF SUFFERING SIENA TO ROME WALK

By Theo Peterson (OWW).

When we were offered the chance to undertake a long hot walk through an antique landscape, it was difficult to comprehend fully what it would involve to walk from Siena to Rome. Someone pointed out that the 180 miles separating the two cities constituted a journey roughly equivalent to that from London to York, which was somehow a little disappointing: this seemed positively lazy. It was equally depressing, as we tramped along interminable Tuscan roads, to be repeatedly reminded by road signs that one can drive the distance in a matter of hours. Nevertheless, on foot at least, it is a long way from Siena to Rome. A very long way.

Just as it was difficult to conceive of how far we were intending to walk, so it was almost impossible, as one tried on new walking boots in the comfort of a London shop, to imagine the suffering we would endure before we set eyes on Rome. Certainly we had equipped ourselves well, as instructed: solid footwear, lightweight rucksacks, blister plasters coming out of our ears. But though this catalogue of precautionary measures should perhaps have warned us what was to come, enthusiasm reigned as we piled into the jeep to the airport, tempered only slightly by the fact that it was quarter to four in the morning.

Despite the early hour we were able to stay awake long enough to meet the pupils from Lancing and Oundle who would be walking with us, and to board the plane. Siena, where we would begin our endeavour, proved to be absolutely beautiful, particularly the central *campo*. More importantly, it was here we encountered our first taste of the sort of food (or rather, the sort of quantities) that we would be eating for the next two weeks. Suffice to say that each evening meal must have been responsible for weighing us down almost as much as our packs. Course followed course until we lost count, but naturally the food (and the accompanying wine) was far too delicious to contemplate giving up.

Only the pig's cartilage in Rome offered us slight pause from the gastronomic onslaught.

Fortunately we were not deprived of opportunities to walk off such excesses. On the first night we were taken to a vantage point in Siena and shown our immediate target, Monte Amiata, a shade under 6000ft. At the time it looked impossibly distant, but within three days we found ourselves on its lower slopes gazing up into the clouds. That day was noted in the itinerary as '*dies irae, dies illa*' (which roughly translates as 'Gosh, a mountain.'). and it was a fairly horrendous ascent. The way down, on the other hand, was one of the best points of the trip, involving a very steep walk down a heavily wooded (and thus heavily shaded) slope. The fact that this day was followed immediately by one during which we covered 23 miles meant that we were thoroughly ready for our rest stop in Montefiascone. If I remember correctly we scarcely left our extremely luxurious hotel room except for dinner. To be honest it was only out of politeness that we did not simply order room service.

From there it was a 'mere' four more days' walking to our destination. The sight of Rome from the slopes of Monte Mario, shrouded in early-morning mist, was one of the most beautiful imaginable, made all the more enjoyable by the sense of achievement that accompanied it. Four nights in Rome itself provided many further delights.

In all, it was a fantastic trip: gorgeous countryside (littered with historical curiosities, including the church which, legend has it, contains Charlemagne's heart), near-perfect weather, exquisite food, the chance to meet new people, as well as countless anecdotes from our leader, Timothy Watson, for the most part revolving around the exploits of the adults on the trip he ran in October (most notably the man in his sixties who came accompanied by a lady less than half his age, whom he later revealed to be his son's wife). I would urge anyone to go – but with a steady supply of blister plasters.

TRIP EXTRAORDINAIRE PARIS

History of Art revision trip to Paris was a highly educational and thoroughly absorbing experience, write Meng-Yun Wang (PP) and Ted Marcus (DD).

The successive trips to some of the world's most renowned galleries were scintillating in the extreme and somewhat exhausting. The Louvre provided the group with an extensive insight into both classical art and the more modern Romantic works of David, Gericault, Delacroix and others.

Equally thrilling was the Musée D'Orsay, which housed some exquisite creations by the sculptor Rodin, whose house we also visited, and some significant Impressionist works as well. Nipping out for lunch that day, we found a charming *brasserie* which served a delectable *steak tartare*. There were many other sublime café experiences, and we eagerly relived the heady days of 19th century Parisian café culture which gave rise to many of the paintings we studied on the trip.

In the evenings we sat down to lovely helpings of AS mock exams, which were but Baudelairean moments, fleeting yet critical. Members of the group found, often to their surprise, that friendships were rekindled, and some created. Away from the social battleground that is Yard, Art Historians were free to interact with their colleagues in a way that was unrestricted by the structure of a school day.

The agenda of learning coupled with the ravishing environs of Paris provided us with at least a basic confidence for our upcoming exams if not also some memorable life experiences, an unusual commodity in the life of a Westminster student.

Daunting though the prospect of spending three days traipsing around museums may be, there can be no doubt that the experience was both immensely enjoyable and exceedingly useful in an academic sense.

2006 TRIP FLORENCE

There we stood, admits Andrew Naughtie (GG), glinting in the afternoon sun at Stansted airport. Something didn't feel right. This was art history... but not as we knew it.

Make no mistake – the Florence trip is a liberating experience, even in the context of the school expeditions an average Westminster pupil experiences. This is quite simply because it's not actually anything to do with the school. Granted, they sign you up to it, and woe betide the maggot that might try and writhe its way out illegitimately (foolish worm!), but once you're there, treading the ancient stones that pave the artiest city in Europe, it really doesn't feel like school at all. And it's not. It is in fact run by the sterling folks at Art History Abroad, whose AHA acronym reflects something of the revelatory experience this trip was. Four solid days immersed in the Florentine Renaissance, one of the most vital building blocks of modern artistic culture, is enough to turn anyone's head inside out, give the inside a good polish, and flip it back the right way round again.

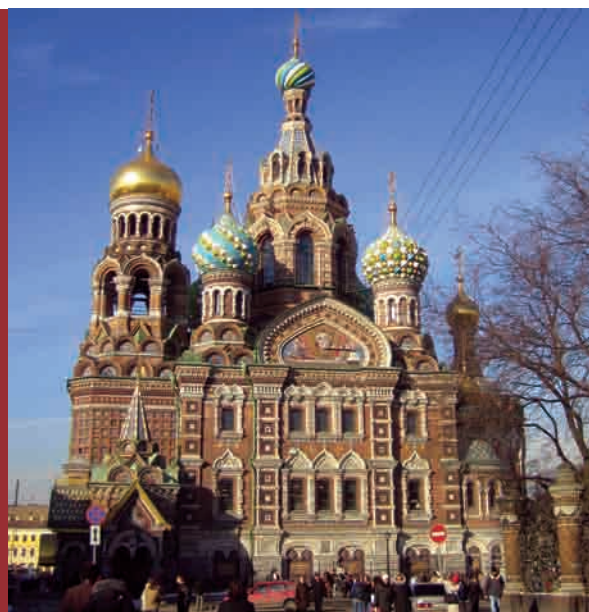
In the company of shiny new staff members Caroline Brooke and Teehan Page, we were introduced, time after time, hour after hour, and gasp after gasp, to the mighty cathedrals of Brunelleschi and Alberti, the glorious sculptures of Donatello and Ghiberti, and the radiant paintings of Botticelli and Masaccio. It is a true measure of the trip's success that there was enough time to cover the academic ground we did as well as to experience the spring-pure joy of free time in Florence – not to mention the splendid night of be-bopping, shape-throwing bounce we enjoyed at Club Andromeda, the hottest nightclub in town.

As with all great expeditions, the learning stretched beyond the syllabus itself. Personal and group truths would certainly have been read on the mystic tarot which deemed our group united. Who knew, for instance, that Ms Brooke considers Michelangelo's works to be "sex on toast"? That there is a shop in Stansted airport with the dubious name of "Lovejuice"? Or that...No. Enough. To continue would be to miss the point. Florence was a perfect trip for the Remove year – balancing challenging academic concepts with a flattering degree of independence and combining industrial-strength teaching with the soulful, warming atmosphere of an evening round the campfire. And though we sang the songs of the Medici rather than the Carpenters, and dined on pasta rather than barbecued forest rat, on our dawn-time return to Stansted we certainly all carried a torch from that campfire within us – a torch which will still be hot enough lightly to singe our exam papers in late June.

Above:
Outside the Louvre,
Paris. Photographed
by Jamie Stoker.



Above:
Siena to Rome trip.
Photographed by
John Berkeley.



SIXTH-FORM TRIP RUSSIA

We were greeted and hustled into flats like old friends by our respective Russian families, writes Daniel Grant Smith (DD) about the St Petersburg trip at Easter.

Although at first the language barrier proved a problem, we soon uncovered (in true British style) a mutual interest in the weather, and from there the conversation started to flow. We were thrust into a Russian school for the first of many lessons under the tutelage of Diana, our teacher, and Yuri, our course's charismatic organiser, who amazed us with his flawless guitar skills and his encyclopaedic knowledge of anything The Beatles had ever done. The highpoint of the experience was being pushed into a schoolroom full of bored Russian students and asked to talk. If that doesn't get you speaking Russian, then nothing will.

We soon realised that Russia is so endearing because of its sheer eccentricity: whether it is elderly women built like tanks, calmly barging onto trains while everyone stumbles around in their wake; a production of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* where half the set from the previous scene is left on stage for the opera's climax; or simply a DJ called MC Bulgakov: it all presents a feeling of character at the heart of such a big city.

But the real stars of Russia are the architecture and the culture. Being able to walk out of your house into streets that seem barely changed from the times of Peter the Great, and seeing the Winter Palace bathed in snow is an amazing feeling, one I'm sure none of us will ever forget. Our huge thanks go to Dr and Mrs Aplin for taking us to experience it all, and making sure the trip went smoothly and without lasting damage.

FINNISH ICE MARATHON FINLAND

Westminster students Konrad Wagstyl (HH) and Sam Burdell (MM), and Head of PE, David Riches, travelled to Finland during Exeat to participate in The Finland Ice Marathon, a 25 kilometre race on Lake Kallavesi, Kuopio.

Kuopio boasts a long tradition as an ice-skating city. Every winter the world's best marathon skaters gather in Kuopio to compete against each other on the natural ice track on Lake Kallavesi. The Finland Ice Marathon, arranged since 1984, also attracts thousands of recreational skaters as well as a large audience, who can enjoy a varied programme of entertainment on the lake.

After just a single day of training and no previous experience, the boys took to their skates and, defeating windy conditions, completed two 12.5km laps to secure 39th and 41st place. In addition to the students' triumph, David Riches stormed into first place, beating seasoned Scandinavian favourites to win the race using a kicksled.

The boys chose to use funds raised through sponsorship to support the work of the Princess Alice Hospice. The Hospice provides palliative care for terminally ill patients and also offers help and advice to friends and their families.

This article first appeared on The Westminster Newsletter website. Reproduced by permission.

SURPRISED BY RAIN IN LOCH EIL

Last September Sammy Talalay (HH) went on an outward bound course in Loch Eil for Expeditions and survived the wind and the rain to report back, clutching his certificate. Only fragments of his account remain...

The next morning, we had planned, or, more accurately, we had had planned for us, a camping expedition. It took us about two hours to assemble all the necessary gear which we required for the excursion, but once we had filled our rucksacks to the brim, I felt a sudden affinity with Quasimodo. We were grateful, therefore, when the minibus drove us away. This gratitude was short lived.

The minibus stopped after about forty minutes and we were dropped off by a track. Assuming we were virtually there, there was an air of contentment amongst the group. Steve, our instructor, then asked us to calculate distances to places and the time it would take if we maintained a steady speed. Those who failed to answer, mostly due to lack of attention, he would single out, as if swatting flies for his own entertainment.

Ten minutes later, when we had deciphered that there were still Six Kilometres and Three Hundred Metres to contend with, everyone seemed a little bit despondent. We were dropped off by the minibus and set off on a long hike. At first it wasn't too bad, following the track of flattened grass, but slowly, as the fickle sunshine waned, and rain began to flick down ominously, the hike became increasingly tough. Unequivocally, the Scottish countryside is beautiful – but I can say from experience that you appreciate these things less when there's a heavy weight boring into both of your shoulders. Not one person, by the time we arrived at our

remote destination, did not have some form of shoulder or back ache. But we did get there, and to celebrate our arrival, we set up our tents in the rain. Thankfully, Steve said he would set one group's tent up for them – thankfully, that was mine. However, we (I didn't get a tent to myself) were obliged to help others with their tents.

Once they had all been erected, we tried to make dinner. Note the careful wording of that last sentence. I would liken dinner that night to an over-salted, soggy bowl of stale dog food; however, we were all thankful for the food... ah, who am I kidding? It was possibly the most revolting thing I've ever tasted.

The next morning, after a rain-soaked night there was a strong incentive to get back quickly, despite the drizzle and the heavy packs combined with the poor sleep of the night before, not making for a pleasant return journey. We walked a different way, but it was still six miles back to the centre. On returning, there was a universal sentiment of thanks. We expected to see the other half of our group nearby, as they had, up until now, been better organized than us, but when, over an hour later, long after we had completed the laborious task of cleaning and putting away, we saw them peering despondently through the windows of their minibus, I must admit I felt a small surge of glee.

Soon after, when we had been given certificates, certifying our attendance at the outward bound course in Loch Eil (my heart swells as I clutch it now), we got onto the coach which then took us back to Inverness station.



Above (top): Church of the Spilt Blood in St Petersburg. Photographed by David Ellard.

Right: The Finnish Ice Marathon. Photographed by David Riches.



Above (top): Paintball victors.

Above: Paintball challengers.

Below: Outdoor drama: the Creative Arts Expedition 2005.

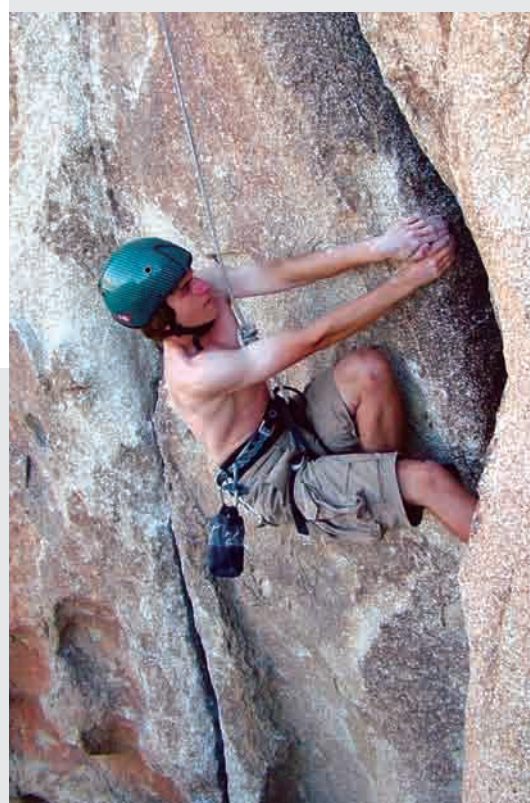


MOUNTAINEERING AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH SKYE

18 pupils of various years set off from Dean's Yard to join the overnight train to Inverness, a luxurious way of travelling North of the Border for this year's annual expedition to the Isle of Skye, writes CJRU.

The rain fell steadily throughout most of the week, but this did not deter the team, who were in two groups for the expedition, one climbing and attempting more technical mountaineering, the other concentrating on walking, camping and learning skills relevant to the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

The Cuillin mountains in Skye really are the most exciting and possibly finest looking in the whole country. The snow adds to their grandeur, and the scenery for our trip could not have been better. There is a great sense of wilderness on Skye, and the air is clear and pure. Peaks were bagged, tents were slept in, climbing routes were scaled and haggis was eaten. The group returned tired but happy, having battled the elements, and there was a real sense of having removed some of the London stress from our shoulders.



Above and far right (top): Climbing during the annual expedition to the Isle of Skye. Photographed by Ben Bonnerjea and Martin Boulton.

Right: Ullswater Duke of Edinburgh. Photographed by Simon Hawken.

Far right (bottom): Mountaineering in California. Photographed by Ben Bonnerjea.



"When we weren't on the streets and beaches of Swansea, we were 'chillin' out, maxin', relaxin', all cool' on the university campus."

BRINGING GEOGRAPHY TO LIFE SWANSEA

Working from 9am to 9pm doing revision, carrying out and writing up fieldwork; the five day Sixth Form trip to Swansea was not the most attractive feature looming on our Lent term almanacks, whispers Toby Thomas (LL).

The locals provided mixed reactions to our persistent questioning – having bumped into the second pair of Westminster geographers one interviewee asked if we were from the same school as those ***** posh ***** kids he met earlier, while another elderly local didn't hesitate to offer a cordial cup of tea. Indeed, beverage-serving establishments featured prominently in our *modus vivendi*. The main purpose of the trip was an extensive study of sand dunes, which we undertook in some technological tents.

When we weren't on the streets and beaches of Swansea, we were "chillin' out, maxin', relaxin', all cool" on the university campus. The lift broke down, the student bar was closed and it rained, but this did little to dampen the spirits of our enthusiastic group.

By the end of the trip we had got close to completing our coursework, sampled all four local pizza delivery services and honed our geographical skills to the extent that Krystyna Kosciuszko described the trip as "bringing geography to life". And all in that academic spirit of infamous 'self-confessed intellectuals'. Many thanks to CH, SDW and RRH for giving up the first week of their holidays for this essential experience.

Above: Honing geographical skills. Photographs by Simon Wurr.



Above and right:
The Lake District.
Photographed by
James Hooper.

THE CLASSICAL REMOVE TAKE ON ALSTON

Hannah Grayson of Grey Coats School writes about a joint residential course with the Westminster Classics Department.

One week. Three teachers. Ten students. A big house. One book of Latin and Greek unseen each. How else would one choose to spend EXEAT? As we (the 'Classical Remove' as JBK fondly calls us) sped along country lanes on our way to Alston last October, packed into a minibus definitely built for fifth-formers, I wondered what I was in for. But in the safe hands of Dr. Katz, Mr. Ireland and Mr. Francis, how could I have questioned the happy days that lay ahead?

There were a few occasions when I wanted to run away, not least in the midst of our daily study sessions, when I was tearing my hair out over unknown words or the possible meanings of 'ut'. Thankfully these occasions were rare – not because I know lots of Latin (far from it) but because most of the time we were too busy enjoying ourselves.

One day took us to Hadrian's Wall, where we walked through wind and rain surrounded by incredible panoramic views. Another to Derwentwater, where we enjoyed rowing under beautiful blue sky and sunshine. Hexham and its abbey were also close enough to visit. By night, the domino championships of Garrigill made way for us to eat excellent pub meals at the George and Dragon. Back at the house, each of us had prepared a talk which we then presented to the group. Topics ranged from Plato to Homer, from Lermontov's 'Hero' to the Gigantomachy of Virgil's Aeneid. As well as these Dr. Katz got us reading and thinking about relativism, Occam's Razor and other equally perplexing ideas. There was a riveting performance of 'The Bacchae' one evening, but all that brain-teasing, philosophical discussion was rather soporific, so I'm afraid I don't remember much. I'm told my Latin improved a bit. If that's true, it was just one of the many benefits of spending a week Alston.

LAKE DISTRICT



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TIZARD LECTURE

"It was a pleasure to see so many visiting pupils and to watch them enjoy the evening and see some of them talking to our lecturer afterwards."

Above (top):
The Debating Team.



ECONOMICS PRIZE ESSAY

TRANSITION AND THE RISE OF ECONOMIC CRIME IN POST-COMMUNIST RUSSIA

By Olga Polulina (CC). This is an edited extract.

No country is free of crime. Murder, tax evasion, petty theft, civil disobedience, fraud and many others exist everywhere. However, there are very few countries which can be said to 'export crime', or where it is nearly impossible to survive without taking part in criminal activities. Russia of the 1990s is one of the only countries where both are true.

The organisation of a planned economy, especially in a country the size of the USSR, meant that it was unable to respond swiftly and effectively to fluctuations in demand and maintain efficient production. The problem was aggravated by communist ideology, which dictates that consumer demand should be regulated by supply dictated by government targets as in the market economy. The shortages that resulted forced managers to utilise the black economy in order to supply the inputs necessary to fulfil their targets. Conversely, excess output could be sold on the black market for a profit to supplement the meagre state salaries. Thus the black economy filled a very important place in the planned economy and was consequently very profitable.

This led to a huge concentration of private wealth in the hands of managers and mafia bosses, who operated the black economy. The Communist system, where wages were uniformly low, with some limited bonuses available for reaching production targets, did not allow for much accumulation of wealth. Furthermore, continual targets and illegality of private enterprise stifled entrepreneurship, in all but those corrupt who had found a way to exercise it around the system. Thus, the only way to be rich was to be corrupt. Consequently, the state officials and mafia bosses of the Soviet period

were the only group with the money and profit-seeking mentality able to take advantage of the opportunities presented by transition. This allowed them to become even more powerful, while providing no incentive to cease their illegal activities.

The government policy of granting concessions and monopolies to entrepreneurs allowed the new owners of the monopolies to effectively impose prices as they saw fit, in full control of the market. This was facilitated by the 'monetary overhang' of the 1980s, when saving exceeded the preferred level, due to shortages. Once prices were liberalised, purchasing power flooded into the economy, increasing inflation even above the inevitable level that would have been necessary to equalise supply and demand. Thus huge profits could be achieved without raising prices significantly above market level. The government's failure to liberalise all prices simultaneously with liberalising markets allowed for huge gains from arbitrage by selling scarce, low-cost Russian resources at Western market prices. Of course, the only people who could take advantage of this opportunity were those with the resources available for initial investment. The banking system of the USSR, previously government-controlled, was now unable to cope with risk assessment, and so failed to serve as a reliable source of finance. Thus, even the few of the non-corrupt who had retained an aptitude for entrepreneurship had no way of taking advantage of this opportunity. In effect, the huge opportunities of transition were only available to the corrupt and the criminal, who strengthened their position even further. Since using illegal methods, such as using bribery to obtain trading rights allowed them to increase their profits and no benefits seemed to accrue from legalization, there was no incentive to do so.



PHILLIMORE PRIZE ESSAY

GENDER IN "THE REVOLUTIONARY ROAD": INNATE OR SUPERFICIAL?

This year Nicky Goulimis (DD) won the Remove literature essay prize with her piece on Richard Yates, extracted below.

In his first novel, "The Revolutionary Road", Richard Yates portrays the life of Frank and April Wheeler, a young suburban couple, unable to distinguish itself from the normality it despises. On the request of a neighbour, a mental institution patient, John Givings, visits them for an afternoon. Described by Yates in an interview as having "an uncannily keen and very articulate insight into other people's weaknesses", John compliments Frank and April, describing them each as male and female. This distinction between an innate maleness/femaleness and a superficial masculinity/femininity runs throughout the book and provides the crucial insight into Frank and April's psychological makeup...

The dynamic of April and Frank's relationship is notable because it too conforms to ideals of masculinity and femininity. Just as was shown in his forcing her to bear his child, Frank relies heavily on the admiration of his wife to feel manly. Whilst discussing their plans to move to Paris, Frank enjoys showing off his eloquence and being lathered in admiring attention. He is shocked one evening when she appears nonplussed by news of his success. What is more, Frank's endeavour to gain his wife's attention is further manifested in acts of defiance and betrayal. Having just cheated on her with his secretary, the cruelly named Maureen Grubbe, Frank seriously considers melodramatically confessing the whole affair to his wife. In addition, he frequently poses in front of the mirror, evaluating which intensity of lighting suits him best, hangs his jaw low on purpose and forces his voice into huskiness in order to give himself a more rugged authoritative look/sound. This constant craving for attention does not present him as a self-assured man in a stable relationship. Frank is emasculated by his petulant needs but made masculine by his

self-presentation (such as shown in his posing)...

It remains a moot point in the novel whether Frank's dislike of his wife's plan to go to 'Old Europe' is based on his aversion to being a kept man or on his fear that, whilst finding himself, he will realise that there is nothing to be found. The former demonstrates Frank's desperation to preserve a masculine role, whilst the latter advocates the notion that the Wheelers are unremarkable people. Either of these scenarios effectively unmans him. April, on the other hand, is not only lacking in femaleness, she also fails to sustain a feminine front. She herself recognizes this as a cause for her not wanting to bear her third child. Thus, within the frame of their relationship, the Wheelers are not only neither male nor female, but they are also either a façade of masculine and – sometimes – feminine norms. Moreover, their relationship is not one born of love but of each believing the other to have been the masculine/feminine ideal they craved. Natasha Hulugalle writes that: "[they] are initially drawn together because they believe each represents the uninhibited glamour that is essential to success." Frank approaches April because she appears to him to be a "first rate girl", able to give him "a sense of unalloyed triumph". April, on the other hand, is taken in by Frank's charisma but tells him that she "loves him when he's nice", a far cry from the unconditional devotion he yearns for. She too is attracted to him because she thinks he's a first-rate, promising male. Obsessed as they both are with being romantic heroes within their relationship and unable to attain maleness/femaleness, April and Frank maintain, with varying success, masculinity/femininity.

