

THE ELIZABETHAN 2007

ISSUE 726





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THE ELIZABETHAN No. 726. Annum 2007

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Above (top):
Upper School
Drama Festival.

Left (top):
Waiting for the
School photograph.

Left (bottom):
Skye trip.

Above:
Football v. Ardingly.



NEW APPOINTMENTS CAPTAINS ALL

This year saw the creation of two new pupil appointments, Head Girl and Head Boy, to supplement the traditional position of Captain of the Queen's Scholars.

PRINCIPES OPIDORUM

To this day I can offer no coherent argument to as why I was made Head Boy and it was as much of a surprise to me as it was to everyone else, writes a humble Felix Mitchell (MM).

This surprise that I and most people felt was for two main reasons; I am not in College (as has been the custom for Captain of the Queen's Scholars) and academically I am not a particularly high achiever. I had merely written a letter to the Head Master on the outside chance that I would be made a monitor. Being Head Boy however, has been a very pleasant experience. It consists mainly of a chat with Dr. Spurr each morning for a week every third week and being invited to a number of slightly boozy dinners. People often ask me what degree of authority I have. The answer was clearly illuminated when I was doing the Abbey sweep and I beckoned a fifth former over so that I could write down his name and house. I watched as he calmly looked at me and carried on walking into Wrens. Despite this, I have had a very enjoyable time as Head Boy and I remain grateful to Dr. Spurr for his possibly controversial appointment.

Above:
The captains.



PRINCIPRESSA OPIDORUM

To be given a completely new position at Westminster was always going to be a great surprise. But to find out barely a week before the beginning of the new school year that I was to be made Head Girl was a little more than simply surprising, confesses Anna Croall (DD).

After a fairly complicated initial meeting, at which Dr Spurr, Felix Mitchell, Michael Theodosiou and I worked out what our roles were going to consist of, our positions in the school began to take shape. As has always been the case for the Captain of the Queen's Scholars, we were, primarily, to act as a bridge between the students and the Common Room – to voice concerns, explain decisions and be aware, as much as possible, of the general atmosphere and events taking place in the school. Whilst this role was one which could easily be spread across the three of us in our joint responsibility, other, more technical aspects took a little more working out. We have, for example, alternated the speeches at John Locke and any prayers or readings in Abbey which may have cropped up, fulfilling the public speaking component of the position. I feel genuinely privileged to have been given this opportunity. Whilst balancing responsibilities in school with work and extracurricular activities is always going to have its trickier moments, I have enjoyed being able to gain a new perspective on things. I am particularly proud to have been part of what has been a symbolic change, guaranteeing girls a representative in the student body, and leading to the creation of yet another Latin title unique to Westminster! My two years at Westminster have certainly gone quickly, and, looking back on my time here, I will always be grateful to the school for opening up to me the myriad opportunities, both curricular and extracurricular, it provides.

2005–2007

JOHN LOCKE SOCIETY

The John Locke lectures have continued to attract large crowds, generate excellent questions, and give way to most enjoyable lunches, reports Emeric Monfront (WWW).

Guests, both this year and last, have included a great number of high profile individuals, not least Sir Martin Sorrell, the chairman of WPP, who gave a brilliant analysis of current global trends, and Rebekah Wade, who came along with the senior editorial team of the Sun newspaper, and Kenneth Clarke.

Political figures have featured heavily in John Locke lectures, providing us with fiercely contrasting views on current affairs. Margaret Hodge, MP, delivered an impassioned defence of the present government's achievements, whilst Craig Murray, ex-British Ambassador of Uzbekistan, pointed out the hypocrisies he saw in the UK's foreign policy. Sir David Ramsbotham exposed the shortcomings of the prison system, but also proposed innovative methods to solve them. Emma Jones, of the organisation *Revolving Doors* also addressed the subject of incarceration and rehabilitation. Other political speakers included Nick Boys Smith (OW) on the recent history of the Conservative Party and Sally Copley on the difficulties of single parenthood.

Journalists were similarly frequent speakers in the John Locke Society. Philip Stevens, a prominent columnist from the *Financial Times*, made a very memorable address on the influence China will have in the geopolitical landscape of the next twenty-five years. Isobel Hilton, also from the *Financial Times*, and Henry Winter, of the *Daily Telegraph*, delivered inspiring speeches and encouraged many of us to consider careers in journalism. Robert Fisk of *The Independent* also generated much debate with his ideas on the state of the Middle-East. The BBC was well represented by James Robbins and James Reynolds (OW), the former speaking on the topic of Tony Blair's legacy, and the latter on the perils and excitements of being a foreign correspondent.



Some speakers were particularly controversial. Fiona Millar courageously attempted to denounce the evils of public education in the lion's den, so to speak; one can safely say that her ideas led to a more than energetic response from the audience. Gay activist Peter Tatchell and ultra-conservative moralist Lynette Burrows expressed views different in content but similar in extremism.