¹DeWitt Henry and Geoffrey Clark, *An Interview with Richard Yates*, (Ploughshares, the literary journal at Emerson College, www.ploughshares.org/issues/article.cfm?prmArticleID=128, 1972)



GIBBON HISTORY PRIZE ESSAY

TO WHAT EXTENT WAS THE IRAN — IRAQ WAR INTENDED AS A MEANS OF ALLOWING SADDAM HUSSEIN TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POLITICAL POWER WITHIN IRAQ?

By Alexander Elias (MM). The piece below is an abstract.

The Iran–Iraq War (1980–88), also known as the First Persian Gulf, lasted eight bloody years, caused over a million casualties and was one of the deadliest since World War II. The motives of this conflict, are typically ambiguous and numerous. On balance, the evidence suggests that Saddam Hussein’s principal personal motivations for this conflict were to enable him to consolidate his power over the Ba’ath party and the Republic of Iraq.

Following what must be termed a great miscalculation on the part of Saddam himself, principally that revolutionary Iran was militarily much more capable of resistance than anticipated, the West made more overt efforts to assist Iraq. In addition to receiving increasing amounts of military equipment from the USSR, the United States, Great Britain and especially France were all ready and willing to assist Iraq in defeating what was seen as a destabilising regime in Iran. Despite a change of government in America, it would seem that President Reagan held the same views as his predecessor that supporting Iraq was a useful means of maintaining a balance of power in the Middle East that was, from the point of view of energy supply, crucially important.

Even though Western assistance was based on the premise of Saddam’s Iraq being the lesser of two evils, it is true that this gave Saddam unprecedented levels of legitimacy as Iraq’s rightful ruler, and may have facilitated him going to radical lengths both internally and in the war effort. For example, chemical weapons were used as a matter of course from 1986 onwards, when

the authorisation to deliver them was devolved from the President to military commanders, enabling this weapon form to become an integral part of Iraqi military strategy. On the other hand, the strategy of using weapons of mass destruction and relying increasingly on Western support may not have been intentional from the initiation of hostilities, but seen rather as a means in rectifying Saddam’s mistaken judgement in underestimating Iran’s defences. In other words, the regime was forced to go to unforeseen lengths in order to extricate itself from the war with pride intact and with a settlement that could be claimed as victory. Whilst victory would have been personally useful in Saddam Hussein’s aspirations to consolidate power, a defeat could have spelt the end of his period in office and therefore was something he had to avoid at any cost.

The question of whether the Iran–Iraq war was primarily motivated by President Hussein’s personal desire to remain in, and indeed to extend, his power is somewhat unclear, and the issue is complicated by the fact that conflict became protracted beyond any expectation. Despite the fact that events did not, after initial successes, always go in Iraq’s favour, it can be said that the war did enable Saddam Hussein to remain in power. ‘By 1980 every Iraqi institution, every government department, every aspect of public, private and individual endeavours existed simply to glorify the achievements of Saddam Hussein’. Whilst it cannot necessarily be concluded as such, the evidence insinuates that the war was derived from a focused plan to strengthen the Ba’athist regime and its leader, rather than the war necessitating it.

GUMBLETON CREATIVE
WRITING PRIZE

JIM ROCKFORD

By Max Bryant (CC). Extracted, cryptically, from the 2006 Gumbleton Prize.

Later at lunch, Martha was telling us a story about someone she knew. We’d been trying to skirt the issue of what happened to Frank: “Do you know we went up to get the apples and things – absolutely crowded because it’s all organic. That’s where I took you when you were three years old to show you the ostriches – they’ve the ostriches up there.” That was to Kevin. “Still got the ostriches, and they kill them and eat ‘em. They sell ostrich meat up there and they have these huge eggs there. They’re about ten pounds a go and a friend of ours blows goose eggs. Her husband gets goose eggs and he blows them and he cooks the stuff. People make cakes of it, you see. But I’ve tried to make a cake, but it wasn’t any good, because it’s frozen it doesn’t seem to make it fry. Anyway, he blows these eggs and he makes goose eggs and cleans them and then he puts all sort of pearls and taffetas, all sorts of twiddly bits and things and he puts them into containers then he has a whole market stall selling them. They go on the dock with their market stall. He does very well, but at the moment he’s got to be operated on, he’s got three... um... those aorta things that can burst, you know.”

Someone said aneurism. “Yep, three aneurisms and there’s nothing they can do. They can either – he’s got three choices – he can either go on as he is, which I said to him ‘well go on as you are’, you know he’s perfectly alright, just that they could go anytime. I said ‘if you go it in hospital they can operate but they’re not cutting him down like Francis, they’re doing though a catheter to put stents in him, but it might leave him paralyzed if he’s lucky, or it could kill him if he’s unlucky. And I says, ‘well, I would just leave it because you might go the rest of your life and get run over by a bus, you know there’s no need to say those aneurisms are going to ex... burst and if they do it’s quick, you won’t know it.”

I couldn’t imagine a fate worse for this character. He’s out there someplace, thinking about paralysis and death and trapped in a vaguely diverting story. “But anyway he’s going to risk being killed or being paralyzed and his wife says to me ‘if he is paralyzed we’ll have to move house. I can’t cope with him in a wheelchair. Our house isn’t suitable; it’s up a lot of steps and things’. She said ‘We’d have to move house which would be very traumatic to move house after a big operation like that. So, well he’s got this man up in Birmingham – he’s got this expert in Birmingham who is the only one in the country can do it. More or less invented this particular type of thing of going through still got the tubes and not cutting you open so. But here’s the hilarious part. You know that Kevin was at the York Royal Infirmary to start with. This man at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, this man was called Mr Gardiner which operated on James. A Mr. Gardiner, not Gardner but a Mr. Gardiner. Oh we laughed, didn’t we Frank?”

JOHN HOUSE
ART HISTORY PRIZE ESSAY

FRIDA KAHLO: THE PARISIAN BRIDE

Alexandra Mitiukova (BB) won joint first prize with her essay on Frieda Kahlo, extracted below.

On a personal level, a link can be made between the notion of the fertility of the Mexican land and that of the artist, Frida Kahlo, herself. It is known that the terrible accident suffered by the artist as a teenager had left the artist barren, a truth that took a long time settling in her mind. As a result she kept trying to have children with her husband, but consequently suffered several miscarriages and the hardest one for the artist to endure proved to be the 1932 one.

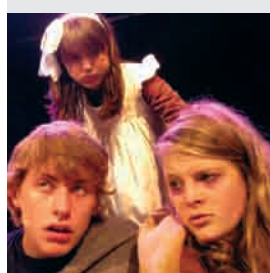
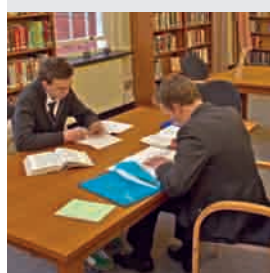
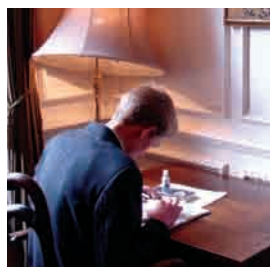
Following a painful miscarriage, Kahlo had a long stay at hospital ahead of her, which resulted in her developing what has been previously characterized as an “automatic” technique in her depiction of the fetus. It can therefore be deduced that childlessness was a great preoccupation for the artist, as she wrote: “I had such hope that little Dieguito would cry a lot”. Kahlo used the depiction of the withering fruit as a possible metaphor for her own, as she saw it, decreasing fertility, which contrasts greatly with the representations of the fruitful Mexican land in the 1943 canvas. In a sense, this painting was one of the outlets Kahlo found for her thwarted procreative urges. Crucially, a comparison can be made between the depictions of her emotions towards her infertility in *Bride frightened at seeing life opened* and her 1937 piece *Me and my Doll*, where she also conveys the emphatic statement of Frida’s frustrated desire for motherhood. In the canvas, Frida and a large naked baby doll sit together on a bed, as if posing for a photograph. However, the portrayal of the doll is entirely different from the one in her 1943 piece, as here the doll is, firstly, a naked baby, but secondly, appears entirely lifeless, as it is wearing a fixed smile, forming a bitter contrast with Frida’s facial expression. Evidently, this is the complete opposite of the notion of the bringing of the doll to life shown in the 1943 canvas, where the doll is a lively figure full of emotion, albeit fear, yet still expressing some signs of life. Finally, a conclusion can be drawn that, while in the 1937 painting Kahlo is still heavily grieving over the loss of her child due to the lack of connection between the baby doll and the “mother” with a cigarette in her hand, in the 1943 she has moved away from grief, having found an outlet for her unfulfilled need for motherhood by bringing the doll to life, and, in effect, reviving everything around her, simultaneously creating a metaphor for the fertility of the Mexican land.



"It was quickly apparent that the Risk had been tiny, Luck had held, and the Gamble had paid off – the evening was a great success."



PRIZEWINNERS 2005



Above:
The Abbey.

Right (top):
Studying in the Library.
Photographed by
Jian Wu.

Right (middle):
Studying in the Library.

Exams in the Gym.

Right (bottom):
Westminster at the
Edinburgh Festival
Fringe, 2005.

Fifth form creative writing

Sebastien Fivaz (Wren's)

Martin Leake fifth form history

Vyvyan Almond (College)

Oliver Rees (Grant's)

Adrian Whitelegge Award

Charles Hutchinson (Liddell's)

Cheyne Mathematics

James Male (Wren's)

Joshua Borin (Wren's)

Takaki Oshima (College)

Special VI Form Classics

Christopher White (Ashburnham)

Special Drama

Sam Pritchard (Grant's)

Fred d'Arcy Prize English

Ezra Rubenstein (College)

Gibb French

Bella Sanders (Dryden's)

Gibbon History

Clem Naylor (College)

Gumbleton English

Nikolai Cedraeus (Grant's)

Hugo Garten Prize German

Theo Peterson (College)

The Martin Ball Piano

Gamal Khamis (Dryden's)

Mitchell History

Bella Sanders (Dryden's)

Pen Stuart (Liddell's)

John House History of Art

Alex Edwards (Busby's)

Neale History

Charlie Horten-Middleton (Wren's)

Cleo Nisse (Grant's)

Oli Bennett Drama Award

Alexander Gabriele (Milne's)

Benjamin Shillito (Milne's)

Philip Webb French

Rakhee Radia (Grant's)

Phillimore English

Georgina Cox (Grant's)

Poetry

Nikolai Cedraeus (Grant's)

Stuart Leaf Modern Languages: French

Orlando Reade (Liddell's)

Stuart Leaf Modern Languages: German

Philip Aspin (Ashburnham)

Stuart Leaf Modern Languages: Spanish

Jack Farchy (College)

Stuart Leaf Modern Languages: Russian

Natalia Diaz (Dryden's)

Walker History

Philip Aspin (Ashburnham)

Edward Eccles (College)

Whitmore History

Max Kaufman (Ashburnham)

Sam Pritchard (Grant's)

Elizabethan Magazine Photography

Athina Mitropoulos (Wren's)

Harvard Book Prize

Pen Stuart (Liddell's)

Elizabethan Club Head Master's Prize

John Reicher (College)

Maundy Prize

Samuel Borin (Dryden's)

Henrietta Brooks (Liddell's)

Edward Cumming (Busby's)

Jenny Ellis Logan (Purcell's)

Edward Franklin (Liddell's)

Tim Lai (Grant's)

Clem Naylor (College)

Sam Pritchard (Grant's)

Sophie Troiano (Ashburnham)

Milly Ventress (Purcell's)

2006 TIZARD LECTURE

THE MATHEMATICS OF LUCK, RISK AND GAMBLING: SIMON SINGH

By JRGB

This is an appropriate title for a Tizard Lecture – every one of them is a bit of a Risk, since the audience is so heterogeneous and has such a wide variety of expectations; it's a matter of Luck that one finds a suitable speaker at the right time; and then one takes the Gamble of audience numbers being roughly related to what is expected. The Mathematics turned out to be very good, with some 450 people Up School eager to see Simon Singh in reality. Many had read his book on *Fermat's Last Theorem* (the Under Master had very kindly provided a display around this theme from the Archives), as well as *The Code Book* and *Big Bang*, and it's always entertaining to meet someone to whom you have paid royalties.

It was quickly apparent that the Risk had been tiny, Luck had held, and the Gamble had paid off – the evening was a great success. Simon Singh is a very entertaining and charismatic speaker, and through the use of simple, but widely misunderstood, statistics he was able to elicit suitable expressions of amazement or incredulity from the audience. The audience had much fun participating, and there was a good deal of laughter. There were card games, letter games, and unusual dice. Topical themes included a consideration of the presence or otherwise of encoded messages in texts such as the *Bible*. The demonstration that almost anything can be found in almost any text if you look for it was entertaining, though sadly will probably not have convinced those who subscribe to conspiracy theories. Perhaps some people find life a little dull without them.

A demonstration that a medical test which gives only a small percentage of false positives or negatives will give a reliability of detection of the disease of only 5% or so was a real surprise to many, and leads one to wonder whether this might be related to any of the financial problems with the NHS.

When the Tizard Lecture was instituted in 1963 in memory of Sir Henry Tizard OW, the hope was that pupils from many other schools would come to hear the lecture. That hope was certainly realised this year; it was a pleasure to see so many visiting pupils and to watch them enjoy the evening and see some of them talking to our lecturer afterwards. And it was, as always, delightful to see numerous friends of many years' standing, several of whom have been to every lecture since 1963.

We all experienced a highly enjoyable and successful evening. Simon Singh gave us an entertaining and instructive experience which provided food for thought and will encourage some to examine more critically many of the wilder claims that they might come across. The Lecture encapsulated everything that the Tizard Lecture is about, and we are very grateful to Simon Singh for his efforts.





THE HOOKE LECTURE SERIES

Sam Mindel (MM), Nicky Goulimis (DD) and Lara Karady (MM) report on the range of fascinating ideas pouring through the Science department. This article is reproduced with the kind permission of *Hooke Magazine*.

Sex Change

Members of the school packed the lecture room in January to hear Prof. Richard Green talk about sex change. He was primarily concerned with the psychology of sex change candidates and the way society treats them. It appears legislation for recognition of a sex change is very recent; although the earliest sex change cases date back to the early 50s. What was most interesting was his revelation from a series of case studies that pre-homosexual traits are indistinguishable from pre-transsexual traits as well as the fact that the gender of one's brain has nothing to do with the gender of one's sexual identity. This lecture enlightened its audience to understand the psychology of transsexuals as well as the stigma that they face.

Magnetism and potential extinction

Professor David Price of UCL talked about magnetism in the solar system. He discussed some of the early methods that navigators used to measure the position of magnetic North. From these it was possible to discover that magnetic North moves and is rarely in the same place as the Earth's axis of rotation. He described how the Earth's magnetic field is generated by the flow of liquid iron in the Earth's outer core. The orientation of crystals of iron-containing minerals can be measured and from this it is clear that the Earth's magnetic field has reversed many times over geological history. In the past this has occurred about once every 50,000 years but we have not experienced a reversal for the last 780,000 years. Professor Price mentioned that current evidence suggests that over the last 150 years the Earth's magnetic field strength has decreased by 10-15% which is usually one of the first signs of a reversal. This raises the alarming possibility of a reversal in the near future which could cause significant mass extinctions when the Earth's magnetic shielding against damaging radiation from the Sun disappears.

Hot and Stimulating: A Tale of Tea and Coffee

Professor Michael Spiro, a physical chemist from Imperial College, introduced us to the stimulant-ridden tale of our favourite daily beverages: tea and coffee. Despite differences arising partly from their different manufacturing processes, the science of the two drinks is similar. Their rich aromas arise from the compounds formed when green tea is converted to black tea and when green coffee beans are roasted. Amazingly, there are respectively 850 and 500 types of aromatic compounds in coffee and tea. The talk flowed onto his experimental modelling of how fast tea and coffee particles are infused into the water. One interesting finding is that stirring the solution does not affect the rate at which caffeine particles diffuse out of the bean and that the hardness of water severely affects the speed at which tea brews. According to the expert, the ideal cuppa may contain either milk or lemon as long as it is placed in first. The only low-point of the event was the lack of hot and stimulating refreshments to reward the enlightened listeners.

Bang goes Einstein: The origins of the Universe

The final lecture in the series was given by Professor Martin Rees, newly elected President of the Royal Society and a Governor of the school. Lord Rees discussed the latest ideas on how the universe began, from the very first few seconds after the big bang until the formation of the large galaxies. Since Edwin Hubble discovered the expansion of the universe in 1929 people have speculated about running this expansion in reverse and extrapolating back to when the whole universe was a small, dense, hot fireball. Lord Rees told us our current ideas are no longer adequate and new physics must be developed to explain this period. The study of the earliest period of universe is one of the most important and interesting areas of physics as it seeks to unite quantum theory and Einstein's general theory of relativity.

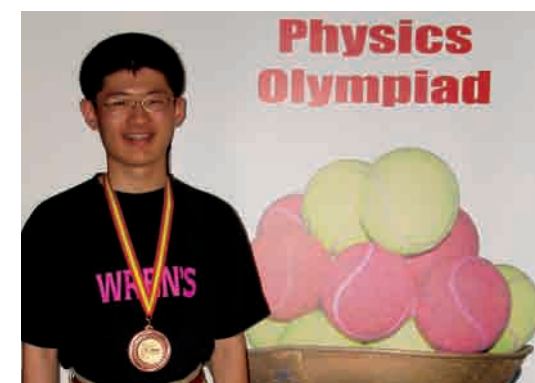


2005 INTERNATIONAL PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

Jian Wu (OWW) reports on a trip to Salamanca, in Spain, in July to compete in the International Physics Olympiad.

The International Physics Olympiad was a wonderful experience despite the intense sunshine; enough to boil an egg! This year the UK physics team received two bronze medals and three honourable mentions, leaving each of the team with something to bring home. The exams were relatively easy, making it difficult to distinguish between the top students. This led to a controversial system whereby competitors received fewer marks if they made an error earlier in the exam, i.e. on the arguably simpler algebraic questions. We were told that our team leaders had a "long discussion" with the Spanish side; however, despite all the effort, some of our work couldn't be justified. When our team leaders marked our papers we received one gold, one silver and three bronzes. However, after moderation this was later reduced to 2 bronzes and 3 honourable mentions. Jian Wu received the highest mark of the 5 contestant but missed a silver medal by 1.3 points. Nonetheless he was pleased to hear he was ranked.

Thanks to all those people in the Physics department, especially Mr Barot for their encouragement and support.



BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

This year, Westminster managed to get not one, but two competitors into the competition, writes JAL.

The British team did extremely well in the 16th International Biology Olympiad, held in 2005 in Beijing, China. All four students gained medals. Loren Lam was awarded a Silver medal and was ranked 56th in the world while Edward Bataillard, with less than a two point overall difference, gained a Bronze medal and was ranked 64th. Our congratulations to both of them for this excellent achievement; it is the first time, too, that Westminster has had two people in the British team in one year.

They were selected to represent the UK after competing in 3 rounds of competitions during the British Biology Olympiad, held earlier this year. After receiving their BBO medals from Lord Robert Winston at the BBO award ceremony at Imperial College, London, they had less than a week to prepare themselves before being flown to China. Here they competed against another 196 students from around 50 countries across the world. Their fantastic results meant that the UK was the top European country at the IBO and were placed joint 8th in the world.

Ed Bataillard, who competed, writes: What I remember most about the days leading up to the competition was stress. The competition itself was varied. My favourite practical by far was the molecular biology one, which involved gel electrophoresis of a bacterial plasmid. When the first day of exams was finally over, the atmosphere was much more relaxed and we were finally allowed to visit the wonders of Beijing (under police escort of course). The Summer Palace and the Great Wall left a great impression on us. It truly does feel satisfying to climb the Wall and yet all four of us remain sceptical that a structure that narrow can be seen from the Moon. As I am writing this, I have just discovered that it is in fact an urban legend and that it is barely possible to see the Great Wall from low orbit with binoculars! The things they teach us these days, honestly....



Above:
Physics Olympiad
Team in Salamanca.
Photographed
by Jian Wu.

Below (far left):
Jian Wu shows
off his medal.

Below (left):
Inside the Forbidden
City in Beijing.



BEN JONSON LITERARY SOCIETY

ACB, Vyvyan Almond (CC) and Katy King (CC) have all enjoyed listening to a lively roster of literary speakers this year.

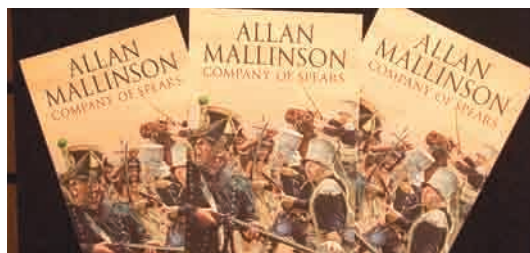
The Ben Jonson Society reconvened this year with some excellent speakers and debates. In the Play Term we were pleased to welcome John Mullan, Professor of English at UCL, who talked about the development of attitudes to Shakespeare both on the page and in performance across the centuries. He informed and entertained with a wide range of lively and thought-provoking case-studies, and gave students in the Upper School an engaging insight into the cross-textual approach employed at University.

In March, the playwright, Ben Brown, author of *Larkin With Women*, addressed the Society. He talked about Philip Larkin both as person and poet, drawing on the wide research undertaken to write his play, *Larkin and Women*. Brown's biographical play centres on Larkin's relationships with his three lovers, Betty, Monica and May. The play reaches its climax when all three women meet at Larkin's deathbed. Having interviewed all three of these women, he offered an insight into Larkin's complex personality and his life as librarian at Hull University. He suggested that Larkin never married in order to concentrate solely on his work, following his father's advice, "never marry and never believe in God". He encouraged a wider debate about the value of exploring biography as an approach to Literature and impressed us with his renditions of Larkin's poems from memory. He answered a series of questions, addressing

topics such as why Larkin's poetry has such wide appeal, how Larkin treated women and how his private life may have affected his poetry. He also commented on the difficulty of putting on one's own play, complaining of an actor who insisted on playing Larkin with a stutter. "Larkin with Women" was performed at The Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond during April.

In the Lent Term, the Junior Ben Jonson Society was inaugurated with a visit from the author Allan Mallinson, famous for his series about an officer, Hervey, as he progresses through the ranks, set in the Napoleonic period. It is always interesting to hear an author talk on his work, in the same way that it is interesting to hear a sailor talk about ships he has crewed or an actor about life on the stage, and Brigadier Allan Mallinson was no exception. His description of the bloody and heroic siege of Badajoz, and the subsequent horrific break-down of discipline, set the tone for an engaging discussion. The grey-haired soldier is exactly the sort of man who I would have expected to write such detailed, well researched and yet thoroughly gripping books. His talk was interesting and profound, touching the deeply human aspects of his own works and warfare in general. And anything he couldn't handle (which despite the standard of questioning was not a lot) he handed to his enthusiastic editor, so that no question was left unanswered; All in all, an excellent inaugural meeting, hopefully indicative of things to come.

In the Election term, we look forward to a lecture by Christopher Ricks, Oxford Professor of Poetry, on "Principles and Practice". Perhaps the most acclaimed critic of our generation, he has written seminal works on authors ranging from Milton and Eliot to Bob Dylan. Now based for much of the year in Boston, we are very glad and excited that he is able to include Westminster in one of his visits to England in May.



Above:
Allan Mallinson
at the Junior Ben
Jonson Society.

Right:
Copies of
Company of Spears.

CLASSICS SOCIETY

A bumper year for the ancient world and its adherents is reported by Olga Polunina (CC) and JBK.