Nevertheless, the most memorable and moving speeches were made by the more discreet speakers. Photojournalist Nick Danziger, accompanied by a colleague from Afghanistan, Malali, gave us a particularly compelling account of poverty across the world. Andrew McCooey, solicitor to the late Myra Hindley, also impressed us by his impassioned defence of human rights. We are also looking forwards to the remaining lectures scheduled for the Election term, whose speakers include the Rt. Hon. Tony Benn (OW) and Kate Hoey, MP.

Finally, an immense word of thanks must be offered to Mr Hargreaves, for whom, after more than 350 speakers and thirteen years, this has been the last year as head of the John Locke Society. Drawing on his seemingly endless list of contacts to constantly provide us with inspiring, provocative, and competent speakers, Mr Hargreaves has made the John Locke society a central pillar of Westminster's liberal education. The exacting standards he has set will be a considerable challenge for his successor to match. John Locke himself would have, without any doubt, saluted his unwavering dedication to the cause of understanding, moderation, and careful thought.



Above:
David Hargreaves.



SALVETE

DR GARY SAVAGE

Gary Savage took a double First in History at Cambridge, staying on to research a PhD on foreign policy and political culture in later eighteenth-century France. This afforded him eight months living and working in Paris, which was good news for him, but less good for his wife, Natalie, who had to stay behind to complete her MSc at Birkbeck. He was appointed an Assistant Master at Eton in 1996. The next ten years were spent wearing stiff collars and white bow ties, teaching boys, coaching and umpiring, running the History Department and, eventually, becoming Master-in-College; that is to say, Housemaster to the seventy King's Scholars. Tiring of country life and needing a new challenge, Gary made the switch to Westminster, as Under Master, in 2006. He still enjoys History, writing, travel and supporting Ipswich Town. He is also trying to learn German. These last two challenges are only marginally more taxing than being in charge of whole-school discipline and pastoral care at a top independent school.



ULF HENNIG

After graduating from Frankfurt University, Ulf Hennig arrived in the UK in 2001 to teach at St. Paul's Boys School. During this period he was also employed by Westminster School to teach for one day a week. In 2004 he was invited back to Westminster as part-time German teacher. Haileybury College also offered him employment in that year. However, it was Westminster School which attracted him the most and he was offered Head of Department in 2006. He particularly enjoys the cultural side of teaching, especially the exchanges to Berlin and Munich; but his love is also for literature. He spends much of his free time in the many museums, galleries and theatres that London has to offer.

JULIA KOCH

Julia Koch's first contact with England and the English was when she worked as an au pair in Oxford nearly ten years ago. She then went back to Germany to study Art History, Art Education and English in Göttingen and Frankfurt. Before joining Westminster as German language *assistentin* she worked at Frankfurt University and as an art educator and in the press office at Frankfurt's Schirn public art gallery. Her mission is to show that there is more to German culture than sausages, lederhosen and "Vorsprung durch Technik". She is also very happy to be currently working as a Student Teacher in Westminster's History of Art Department. In her *freizeit* she enjoys jogging, art galleries, travelling and sitting in cafés.

ALISON LEONARD

Alison Leonard rejoined the Common Room in August 2006 to teach Geography part-time, having taught previously at Tonbridge, City of London, St Paul's and Croydon High School. After two terms teaching Geography at Westminster in 2003 she worked at a grammar school in Kent, and took part in a School Link with Ghana, visiting the link school near Lake Volta; she has worked as Professional Mentor to newly qualified teachers and supports trainee teachers on the "Teach First" scheme in London schools as well as pursuing research in School Linking and Development Education at the Institute of Education. She has been coxing at Putney, where she says she provides further entertainment and amusement to Westminsters and colleagues alike.

LUKE O'DONOGHUE

Hailing originally from Bristol, Luke first left home to study Countryside Management at The University of Wales, Aberystwyth. After obtaining his degree, a flight of fancy and the need for a change of scenery took him to Canada. He lived for a year first in Toronto then in Montreal before moving to London in 2004. He began his experience of Westminster at the playing fields of Vincent Square. He then joined the security staff at the Great School and from there acquired a knowledge of Westminster behind the scenes. 18 months later, on the retirement of Peter Goddard, he took up the post of Domestic Bursar. He now looks forward to a more settled period, revolving the majority of his free time around football, either coaching or playing, and enjoying life in the capital.

DR HELEN PRENTICE

Helen Prentice read Natural Sciences and completed a PhD in physics at Cambridge University. Following several years tutoring and supervising undergraduates, she joined Westminster to teach Physics, via a stint as a greengrocer to hone her mental arithmetic, naturally.