This is what we, the Latin and Greek pupils particularly of the upper three years, call ourselves when we gather for meetings and lectures. And this year it's been a big society with a busy programme. In February the Classical Remove pupils (all thirty of us doing Latin, including our two colleagues from Grey Coats) attended a one-day Classics conference at St Helen's School, Northwood. We were given two lectures on our A level set books and a third, for light relief but also some thought-provoking ideas, on the role of the Classical world in film-making. Towards the end of term we then hosted the LACT (London Association of Classical Teachers) conference back home at Westminster. This conference was so popular (one hundred and forty students from at least ten schools) that it stretched the capacity of the Lecture Room, with clashing swords of the Fencing Station next door enhancing the Iliadic theme. Combining in-depth analysis of narrative techniques by Dr Matthew Leigh (Oxford) with Mr John Claghton's lighter-themed but no less erudite answers to 'Why my dog is not called Turnus', the day also provided a rare chance to debate alternative interpretations with classicists from other schools. Thanks to this we have gained intricate insights into the classical texts: A-level success is assured – if only we can transfer the knowledge into the exam scripts. Less directly tied to A level there have been several occasional evening lectures arranged for the society this year – Dr Bruno Currie (Balliol and Oriel Colleges) on some intriguing new observations in Homer's narrative, perhaps even giving a glimpse of earlier versions of the Iliad, and Dr Rebecca Armstrong (St Hilda's) on the nature of change and metamorphosis in Ovid's 'Metamorphoses'. In the Summer the programme continued with stimulating talks on history and numismatics by Mr Peter Thonemann of All Souls College and philosophy by Dr Roger Crisp of St Anne's. At the London Classical Association's annual reading competition Maatin Patel (Liddell's, Upper Shell) won us a crown of glory with a first prize for his splendid recitation of twenty moving lines – the death of Queen Dido – from Virgil's Aeneid.



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE COMPETITION

SCHOOLS CHALLENGE

Giles Robertson (CC) modestly allows that Schools Challenge encourages healthy competition for those who have trivia coming out of their ears.

It's probably inevitable that during a Westminster career most pupils will acquire a collection of utterly useless knowledge. Fortunately, there is an annual chance to put this store of irrelevancies to good use – Schools Challenge, a competition modelled on the better-known University Challenge.

So it was that four of us were sitting in the late spring 2005, answering questions about everything from numismatics to Nietzsche. There's certainly something surreal about an entire team exclaiming "Confederatio Helvetica" in unison, or realising that there is some value in knowing that Malta was awarded the George Cross. Timing was, of course, of the essence, and several teams with excellent knowledge failed because of their inability to produce it at short enough notice. Yet unlike University Challenge, interrupting carried no penalty. The result? A fast erupting flow of the junk that collects in the lesser-used recesses of our minds.

After a series of preliminary rounds, the team of Max Kaufman, Giles Robertson, Alexander Guttentplan and Jeremy Holt, went forwards to the finals, hosted by Westminster in early May. Similar in structure to the other rounds, the finals saw the regional winners from across the country come together to compete for the national prize. The Westminster team dispatched George Heriot's in the first round – thereby removing the reigning champions – and proceeded to the semi-finals. Manchester Grammar School stormed into the lead, and held it solidly. The half-hour ebbed away, and the team lost hope. Finally, in the dying minutes of the round, Westminster woke up, and made a valiant effort to regain the lost ground. At the end of the round, Westminster were forty points ahead, and proceeded to the final, which they won by a rather greater margin. And with that, it was goodbye from the teams, goodbye from the organisers, and goodbye from the competition. Till the next season.



THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

PILAR ALBAJAR
Uncompromisingly anatomical
shots dealing with psychology

NICHOLAS BROWN
Architectural prints of
modern buildings

BEN GORDÉ
Black-and-white shots of
dancers in Buenos Aires



HISTORY OF ART SOCIETY

The History of Art Society has had a fantastic year with lectures on a range of diverse subjects, writes Nour Sacranie (LL).

We started the year with 'Ways of Seeing', a photographic exhibition (see separate review). Over the two evenings there was a consistent flow of visitors who were able to speak to the photographers and enjoy the vibrant atmosphere.

Our first lecture was by Suzanne Bargett of the Imperial War Museum who talked about her curation of 'The Holocaust' exhibition held in 2005. Items shown included photographs and diaries documenting the horrific events of this crime against humanity. Inevitably, the nature of this subject meant that there were a number of difficult questions to be answered. Ms Bargett detailed the difficulty of deciding if they should allow children into the exhibition because the content was so graphic and distressing. This lecture was an eye opener into the world of curating, revealing the potential difficulties in organising an exhibition on a subject that continues to affect the hearts and minds of millions of people.

The annual John House in January was on the topic of Monet's *La Grenouillère*. Professor House of the Courtauld Institute gave an engaging talk on a painting known well by most students in the audience; however, he provided a fresh and personal insight into what Monet was really thinking when he painted it. He concentrated on the narrative of the piece and the interplay between men and women at a popular social event in France at the time. As well as the figure dynamics, he discussed Monet's use of paint and choice of angle for the scene, opening up a host of different ideas and questions that are often missed when simply looking at the painting without prior knowledge. He confirmed why this painting is one of the definitive pieces of the Impressionist period.

Colour played an important role in our next two lectures, both of which were about the Italian Renaissance. Paul Hills, a specialist in the Venetian Renaissance and

the work of Titian, regaled us with a fascinating exploration into the use of colour during this period. He particularly looked at the influence of glassware on painting and the light used in these paintings. One example was the parallel between the pattern found on the Doge's palace and in a Titian painting.

Continuing this theme but with an Eastern twist, Caroline Campbell, co-curator of the 'Bellini in the East' exhibition, lectured about her experiences and adventures over the three year period that it took to prepare. A detailed look at a feast of paintings and artefacts was coupled with anecdotes about trying to acquire such fragile and expensive moments of history. Dr Campbell spoke of the importance of linguistic ability in curation – a problem for her as she was unable to speak Italian or Turkish. This lecture was so interesting that many of us have booked our tickets for the exhibition in anticipation!

Each lecture has been attended a growing audience of students, parents and teachers. At the rate we are going, it will be no surprise if next year the society has to relocate to a much bigger room.



WAYS OF SEEING

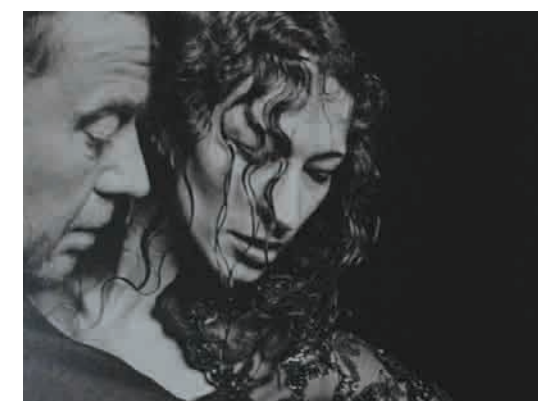
Izzy Finkel (AHH) and Andrew Naughtie (GG) prove themselves worthy of their study in their review of the photographic exhibition held in the department early in the year.

The History of Art department is not one noted for compromise. While it has recently grown to number three teachers, for a long time now it has been a largely unseen heavyweight; its nation-beating results and dreadnaught attitude are offset by a genuine love for its subject and a Waltons-warm family atmosphere. Any fule could see that this is the stuff of dreams, and much too good to remain pure A-level esoterica. Art History stalks the world of Westminster in the agile form of the History of Art Society, an opportunity for those not studying the subject to indulge in the goodness pouring from our ground-floor classrooms. Usually the society manifests itself as a lecture; however, we experienced a rare treat early in the Play Term when Dr. Cockburn's classroom was transformed from a teaching area into the site of what can best be described as a photographic art 'happening'.

The work of three photographers was on show, and the full extent of the department's muscle with it. Ben Gordé's black-and-white shots of dancers taken in Buenos Aires were a huge hit; the energy and passion of the world they showed will have certainly provided inspiration for several previously unplanned gap years. From these glimpses of a world far removed from the carpet-scented classroom, cut to Nicholas Brown's architectural prints, executed very differently but receiving just as much praise from the discerning Westminster art crowd. The geometry and pattern they displayed were impressions of modern architecture as far-flung as Barcelona and Dubai. But it was undoubtedly the surrealist photographer Pilar Albajar who made the most impact. Delivered through dual display and cinematic slideshow, her uncompromisingly anatomical shots dealt with psychology darker than the inky night outside. The image describing necrophilia was a good demonstration of how an image's impact skyrockets when it is inflated. A stunned silence swept the room

as a generously-sized male part with a skull for the tip floated into view over calming ambient music. Words were not enough. Someone said, "Ooer". Indeed.

Thank you History of Art for such a successful exhibition; it can safely be said that a good time was had by all.



Above (top):
Nicholas Brown's
architectural prints in
the 'Ways of Seeing'
exhibition.

Above:
Cupid and Psyche
by Canova
Photographed
by Jamie Stoker.

Right:
'Artist in Paris'.
Photographed
by Jamie Stoker.

Above:
'Primavera' by
Pilar Albajar and
Antonio Altaariba.

Below (top):
Pilar Albajar's work
in the 'Ways of
Seeing' exhibition.

Below (bottom):
Ben Gordé's black-
and-white shot of
dancers in Buenos
Aires in the 'Ways
of Seeing' exhibition.

THE ART OF THE CHRONICLER

Encouraged by Dan Topolski (OWW), pupils from three schools, Westminster, Notre Dame School and Kelmscott School, came together to investigate the artistry and importance of Feliks Topolski's "M memoir of the Century". Alex Cagan (MM) writes about the experience of working with a friend on the project.

The Memoir of the Century, by artist and writer Feliks Topolski, situated under the arches on the South Bank by the Festival Hall, is an expressive record of life during the Twentieth Century by an artist. Incredibly, Topolski himself witnessed all of the events in the memoir. An alternative to other newspapers, the Chronicle was produced by Topolski using a printing press in his studio. It integrated his insightful drawings with columns of writing on current events, providing an artistic interpretation of modern life. The loose dynamism of Topolski's drawings, which comes from a lifetime of practice, binds all his images together, creating a cohesive style which makes even the most alien of events appear familiar and the oldest of events fresh, a living history.

Drawing is a depiction of reality that has been interpreted by the mind of the artist and Topolski proves that charcoal is as important a medium for recording public life as the camera. One cannot help but feel this human touch in the 3,000 plus drawings in the Memoir. All the faces, all the events, are presented by the work of his hands, ensuring the viewer never feels disconnected from the humanity of what is going on.

Having decided to try and revive the role of drawing in the field of journalism, Arshad and myself now needed to decide on what form his artwork would take. Arshad chose to use a newspaper spread as the basic structure. The newspaper format would contain Arshad's drawings of figures in 20th century history that we felt were important. Topolski had also drawn many of these figures himself, namely Malcolm X, Ghandi and Martin Luther.

When it came to the style in which these figures should be drawn we faced a problem. 'Should we emulate the style of Topolski or go for something totally different?' After much thought we came to the conclusion that the essence of Topolski's drawing is not found in the way he made his marks or the colours he used, it was his personal approach that made him so recognisable. In Topolski's dramatic full figure portrait of Malcolm X, the twisting lines that describe Malcolm's figure emphasise his strength of character, his burning conviction. The drawing thereby offers us a unique insight into Malcolm's character through its interpretation by

"Drawing is a depiction of reality that has been interpreted by the mind of the artist and Topolski proves that charcoal is as important a medium for recording public life as the camera."

Topolski. By giving his own personal interpretation Arshad does the same. His portrait of Malcolm X shows Malcolm as a leader and a thinker. By using subtle shading and juxtaposing his portrait with quotes from Malcolm, he is presented as a man with depth, his hand raised, delivering a speech about what he believed in. Arshad took his own approach to all the figures, presenting them as he thought best. The most striking part of Arshad's artwork is his portrait of Tupac, the hip-hop artist who sang about the need for changes in the inner cities of the USA, but was tragically shot down. The use of the 2-tone noir style and Tupac's direct eye contact with the viewer is more penetrating than any photo. This dramatic impact is also found in Topolski's Memoir of the Century, most notably in his depiction of members of the Black Panthers in jail.

By placing a portrait of himself at the centre of his work Arshad has got to the heart of what we have been exploring. All of the events in this piece are interconnected by Arshad's interpretation of them. By painting and drawing instead of using the camera the works are made more expressive and subjective. While Arshad and I were not fortunate to have such extraordinary historic encounters, we were at least able to carry on Topolski's message of making history about individual experience and not just about the textbooks.



ENVISION

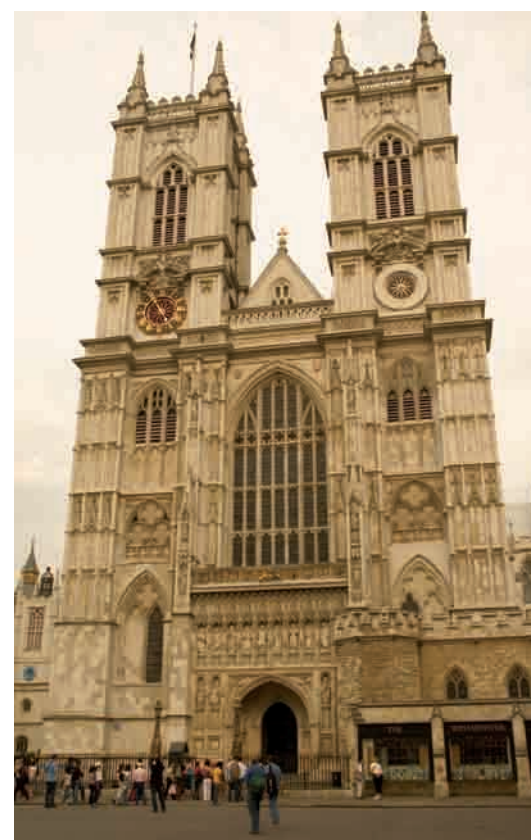
Will Harris (DD) explains that altruism is alive and kicking at Westminster.

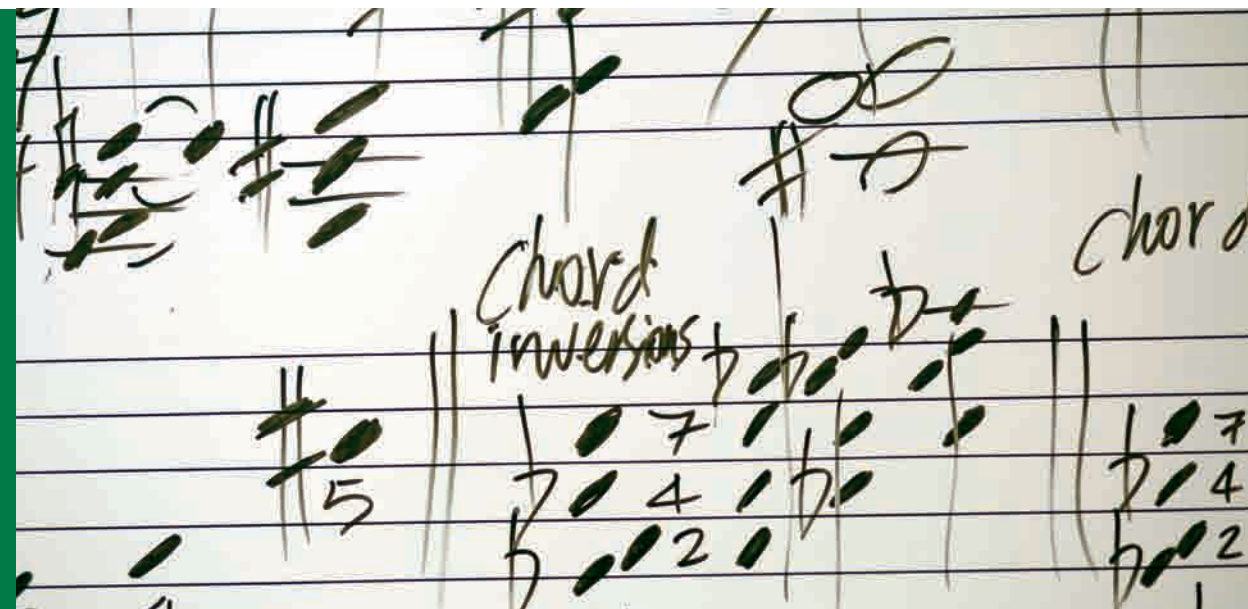
Envision was set up in 2000 by four young people, for young people. It challenges the idea that the modern youth are apathetic and insensitive to the environment, human rights and other important issues. It isn't really a bureaucratic charity; there are simply two guys, called "eyes", who come every week to talk through ideas and offer suggestions and contacts. More ideas are generated by the Sixth Form and Remove.

Most of the first term was spent spinning ideas and planning projects. We went through a variety of suggestions until finally deciding that local homelessness was the issue which we could tackle directly.

We quickly worked out something that would appear simple. Poor people need money! So we set up numerous food-related sales to take advantage of the gluttonous instincts shared by Westminsters. Particularly successful were the Krispy Kreme doughnut sales. In the Play Term, one made £555 toward the Asia Quake Appeal, then, in the Lent Term, £365 for the Passage Centre, a local shelter for the homeless. More recently Envision has held house cake sales, and, over a term, all houses contributed. Liddell's made £161, Grant's £172 and Dryden's even topped £200! All the money from those went toward the Passage Centre, as part of a more long-term commitment. Following that, Envision have set the ambitious target of £10,000 for this year. A speaker from Crisis came to talk in Abbey and, at the Carol service half the donations went to Crisis.

Though homelessness was the main focus there have also been numerous important side-projects. Envision helped host a Christmas party for the old folks of the local Pullen Day-Care Centre that involved many mince-pies and much impromptu carol-singing, resulting in general merriment. It has also pushed through a new Recycling scheme for Weston's. It is trying to get Westminster School involved in the government Energy Certification Scheme; a programme that cuts down wasteful energy usage. Unfortunately, huge smelly heaps of bureaucracy have made this difficult. In the summer Envision has made possible a Fashion Show and the list of projects is endless. The future is limitless. Sadly, there are always more people needing help. Luckily, there will always be Envision. All this surprising altruism, and more, can be found within the heads of a few amazing 6th Formers (this writer included). Join now!





DEBATING

What a year! Big wins and high participation with more than 45 people involved in senior debating alone, not to mention some strong competitive performances and a national championship win, declares Richard Trainor (AHH).

This year's house competition, the beating heart of Westminster debating, saw teams from all 11 houses competing for a place in the final. Novice and experienced speakers fought through three entertaining and closely-fought rounds, providing a great introduction for beginners and allowing more experienced debaters to limber up for the coming season. After the preliminary rounds, Ashburnham, College, Rigaud's and Wren's debated the final motion "This House believes nuclear power is the solution to Britain's energy needs" which was narrowly won in front of a packed Camden Room by the Rigaud's team of Dara Barkhordar and Sam Littlejohns. The play term also saw the welcome addition of Abigail Cave-Bigley to teaching debating.

The competitive year started with a bang in September as Jamie Macfarlane, Giles Robertson and Richard Trainor won the Dulwich College Schools competition. This success for the school and the three speakers was cemented in October when all three reached the Development Group for the England Schools team which consisted of only 12 people.

In January we took a whopping six teams to the Bristol Schools competition. The teams of Richard Trainor & Giles Robertson, Jamie MacFarlane & Alessia de Quincey, Usman Ahmedani & Anna Croall, Sam Littlejohns & Dara Barkhordar, Olga Polunina & Sam Mindel and David Ellard & Francis Gene-Rowe all won at least one debate and special mention is due to Giles Robertson for being the sixth best speaker in the competition and to Dara Barkhordar and Sam Littlejohns for being the most successful Westminster team.

January also saw Giles Robertson and Richard Trainor advance to the second round of the Schools Mace and the Cambridge Union competition along with Usman Ahmedani and Anna Croal. Giles Robertson, Richard Trainor, Anna Croall and Alessia de Quincey also went

to the Durham Union competition over a March weekend. It was a good weekend, socially and competitively, for both teams.

Having advanced through the first round, Jamie Macfarlane and Richard Trainor, who will be representing England at the World Schools Debating Competition in July, went on to finals day at the Oxford Union. Having got through four preliminary rounds, we were delighted to reach the final in the chamber itself, debating "This House would introduce chain gangs into the British prison system". We were even more delighted when it was announced that Westminster had won both the best speaker in the final award and the competition itself, for the second time in three years.

Westminster debating has been a part of my life now for five years and I owe a huge thank you to our coaches Richard Allnatt and Sandy Crole for mentoring and teaching me, and many others, through some big wins and disheartening defeats (all due to terrible judging of course!) Westminster debating – if you missed it, you missed out.



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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

"The entire company combined their various talents with such energy and bonhomie that, regardless of audiences, reviews or prizes, it was a perfect way to end a school career."

Left (top):
Participants in the
New Season Review.

Left (bottom):
Violin players
in the Manoukian
Music Centre.



FORMERLY THE SCRATCH PLAY NEW SEASON REVIEW

Edward Wormington (RR) is entertained, surprised and enthralled by a variety of turns in the what used to be known as the Scratch Play.

The officially titled New Season Review is a splendid opportunity for new Westminsterers, particularly those in the Sixth Form, to join in a school production, and for the rest of us to see a greatly varied and selection of theatre.

The theme of the evening was set by the opening piece, a tale of the circus written (and directed) by Ed Randell entitled *The Escapologists*. A twist of fate unites oddball Harry (Johnny Tham), who enjoys tying himself up with rope, and performer Zuleika (Jessica Webber) who wants to get away from that sort of thing, and from the publicly mesmerising but privately tyrannical Ringmaster, played by Pany Heliotis. Throughout the Review, dancers, jugglers and some rather frisky lions entertained the audience between the plays, with choreography by Lara Karady and Nicky Goulimis.

Comedy written by Westminsterers was abundant, Richard Marina's surreal and brilliant *Mustard Seed* showed the way, Andrew Naughtie's comedy of awkwardness, *We're Going to be Happy*, and Orlando Reade's enigmatically titled *Richard Nixon Made Me Do Things I've Never Done Before* were all very well received by the audience.

The Scratch play was not without its more sombre pieces, the laughter being offset by Pinter's stark scenes of rural repression in *Mountain Language*, and the prospect of a fatal "accident" occurring in *Throwing The Knife* as one clown broods over his colleague's infidelity with his wife diversified the proceedings. Although it must be said that on some nights the audience's response to Pinter was a little unfair to the actors who were attempting to pull off difficult drama. The adaptation of Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist* turned out superbly, modern references getting laughs along with the deceptions and expressions of shameless greed by the alchemical hustlers in Jonson's original.

A hugely entertaining Scratch Play has started the performance year in excellent form, and we can only look forward to what the rest of the year has to offer.



"Of course, no English play of this period would be complete without a comic Frenchman..."

THE SUMMER PLAY THE BEAUX' STRATAGEM

Breaking with tradition to present an early 18th century piece rather than the usual Shakespeare, Chris Barton's 2005 summer offering nonetheless upheld the high production standards one has come to expect from the Summer Play says Philip Aspin (OWW).

George Farquhar's 1707 comedy '*The Beaux' Stratagem*' concerns the antics of two London gentlemen of fashion, Aimwell and Archer, played with elegant poise by Tom Hoare and Dan Brodie respectively, who entertain themselves by travelling around the country disguised as a gentleman and his manservant. During a visit to Lichfield, the pair become romantically involved with two local ladies, the worldly Mrs Sullen (Sofia Barclay) and her rather more naïve country sister-in-law Dorinda, (Ellie Buchdahl). Despite the interference of an unusually debonair highwayman called Gibbet (Adam Grant), a mutually satisfactory romantic solution is reached. The play abounds in excellent supporting characters, all played by an excellent cast: Nat Gordon's irascible Squire Sullen, Harry Gooding as his endearing, inelegant manservant Scrub, Richard Trainor's jovially criminal publican Boniface, and Ed Randell's hilarious Irish priest, Foigard. Of course, no English play of this date would be complete without a comic Frenchman, played to perfection by Ed Lane as Count Bellair. Appropriate music composed by Max Barton, who performed it with Beth Hardie and Leyla Osman, and a superb array of Staffordshire accents courtesy of Lyndsey Turner's dialect coaching completed this magnificent production, a worthy successor to 2004's *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Above and left: Beaux and the objects of their stratagems.



WESTMINSTER AT THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2005

Ed Cumming (OWW) participated in this groundbreaking Westminster theatrical venture, which wowed audiences and critics alike.

In summer 2004, Lyndsey Turner (LTT) approached twelve of the Remove with the idea of devising a play and performing it at school, with the distant dream of taking it to Edinburgh the following summer. Five months of writing and rehearsing led to 'The False Prophet' being performed at the MFH. It was the benchmark by which we decided whether or not we would go the whole hog; venues and accommodation at Edinburgh need to be booked well in advance. Although the piece was far from perfect, the cast were unanimous in their desire to go up, despite portentous warnings from Lyndsey Turner and Chris Barton (CJB) from their combined experiences of the festival.