KATHARINE RADICE

Katharine Radice is now in her fourth year of teaching and has swapped the country calm of Winchester College for a more urban lifestyle here at Westminster. She became a teacher somewhat by accident, but not yet has she been drained of commitment to the cause and ardent belief in the Educational Value of Latin and Greek. Once upon a time she studied at Magdalen College, Oxford where she was heavily involved in student politics and she had a passing acquaintance with the College Boat Club. In the holidays she is to be found sitting reading novels.

BRIAN SMITH

Brian Smith read Modern Languages at Magdalen College, Oxford and taught at King's College School, Wimbledon before being appointed at Westminster in 1996. In 1999, feeling the need for a change, he left for the United World College (UWC) of Southern Africa which is based in Swaziland. Here he coordinated the International Baccalaureate programme. He enjoyed seven happy years in Africa but is pleased to be back in London and indeed at Westminster.

THOMAS WOODROOFFE

Thomas Woodrooffe studied theology at Pretoria and the University of South Africa before coming to London to do an MA. He has been teaching in London for almost five years. He taught Philosophy and Religious Education in Highams Park for three years prior to arriving at Westminster. At the moment he is doing a PhD at King's College on embodiment in the Gospel of John. When he is not preparing lessons and writing a thesis, he is a keen lover of arthouse cinema and avant-garde music.

EMMANUELA VENINATA

Emanuela Veninata is now in her fifth year of teaching and joined Westminster in January 2007, having previously worked in the Design and Visual Arts department at City of London School, Camden School for Girls and Queen's Park Community School. Graduated from Chelsea College of Art and Design, Emanuela has spent most of her 27 years in London practicing successfully as a freelance designer, photojournalist, film and television producer in the UK and abroad, but failing miserably as a Cockney impersonator. She can nowadays often be found in the far right corner of her workshop brandishing a brazing torch, forging metals, with a beaming smile.

FELIX HILL

Felix Hill came from Oxford University with a MMath in Mathematics to teach for the Play term before travelling to Latin America to learn Spanish for 6 months. He coached the badminton team, helped with football station and participated in some school running events.



Above (top; left to right): Gary Savage and Julia Koch.

Above: Ulf Hennig and Katharine Radice.

Right: Thomas Woodrooffe.



Above (top; left to right): Luke O'Donoghue and Helen Prentice.

Above: Felix Hill and Brian Smith.



OBITUARY: 1931–2006 DR JOHN RAE

John Rae succeeded John Carleton as the Head Master of Westminster School in 1970. He became the pre-eminent Public School head of his day – the first educational ‘celebrity’ and a household name among the intelligentsia.

John Malcolm Rae was born in 1931, educated at Bishop’s Stortford College and read History at Sidney Sussex College Cambridge leaving with a mediocre degree, half Blues for swimming and water polo and rugby skills sufficiently honed to play for London Scottish.

His first appointment was at Harrow. Over the next ten years he combined teaching history and games coaching with studying for a Doctorate on First World War conscientious objectors at King’s College London. He also wrote a novel, *The Custard Boys*, later filmed as *Reach for Glory* and awarded a UN prize. In 1955 he married Daphne Simpson and by the time he left to become Headmaster of Taunton School in 1966 he was the father of six children.

By all accounts he had a torrid time at Taunton, but, prompted by the setting up of the Public Schools Commission, he had made his name as someone not afraid to speak his mind. With this short headmastering experience behind him, John Rae arrived on the London stage. Handsome and articulate, he was from the start an accomplished performer, a model of self-confident metropolitan urbanity.

Unlike his previous headship, John eased himself into the Westminster job. But it was not long before the media were paying him court. He was a new phenomenon, a high-ranking Head ready to take up the media challenge and speak his mind on any issue. Thus began a remarkable stream of articles for the broadsheet press, including a long stint contributing to the Times Educational Supplement, as well as making many radio and TV appearances.

In the course of this sustained exposure John acquired a reputation as a controversial figure. From his privileged vantage point he specialised in articulating uncomfortable truths about the independent sector and alerting other heads to matters of concern – changing adolescent mores, the problems of drugs, the advantages or otherwise, of co-education. But John was no revolutionary. He was elected Chairman of the Headmaster’s conference in 1977. He always stopped short of confrontation and made no radical calls for change. While admitting that Public Schools were divisive but at the same time valuing their independence, he did not offer an overall critique of the country’s educational problems. His one principled stance was his resistance to the Assisted Places scheme which deeply offended his sense of fair play. He later summed up his position: ‘You do not deal with a famine by sending a few lucky children to lunch at the Ritz.’

With presentational skills second to none, politicians of all parties were drawn to him, Harold Wilson – while Prime Minister – sought his advice, came to dinner and attended the School Play, and a stream of famous visitors – Enoch Powell, George Steiner and many others – flowed through Dean’s Yard. The Election Dinner, marking the end of the school year, was a mini-Camelot regularly attended by the great and the good from all walks of life. The highlight of the dinner was a sophisticated parody written by the Headmaster and recited by the scholars, teasing national and school figures in brilliant word-play.