It was only after the cast and directors had agreed to sacrifice their summers to take something up that it was first suggested that we should do another too. This was an adaptation of Dee Shulman's children's book, 'Cry in the Dark'. With two plays we could double our chances of success, a big consideration when dealing with Edinburgh audiences. We could not expect the rapturous applause from beaming relatives and drunken friends that we were used to from school plays.

Rehearsals took place in a frantic week at the end of July, beginning six days before we were due to fly up and was the first time either directors or cast had begun rehearsals where the entire company knew all their lines. The momentum built up during this week continued in Edinburgh, which was essential when technical rehearsals began at six in the morning! The revised version of 'The False Prophet', became 'Halo Boy and the Village of Death'. We had decided that we would call the company 'Westminster School', risking the wrath and non-attendance of anyone with a grudge against

public schools but highlighting the company's youth, and the dramatic heritage of the school. Initially, audiences were small; old Wets performing in Edinburgh came to see us and brought their own casts, meaning that after the first couple of days we built up a little word-of-mouth reputation, enough to get a couple of reviewers in to 'Halo Boy'. At the outset 'Halo Boy' received a four star review, which was better than any had thought possible, but when we received two five star reviews, from Fest and The Herald, the sublime turned to the ridiculous. By the end of the first week 'Halo Boy' was selling out, and continued to do so until the end of the run. This good fortune cannot be overestimated. One of the newspapers described us as 'the surprise hit of the Fringe'. Simultaneously, 'Cry in the Dark' received four star reviews, and also gathered very respectable audiences, again far more than Festival averages. By the end of the run, demand was such that we performed two extra shows, and in the final week, the icing on the cake of our run was that 'Halo Boy' won a TapWater award, the only one given to a piece of theatre, and was also declared the best piece of drama at the Fringe by 'Fest'.

The success of the pieces obviously galvanised our experience of the Festival. Unconcerned about making money, thanks to the school, we could let ourselves just enjoy being there, doing what we were doing. The hard work – getting up at eight every morning and spending from then until five every day devoted to performing and promoting the plays, and then going out and enjoying the Fringe as audience, was made much easier by doing well. That said, the entire company combined their various talents with such energy and bonhomie that, regardless of audiences, reviews or prizes, it was a perfect way to end a school career. Everyone involved deserves to be proud of what was achieved particularly Chris Barton for his facilitating expertise and Lyndsey Turner for her vision and relentless, spectacular energy in seeing the project through.

SHAKESPEARE

PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE

This late Shakespeare play has divided audiences for years. Its revival at Westminster was no different. In the same house, Nicky Goulimis (DD) was charmed and impressed, while Will Harris (DD) was rather less so. Both views are represented here, with Nicky's first.

NICKY

With an extended four-day run and a full auditorium, Pericles really ended the first term's drama in style. Rightly focusing on the quality of Shakespeare's language, each line was spoken with beautiful yet subtle articulation. This was made evident in the distinction between the verse of the entire play and the one comical prose scene. It was in their vocal as well as their physical exchanges the cast's strength as a team was highlighted. No one actor was seeking the limelight for himself, as the cast bounced off each other to achieve their best. Often taking several parts, each actor's characterizations were different and loaded with that – character. A certainly long and complex play, the actors balanced the mood with dynamism, without falling into the trap of overacting. The two leads, Alfie Enoch in the title role and Suzanne Huldtt in that of his daughter, were truly compelling because of the honesty which they portrayed.

This was a dramatic performance in every sense of the term, incorporating music, dancing, singing, as well as combat. The stage fights were scarily convincing but enjoyable to watch as the characters were rather aggressive. The dancing was appropriately Jacobean and the singing was of high standard. The music, written and performed by Westminster pupils, added an extra dimension to the piece. Rather than serving as just an interlude, it set the tone of each scene as well as expressing the violence of the storm that Pericles endures. In order to deal with the complex changes of location that the play demands, Mr Arthur made ingenious use of having a different projection on backboards for each location as well as giving the narrator a map and a laser pointer to clarify any audience confusion. The lighting and set were both elegantly simple whilst the stage itself was divided in a similar way to the Globe theatre, evoking productions in Shakespeare's own time. The costumes were lavish and served to give the non-adult cast the extra gravitas needed. All in all, Mr Arthur is to be congratulated on completing his run of Shakespeare's late plays with such tremendous charisma and delicacy.

WILL

'Pericles, Prince of Tyre' is the stunted and deformed child of George Wilkins and Will Shakespeare. The former was generally acknowledged to be an untalented poet and playwright whom history seems to have forgotten. The latter was a genius. The fact two such diverse personalities collided in this work seems to have made it more than likely to be unbalanced. Despite brief moments of typical magic (and others of stupefyingly contrived hogwash) this is not a fitting epitaph to Mr

Arthur's illustrious programme. It most certainly is not timeless. It betrays the contemporary fascination with the fantastical and mythological. That's not a bad thing in itself; the Tempest is a brilliant exploration of the morality of the magical and of colonialism in general. But here the premise is over-egged to bring in the Jacobean punters, and it doesn't know when to stop.

Pericles should perhaps try travelling by land with the plebs as every time he so much as sets foot on a boat he ends up in some other faraway land to fall in love, fight a gladiatorial contest, get married or lose a wife. Various locations include Antioch, Tyre, Tarsus, Pentapolis, Ephesus and Mytilene. It is astonishing that on his whistle-stop tour of the Mycenaean Islands he somehow finds time to engage in uncomfortable dialogue with the locals and further the increasingly ludicrous plot.

Having said that, the performances were uniformly superb. Alfie Enoch (as Pericles) gave a surprisingly persuasive performance; full of presence and energy. Suzie Huldtt played and sang unexpectedly well as both Antiochus' daughter and Marina – the long-lost daughter of Pericles. The idea to have actors play multiple parts seems have been an attempt to enforce structure and symmetry on a decidedly unbalanced work, but it confused me. Ed Digby-Jones had the unenviable task of playing Cleon, the Marshall and Pander. I was unsure as to why Cleon's demeanour had changed so much; and with such a shoddy script already it was definitely not easy to determine. The same was the case with Lottie Kirk. Their performances were both captivating and palpably malevolent; but was she Dionysa or the Goddess Diana? In deciphering the arcane plot this did not prove to be helpful.

Soumaya Keynes, as Pericles' wife, had the most ridiculous story arc, ultimately being resuscitated by the Magician Thaliart, played by the excellent, under-cast Julian Harvard-Barnes. Yet she proved satisfactorily persuasive as well. The cement which held the whole crumbling edifice together was undoubtedly Max Hoehn. He played the transitional narrator, Gower, and, one way or another he managed to breathe life into the part, proving to have great gravitas.

Overall, the second half was far better than the first. It wouldn't be a great leap to assume this is because it was written by Shakespeare. Specifically, the brothel scene provided some much needed humour in the shape of the lanky, lecherous Tom Hoare, playing Bolt. The interplay between him, Ed Digby-Jones and Cicely Taube had a spontaneity and vitality. Ultimately a poor play was given a good showing by the ensemble acting and all involved; special mention should go to those who helped out behind the scenes. The amount of effort and practice put in came through in abundance. Especially in the Lords, gentlemen, sailors, messengers and gladiators, whose fight had obviously been meticulously rehearsed and was all the better for it. The stage had a simple elegance that the plot could have benefited from.

It would be churlish to criticise this production per se; it was the blockbuster Westminster play of the year and the acting and direction did manage to stand up to the hype. Really though, it is a testament to the talented ensemble of young actors trained by Mr Arthur that they managed to carry on their shoulders the body of this Jacobean play.



Above:
Cast members of
Pericles, Prince
of Tyre.

Above and below:
The cast on and off
stage in Edinburgh.





"A cast full of singers equal to the demands of a piece that falls somewhere between opera and Broadway."

MUSICAL

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

This year's musical was Chris Barton's production of Stephen Sondheim's 'A Little Night Music', a wistful and knowing look at love in turn-of-the-century Scandinavia, writes Edward Randell (BB), with a little help from Edmund Digby Jones (LL).

From the moment Felix Tusa walked onstage during the audience's chatter, hit a piano key and let loose a beautiful tenor note, we knew we were in safe hands. Max Barton and Eleanor Turner-Moss led the cast as Fredrik and Desirée, two jaded, middle-aged former lovers who have a chance to reignite their old

flame: both conveyed their characters' wounded pride and frustrated romanticism with humour and poignancy. William Blake was hilarious as Fredrik's son Henrik, a student trying desperately to be taken seriously and to deal with his love for his young stepmother (a wonderfully wide-eyed Soumaya Keynes). Bella Sanders had tremendous presence and twinkle as the aged Madame Armfeldt and Oliver Stevenson brought the blustering Count Carl-Magnus to rather horrible life.

Sondheim's achingly romantic music was beautifully performed by an orchestra under the baton of Guy Hopkins, and a cast full of singers equal to the demands of a piece that falls somewhere between opera and Broadway. Some of the songs gave us brilliantly complex patter ("Now, as the sweet imbecilities tumble so lavishly onto her lap/ Now, there are two possibilities: A, I could ravish her; B, I could nap.") Others were heartbreaking: Eleanor Turner-Moss lived up to the challenge of the show's most famous number, 'Send In The Clowns', and Miranda Townsend gave us 'Every Day a Little Death', my personal highlight of the evening. Also impressive was the five-strong Liebeslieder chorus, who in Chris Barton's expert hands provided a slick counterpoint that was by turns funny and nostalgic. Mr Barton's highly effective staging also benefited from the adroit movement direction of Peter Chequer and the imaginative designs by Dee Shulman. The set was ingeniously at one with the piece: determinedly theatrical and decorated with nods to the artistry of 19th-century Scandinavia, it stimulated the imagination and constantly reminded us of the unreal, artistic world in which the story of the Egermans and the Armfeldts plays out. These made full use of the venue's possibilities (such as the ability to fly scenery in and out) to give us a richly-hued set that was complemented by elegant period costumes from RADA student Lyndsey Turner. All in all, a production that left me with a big, romantic grin on my face.



Above and right:
A Little Night Music.



HAROLD PINTER PLAY

THE HOTHOUSE

Jonathan Tham (WW) is impressed by the balance brought to this little known early work by Harold Pinter.

It has been said that 'The Hothouse' advances with the eccentric logic of a nightmare. If it hit you or me in the small hours, it would have us awake and shaking. Tom Hoare's production not only brought this chilling aspect of the play to life, but also captured Pinter's comedy.

'The Hothouse' is set in a dubious rest home run by the bombastic Roote (played by Edmund Digby-Jones). Roote blusters and rants, trying hopelessly to maintain some vestige of authority whilst oblivious to most of the outside world. This wild character contrasts with the cold and calculating Gibbs (Roote's assistant, played by Ed Randell). Much of the horror of the play is drawn from the exploitation of innocence, represented in the character Lamb (Carlos Fain-Binda). This unorthodox workforce is completed by Lush (Nat Gordon), and the manipulating Miss Cutts (Matilda Hay).

Though the situation of the play is peculiar, the characters and their relationships are recognisably real. There was a tension between the actors which revealed Pinter's distinctive power struggle; even the most mundane of conversations could turn into a loaded argument. This tension provided room for much of the play's comedy, along with Roote's rather absurd speeches and mannerisms.

The reason that this play stood out for me was its balance between comedy and horror. Although the acting in this production was uniformly excellent, final acknowledgment must be for Tom Hoare who brought this little known play to our attention in such style.



DRYDEN'S HOUSE PLAY

BLACK COMEDY

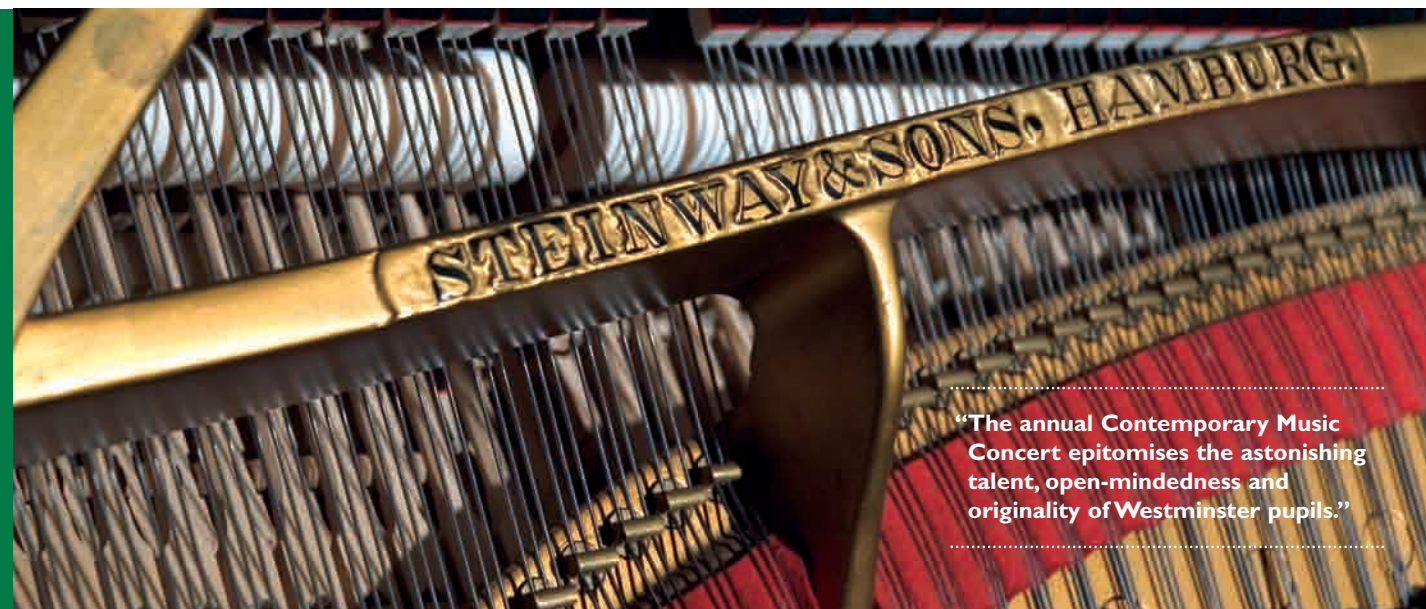
Black Comedy is the funniest play I've ever seen at this school, declares Adam Tanaka (AHH).

Sure, the scratch plays (aka New Season Reviews) are funny in their childish humour, and it's impressive that the scratch plays are for the most part written by students, but I'm afraid none of them measure up to Peter Shaffer. *Black Comedy*, directed by Ted Marcus, was like all the best moments from Fawlty Towers ingeniously, frantically pieced together into one extraordinary 90 minute scramble. And with one fantastic hook: the whole play takes place in pitch darkness for the characters but in normal light for the audience.

Top performances from all: Phil Crandall embraced his Basil Fawlty-esque role with enviable gusto; Alex Digby crossed his legs very, very nicely; Nicky Goulimis was pitch-perfect as an airhead bimbo; Daniel Grant-Smith barked like a dog; and Benji Liebowitz fell over. The timing was sublime, the script hysterical (even the mistakes – say, Phil Crandall knocking over his sculpture by mistake, or Anna Croall's white hair powder exploding into a grey cloud above her head), and the entire effect truly spell-binding. Although the laughs in the first few minutes were nothing more than nervous titters, five minutes in and the entire house was on the floor, writhing.

Let me sign off by saying this. *Black Comedy* got an encore. It got a standing ovation. Forget the best house play ever put on...this is the best play I've seen in a very long time.

Above and below:
The cast of
Black Comedy.



"The annual Contemporary Music Concert epitomises the astonishing talent, open-mindedness and originality of Westminster pupils."

NEW MUSIC 2006

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC CONCERT

RMT reflects on the talent and originality of Westminster pupils in a packed and exciting programme of new music.

Now that the 20th Century has become 'the last century' it is no longer practical to limit the definition of 'contemporary music' to 'music of the current century'; thus this year's Contemporary Music Concert reviewed developments in composition over a period of nearly one hundred years from before the First World War to the present day. The variety of compositions presented this year encompassed enormous stylistic diversity without even offering the comfort of a conclusive chronological trend. Thus the evening's only truly contemporary compositions – works by Nikolai Cedraeus, Cyrus Lyons, Simon Nathan, Gamal Khamis and WA Mozart – were more immediately appreciable, even to 21st Century ears, than Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* with its enduring capacity to challenge and shock the listener.

Olivier Messiaen, perhaps the most influential composer of the second half of the twentieth century, was represented on the programme by two contrasting pieces dating from 1951 and 1932. Alex Leese and Gamal Khamis opened the Concert with *Le merle noir* in which Alex' crystal-clear flute tone conjured up fragments of black-bird song flying over the mystical and rhythmically complex ground of the piano. In Britten's *Proverb IV – The Tyger* Tom Kennedy's flexible and superbly controlled baritone conveyed the composer's mastery of the sombre writing of William Blake, a poet whose work inspired Britten throughout his life from his earliest days to this work's first performance at the 1965 Aldeburgh festival. Poulenc's *Sonata for Clarinet and Piano*, published posthumously in 1963, challenges the clarinetist with its use of the altissimo register and delights the audience with its fragmented melodies, shifting tonality and sudden changes of mood. Joshua Borin and Rachel Tocknell triumphed over these technical demands to bring out the lyrical quality of the first movement, *Allegro tristamente*. In Cyrus Lyons' *Theme and*

Variations the audience heard the first of four compositions by current Westminster pupils, played by the composer with a fluid, rich viola tone sympathetically accompanied by Jonathan Katz. Its six short, contrasting variations were developed from a simple theme, finally reconciling the harmonic differences of the two instruments to form a coherent and satisfying whole.

Harrison Birtwistle's set of *Duets for Storab* were performed by the flute duo of Alex Leese and Timothée de Faramond. Alternating staccatos required split-second timing; contrasts in flute tone emphasised the perfect co-ordination between the players as they threaded their way through the interwoven strands of the music. The second Messiaen work in the programme, *Theme et variations*, dated from much earlier in the composer's career and showed a more lyrical, flowing style than the fluttering birdsong of later years. Sam Young, accompanied by Jonathan Katz, played with a superlative command of the violin which took the work far beyond its considerable technical demands.



Béla Kovács' *Hommage a Manuel de Falla*, written only a dozen years ago, utilises fragments of the styles favoured by de Falla to pay homage to the Spanish master without a hint of pastiche. Beth Hardie played this, the only solo work in the programme, with a flawless technique and a smooth, firm tone which left the audience in no doubt of her mastery of the clarinet.

Bella Sanders, in pierrot costume and spotlighted in a dimly-lit School, gave a haunting performance of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, one of the pivotal works of the 20th Century in severing all tonal connections with the past. Accompanied by a small and contrasting ensemble of wind, strings and piano, Bella's acting skills brought the Sprechstimme libretto to life as intended by the actress who commissioned the work in 1912.

On the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth, members of the audience were privileged to hear a new work by W A Mozart, written before their very eyes – indeed, with their assistance – for first performance (and accomplished sightreading) by Gamal Khamis. Mozart's love of games inspired him to write *The Dice Minuet* in which every two bar fragment takes the form of one of a number of different phrases, selected at the throw of a die. With more than 10²⁹ arrangements possible, we can be reasonably certain that the work which the audience helped to piece together, ably assisted by Richard Hindley at the computer keyboard, had never been heard before and will never be freshly composed again in the life of the universe. It was a contemporary work in every sense.

The compositions of current Westminster pupils dominated the second half of the concert, with Nikolai Cedraeus presenting his *Dark Horizons* to a darkened hall. Created the previous month using a variety of digital audio tools, oriental and western motifs were manipulated, mixed and projected around School forming a landscape of sound in which the audience soon found themselves immersed. A similar immersion was achieved in the following three orchestral works, when the audience found themselves virtually surrounded by a school orchestra of super-symphonic size. *The Final Journey of Eduardo de Visé* was written by Gregory Wilson in 1980, based on his incidental music for a documentary film, and depicts the inner conflicts



Left:
The flute and piano
open the Concert.

of its eponymous subject through opposing musical elements. The orchestra revelled in the tonal variety of the piece and rose to the challenge of the extended techniques demanded by the composer. *Battle over a Calm Sea* by Simon Nathan skilfully overlays the two elements of its title; in its opening bars, the oily swell of the music carries a menace all too soon realized in the battle which rages over its surface. The composer's effective use of wind and brass in a militaristic parody leads into an exciting percussion motif reminiscent of Nielsen, before the storm passes over and an uneasy peace returns.

The closing work of the evening, Gamal Khamis' *Rhapsody for Piano and Orchestra*, has evolved over the past year from a work for two pianos into a work for full symphony orchestra in which Fanxi Wang played the concertante role for solo piano. Over this time the work has not only developed in scale but has grown more adventurous in melody and harmony. A recurring 5/4 motif links more contemplative passages and leads into a piano cadenza, reappearing shortly before the final bars of this imaginative and polished work.

Perhaps more than any other event, the annual Contemporary Music Concert epitomises the astonishing talent, open-mindedness and originality of Westminster pupils. The energy pupils devote to rehearsal and performance is a tribute to the ability of Sinan Savaskan and all the Music Department both to inspire in pupils a thirst for discovery and to make new music fun. Long may this continue.



Above:
Rehearsing in
the Manoukian
Music Centre.

Below:
Recording in
the Manoukian
Music Centre.

ADRIAN BOULT CONCERT 2005 KING'S CONSORT

On October 6th 2005 Westminster was privileged to welcome the internationally renowned King's Consort, Musical Director Robert King, with soloists Lorna Anderson, soprano, and Robin Blaze, counter-tenor, to give the 20th annual Sir Adrian Boult Memorial Concert Up School, reports GNH.

The King's Consort was formed in 1980 by Robert King in Cambridge, and over twenty five years it has become one of the most respected and recorded Early Music Ensembles anywhere in the world. It has performed in all the major festivals and venues in the UK including the BBC Proms with tours in Europe, North America and the Far East.

The programme they presented was mainly sacred vocal music from the Italian Baroque, but included a *Concerto Grosso* by Corelli. A fascinating contrast was provided by the inclusion of two works by Pergolesi, the

well-known *Stabat Mater*, and one of three settings he wrote of the *Salve Regina*. The *Salve Regina* displayed many of the hallmarks of Pergolesi's style: expressively elegant vocal lines which mix committed devotion of the church with contained drama from the opera house – traits which led Einstein to describe Pergolesi's music as "sacred chamber music". Neither was it hard to understand why the *Stabat Mater* was the single most published piece of music in the whole of the 18th century; its chromatic harmony, chains of expressive suspensions and declamatory vocal lines express beautifully the anguish of the Virgin at the foot of the Cross.

The performances by Lorna Anderson and Robin Blaze were finely judged with Anderson's clean soprano blending and separating with Blaze's warm counter-tenor in the *Stabat Mater*. Blaze was also the soloist in Alessandro Scarlatti's *Salve Regina*, a less well known work which impressed with its rich textures and expressive harmony – a revelation. Throughout, King and his ensemble accompanied with great style and finesse, the instrumental *ritornelli* picking up the emotions of the texts and bringing a new dimension to them.

The string players, by way of contrast, gave a spirited account of Corelli's *Concerto Grosso* in F op 6 no 9 whose varied dance movements and perfectly judged form reminded the listener why these works became such important models for later composers such as Vivaldi, Handel and Bach.

We were also very grateful to Lorna Anderson for giving singing students from the school a Masterclass in the morning in the Manoukian Music Centre. Not only did she listen attentively and give perceptive advice to each individual performer, but she did it all with great charm and enthusiasm. An admirable artist.



ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL CONCERT

This was an intelligently conceived programme with something for everyone, writes PDH.

Khachaturian's Masquerade Suite had the inestimable merit of being user-friendly. I suppose most of the audience were musically fairly literate, but it was a cold night and we appreciated its accessibility. The orchestra seemed to have understood the ideas, beautifully accenting the contrast between the different movements, slipping from valse to nocturne to mazurka with wonderful unselfconsciousness. This was tuneful, energetic, and youthful, but never naïve. Neil Amin-Smith's solo work was as poised as one could have imagined, producing a wonderfully flexible sound, full of colour and wonderful phrasing. In the best sense of the word, this was 'filmic' music, performed to the highest of standards.

Barber's Violin Concerto could fairly be called the main event in the evening's repertoire. Again, one gleaned a palpable sense of both control and understated comprehension, displayed in the exquisite (and for once not too slow) tempo of the first movement. Moreover, we saw also a great sensitivity in the interplay between the orchestra en masse and the soloist. Sam Young offered an extraordinarily mature performance: he has long been described as a virtually nerveless performer, but it is difficult to overstate the lyricism he communicated. Above all, it was commented by those in a position to know that for all the intensity of his preparation (he had memorised the entire score) on the night itself his colossal mental and musical engagement found new expression in his magisterial performance, perhaps especially in the final movement *presto in moto perpetuo* (to anyone else, 110 uninterrupted bars).

Schubert's Unfinished Symphony might have seemed an almost anti-climactic end to the evening. Despite, in Guy Hopkins' words, being full of 'notes that are easy to play', it is often considered to be his most challenging work, full of profundities that must inevitably



Above and left:
Schubert's Unfinished
Symphony, the climax
of the concert in
St John's.

risk confounding young players. To its listeners on this occasion, it was full of promise and redolent of talent, though it is not difficult to believe that in ten or twenty years time most of the orchestra will come to understand it differently. There were also some memorable solos from the wind section, with Beth Hardie and Marc Baghdadi giving a sound of great clarity and depth.

I arrived for this concert feeling that it was taking place at just the wrong moment of term - with too much to do and too little time in which to do it, and with two long weeks still separating everyone from a holiday. But I left (at a very civilised time) buoyed up as I have been so often, by the wonder of music and the awesome abilities of our pupils.



LIEDER CONCERT

JBK gives an expert view on the latest concert in this long-running series organised by Richard Stokes.

In Bostridge's Play Term Schubert recital Up School with the pianist Julius Drake included both familiar repertoire and a few songs less often heard. The programme was beautifully planned, the songs grouped by poets and with a good range and balance of dramatic and stylistic contrasts. Bostridge's German is expressive and strongly articulated; what was particularly evident this evening was his close attention to the possible meanings, and levels of meanings, in the poetic texts. Some of the most powerful moments were achieved as much through careful and intelligent handling of verbal drama as through the singer's vocal and musical qualities. Part of this is knowing when to let a text (almost) speak for itself. The famous 'Im Frühling' opened the first group of songs, five settings of poems by K.F. Schöten. Here it is easy and tempting to sentimentalize, but Bostridge conveyed a subtle sense of pensive reminiscence, and perhaps self-critical irony. This is a song which demands much of the pianist too – faultless control of tone, but also a natural fluidity. Here, and throughout the evening in so many different ways, Julius Drake played, and followed and led, superbly well. More overtly dramatic moments, such as the urgent 'Auf der Bruck' (Schulze) and Goethe's 'Erlkönig', combined poetic force and technical virtuosity. It was in some of the quieter introspective pieces that the partnership showed its greatest strength, perhaps above all in the incomparable Rückert setting 'Dass sie hier gewesen'; the song addresses words to the most elusive of Schubert's melodic and harmonic gestures and should help us to understand some mysterious related fragments in the instrumental works. Elsewhere in the programme there were also touches of originality and exciting musical creativity in both of the performers' approach to speed, rubato and articulation.

Audience reactions (all positive and enthusiastic after this concert) revealed widely divergent views as to what



Bostridge does really well – what is and what isn't 'his' song. This is of course a credit to him; apparently no song in the programme failed to touch at least some of us. Richard Stokes' detailed notes on the poets, texts and settings should be kept – and re-read.

JAZZ CONCERT

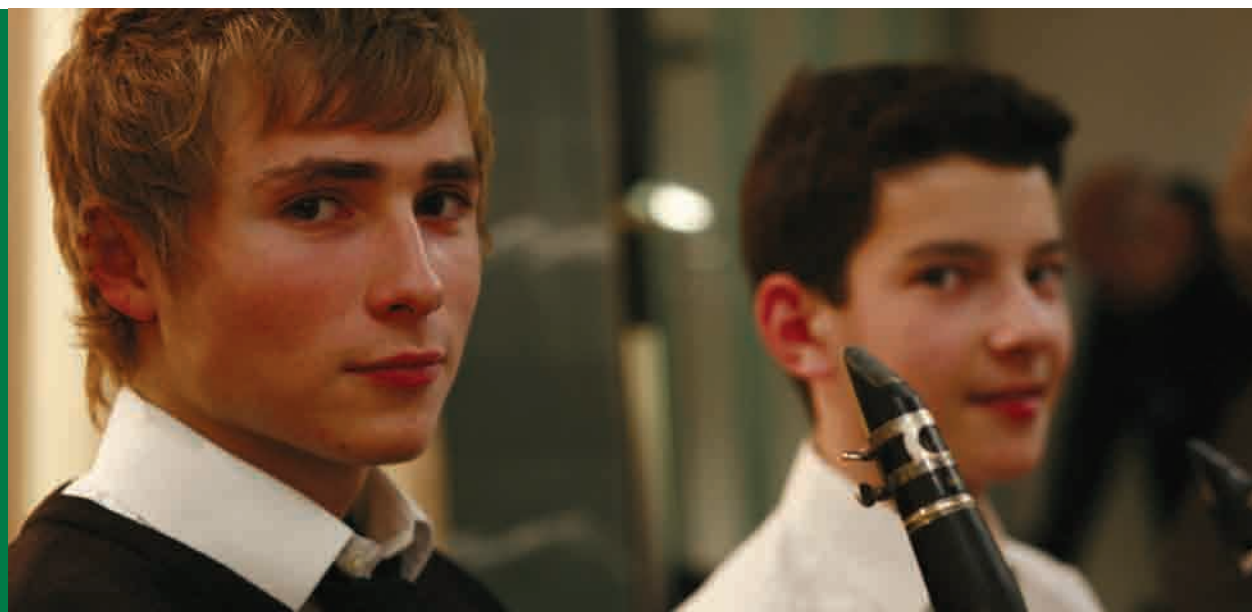
George Barton (RR) keeps his cool when the evening gets hot.

For those who keep up with the dizzying frequency of Westminster musical events, the jazz concerts are something like buried treasures, and this event was no exception. For an evening in December the Manoukian Centre became a jazz club, complete with tables, drinks and chatter. At first the seemingly oxymoronic concept of 'relaxed school concert' was lost on the audience, but opening act The Big Band put smiles on everyone's faces with some extremely tight renditions of upbeat standards, including *Take the A-Train* and *Here's That Rainy Day Again*, and finding room for some tasty solos by Anthony Friend and Richard Evans on tenor and piano respectively. Next up were the Lower School Jazz Band, who showed that there is genuine jazz talent waiting in the wings when the seniors are gone. They employed a democratic approach to their renditions, each player soloing once on each number: special mention is due to Bobak Sadaat on guitar and to Robert Millar on trumpet. The last act of the official programme were the Upper School Jazz Band, playing a particularly funk-oriented set including *Cold Duck Time* and a spontaneous rendition of *The Chicken*; with some virtuoso solos from Timothée de Faramond on flute and a guest vocal from Ed Randell, the transformation from music faculty to laid-back club was complete. The final numbers were totally impromptu, the music teachers joining the Senior Jazz rhythm section for an extended jam, and finally inviting anyone who was willing to join in as well for a blues in F. In the words of one James Hooper, "It should have gone on for another hour".

Above:
Jazz rehearsal.

Left:
Getting in the mood.





ROCK CONCERT

Joe Scantlebury (BB) mixes up his jargon in the excitement of the Rock Concert in the spring.

All hep cats came together one late afternoon up School for the Rock Concert, for what turned out to be an eclectic tour de force of live music in different guises. From band's accomplished own material, to covers mould-ed imaginatively to fit a different genre and even some funky jazz numbers, the concert gave some groovy performances.



WESTMINSTER ABBEY CHORAL CONCERT
21ST MARCH 2006

THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS

Elgar's Dream of Gerontius is an ambitious work for a School concert, says GG.

Lurching as it does between secular and religious, oratorio and opera, Wagner and Verdi, it could so easily slide into an unholy mess: thick orchestration gesturing emptily towards brocaded piety. Indeed during the interval, some of the audience, no doubt prejudiced by Newman's awful poem (helpfully reprinted in the programme) were heard to complain that they found the music both gloomy and depressing.

If so they could not have been listening, not with their ears. The chief strength of Guy Hopkins' performers was its energy and lift: his conducting showed that 'Romantic' doesn't need to be acquainted with stodge. He did not allow the orchestra to dwell with indulgent mournfulness on Gerontius' fate, but encouraged the players, with his customary elegance, to get a shift on. Indeed, both orchestra and chorus were acutely responsive to the changes of mood helping the suitably Italianate tenor soloist Dominic Natoli in his presentation of the anguished protagonist. Solo instruments cut through the bathroomy acoustic of the Abbey and Gerontius, the scared penitent, came magically to life at the moment of his death: 'a visitant is knocking his dire summons at my door....'

The chorus was kept on its collective toes throughout and the singing at the end of part one was especially powerful in a suitably barrel-chested, big-bosomed Edwardian fashion. The only unconvincing moment was the Chorus of Demons which even in 'classic' performances always sounds inappropriately genteel. Elgar's demonic mode is applied from the outside, like the sexiness of a Women's Institute Calendar. Not that the work lacks moments of rest. The exchanges between Mr Natoli and Rosalind Plowright (the Angel) were both touching and affectionate. Unsurprisingly, Miss Plowright's singing throughout was astonishing both in its power and intelligence.



"Elgar's demonic mode is applied from the outside, like the sexiness of a Women's Institute Calendar."

John Rawsley, the bass, was dignified without ever descending into pomposity.

All in all, a remarkable concert. At the end of his own score of Gerontius, Elgar quoted Ruskin; 'this is the best of me.... this, if anything of mine, is worth your memory.' Guy Hopkins and the Westminster School Choir and orchestra showed this to be. Nothing more could be asked of them.



CANTANDUM 2006

INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE KING

On a winter evening, blasted by wind and frost, my spirits were lifted by beautiful singing, rejoices Henry Thorogood (MM).

This year Cantandum's concert started with Purcell's *Funeral Music for Queen Mary*. Though sombre in mood, each piece was short and sweet. The singing lent itself to a desolate, bleak yet magnificent view of life. The lower pitched voices were particularly impressive and dominant in these recitals. This, combined with the vigilant use of trumpets in the *Funeral March* and *Canzona*, meant that we really felt we had walked *Into the Temple of the King*.

Following this, we were blown away by Bruckner's *Afferentur Regi* (from where the title of the concert is taken) and *Ecce Sacerdos*. In particular, the latter used the organ and trombones in true Bruckner style to great effect, with powerful chord sequences adding to the array of different voices, resulting in a transcendental listening experience.

Finally, we moved onto Caldara's *Missa dolorosa*. This piece was very much quartet based, which allowed the newer members of Cantandum, such as AC-B or returning member TDP to display their voices without the chorus. A particular memento of the evening was the spectacular solo, *Domine Deus*, performed by FGS. The evening ended on a high note (*sic*) finally marked with a graceful bow from GMF and the whole choir and orchestra.

Having run out of adjectives, I can leave you with only one more thing – if this performance is anything to go by, the next performance by Cantandum is not to be missed!

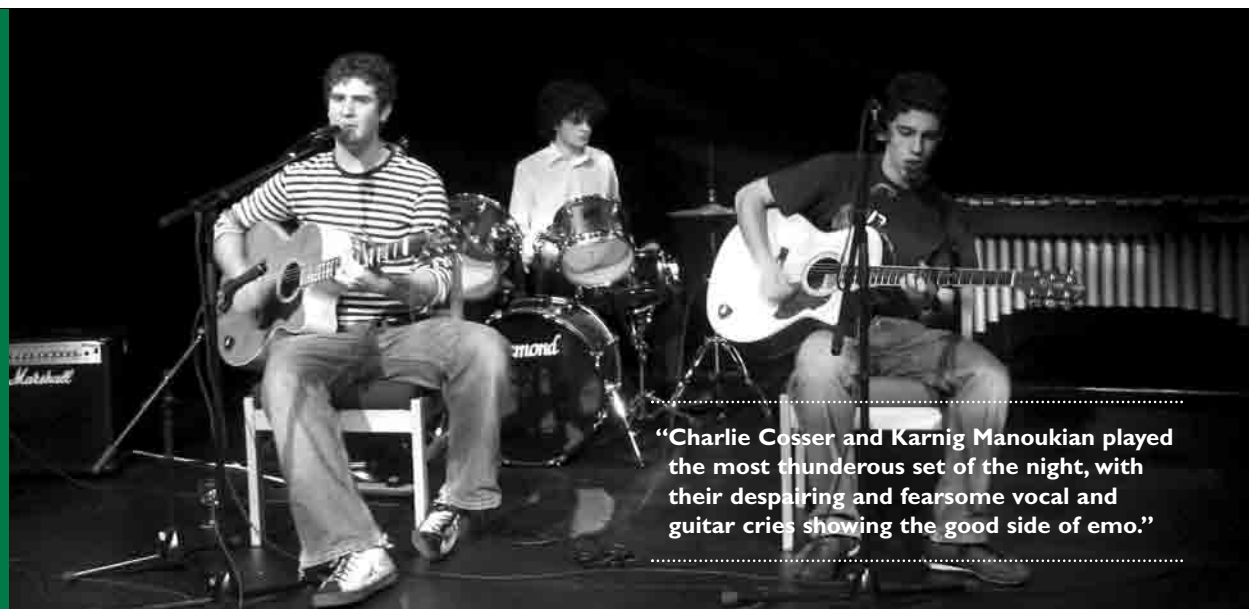
Above:
The woodwind section.

Right:
In rehearsal in the Manoukian Music Centre.

Above:
The Rock Concert. Photographed by Jamie Stoker.

Left:
Recording in the Manoukian Music Centre.

Below left:
Trumpeters rehearsing *Canzona*.



"Charlie Cosser and Karnig Manoukian played the most thunderous set of the night, with their despairing and fearsome vocal and guitar cries showing the good side of emo."

ACOUSTIC CONCERT UNPLUGGED

Now in its third year of acoustic revelry, Westminster's Unplugged concert took to the stage of the Millicent Fawcett Hall on 2nd May to entertain us using only sparse acoustic instruments, exults Tom McEvoy (WW).

Organiser Edward Randell encouraged the young musicians' imaginations to stray from the usual Buckley, Dylan and blues standards and emphasise instead original songs composed by the performers themselves. This provided a concert full of acoustic treats.

Compered by Tom Hoare, the evening was held together by Tom's charisma, Pink-related in-jokes and Mighty Boosh-esque quips. The evening began with Vikesh

Kirpalani's skilful piano-driven R&B ditty 'Let You Down', interspersed with audience clap-a-long (which wasn't embarrassing to join in with) and beat-box breakdown. I'd have liked to hear more. This was followed by Joe Scantlebury and Soumaya Keynes treating us to a George Barton song that wouldn't sound out of place on Bright Eyes's next acoustic foray, with the songwriter on xylophone and James Wan providing a haunting, shimmering guitar line behind them. They then played another Barton original, and cleared the stage for Adam Holmes and Gamal Khamis's brilliant rendition of Randy Newman's satirical condemnation of the vertically challenged, 'Short People'. Three Max Barton songs followed, adeptly addressing themes of introverted personal yearning using vivid imagery of apocalyptic anticipation. Charlie Cosser and Karnig Manoukian played the most thunderous set of the night, with their despairing and fearsome vocal and guitar cries showing the good side of emo. Simon Garbutt then took on the challenge of playing three guitar-driven songs all on his own, to which he rose with a skilful mix of flair and reticence.

The second cover of the night, Rilo Kiley's 'With Arms Outstretched', was performed with great energy and imagination by Miranda Townsend and Mikey Theodosiou. Youngsters Louis Shadwick and Tom Dunning provided one of the most enjoyable sets of the evening, performing inspired epics that defied their composers' ages. Headliner, organiser and roadie Edward Randell then took to the stage to perform three expressive songs on the piano, including the Herman Hesse-inspired 'Hermine' and 'So It Is', which has been hot on the Myspace circuit for a while now.

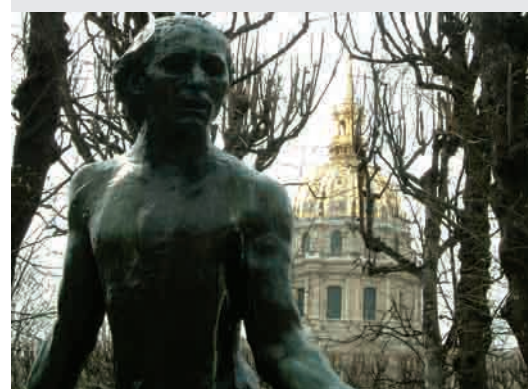
The night proved to be a delightful success, fully realising and exposing the depth of musical talent offered by Westminster's budding singer/songwriters.

Above and right:
On stage and
backstage at the
Unplugged Concert.
Photographed
by Alex Cagan.



PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE BEST SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH

Entries for the Elizabethan
Photography Prize 2006.
Other entries appear
throughout the magazine.



Above:
'Water'.
Photographed
by Hannah King.

Far left (top):
'Shoes'.
Photographed
by Jamie Stoker.

Far left (bottom):
Rodin's Garden, Paris.
Photographed by
William Blake.

Left (top):
'Water drops'.
Photographed by
William L'Heveder.

Left (middle):
'River'.
Photographed
by Joe Gross.

Left (bottom):
'Football'.
Photographed
by Jian Wu.



CHRIS CLARKE EXHIBITION

In December Chris Clarke had a highly successful selling exhibition of monoprints and other work made during his sabbatical leave, including prints developed while he was on a ten week Post-Experience Programme at the Royal College of Art. Other work on show reflected his responses to a number of cathedrals, including Norwich, Peterborough and Southwark. On display was a range of monoprints and paintings, as well as several well-filled sketchbooks.



Above top, right and far right: Chris Clarke chats to a visitor. Monoprints from the cathedral (Southwark, Norwich and Peterborough) series and mixed media landscapes.



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VOGA IN VENICE

"Then we entered the city itself in our rowing boats. We caused a few crashes as we entered the canals, which made us nervous about going any further."

Above: Cricket 1st XI on tour in Barbados. Photographed by JDK.

Left (top): Sports Day. Photographed by Nikolai Cedraeus.

Left (bottom): U14 football match versus the Hampton team.



SEASON: 2005
FOOTBALL 1ST XI

Played: 23 Won: 2 Drew: 2 Lost: 19

In my 15 years of running football at Westminster I have learnt that every season has a character of its own. This particular season was no exception and although we lost a large number of games, many were close encounters where a single goal settled the tie. The season was challenging for all concerned and those who watched the matches would undoubtedly bear witness to the fact that there were many close calls in the matches. The weaknesses of the side were simple to diagnose, but not always simple to rectify and despite the efforts and resilience shown by many players, our inability to finish promising moves with a goal in the normal way, heaped pressure on our defensive players. As the season progressed and our matches followed the same pattern of great endeavour interspersed with some delightful football, concluding with a narrow defeat, the proverbial 'monkey on the back' evolved into a gorilla.

Goals were conceded almost entirely from set pieces: throw-ins, corners and the like. Our movement across the pitch and defensive organisation was good in parts. A lack of height and aerial ability in defending the crossed high ball was the single most important factor contributing to our poor results.

We should have at least drawn our two opening matches and certainly deserved more from our encounters with Aldenham, Chigwell, Bradfield, Dulwich and Harrow; this was a season that could have looked markedly different. Excellent wins against Forest and Highgate showed that we were capable of winning and our victory against a much lauded Highgate side was perfectly executed.

My hope is always that Westminster players enjoy their football, become wise to the technical aspects of the game and that they are imbued with an understanding of the importance of being competitive. The squad as a whole lived up to this and were a pleasure to coach over the two terms. Special mention must be given to Anthony Comninos who was an exceptional captain in addition to being a very fine defender, to Ben Golden

whose all round football ability and intelligence will surely serve him well in playing a high standard of football, to Hakan Feridun who worked tirelessly on his movement up front and improved enormously and to Sam Allen whose bravery was never in doubt and who kept going when he felt the world on his shoulders. I hope that in all cases these players will move on to greater things at University and beyond.

By the end of season, the side included six U16 players who showed great promise and could become a solid foundation for success in the next two years. Of these, Ian Clancy represented the U16 ISFA South Team and followed this by selection for the Full ISFA U16 team – only the second Westminster player to do so. They concluded their season with a successful tour in Hungary where his playing was roundly praised by all staff and coaches concerned.

Westminster is blessed with an energetic and talented group of masters in charge and coaches who have a very good understanding of the game – they compare favourably with the majority of other schools. My thanks go to PAH, GADH, JAI, PAH, MHE, CJU, AJJ, PB, NJH, JDK, MJM, MNR. Special thanks to IRM as always for his tireless and invaluable contribution and to RRS who leaves us after 28 years of sage and energetic service. The title 'living legend' is richly deserved.
JJK

THE PLAYERS

A. Comninos (H), B. Golden (R), H. Feridun (B), S. Allen (D), R. McPherson (R), I. Clancy (H), A. Hines-Green (C), S. Sasaki-Nasseri (L), J. Benson (D), R. Taylor (B), T. Lloyd (H), E. Rubenstein (C), B. Orme (R), T. Thomas (L), A. Hall (H) O. Flynn (R) A. Sashou (B), G. Burnett (R), J. Holt (C), W. Porter (W), B. Astaire (A).

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

6-a-side: Winners RR
11-a-side: Winners HH
6's lost in the Plate 1st round, having lost 2 and drawn 1 group game.

FOOTBALL
1ST XI: RESULTS

City of London	L	0-1	Chigwell	L	1-2
Ardingly	L	0-1	Bradfield	L	1-2
OW's	L	0-7	Highgate	W	1-0
Eton	L	1-2	C. Casuals	L	5-2
John Lyon	L	1-2	Latymer	L	0-2
Forest	W	4-0	(ISFA London Cup)		
KES Witley	L	2-4	Hampton	L	0-2
Repton (cup)	L	0-3	Harrow	L	1-4
Alley's	L	0-5	Dulwich	L	0-1
Latymer	L	0-2	TBSHS	L	0-2
Charterhouse	L	0-2	St Paul's	D	1-1
Aldenham	L	0-2	Canterbury	D	2-2

SEASON: 2005
FOOTBALL 2ND XI

Played: 18 Won: 7 Drew: 3 Lost: 8

This has been a roller-coaster of a season. The delight of beating Hampton (3 v 0), Charterhouse (3 v 2), and Dulwich (1 v 3) was tempered by the disappointment of losing heavily to Highgate (6 v 1), TSBHS (2 v 5) and Alley's (4 v 0). However, the vast majority of our matches hung on a knife edge until the final whistle. And I think it is fair to say that we experienced our fair share of wins, draws and defeats in these very competitive games.

There was a genuine belief within the squad that we could compete on an equal footing against any 2nd XI team that came our way. And in fifteen out of eighteen fixtures we did just that. Our belief in 'the team', and our dogged determination to succeed, meant that on several occasions we won matches against opponents that had a greater level of skill than ourselves.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly our 3 v 2 victory against Charterhouse 2nd XI (followed closely by an impressive win against Hampton). When our Charterhouse opponents stepped out onto Vincent Square, they did so with the knowledge that they had not conceded a single goal in their previous eight fixtures. Nat Gordon obviously thought it was time to put an end to that growing statistic because 10 minutes into the match he struck the ball from all of 30 yards. It took off like a golf-ball struck on the sweet spot of a driver. All that could be done was to watch it fizz into the back of the net. Goal of the season for many reasons – not only did it look great but that single moment raised the teams competitive edge several notches.

I would like to pay tribute to every player who represented the 2nd XI over the past season but in particular our regulars: It can't be easy being the man between the sticks but Alex Berend coped well with the pressure. His brave double save in the last minute of the match against Charterhouse prevented what looked like a certain equaliser. Will Porter played in goal when Alex was injured and performed admirably.

Dan Brodie was an inspirational captain and he really was the heart of the team. On the rare occasion when he wasn't available to play centre-back we missed his leadership (and all two of his football skills). George Burnett played regularly alongside Dan at centre-back, but oddly enough his best moment of the season occurred when he was substituted onto the right side of midfield in the second half against Hampton. With 20 minutes to go George made a 'lightening' run down the right hand side of the park, cut inside across the penalty area and slotted the ball under the keeper to seal a famous victory. Tom Jelly's performances in defence got better and better as the season progressed while Toby Thomas joined us late in the day and was a rock at centre-back.

Ben Astaire was our first choice right-back. Just about every performance Ben gave put him into contention for man of the match. And it is for this reason that he is my choice for '2nd XI Player of the Season'. I can hardly remember Ben missing a single tackle and he dug us out of countless dangerous situations with superb defending. Tommy Cattel played most of the season at left-back and to his surprise performed extremely well. Once or twice the team had to convince him to play striker, which reluctantly he did. Fortunately he went on to score several times! His first goal in our 3 v 1 victory against Dulwich was a peach.

A great deal was asked of the midfield all season. Not only were they the backbone of all our offensive play, but they were also required in the majority of matches to drop behind the ball when we lost possession. Their work rate in most matches was outstanding. Thomaz Steuerman and Michael Theodosiou ran tirelessly down the flanks, while Alex Estorick was our first choice play maker in the centre of the park with a safety net behind him in the imposing form of Nat Gordon. Joe Scantlebury often played alongside Alex but was replaced later in the season by Byron Orme.

We played with a lone striker all season. Initially, Robin McPherson was our hot headed and regular goal scorer until he was understandably called up to the 1st XI. It was not until the second half of the season that we discovered Mark Baghdadi's potential as a striker. He didn't disappoint. His goal against Harrow, from a superb Estorick cross, was pure text book technique (and the best crafted goal of the season). He jumped, hung in the air for what seemed like an age, and then coolly but powerfully headed the ball into the bottom of the net. Unfortunately, we went on to lose this match by three goals to one.

Our final fixture of the season was against Canterbury. Emotions ran high that day as a win was needed for a winning season. Three minutes into injury time in the second half we were ahead by one goal to nil and it looked like it was all over (some thought it should have been). However, in the fourth extra minute Canterbury equalised with a soft goal. Pure heartache. Nevertheless, I'm proud of what the 2nd XI achieved this season and know that they are too. Well done team.

It just remains for me to thank Giles Hayter for his assistance. He brought many new ideas to the coaching sessions and I know that the boys and I appreciated his presence.
PAH

Above:
Football 1st XI Team.



SEASON: 2005 FOOTBALL 3RD XI

**Played: 14 Won: 4 Drew: 2 Lost: 9
Goals For: 22 Goals Against: 53**

The Third Eleven's season was, like the great game itself, one of two halves. A classy display in the 4–4 season-opening thriller against Ardingly created an optimistic mood within the camp. The scorers were the persistent Robin McPherson, Nat Gordon from a direct free-kick, Jake Robson with a speculative effort from distance and Joe Scantlebury with an instinctive finish after excellent work from Matt Johnson and Max Ziemer. Will Porter's penalty save secured a well-deserved point.

The final performance of the season, a 1–0 win at King's Canterbury, earned a brave Westminster side the plaudits they deserved. This was an excellent all-round display with Will Porter, Charlie Maynard and the scorer Alex Asher outstanding.

In between these heady days the squad experienced mixed fortunes. Hammered 8–0 at Eton, the boys fought back to beat John Lyon 1–0 with a Ziemer header from Fred Johnson's cross. A fighting performance at windy Lancing rescued a 2–2 draw with Hugh Logan Ellis' last-gasp strike. Despite two Orlando Reade goals against Alleen's, tired legs told in the second half and Westminster lost 4–2.

In an excellent performance against Latymer, Westminster earned the spoils. The boys ran out narrow (5–4) winners. Their pace, discipline and strong tackling were the key factors. They then gave an honest, but fruitless (6–0) performance at Charterhouse, with Oliver Pinkus standing out. Defeated 4–0 by the Common Room, a cracking game against Aldenham followed. With an unstoppable drive from Pinkus and a looping Ziemer header to convert Eddie Knox' cross, Westminster looked to have secured the victory. Aldenham equalised. Tom Brutton ran free on the right to smash a shot beyond the goalkeeper with two seconds left on the clock!

After early errors at Bradfield, the boys were on the back foot but an excellent second-half performance salvaged their pride in a 4–1 reverse. A losing streak of heavy

defeats to Highgate, Harrow, Dulwich and Bishops' Stortford followed before the triumph in Canterbury.

Many thanks to all the Senior boys who represented the School and to Paul Whittle for his coaching. Honorary mentions go to the leading scorer Max Ziemer, with 5 goals, and to Eddie Knox, Man of the Season. Ollie Pinkus wins Goal of the Season for his strike against Aldenham.

JAI

SEASON: 2005 FOOTBALL U16A

Played: 11 Won: 6 Drew: 5 Lost: 0

Five minutes into our first match of the season a looping header from one of the Ardingly strikers found its way into the corner of our net. It was an inauspicious start to what was to be a great season. We were not behind for long and in a ruthless display came out as 13–1 victors. Particularly impressive in the rout were Rubenstein, a striker with imagination and skill, and Shashou, an attacking midfielder comfortable on either foot. Eton, our next opponents, provided more of a challenge. Perhaps less strong in midfield than in previous years, they used an excellent sweeper and had two fast strikers. We went a goal down but came back to equalize. It was a creditable result but I felt that we were good enough to beat them. It was a similar story in the draws against Lancing and Alleen's. The team had now taken shape with Johnson in goal and a strong and fast defensive four of Flynn, Langton, the talented Sasaki-Nasseri and Herbert. Wheeler took right midfield with Shashou, Meadows or Godfrey-Faussett in the centre and Harrison or Pimlott out on the left. Rubenstein had by now found his place in the School first eleven and Athill and Obiekwe were the strikers. Our best attacking football was played down the right hand side with Wheeler providing pace and often a telling cross.

The turning point of the season was the Charterhouse match. Playing at home we had an excellent defensive game, weathering out a period of intense pressure in the first half and gradually getting more of the ball.



We scored a decisive goal in the last ten minutes to take the game. Obiekwe made a super near-post run to a cross from Wheeler and the beleaguered defender put into his own net. It was a great result with outstanding performances from Sasaki-Nasseri and Johnson. After a relatively easy 1–0 win against Aldenham, we traveled to Bradfield full of confidence. However, half-time found us two goals down, with a mountain to climb! We came back in to the game passing the ball with increasing accuracy. Shashou scored with a well-timed volley and after a second half of tremendous skill and spirit we were worthy winners by three goals to two. The final game of the term was a tense one all draw with Highgate.

The second term brought a 1–1 draw with Harrow, Meadows equalizing with a well struck shot from outside the area, and a 2–1 win over Dulwich. So for the unbeaten season we played St Paul's where again we prevailed scoring three to their one. We defended well as a team throughout the season but the back four and keeper must take a lot of credit. Langton showed excellent anticipation and tactical awareness whilst the ability and pace of the full-backs, Herbert and Flynn, allowed us to play with confidence down the flanks. Sasaki-Nasseri was quite outstanding and led the defense. In midfield Meadows, a thoughtful and accurate passer, and Godfrey-Faussett, with vision and pace, were good supports for Shashou, who was a first rate captain. Shashou's goals from midfield were crucial on a number of occasions. Pimlott is a player with a good touch and good vision and he passed the ball well whether in the centre, up front or on the left.

Harrison played well at left midfield, though no doubt he would have preferred the right; he provided the balance for the team and was able to hold the ball up; he was also to play centre back in a number of games. Up front, Athill worked hard all season but did not have much luck in front of goal; he did hold the ball up well and linked effectively with the other players. Obiekwe improved game on game and showed good anticipation in his goals. Bengier, Howell and Imrie all played occasional games but were up to the standard and fitted in well. It was a memorable season and one that will, no doubt, be the fore-runner to two excellent seasons of senior football.

MHF

SEASON: 2005 FOOTBALL U16B

Played: 9 Won: 4 Drew: 0 Lost: 5

The season began well with a sound thrashing of Ardingly College by the Under 16 B juggernaut. There was lots of spirit and character shown in the next match away against Eton, which unfortunately we lost 3–2. A depleted side was unlucky to lose away at Lancing, and Charterhouse and Bradfield proved too strong, with Westminster's famous resolve not quite being up to the task. The season was put back on track with a solid defensive performance gaining a 1–0 home win against Highgate. After Christmas the team travelled to Harrow where the snow and wind made skilful football difficult, and the opposition's physicality won them the match. The final two matches were deserved wins for the Westminster U16B warriors, both at fortress Vincent Square, sending Dulwich College and St Paul's home on the wrong end of 1–0 and 4–3 respectively.

Now to the individuals making up the squad; Hugo 'Huge hands' Hadcock was the goalkeeper who kept us in many of the matches, and pulled off some fine saves throughout the season. The defence was strongly marshalled by captain, centre-back, and player of unrivalled commitment, Marcus 'The Gladiator' Mepstead. Tyrone 'The Pit Bull' Cummins, Stephen Howell and Ben 'The Power' Shashou ably kept attackers at bay, with Alasdair Wilkins, Rameez Khan, Harry Jeffrey and others adding to the strength in depth.

The midfield engine of Tom Dunning and Matt Bengier was the powerhouse of the team, both players working harder than anyone to win ball in the centre of the field. Joe 'Kapil Dev' Capildeo added pace and skill on the right, with Joe Start, Sam Clarke, and Adam 'The Duke' Duchateau all playing well to make competition for places fierce.

Up front Ed 'The Eagle' Imrie was always a handful for opposition defences, with support from skilful players like Felix McKenzie, Josh 'The bullet' Rothschild and Nick 'Judgement' Day, whose hat-trick against St Pauls was one of the best performances of the year.

It was really a squad effort, with quality players like Chris Leavitt, Yohan Sanmugam, George Johnston and Sobhan 'Maverick Genius' Vakilian pushing hard for places in the team. Sahil Kanani was the reserve goalkeeper who unfortunately did not get to play this season, although he trained well.

With the U16A team having such a successful season it is worth noting the effort and commitment of those members of the B team squad who moved up to the A team when required during the season. It is a testament to the strength in depth of both squads that they could contribute to the unbeaten run of the U16As.

Player of the Season: Matt Bengier.

CJRU

Above (far left opposite page):
U16 match versus the Highgate Team.

Above:
U14 match versus the Hampton Team.



SEASON: 2005 FOOTBALL U15A

Played: 18 Won: 2 Drew: 0 Lost: 16

On paper this will not go down in the annals of Westminster sporting history as a vintage season (although we got more points than the 15A team of 2002–3). We played 18 matches, won 2, lost 16, scored 13 goals and conceded 61. We've been the Sunderland FC of the circuit. Despite our frustrations, it has still been a really enjoyable season retaining a tremendous team spirit and a great work ethic. The willingness to keep seeking improvement, to work for each other on the pitch and to be proud of good performances that represented progress from last year's corresponding fixtures has made me proud as manager. So what if we're not the most talented footballers on the circuit, we still outplayed and outclassed a disorganised John Lyon, and earned one of very, very few triumphs over Bradfield. Maybe more impressive than all that, we still played organised and competitive football right up until the final whistle of the last game against St Paul's. There's real character in this squad and as the lads grow and develop as footballers there will also be real success if they can retain this positive attitude. Josh Benson deserves special credit both as a dedicated and committed skipper, leading the team by example on the pitch, and as our top scorer with 10 goals. Ben Collis frequently performed miracles in goal. Our defensive determination (if not always communication!) prevented any team from being able to win with ease. Praise goes to Hugh Sultoon, Jeremy Holt, Sam Fishwick, Tom Surr and Hunter Farquhar-Thomson. In midfield tireless work was done to assist Josh by Mark Fellows (what a goal!), and also by Guy Nakamura, Sammy Talalay, Nick Tolkien and Alex Stevens. Up front lost causes were chased with determination and success by Charlie Chichester, and Humphrey Thomas provided moments of great flair. Mention must also go to the squad players who contributed to the A team – Tagiuri, Northover, Roberts and Ved. I would like to thank Nick Hinze for his consistent support, Valence for his coaching at a difficult time in the season (and yes, you did make things better, I promise!), Paul Botton who, through his enforced absence, reminding us all why we need and appreciate him so much, and many loyal par-

ents who supported us all throughout the season. Well done to everybody: there is much to build on next year.

Andrew 'Mick McCarthy' Johnson

SEASON: 2005 FOOTBALL U15B

Played: 15 Won: 0 Drew: 4 Lost: 11

It is fair to conclude that this year we were the weaker football team in terms of technical ability, positional sense and fitness. However we matched and often out-classed our opponents when it came to team spirit and sheer determination. I cannot remember a Westminster side that so rarely, if ever, let their heads go down throughout such a difficult season.

Much credit for this has to go to our captain, Khushaal Ved, whose zealous leadership and passionate motivational style kept everyone focused with his fitness and total commitment to the cause.

Another special mention goes to George Rowell, our goalkeeper. We may have conceded 74 goals over the season, but without George it would have been a great deal more. He frequently rescued us with incredibly brave and acrobatic saves. He broke his hand in the last 5 minutes of the last game of the season; an illustration of how George was committed to the final whistle. The Play term began with a miraculous comeback from 3–0 down against Ardingly to earn a 3–3 draw. We were then brought back down to earth at Eton, being thrashed 9–0. And so the pattern of the season was set; we either would compete fantastically and achieve a hard-earned draw, or get beaten fairly convincingly by superior sides. Our proudest moments were a 2–2 draw against the mighty Bradfield and a 1–1 draw against Highgate (Humphrey Thomas scoring a cracking equaliser).

Our defence were certainly very busy throughout the season; back four regulars were the skilful Gabriel Broadhurst (who netted the most spectacular own-goal I have ever seen at Hampton), the gutsy and dependable Alex Allen and the unpredictable but indispensable Pete Smith. The left back position was shared by super-sub Anthony Friend, the promising Haroun Hickman

and the swashbuckling Joe Northover. Our midfield usually consisted of Orfeo Tagiuri, Olly Rees (whose fitness increased impressively over the season) and arguably our two most talented players, Alex Stephens and Johnny Roberts, both fine prospects for the future.

Up front we often had to rely on a lone striker, and consequently struggled for goals. Charlie Chichester scored a fine hat-trick against Lancing, but spent a great deal of the season in the A-team. Hannibal Asher was also effective when released off the bench. When the skilful Will Amherst did get fully involved in the team, he scored goals and looked like our most potent attacking force.

I would like to thank all of the players above for their efforts and good company this season on the many away trips. My thanks also to Milan Vadher and Karim El-Borhami and some A-team stars who appeared for us occasionally. Finally, huge thanks to Andy Johnson and Valence for their coaching skills.

These boys have a fine attitude and if they stick together and continue to work for each other, as a team they will become more and more successful, and will have a lot of fun along the way – at this level football is about enjoyment for players, supporters and even managers, whatever the result.

Nick Hinze

Full team and player statistics are available on NJH's homepage on the school website.

SEASON: 2005–2006 FOOTBALL U14A

**Played: 18 Won: 4 Drew: 4 Lost: 10
Goals For: 27 Goals Against: 49**

This was a very respectable season for the U14As. The team's potential shows that they will experience more future success than the four victories and four draws which they enjoyed this year.

They improved throughout the season which began with a visit to Ardingly where, despite George Kirk's opening strike, we went down 3–1. The match against Eton was a disappointing performance as we lost 4–2 (Kirk bagging a brace) against a weaker than normal Eton team. The team showed good character, bouncing back with a creditable 1–1 draw away to John Lyon. This would have been victory but for conceding a last-minute penalty. Next up was a thriller at home to Forest where, despite some excellent attacking football, we were on the wrong end of a 4–3 defeat.

History repeated itself in the match away to KES Witley. Having outplayed the opposition, Westminster were 3–1 up with only minutes left after strikes from Thomas Hjelm and Patrick Meade. But sloppy defending saw the lead halved before controversy in the last minute of the game. The referee ignored an offside flag and Meade picked the ball up in the penalty area, assuming that a free-kick had been awarded. The referee awarded a penalty which was converted and the game finished 3–3 with Westminster learning 'play to the whistle' the hard way. Victory was deservedly achieved 1–0 against Lancing in the next match, the goal coming courtesy of a towering header from Vittorio Boccanera.

After Exeat, there was a visit to Alleyn's where a long-range strike from William Miles wasn't enough to stave off a 2–1 defeat. This was followed by the heavy defeat by Charterhouse before the team were back to winning ways at Aldenham with an excellent 2–1 victory courtesy of a double strike from Hjelm. Good form continued as a freezing early morning start away to Chigwell saw an outstanding counter-attacking goal from Kirk followed up by two stunning long-range strikes from Boccanera to give a highly satisfying 3–0 victory.

The bubble burst for an under-strength side away to Bradfield, and the Play term ended frustratingly when the coach's late appearance meant we missed the Highgate match.

The match was replayed in the New Year and a 1–1 draw was salvaged by an excellent lob from Meade. Failure to take our chances cost us in a close contest with Latymer before a strong Hampton side prompted one of our best defensive performances as the score was kept to 1–0 until the last five minutes when the opposition pulled away with two late goals. At Harrow we played some of our best attacking football to build a 3–0 lead courtesy of goals from Miles, Hjelm and Jamie Drey-Brown. Then, the Harrow centre-midfielder unleashed three unstoppable thunderbolts that arrowed their way into the corner of our net and we were left clinging on for a 3–3 draw having dominated most of the game. Disappointingly, we were soundly beaten by the better team at Dulwich, but morale was raised by an excellent 3–2 win against St. Paul's in a thrilling contest where two goals from Hjelm and one from Drey-Brown proved just enough. This led us to the last game of the season at home to a very skilful, confident Bishop's Stortford. With ten minutes left, a swift counter-attack saw Miles bring the scores level at 1–1, only for the opposition to move up a gear with two late goals for a deserved 3–1 victory.

In summary, it was a good, but frustrating, season. Immense credit must be given though to all the players who worked so hard and with such enthusiasm throughout the year.

In goal, Yannis Sossidis was dependable and reliable throughout, well supported by deputy Tom Fitzsimons. The defence was ably marshalled by captain George Fellows at centre-back where he led by outstanding example. Around him, James Crandall, Rafe Fletcher and Dominic Richards gained in confidence and ability throughout the year. Vittorio Boccanera was outstanding both in defence and midfield. Also in midfield, Jamie Drey-Brown's skills increased with consistently determined efforts and George Kirk, possessing speed and skill, exerted strong influence on some matches. William Miles produced increasingly effective performances wide on the right, whilst up front, Thomas Hjelm was the leading goalscorer and his all-round play improved dramatically during the course of the year. Patrick Meade was an excellent utility player also, and, Simran Dhillon commanded a regular place on the teamsheet, if not always in the starting line-up. Other valuable contributions came from Harry McNeill Adams, George Godfrey-Faussett, and Huxley Ogilvy. A hearty thanks to the players and all the staff and loyal parents for their untiring support throughout the season.

Leading Scorers: T. Hjelm (7); G. Kirk (6); W. Miles (4)
JDK

Above left
(opposite page):
U14 Match versus
the Hampton Team.



SEASON: 2005 CRICKET 1ST XI

Played: 13 Won: 4 Drew: 4 Lost: 3 Abandoned: 2

Following hard on the heels of the most successful season for the 1st XI since 1987, 2005 was a case undoubtedly of out with the old and in with the new. Drawing heavily from the highly successful U15 side (which won the London Schools Cup for the first time in Westminster's history), this 1st XI finished the season strongly after recovering from a poor start. By winning as many as they lost, this youthful side showed a lot of potential and promise for the future.

The season began brightly with victory in the traditional gentle loosener against the Lords and Commons. Having won the toss and inserted the Honourable Gentlemen (for the first time in ages), Westminster quickly had the opposition on the rack. A pacy opening burst from captain Charlie Cooke (3–28) was ably backed up by the accurate seamers of the tall and rangy U15 prospect Ross Wheeler (3–20). Lords & Commons were never able to break free of their shackles and they finished their innings with only 117–9 (including 18 wides!) from their allocated overs. In reply, the Westminster innings produced several promising cameos and a collapse from 77–2 to a nerve-tingling 85–7. Cue the fearlessness of youth in the shape of two U15s, Alex Rankine (20*) and Josh Benson (12*) who, cool as you like, steadied all nerves and guided the side to a three wicket victory.

Next up was a strong Butterflies side, boasting five Old Westminster, hungry for revenge after last year's nail-biting defeat. Having stuck the opposition in again on a slightly uneven pitch, Westminster bowled the Butterflies out for 162 with Cooke (2–17) and Wheeler (5–26) outstanding once more. However, against tight bowling the School's batting wilted, only Rankine (23*) offering any prolonged resistance as a 78 run defeat ensued.

The opposition got even tougher against Charterhouse who put together a challenging 200–6 declared in the face of a respectable fielding effort, with Cooke (3–41) the pick of the bowlers. The contest was as good as over at tea with the Westminster innings in tatters at 30–7 as a result of some accurate opposition bowling backed up

by sharp fielding and catching. Cooke (41*) and Wheeler (28) then put on 67 for the 8th wicket to take the game into the last hour, but, they were unable to prevent a 93 run loss. The most disappointing aspect of the game was Westminster inability to deal with straight bowling as EIGHT of them were out clean bowled!

With confidence in short supply, the MCC were not the ideal next visitors to Vincent Square. Only Benson (1–19) was able to control their batsmen's scoring as they racked up 229–4 declared. There followed a better batting performance but only Adam Hines-Green (31) and Rankine (27) suggested permanence as Westminster were bowled out for 160.

The losing streak was ended with a rain-off against Merchant Taylors with the Westminster innings evenly poised at 82–2 after good knocks from Dan Brodie (38) and Hines-Green (25*). However, the batting misfired disastrously away to Aldenham as we were bowled out for only 60 (including 5 penalty runs deducted for Westminster batsmen running on the wicket!). Needless to say, this was never enough and an eight wicket defeat followed.

The rot stopped with a hard-fought draw against Alleyn's, notable for the batting of Hines-Green (58), with the first of only three fifties all season for the side, and Rankine (36), as well as the first of a couple of golden bowling spells by Brodie (2–10). There followed a morale-boosting four wicket win against the Old Westminsters in which Brodie (61) and Tom Cairns (64) produced the only century batting partnership of the season. This enabled the team to chase down a challenging target of 180 to win achieved with only seven balls to spare.

Against Chigwell, we bowled abysmally, with the exception of Wheeler (2–28) and Rankine (2–31), as the opposition totalled 191–5 declared (including a ludicrous 32 wides!). In response, Alex Asher (36) and Hines-Green (41) put together an opening partnership of 91 which proved a sound platform from which we failed to launch. Only Robert Taylor (22*) offered any further excitement as the game fizzled out into a tame draw.

A more exciting draw followed in the game against John Lyon. This match was notable for the brilliant century

scored by the opposition opener who was later in the season to play for England in his age group. In the face of such quality batting, Joe Smith (2–46) returned creditable figures, whilst Brodie (36) and Jake Robson (32) kept the Westminster innings afloat as we hung on at 174–9 at the close.

The Westminster bowling and fielding effort was too hot for Eton XXXIII to handle in the next outing as they were skittled out for only 79. All the School bowlers performed well, but Rankine (2–22) and Rajiv Patel (3–23) were particularly effective, and Benson (4–8) was simply outstanding. Given earlier batting efforts a target of 80 wasn't a certainty but, barring a mid-innings wobble, it was achieved without too much concern as Rankine (24*) once again proved a steady hand to guide the side home to a six wicket victory.

Confidence flooded back into the team and this was carried over into the game against St. Dunstons who were bowled out for only 107 with Benson (3–10) and Alex Scott's leg-spin (3–53) doing most of the damage. Hines-Green (35) and Cooke (27) took the side most of the way to the finishing line before a flurry of wickets ensued leaving Taylor to heave a couple of boundaries to get us past the winning post five wickets down.

The penultimate match against Kingston GS coincided with the finals day for the LSCA U15 Cup, and therefore, it was a much-changed and somewhat weakened Westminster 1st XI that took the field that day. It was a reasonable effort to keep the opposition to 200–9 off their 35 overs with the bowling of Brodie (3–38) and the leg-spin of U14 Alex Fisk (3–39) the best on display. Rain brought a premature end to proceedings, although the mood was greatly brightened by the news of the U15s dramatic victory (See U15 cricket report).

The last game of the season against Highgate on July 7th 2005 was abandoned without a ball being bowled, both teams unable to reach the venue.

A record of winning as many games as they lost was a pretty impressive return for such a young side. The loss of only one player from the XI for 2006 must surely bode well for the future. This was a very good bowling

LEADING BATSMEN

A. Hines-Green:	227 runs at 22.70
D. Brodie:	202 runs at 18.36
A. Rankine:	155 runs at 19.37
C. Cooke:	127 runs at 21.17

LEADING BOWLERS

R. Wheeler:	17 wickets at 17.35
J. Benson:	13 wickets at 23.23
C. Cooke:	12 wickets at 20.33

side backed up by efficient fielding, although, there were far too many extras given away.

The weakness of the team lay in inconsistent batting. In an XI in which everyone could bat there were far too many occasions when everyone did have to bat! The team lacked the two or three consistent batsmen to put together the commanding scores around which large team totals could be built. Hines-Green, Brodie, Cooke and Rankine all threatened to score heavily but too often were unable to see the job through beyond a cameo innings.

The bowling statistics were far more flattering. Cooke, Benson, Wheeler, Patel and Rankine all bowled seam-up to great effect.

Although the statistics are dominated by five or six players, there were useful contributions throughout the team with each member playing their part, and particular mention must go to Jake Robson who showed great potential by keeping wicket most ably throughout the summer and especially when standing up to the stumps. Also, special credit must go to Dan Brodie who took over the captaincy at short notice midway through the term. His command bodes well for this coming season and his continuing role as captain. A big thanks to the team for their hard work and enthusiasm.

I would like to thank all the staff and coaches connected with cricket Station for their efforts throughout the year, especially Jonathan Hall, Tony Japhet for continuing to score for us, groundsman Ian Monk and his assistant David Wicks, and to the many parents who were frequent spectators at Vincent Square throughout the season.

JDK

Above and opposite page: Cricket match versus Eton.



SEASON: 2005 CRICKET U15

Well, now I know how a county cricket manager feel to be continually losing key players to Central Contracts; in this case, Josh Benson, Alexander Rankine and Ross Wheeler to the 1st XI for six out of our ten non-cup matches. Never mind; we had some thrilling finishes and the two matches we did win were played without the presence of these three. Winning the cup is a separate story.

It is very encouraging that 22 boys opted for cricket station at this age group. By careful selection, we made sure that everyone, whatever their skill level, had the chance to play in at least two matches.

In each match, much depended on Hugo Hadcock, who scored 332 runs in the season for an average of 30. Freddie Johnson was the most successful all-rounder, scoring 224 runs and taking 16 wickets, including a hat-trick against Stratford School, a little ahead of Alexander Scott with 167 runs and 12 wickets. Ian Clancy and Matthew Benger had a partnership of 90 against Chigwell; Alexander Rankine scored 63 against St Paul's; Maatin Patel 29 against Merchant Taylors'; and Jeremy Holt, as an Under-14 – a sign of things to come – scored 33 against Stratford School.

Catching was good, with 24 taken in the season, including memorable ones by Alexander Scott, Ross Wheeler, Karan Rangarajan, Oliver Rubens, Matthew Benger, Alasdair Wilkins, Johnny Langton and Adam Duchateau (two). Ian Clancy and Hugo Hadcock, as Captain and Vice-captain, made good decisions and held the team together effectively. In order to spread the captaincy skill, Freddie Johnson was made Captain for two matches, with Laurie Brock his Vice. They also performed well.

SCH

SEASON: 2005 CRICKET U14

Played: 8 Won: 0 Drew: 2 Lost: 6

This was an encouraging season from a talented year group. The boys made progress in all areas of the game and the standard of bowling, in particular, was high. The new-ball attack of Hugh Sultoon and Nick Tolkien, backed up by the pace of Will O'Donnell and Ben Collis, gave captain Jeremy Holt more options than he needed. The spin department was also very well-served by Alex Fiskien and Holt himself. Humphrey Thomas, Josh Benson, Haroun Hickman and Kushaal Ved also showed all-round promise.

The batting was carried by the reliable duo of Fiskien and Holt. Had the latter not fallen victim to an excellent caught and bowled in the first game against Kingston, Westminster might have won. The rest of the season could then have been so different...

A batting collapse and defeat to Highgate followed, before a fighting rearguard action at St. Paul's saved the draw. George Rowell, who was the find of the season, starred with 30 not out.

A strong Aldenham side made Westminster toil in the field, setting the boys a massive total of 292 to win. Late strikes from Tolkien (8-1-54-2) and steady bowling from Henry Casserley (7-0-22-2) earned some reward. Westminster's reply was doomed, but the boys did well to score 165. Holt was Horatius on the bridge with 62 not out while partners came and went at the other end.

Another batting collapse, excepting 51 from Rowell, led to a defeat against Alleyn's. David Nordlinger showed his control with the ball (5-2-16-1), and two wickets from Collis, had Alleyn's wobbling at 39-4 but, chasing only 77 to win, defeat was always likely.

In the final three games, another 50 from Rowell built a good total of 139-4 at home to Chigwell. Quality stroke-play from the visitors' openers secured a comfortable Chigwell victory by 8 wickets. John Lyon dismissed Westminster for 94 (Sulton 37 n.o.) which,



despite excellent bowling from Fiskien (6-0-16-3), led to another defeat. The boys stopped the rot by drawing with St. Dunstan's. An excellent performance from Tolkien (9-1-32-5) and reliable batting from Tom Hierons (32 n.o.) and Hickman (13 n.o.) saved the game. Westminster closed on 97-5 chasing 199 to win.

Many thanks to all who represented the School in the A and B Teams. I very much hope that they will continue to enjoy Cricket Station further up the School. The 'B's lost their game at St Paul's but several players in that team showed that they were good enough to represent the A team as well. Special thanks also to Mr. Ullathorne, Dr. Walsh and coaches Mark and Buddy Mason for all their efforts throughout the season.

JAI

U15 CRICKETING TRIUMPH

Would you have allowed this appeal? asks SCH, as the heat is on in the London Schools' Cricket Challenge Cup held on 5th July 2005.

Having completed a run, Hugo Hadcock was poised at one end of the pitch, arm and bat outstretched over the line as he watched the fielder's throw. The incoming ball hit the back of his stationary bat and was deflected way past the fielders watching for the overthrow.



Alexander Rankine and he set off for the additional run. Some fielders immediately called out, complaining that the ball was dead and that the batsmen were not entitled to overthrow runs. Hearing this, Alexander halted mid wicket. A second or two later, a fielder then removed the bails at Alexander's end and appealed. What should the decision be?

The professional umpires conferred and pronounced Alexander 'out' as he was out of his ground and the ball was not in fact dead. Some thought that the fielding side captain should have withdrawn the appeal. The moral of the story is, if an opposition disputes the legality of a run... run first and find out after.

Thankfully, Hugo soldiered on to see us home in the last over. His 65 not out was a magnificent innings. He and Alexander had scored 118 of the 153 runs and we were into the final against Ernest Bevin School, a previous winner of the Cup, to be played the same afternoon.

The sky had clouded over darkly and heavy showers were forecast for the late afternoon. Would the final go full term? Before starting play, a formula had been agreed that if the first team completed their 25 overs but the second team could not because of rain, the winner would be whichever side had scored more at the end of the 15th over. If the game was abandoned before the 15th over, the deciding point would be the end of the 10th over.

We held Ernest Bevin School to 114 (for nine wickets) and we felt pretty confident as we opened our innings against an old and wet ball. The batsmen were carefully briefed about the 10- and 15-over targets in case of abandonment.

The first target – scoring 37 by the 10th over – was achieved. The second target – scoring 67 by the 15th over – was missed by two runs. From that moment on, abandonment would mean victory to Ernest Bevin School. The match had to stay 'on' and we had to get the runs. The umpires stalwartly continued in the now-frequent showers, but wickets were falling. Hugo had scored 29 and Freddie Johnson 35 but seven others had scored only nought, one or three.

With four overs to go at 95 for nine, Ross Wheeler and Laurie Brock, the last batsman, came together. Ross is our answer to Steve Harmison, a fierce bowler and very heavy hitter. Laurie usually batted number two but today, fortuitously, was batting number eleven. Twenty runs needed; last wicket partnership; pouring rain: it was very tense but they did it!

Team: I Clancy (Capt), H Hadcock (Vice Capt), L Brock, F Johnson, A Rankine, A Scott, R Wheeler, J Benson, M Benger, J Holt, G Rowell.
12th Men: J Langton and N Tolkien.
SCH

Above:
Westminster hoists
the London Schools'
Cricket Challenge
Cup.

Below:
The winning
Under 15 team.



TOUR 2006 BARBADOS CRICKET

Over Easter, Westminster cricketers enjoyed a highly competitive, enjoyable and worthwhile pre-season tour to Barbados. The squad performed very well in winning two matches, losing two and drawing one against quality opposition, including Barbados youth players who will go on to play for Barbados, if not for the West Indies.

The first few days revolved around settling in, overcoming jet lag and several hard practice sessions mixed in with some relaxation before the first match against Garrison School, in a setting about as far removed from Vincent Square as possible.

On a damp wicket, Adam Hines-Green (47) and Tom Cairns made a solid start which was built upon by Hugo Hadcock (21) and saw us 97-2 at halfway. However, the innings gradually lost all its momentum in the face of accurate bowling and tight fielding and we were bowled out for 146 with an over still remaining. Next, the opposition batsmen tore into our bowling with ferocious stroke-play, the like of which neither staff or pupils had witnessed before at this level. Although we took two wickets, Garrison raced to their target off only 12 overs, leaving the Westminster tour party traumatised!

Against a Colts side from The Wanderers CC we made a

special effort. Put in on a flat track, Hines-Green and Cairns (46) took full advantage to make 81 for the first wicket, and this good work was carried on by Dan Brodie (29) and Alex Asher (25). Hines-Green (96) missed out on what would have been a well-deserved century. But with his dismissal at 227-3 there followed a batting collapse as we struggled our way to 246-9 at the end of our 35 overs. Disappointed at not getting more from such a strong position, we knew this was still an imposing total and took the field confident of victory. However, the youthful opposition showed no fear as they engineered a very mature run-chase to take the game all the way to the wire. Decisive bowling from leg-spinner Alex Scott (4-37) ripped out the Wanderers top-order, including dismissing their star batsman (Barbados U15) courtesy of a stunning, match-winning catch by Robert Taylor. Despite a hugely impressive knock from their 11 year-old wicketkeeper, Westminster kept their nerve to run out victors by 22 runs.

Morale boosted, we moved on to what turned out to be by far the toughest opposition of the tour in the shape of Lester Vaughan School. Taking full advantage of winning the toss on a flat wicket in dry heat, the opposition piled on the runs thanks to two Barbados U17 batsmen. They declared on 252-2 leaving us 35 overs to get the runs – a tough task. What followed next was the quickest opening over in schoolboy cricket that any of us had ever witnessed. Unbeknown to us, The Barbados Academy and U19 opening bowler had fancied a bit of practice and decided to have a 'trundle'. Bowling at a speed around 80-85mph, he ripped out Hines-Green's off stump with the last ball of a terrifying over. All the bowling that followed, whether pace or spin, was of a very high standard and hostile to boot. A succession of bouncers and short-pitch deliveries meant defeat looked certain at 93-9 with seven overs to go. But Joe Smith (9*) and Alex Scott (33*) had other ideas, seeing the best form of defence as attack whilst the ball whistled around their ears. To their immense credit, they survived to secure a draw, including staving off one last express over from the opening bowler.

We received a much warmer welcome at Ellerslie School. Brodie (22) and Hadcock (21) threatened to play major innings but it was only 40 extras and a 35 run last wicket partnership between Byron Orme and Josh Benson



Above and right:
Cricket 1st XI
Barbados tour 2006.
Photographed by JDK.



VOGA IN VENICE

Konrad Wagstyl (HH) has a high old time in the waterlogged city, rising early every day.

Our trip started at 2:30 am when we were woken up by CD after a very short night in the Putney boathouse. The idea was that if we had the earliest flight there and latest flight back on Friday, we would maximise time spent in Venice. Fatigue was not taken into consideration. After arriving in Venice much later in the day, we eventually found our hostel, left our bags and went sight-seeing. We spent an hour wandering the streets seeing the city itself, which was amazing. The narrow alleyways crossed over the even narrower and far more congested canals. Later, we got changed into sports kit for our first attempt at Venetian 'Voga' – an old style of rowing, which involves standing up and pushing, quite unlike English rowing. Most of us could not push as it felt so alien. No learner riggers (hooks to keep the oar in) meant that we kept losing the oars to the Venetian Lagoon.

We were woken the next day at 7 o'clock for a run. Running through Venice that early, although we were groggy, was a unique experience. No tourists were up yet, only the Venetians. The streets were empty, even St. Mark's Square. Later in the morning we turned into conventional tourists, wandering around the churches and museums with the thousands of others who had not had the benefit of our early-morning run. Sightseeing in Venice is, of course, magnificent and we were lucky enough to be there during the Biennale, a modern art festival that only takes place every two years.

By the third day we had grasped the basic rowing techniques and decided to race to one of the less inhabited islands across the Lagoon. The boats moved surprisingly quickly and we managed to go a fair way.

The climax of the trip was on our fourth and final outing. We started by rowing into the Arsenale, the disused naval base, before setting off around some of the other Venetian islands. Then we entered the city itself in our rowing boats. We caused a few crashes as we entered the canals, which made us nervous about going any further. But finally we made it to the Grand Canal. Rowing under the Rialto Bridge with the Academia ahead was very impressive. On the way back we were not trusted through the narrow canals so our coaches steered us back to the boat-house. At this point, we suffered our only casualty of the trip when one rower fell into the rough water. The trip was such a success that four Lower Shells are returning to take place in the biggest regatta in Venice this summer.

that gave our total any measure of respectability. A frank team talk from the Master i/c meant our bowlers made the opposition work hard for their runs on a slightly uneven surface with Benson and Fred Johnson bowling tight opening spells. Twins of spin Scott (2-37) and Alex Fiskien (2-35), backed up by Orme's sharp keeping, caused Ellerslie to have a mid-innings wobble before their impressive wicketkeeper guided them home with the bat to a six wicket victory.

The squad spent a pleasant weekend watching the Carib Cup semi-final between Barbados and Guyana, seeing cricket legends such as Sir Gary Sobers, Joel Garner and Desmond Haynes as well as our old friend, Roland Butcher. On the Sunday there was a trip around the island during the day and a 20 over Tapeball match under lights.

The penultimate day saw the last match of the tour against Harrison College – an absolute thriller. Cairns (30) made a solid start leading the way, but again the innings lost momentum against solid bowling. Johnson (32) and Rankine (25) injected some life back into the innings and got us to 148 all out. Our opening bowlers created pressure with tight spells, backed up by the efforts of Rajiv Patel (2-36) and ably supported by Jake Robson, wicket-keeping. Still chances went begging until Scott (5-32) reduced the opposition middle-order from 89-2 to 129-9. The last pair, however, proved determined, carrying the score to 144-9 with four overs left. Enter captain Brodie who nervelessly stepped up and delivered the perfect Yorker with his very first ball to shatter the batsman's stumps and give Westminster a heart-stopping four run victory. There could have been no finer note to end the tour on, except perhaps karaoke performances that night from Messrs. Ireland, Kershen and Brodie. Before we knew it we were on the plane back home. It was a truly memorable experience that should set the 1st XI up to hit the ground running at the start of the English season.

My thanks to all the pupils involved for all their efforts and enthusiasm – they were marvellous ambassadors for Westminster School; my colleagues for all their help and support; and the parents who came out to support us and provided friendly faces a long way from home.

JDK



Above and below:
Voga in Venice.
Photographed
by Joe Gross.



WATER

Sarah Linthwaite (BB),
Secretary of Water.

Over the last year, the boathouse has moved from strength to strength under the leadership of the new Head of Water, Jamie Moran. Since 2002, the number of people doing Water station has doubled and there are now respectable crews in all categories for all ages.

Another successful year started with the disappointment of the main day of The National Schools Championships being cancelled due to terrible conditions. Despite this, Westminster obtained good results with a bronze medal for the j15 double of G. Arnold and J. Gross on the Friday and silver medals for the Girls championship coxless four and Boys j16 pair (F. Tusa and T. Boles) on the Sunday.

The 1st VIII qualified for Henley through a win in the Senior 4 at Reading regatta and an impressive result at Marlow. Unfortunately, they drew a seeded South African crew in the first round and were unlucky to lose by a length. This disappointment was somewhat alleviated by eight members of the top squad getting into the GB j16 team for a match against France with a record-breaking win by the pair. GB sportswear is now to be seen frequently modelled in the boathouse! Meanwhile, the Girls IV (J. Logan-Ellis, E. Smith, L. Webb-Wilson, S. Linthwaite, cox: N. Drake) fared well at Women's Henley, with a semi-final loss to George Heriots, the eventual winners of the competition, making them the most successful girls four Westminster has had.

The winter season got off to a good start at Cambridge Winter Head despite the bitter cold with VIII, j16 IV and j15 1st VIII with the 2nd j15 VIII placing sixth in freshmen VIII's.

At Hampton Small Boats Head, the Pangbourne winning j15 double of S. Burdell and D. Rix-Standing continued their gold rush with another fine win in a field of 33. Perhaps even more impressively they went on to go silver and bronze in the afternoon singles field of 48. A new and untried j16 combination of G. Arnold and J. Orpen-Palmer was quite a find, winning the j16 pairs.

The real comedy of the day came from a senior pair of F. Tusa and A. Critchley being unable to race after falling in whilst boating!

We raced with some success again at Hampton Head (large boats) with special mention to the two j14 Octos, finishing a respectable 6th and 11th in their first ever race. Their enthusiasm and commitment is encouraging for any future competitions.

All this was in preparation for the big event of the winter – the Schools Head of the River Race (run immaculately as usual by CD). Students and parents alike turned out to watch Westminster perform on their home stretch. The best results of the day came from the j16 IV and the Girls' 1st IV, who both came third in their respective races, despite injuries in both crews. The Girls' 2nd IV exceeded expectations in recording a time which was a mere sixteen seconds slower than the top four. Both j15 boats performed admirably, coming sixth in their respective categories where there were a large number of entries.

Of course the rowing year is never complete without the large number of rowing camps which take place. While the younger years went to Valenciennes this Easter under the watchful eye of Mr Maloney, the top squad headed off to Ghent. Intensive training led up to Ghent International Regatta at the end of the week. They performed well against tough international competition in a variety of boats including a fine win over German and French composite squad crews in the Coxed Four. They were a credit to both the school and their coach, Bill Mason. Much to the envy of the other crews, the J16s and Girls jet-setted off to Florida to train amongst the 'gators and water snakes where the disappointment of cancelled races was more than made up for by a trip to Universal Studios!

All of this bodes well for the important regatta season in the summer, where Westminster looks likely to build on their success from last year. Indeed, in the first regatta at Hammersmith, all Westminster boats entered won their respective events. Many thanks must of course go to CD and all the coaches whose skills, commitment and patience have enabled the boathouse to be in the strong position it is today.

"The start of October always brings the hardest event of the whole season: the fearsome King's Trophy which comes packed with hills, mud, a stream crossing and plenty of twists and turns."

CROSS COUNTRY

The past season has unquestionably been the most successful in the school's history and has managed to surpass all expectations. There are now strong athletes in every year of the school: three of the four teams won the London Schools making Westminster yet again the strongest school in London, whilst the first team has been unbeaten all year against London opposition – a remarkable feat.

The omens were very good when in September some very strong towpath races brought three fast winning times: Oliver Jones (CC) in the Juniors; Tom Godfrey-Faussett (CC) winning a dramatic sprint finish in the Inters and Tom Samuel (GG) who won his fourth towpath race in a row in the Seniors (Milne's, Busby's and College won the respective Inter-House events). The School then comfortably won the annual Towpath Cup in beating the OWWs and the Common Room with Tom Samuel (GG) storming to a new Schoolboy record of 17:41 for the 3.3 mile course and breaking a record that had stood for 40 years.

The start of October always brings the hardest event of the whole season: the fearsome King's Trophy which comes packed with hills, mud, a stream crossing and plenty of twists and turns. In a very high standard race of some 150+ runners, the School packed their scoring four inside the top 30 via Tom Samuel (3rd), Jamie Moran (DD 20th) and the Upper Shells Tom Godfrey-Faussett (27th) and Tyrone Cummins (AAH 28th). A final team placing of 3rd out of 22 teams was the school's best ever return from this long-running event, a result that placed us ahead of more well-known sporting schools such as Charterhouse, KCS Wimbledon, Hampton, RGS Guildford and St Paul's. The school team put in a repeat performance at the RGS Guildford Relays in November, narrowly pushed to 4th place out of the 29 teams present and thereby added Tiffin, Dr Challoner's and RGS High Wycombe to the list of victims. With great runs also from Lower School pupils Laurie Brock (BB), Harry Jeffrey (BB) and Sixth former Tom Jelly (CC) the 'B' team finished a superb 10th. The final event of the Play Term added a new event to the fixture card: an event simply called 'The Grim'.



This 8 mile multi-terrain event held on an MoD tank testing site near Aldershot is open to runners of all ages and contained a number of water hazards. Despite a field in excess of 2000 people, Tom Samuel stormed round to finish a miraculous 6th which when added to Jamie Moran (29th) and SDW's individual win placed the school 1st out of 60 teams.

Despite a string of absences in early February, the School acquitted itself well in the six school match at Winchester with Laurie Brock (BB), Felix Hale (BB), Dominic Richards (RR) and Tom Quinton (WW) standing out. It was also encouraging to see some new runners added to the team, with Chris Anguelov (GG) and Rameez Khan (LL) – later to finish second in the Charity Run – reveling in the opportunity to compete for the school. The London Schools the following week brought a string of fine performances, with the Juniors, Inters and Girls winning team gold and the Seniors team bronze. In addition, George Godfrey-Faussett (CC) and Tom Samuel (GG) won individual bronze medals and no fewer than eight athletes were asked to compete in the prestigious English Schools Championships for London.

Arctic conditions on Wimbledon Common added an extra degree of difficulty to the Bringsty Relays but brought out the very best from the Westminsterers who competed. College were a class apart from the rest of the field winning both the Senior and Junior events and managing to synchronise their two teams to finish in exactly the same time. The fastest legs from Samuel (5:04) and Jeremy Holt (CC 5:34) were quite remarkable given the under-foot conditions, and rank as two of the faster times in the past 20 years on the current course. The season then ended on a high with 3rd place in the Ranelagh Schools Cup adding Wellington, Cranleigh, Epsom, Hurstpierpoint and St John's Leatherhead to the list of defeated teams.

With new fixtures such as those against the world's oldest running club, Thames Hare & Hounds, Serpentine Running Club and the summer road-running league, there are now plenty of races for pupils of all ages and abilities to compete in. Our talented crop of runners should be looking to lay down a marker for future Westminsterers to beat.

SDW

Above (opposite page):
Water Team
in Florida.
Photographed
by Hannah King.

Above:
Competitors in
the Towpath Race.



APRIL 2005
SPORTS DAY
RESULTS

1st	Hakluyt's	261
2nd	Milne's	252
3rd	Busby's	243
4th	Grant's	225
5th	Liddell's	197
6th	Dryden's	178
7th	Ashburnham	175
8th	College	163
9th	Rigaud's	157
10th	Wren's	117



FENCING

Edmund Wareham (WW),
Captain of Epée.

This has been a highly successful year for fencing station at Westminster. The highlight was certainly winning the Public Schools Fencing Championships for the 5th year in a row. Westminster also won the Christie Trophy for the best performance in Mount-Haes (5th Form) and Junior foil events; the Paddy Power cup for the best results in all Junior events and the Centenary Cup for being the most improved school from the last championships.

There were a number of fantastic individual performances, notably Marcus Mepstead (LL) who won the Master-at-Arms trophy for being the best junior fencer, having won the foil and sabre and finishing second in the épée. Alexander Robinson (MM) won the Mount-Haes Master-at-Arms trophy for the best performances in the youngest age category, having finished second in the foil, third in the épée and 8th in the sabre. Pen Stuart (LL), Rashid Ajami (HH) and Joe Start (HH) achieved quarter-final positions as well in various events.

Westminster has had a number of fencers making an impression on the international stage. Marcus Mepstead represented Great Britain at the Cadet World Championships, held in South Korea, where he finished 35th. Rashid Ajami and Marcus also fenced at the Leon Paul Cup, an international U20 competition and at the Cadet foil international at Bad Canstatt. Domestically Marcus also finished 3rd in the British Senior Championships. Basil McDonald (LL) has also represented Britain at épée and has fenced at Cadet Competitions in Bonn, Pisa and Dinant.

Westminster has also done well at a number of team competitions, with good results at the British Schools Team Championships at both sabre and épée, with Westminster winning four medals. The school also did very well at the Wimbledon Team Epée Competition with medals in the U13, U15 and U17 categories. In school matches the highlight was the 5–0 defeat of Winchester, victorious in every event!

All these successes are in large part due to the efforts of our fantastic coaching team. This year Jo Maynard has been coaching sabre; David Buist and Maciek Wostkowiak coaching épée and Tomek Walicki and Leo Suarez coaching foil. This is a particularly impressive line-up with all of them offering high-class coaching and also making the station an incredibly fun place to be. The station will also be sorry to see Lucian Trestler (WW) leaving after his five successful years with the station.

Thanks must also be paid to the members of staff who assist with the station. Andrew Law, Jon Hind, John Witney and Russell Dudley-Smith all give generously of their time. And particular thanks must go to Tom Kennedy, in his first year as Master in Charge of fencing, for his unfailing enthusiasm and support for the station, and making Westminster fencers train and compete at a top level. We hope he has enjoyed it as much as we have.

ATHLETICS

Hakluyt's won their third Inter-House title in a row after a very close battle with Milne's and Busby's, whilst the age group winners were Grant's (Juniors), Hakluyt's (Inters & Seniors) and Busby's (Girls). Best performance medals were awarded to Cosmo Arends (MM) for winning the Junior Shot and Long Jump; to Tom Lloyd (HH) for winning the 100m, 200m and playing a key part in winning both relays; and to Dominic Parsons (HH) for winning the 100m and setting a new school record, as well as winning the 200m and both relays.

Other athletes who deserve a mention include Tom Samuel (GG) who despite having to run each race as a time trial, ran very close to both the 800m and 1500m school records with 2:12.3 and 4:34.9. In addition, Assadollah Rashidian (MM) demonstrated terrific versatility in winning the Senior 400m, Long Jump and finishing second in the Shot Put! Finally, Tara Collins (BB) shone as the best female competitor in winning both the Senior Long Jump & High Jump. Felix Hale also showed considerable potential in finishing 3rd in the London Schools, whilst Dominic Parsons struggled with injury after showing some early season form.

SDW

SHOOTING

Ed Jeffrey (BB) and Gamal Khamis (DD).

What a year it has been for Shooting Station. The inspirational Mark Pearce has stepped up from coach to Master in Charge, and brought along a host of improvements to a rapidly progressing Station at Westminster. After the loss of some of our best-ever shots last year, the last few months of transition have entailed the development of talent throughout the station, with lots of good quality shots coming through the ranks. Nevertheless, we should be judged on results, and the First VIII have shot in a series of matches; both home and away against Harrow and Wellington College. We had one marginal and one clear victory against Harrow, the former being a home match which yielded a scorecard of 817 to 795. On the whole, the matches resulted in heightened spirits and a great sense of achievement on the range.

Unfortunately, that was followed by a sub-standard showing against Wellington, which led to a narrow away defeat. However, we were quick to regain our prowess and beat them hands down at the home range. With the majority of our matches being won, the standard of shooting across Southern England seems to have shot up to coincide with our greatness. The First VIII, consisting of Ed Jeffrey, Gamal Khamis, Moonhee Hong, Jamie Buchan, Nicholas McKinley, Felix Mason, and newcomers Grace Kim and Rachel Tocknell shot a variety of ten-spot deliberates, five-spot deliberates and rapids, and skirmishers, proving talents in a mixture of disciplines.

Thanks to our extra funding, we've been able to get a computer and some left-handed jackets and slings, as well as having many of the more over-used guns serviced and back into full uninterrupted use. Future spending plans include a gun cabinet and a complete restocking of the jackets - not that there's anything unfashionable about the purple and green ones we have now. The future is indeed looking Orange for shooting at Westminster: with the newly cleaned range and the snazzy, shiny yellow ear-defenders, and with the new training system of trying to get people actually shooting as quickly as possible, people are much more receptive. A team for next year has already been formed.

Thanks to Ms French and Mr Gelderd for their patience and efforts in keeping the station running. Thanks also to Mr Sproat who has taken a genuine interest in the station, particularly on the data processing side - even trying his own hand at shooting (with mixed results!) and coming along on our hilariously fun trips to the Stock Exchange Rifle Club. And last but not least, thank you to the master in charge, Mark Pearce, who as always is fantastically optimistic and generous, especially when he goes out and buys us Easter eggs and Father Christmas hats.

HOCKEY

Yean Chooi (MM 2001–2002, GG).

With the vast improvement in the general level of hockey last season, expectations were high from the very beginning of the season. The absence of last season's senior players was quickly filled by the station's first cohort of fifth formers, now in Upper Shell with much greater experience and starting to show the promise that was predicted of them after their crushing victories against seasoned teams in their first matches.

The first fixture of the year against Trinity School was earlier than in previous years and the freshly formed team had not yet settled as a unit but strong performances came from many of the older players, notably Olga Polunina, and Leon-Sing Foong.

Towards the end of the season, the team play improved along with the individual skills of many players and the rewards of the training were reaped the final match of the season against UCS. Excellent teamwork, selflessness in the face of the opposition goal and a lot of individual flair contributed to a convincing victory with a beautiful goal from Sam Johnston, faultless defensive work by Ben Vanderspaar and Andrew Lloyd-Harris and a brilliant piece of short corner work by Alex Scott.

Above:
High jump at
Sports Day.



Above (top):
Trackside on
School Sports Day.
Photographed by
Nikolai Cedraeus.

Above:
Fencing champion
in the making.



Above (top and opposite page):
Tennis at Harrow.

TENNIS

SC and AC report on a generally wet season.

The 2005 season began in excellent fashion and good weather. We were able to enjoy some high-quality tennis both at Vincent Square and Battersea. We also took on a new coach, Karel Cechak, who worked exclusively with the 5th form in the first half of term. In that regard, the standard of junior tennis is really encouraging, and bodes well for the future. In particular, Alex Labrom looks a fine prospect, along with Sammy Talalay and Mark Fellows. Another one with good potential is Orlando Reade, who joined the school this year in the 6th form, and who leaped straight into the 1st VI group.

We were due to play Putney Common Tennis Club on Saturday, 23rd April, but the morning was grey and damp. As a result, the courts were slippery, and, given the way our players hurl themselves around the court, Baghdadi and Anguelov in particular, we felt it sensible to err on the side of caution, and decided to postpone the fixture until after half-term in the naïve expectation that the weather might be more reliable then.

On Saturday, 7th May our 1st VI took on the OWWs at Vincent Square. We were deprived of the services of our 1st pair, Baghdadi and Anguelov, but Ed Miles and Tom Hannah kindly stepped in at very short notice. Our 1st pair was Hakan Feridun and Orlando Reade, the 2nd being Karnig Manoukian and Ben Vanderspar. Needless to say, after a lovely bright morning, the skies opened at 1 o'clock precisely, and it actually started to hail. When I arrived at the courts at around 1.40, there was enough water on the courts to make them more appropriate for synchronised swimming rather than tennis, but the thought of seeing some of the OWWs in swimwear meant that rackets were soon brandished, and, after a good deal of sweeping, and yet another deluge, we were able to start. In retrospect, perhaps we should have taken the swimming option as we come off on the wrong end of a 9–0 scoreline. Karnig Manoukian and Ben Vanderspar almost edged a couple of matches, but the OWWs were exceptionally strong and blew us away that day.

Our next fixture was against Eton on Tuesday, 10th May. The good news was that it didn't rain. The bad news was that the wind had a positively glacial feel to it. The overall result was a $5\frac{1}{2}$ – $3\frac{1}{2}$ victory to Eton. Baghdadi and Anguelov won their 3 matches with ease, and Manoukian and Vanderspar earned half a point by sharing their match against their corresponding pair 2–6 7–5.

On Thursday 12th June, we embarked on our annual pilgrimage to Harrow, taking 24 players: 1st VI, 2nd VI, U15As and U14As to Harrow's spiffing new courts. Some are rubber coated and great in the sun. Others were all-weather courts with a temporary rubber granule underlay that the manufacturers were still ineffectually trying to Hoover out because it was the wrong surface. Our Under 14s had to play their matches on the heavily sanded Astroturf which played so dead that you would have thought the courts were lined with genuine expired possum. As for the rest of our teams, gusting and severe winds coming in to the exposed site put most of our teams off though in most cases they were the match of their opponents. The most successful team was our first pair who narrowly lost out to their opposite numbers after a coach call on a disputed shot which rattled them. Admittedly the Harrovian first team were unexpectedly good, in that they looked like the juniors, were not notably brawny or athletic but rather small and slight. Then again, we have Chris Anguelov with his baseball cap on backwards. Marc Baghdadi played a blinder. Elsewhere all the teams began to make headway but too late to make an effective difference to our final tally. All the teams played creditably, and no one felt disgraced. Christian Foss and Frankie Athill were assiduous in play and kept the scorelines even for much of the afternoon. If our players improve at the expected rate we will beat Harrow next year and the year after and probably the year after that. If it isn't windy.

On Tuesday, 17th May, we had two fixtures. We tried a new format against the American School at the Paddington Recreation Centre. Marc Baghdadi and Chris Anguelov represented the school in a singles match, and won convincingly 4–0. Marc managed to preserve his record of never dropping a game against this opposition. We also played a mixed doubles match, and,

although playing well, came off second best 1–3. On the same afternoon, we took a 2nd VI and Junior VI to Eton. The 2nd VI lost a very close match 4–5, whilst the Juniors played well only to lose 2–7.

On Tuesday, 24th May, we took on Winchester at 1st IV and Junior IV level. We had played Winchester the previous year for the first time, and the match had been closely fought, and so we were very much looking forward to the second instalment. For once we were lucky with the weather. It was breezy, but nothing like the hurricane the team had had to endure at Harrow. In the seniors match the tie was halved. Baghdadi and Anguelov won their first match with relative ease. However, in the match against the Winchester 1st pair, they found themselves 2–5, 0–40 down. Miraculously, though, they managed to turn things around, dug in, and went on to win that set 7–5; they then waltzed through the second set 6–0. Our second pair, Reade and Vanderspar fought valiantly, but were outgunned, and lost their 2 matches. In the juniors, Harry Rose and Christian Foss played very well together to win both their matches, whilst Alex Labrom and Sammy Talalay impressed to secure 1 point from the 2 matches they played. Overall, then, we emerged 5–3 winners.

After half-term we played our rescheduled match against Putney. Due to a crisis of numbers, Mr Johnson had to step up to the plate for the School, and partnered Marc Baghdadi as the 1st pair. I can only imagine it must have been a lot of fun, because, as usual, Marc did his usual demolition job on the opposition. We did, however, struggle elsewhere. Nevertheless, it was encouraging to see the likes of Ed Jeffrey and Ben Golden playing, as they had not really been given much of a chance before this. They both did themselves great credit, as indeed did the junior pairing of Alex Labrom and Sammy Talalay.

In the Housematches Busby's got the better of Milne's, Dryden's dispatched Purcell's, and College, in the shape of Theo Petersen and Tom Hannah having been 1–5 and several match points down, eventually beat the Wren's pairing of Jamie Macfarlane and Peter Noorani after an epic tiebreak. The quarter-finals took place under leaden skies and Rigaud's progressed due to a default by Ashburnham. Dryden's were comprehensively

outplayed 6–1 by College. Grants beat the Liddell's pairing of Harry Rose and Orlando Reade 6–2. In the final match, Busby's were actually leading Hakluyts 4–0, and were at 30 all in the 5th game. After a controversial dispute over a line call, the point, which had initially gone in Busby's favour, had to be replayed. This moment turned out to be a turning point in the match, as Hakluyt's went on to win that game, and the 5 remaining subsequent games to win the set and match 6–4. The semi-finals took place in the middle of a mini heatwave (at last) that saw London basking in Mediterranean temperatures. Hakluyt's and Grant's both won their matches quite comfortably, and went through to dispute the final which took place on another fine afternoon on June 28th.

NETBALL

Our hearts sank when the arrival of a new coach demonstrated a lot more 'fitness' than we were used to, writes Emilia Weber (LL), but Holly Collison has proved invaluable to the netball squad this season.

A talented sixth form and lots of matches gave us the chance to compete against teams of extremely high standards and often win. The victory against City of London Girl's school, the tremendous effort in the two tournaments played and the vicious opposition found in the staff team deserve special mentions as does the organisation and dedication of Mrs Sharp, Mrs Harris, Miss Harrison, Holly, and especially Mrs Jorgensen.

We have had a brilliant squad to pick and chose from, a fantastic shooting double team, fierce defending and determined attacking not to mention Lottie's concentrating face, Alix's aggression, Millie's cookies and doughnuts. Thank you everyone for playing in rain, snow and hail and good luck to next year's team.



“A key moment in the season was when we played a sixteen-pair match against Shrewsbury: this is a school which dominates Schools Fives, and the very fact that their master in charge had even asked us to play the match shows that Westminster are on the rise.”

SEASON: 2005 – 2006 ETON FIVES

Above:
School Fives Team
versus the Old
Westminsters.

Westminster School Fives has once again had a very successful year, growing almost to bursting point: even with the use of the Westway courts every Thursday afternoon, the courts were still always full, with others always waiting for a game. So as the new Head Master sits back to survey the successes of his first year in office, foremost in mind should be where to build some new Fives courts!

Given that we have a disadvantage in the number of courts at Westminster, the fact that we are now regularly competing closely with the big Fives-playing schools is fantastic. A key moment in the season was when we played a sixteen-pair match against Shrewsbury: this is a school which dominates Schools Fives, and the very fact that their master in charge had even asked us to play the match shows that Westminster are on the rise. The fact that the junior pairs drew the match and that the Under 15s won shows just what a force Westminster is. The pupils themselves can take much of the credit for spreading the word with enthusiasm.

Mike Milner's has introduced a league team – the “Abbey Club” – playing regular matches against senior clubs and old boys' teams. This has given our top players an excellent opportunity to play matches against more experienced pairs.

The Play season started very well with wins in Abbey Club matches. In particular, Matt Chen and Alex Leese, our first pair, looked very strong against some very stiff opposition. The highlight was a match against the St Olave's School first pair, a very strong pair ranked high at the Nationals: Matt and Alex took the first two sets, and, though they eventually lost in a nail-biting final set, they really looked very impressive.

The London Festival tournament was dominated by Westminster. Ian Bott and Laurie Brock reached the final, losing narrowly in the final set to two old Westminsters, Danny Amliwalla and James Cook, who had just defeated another Westminster pair, David Ader

and Ben Cagan, in the semi-final. Matt Woodhams also reached the semis with a partner from outside the School. Abdul Odud deserves special mention too: he only took up Fives at the start of the year, but, with partner Adil Jackson, played some excellent Fives, narrowly missing out on a place in the quarter-finals. The Harrow Beginners' tournament was a great success. Napper Tandy won the Under 14 tournament amid stiff competition, with Theo Reynolds and William Miles narrowly missing out on a place in the final. Jossie Turton and Sam Williams nobly agreed to move up to the Under 15 age-group when numbers for the Under 14s grew too large: their selflessness paid off, as Jossie came sixth overall and Sam won the tournament.

The Northern Championships were a success: Will L'Heveder and Ed Miles reached the semi-finals of the Festival tournament, while David Ader and Ben Cagan won the plate competition for losing quarter-finalists, and Kevin Loke and Abdul Odud won the other plate. It was great to see some beginners, like Saajid Sahabdeen and some of the girls competing against some strong and experienced male pairs.

The girls' team continues to grow in numbers and in enthusiasm, under the captaincy of Sasha Mitiukova, with stalwarts like Beth Hardie, Bella Sanders, Grace Benton, Lucy O'Connor, Emma Kavanagh and Emma Thompsell playing some very solid Fives; while novices like Harriet Cleal were never short of enthusiasm. Highlights of the girls' calendar were the awesome victories of Sasha and Beth over Berkhamsted and St. Olave's pairs; Eleanor Brooke and Matilda Hay had an excellent victory against a more experienced Cranleigh pair.

The Schools' Nationals Championships were held at Eton. The Under 16s showed that they are our strongest age-group, with the pairings of Ben Bourne and Alex Rankine, Ian Bott and Laurie Brock, and Maatin Patel and Ed Rich all making the last sixteen. Ian and Laurie were unlucky to draw the second seeds – the same pair which knocked them out last year! George Illingworth and Alfred Jackson won the plate competition. In the Under 14 Beginners, it was disappointing not to see Napper Tandy and Jossie Turton progressing further than the second round, after an



excellent season. David Lloyd Webber and Sam Williams reached the final of Plate B, while Max Arevuo and Jamie Drey-Brown won Plate C, showing huge improvement as the day went on. Commiserations must go to Miheer Chanrai and Nick Leese, our Under 15 first pair after Miheer had to withdraw after only a few points.

Thanks to the captain, Matt Chen: over the last five years he has given his full commitment to Fives, successful as Secretary in recruiting more new pupils than perhaps anyone has ever done; and as Captain a source of support and inspiration to the younger players. Thanks also to Sasha Mitiukova, the girls' captain, and Ed Miles our vice-captain, the latter instrumental in setting up the staff-pupil tournament, which has attracted several teachers back on court. Our excellent coach, Matt Wiseman, has once again been there to inspire our players – his Thursday evening practices now attract huge numbers and have had to be divided into two sessions. David Mew, the coach at Westway, has also been fantastic. Richard Huscroft has been very supportive throughout the year, and shows me up by getting on court almost every session. I am very grateful to Alice Merino and Sandy Crole for all their time and help over the year. Mike Milner and Charlie Ullathorne especially for running the Abbey Club and particularly Richard Stokes, who is retiring at the end of the year. Since I have been at Westminster, Richard has been unfailingly supportive, giving advice and help and seeing the best in every member of the Station. On court he is the most elegant of players, and the pupils love to play against him and learn from him – though they never get anywhere near beating him! Both on and off court his enthusiasm for Fives never falters, and it has been a real privilege to work next to him over the last five years.

Congratulations to the following on their appointments for the 2006/7 season: Alex Leese, Captain; Eleanor Brooke, Girls' Captain; Ben Samuel, Vice-Captain; George Illingworth, Secretary.

Finally, Dryden's once again won the House Fives, narrowly defeating Rigaud's in the final. Thanks to Alex Leese for organising this tournament.

JTH

MARTIAL ARTS

Sebastian Nadal (MM) puts some weight behind his reporting of a good year on the mats. His opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the school's.

Through the hustle and bustle of term-time and exams, the Westminster judo elite, led by the illustrious Richard Allnatt and coached by the invincible Larry, has continued to thrive and to dominate. With a few slip-ups here and there, scarcely worth mentioning, the major achievement has been beating Harrow, our main public school rival, several times away and by large margins. Despite the team being, on occasion, slightly less successful, there have been several noteworthy individual victories, won by those who have persistently demonstrated their aptitude for the sport and eagerness to improve. Among others, I should like to mention Nicholas Reynolds, Thomas Trevor-Roberts, Francis Gene-Rowe and Edmund Fokschaner, our only brick wall on the team, weighing in at a whopping 115Kg! The station has also acquired diverse talents over the year, taking on several girls and fresh flair from the fifth form, who I hope will continue to become the leading members in a few years time to ensure the continuation of the station's growing success. Unfortunately, due to shifty and underhand refereeing from third-rate judo players harbouring serious inferiority complexes, the team only managed to leave the Independent School's Championships with a bronze. However, judging by last year's stellar performance, I am certain that the coming year has several gold medals in store!

Above:
Martial Arts Team.
Photographed by RPA.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

EB rounds up the wide variety of social and charitable activities that are undertaken by this Station.

Primary School assistants

Every week around thirty to thirty-five members of the Upper School volunteer in local primary schools, charity shops, day care centres for the elderly or participate in conservation work. The most popular placement is in a primary school.

“We read with the children and help them with their work, which on Thursday afternoons is History and Art. We’ve studied Victorians at the seaside and helped make hearts for Mothering Sunday, which was fun,” says Zoe Rutter-Locher.

“It is a rewarding experience and there are lots of good moments, though I am occasionally mobbed in the playground! When you leave you feel tired but that your help has been appreciated,” agrees Freddie Weyman.

“You develop a bond with the children quite quickly, but you need to make sure that you keep the balance between being friends and keeping discipline, though it depends how well-behaved the class is! You see a wide range of intellects and the classes are very large – around thirty,” concludes Chloe Pickup

Pullen Centre

The Pullen Day Care Centre for the Elderly is the stuff of dreams and film, declares James Wan (RR).

It is one ongoing cliché; the old people are always laughing and joking, they play scrabble, do quizzes, reminisce about their childhood and they are all either called Marjorie or Dorothy. Age, it seems, does not bring with it depression, loneliness or even wisdom, but on the contrary, an explosive cocktail of eccentricity, wit and a very sordid sense of humour. Fred, for example, when playing a game in which everyone makes words from an existing long word on the board, always shouts out ‘breaking wind’ (sort of) regardless of the letters available. Eileen, on the other hand, dances on the spot, wielding her walking stick, telling anyone who approaches her, ‘Oh, don’t you worry ‘bout me, I’m Irish.’

Every person there, the elderly and the employees alike, have a fantastic time and enjoy our presence there too. All of us volunteers have now formed extremely close bonds with everyone there and embracing the cliché that the Pullen Centre is in reality, I must say that it is a joy and a privilege simply to meet and experience the people there.

Westminster School Charities

It has been another busy three terms for Westminster School on the charities front, writes EB, maestro in charge of the school’s charitable fundraising.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to publish the figures once again this year and to congratulate everyone involved on their hard work and generosity. Unfortunately this

EVENTS

ELECTION 2005	CHARITY	SUM RAISED
Play – False Prophet	Alone In London	£43
Envision Doughnut Sale	The Sunbeam Foundation	£386
House Concert	Leukaemia Research	£210
House Concert	In-Deep Community Task Force	£238
House Concert	Friends of Mvumi School	£100
House Quiz Night	Thames Reach Bondway	£966
Play – The Musicians	Alone In London	£161
Westminster/Rohan	Find Your Feet	£1200
School Wristbands	(Rohan School)	
Summer Saturday	Alone In London	£1144
	Jacaranda Homestead	
Leavers’ Service	Waterford Kamhlaba	£1263
Summer Play	Alone In London	£728
Cantandum Concert	The Loomba Trust	£297
Library Charities	Jacaranda Homestead	£248
	Find Your Feet	
	Multiple Sclerosis Society	
PLAY 2006		
Drama Department Plays	Alone In London	£510
Envision Doughnut Sale	Disasters Emergency Committee (Asia Quake Appeal)	£555
Shag Day	Disasters Emergency Committee (Asia Quake Appeal)	£1410
	Breast Cancer Campaign	
Cantandum Concert	Jacaranda Homestead	£136
Library Charities	Jacaranda Homestead	£82
	Find Your Feet	
House Play	In-Deep Community Task Force	£175
Jazz Concert	In-Deep Community Task Force	£180
Christmas Hamper Collection	In-Deep Community Task Force	£50
Play – Pericles	Alone In London	£601
Carol Service	CRISIS	£3540
	Find Your Feet (Rohan School)	
LENT 2006		
Envision Doughnut Sale	The Passage	£365
Envision/House Cake Sale	The Passage	£161
Envision/House Cake Sale	The Passage	£170
A Little Night Music	Alone In London	£803
Shag Day	Basic Needs (Samuha)	£1224
	The Samaritans	
House Concert	Basic Needs (Samuha)	£146
	The Samaritans	
Cake Sale	WaterAid	£165
	NCH Children’s Charity	
Cake Sale	The Alzheimer’s Society	£160
Cake Sale	Kid’s Company	£185
Rock Concert	The Passage	£50
Total:		£17652

table is not comprehensive (the figures from the March Fun Run have yet to be finalised), but the sheer variety of events is superb and it makes the job of keeping up with all that is going on all the more challenging! Special thanks are due to Matrons Sonia Amos and Rosanne Morgan who have been a great support in this area.

Fundraising is, however, only one part of a bigger picture. The Christmas hampers for the local elderly were once again a success, and we have hosted two parties for members of the Pullen Day Care Centre – the impromptu singing at the Christmas party was certainly memorable! A new pupil-run Charities Committee has also been established which has been most ably led by Georgina Neve with assistance from Lucy Webb-Wilson. We now have a Charities Committee homepage on the School Intranet which encourages pupils to make fundraising suggestions, and the Committee itself plays a significant role by discussing these ideas, making its own proposals and considering requests for funds from various charities. I look forward to developments next year and to the events and publications already planned such as Envision’s Westminster School charity calendar 2007. Don’t forget to reserve your copy in November – they’ll make great Christmas presents!