John’s time at Westminster was a labour of love marked by thorough professional attention to all aspects of school life and a growing pride in the School’s achievements for which he could claim much credit. His energy and work-rate were quite prodigious. He insisted on teaching seven or eight periods a week, was a regular spectator at matches, plays and concerts and an everyday presence in Yard and in the Common Room. He chaired all the internal committees and rarely missed an assembly or an Abbey service. His detailed knowledge of individual pupils was quite extraordinary. Not only did he know each boy or girl by name, but he could recall details of their background – their prep school and their parents. Ever sensitive to adverse publicity he kept a tight moral grip on the school – during his

time no boy or girl crept in by the back door, serious wrong-doing was rigorously dealt with and standards of behaviour were valued above length of hair or polished turn-out. In true Westminster form, he tolerated and enjoyed eccentricities among staff and pupils.

Carrying this formidable burden – as Head and media spokesman – put a heavy strain on his wife and family who could reasonably have complained that they saw little of him. John’s career after Westminster was undoubtedly an anti-climax. But he was far from inactive: he governed schools, was director of The Observer and never refused the opportunity to speak. Following the four children’s books he wrote while at Westminster, he published books drawing on his experiences – *Too Little Too Late*, *Delusions of Grandeur*; advice to parents on how to get the best education for their children and a biography of a courageous headmistress – *Sister Genevieve*. In 2004 he wrote *The Agnostic’s Tale*, a tough-minded study of intellectual and religious doubt.

John once told me that he saw stoicism as the primary virtue. He drew deeply on his formidable reserves during the last illness. Fiercely independent throughout his life, guarded from intimacy by his imposing manner and by his public role, illness made him dependent and brought him closer to his friends and particularly to his family. I will always remember his heroic fortitude and his unfailing courtesy and good humour to those who visited him. Daphne nursed him at home with the support of his children. They all gave him their devoted attention – a testament to their respect and love.

Jim Cogan
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The Westminster Newsletter)

GAVIN GRIFFITHS

GG is standing down as House Master of Grant’s. Tributes have followed unstopably. It is hard to believe that the sight of Gavin Griffiths standing on Grant’s steps surveying all around him has come to an end, writes Simon Wurr, Tutor in Grant’s. After seven years at the helm of No. 2 Little Dean’s Yard, after four years in charge Up Ashburnham, Gavin has filed his last UCAS form.

His reign has been a triumph of style and substance. He has managed to tread a line that has made him both an incredibly popular Housemaster to all whilst being innately fair, incredibly hard-working, energetic and above all possessing a remarkable sense of humour even when unblocking toilets or chasing late coursework. His style has been his own: irreverent and definitely unorthodox but I have yet to meet a House Master who knows their pupils better than Gavin or who can cut through the waffle that passes for subject reports to deliver some key piece of advice or word of warning in his House report.



Above:
Gavin Griffiths.

But the greatest compliment is that with Gavin as Housemaster, Grant’s has been a very happy house. His quick wit and his trademark comic facial expressions have helped defuse many potentially awkward conversations with pupils and it is this sense of fun that I shall miss the most. I know that Gavin in turn will miss many aspects of being a Housemaster although Saturday evening duties and finding spare locker keys won’t be at the top of this list.

It is difficult for me to recall the highlights of Mr Griffiths’ time as housemaster of Grant’s, but this is certainly not a criticism, continues Tom Henderson, Head of House.

Nor is it a suggestion of a lack of his presence in the house; even now that morning registration involves thumbs and a mysterious black box, GG has remained poised in his office chair, ready to greet us and offer some witticism to get the day off to a jolly start.

But GG is much more than a considered combination of humour and intelligence; I shall remember his constant concern for harmony amongst members of the house, and for us to avoid friction with others in our lives at Westminster. We are often reminded with that notable humour, usually at house meetings, of sources of tension so that they may be avoided.

A housemaster’s task is a vital one, especially in a boarding house, and it is one which GG approaches with a characteristic calm and intelligence that pervades the house as a result. We’re grateful also to Tracy Morris, who has been a huge part of the Grant’s family for the past 7 years. Their presence Up Grant’s will be missed, and I would like to thank them both for their guidance, humour, sincerity, and most of all their tirelessness in giving these, and much more to us all.

David Hargreaves, Gavin’s colleague and friend of 21 years, and his successor as Housemaster of Grant’s adds:

The thing about Gavin is that he is achingly funny and awesomely clever. On the one hand, he loves music and literature and knows a staggering amount about both. On the other, he avoids going to the theatre or to book launches – milieux in which he might be expected to shine, but which attract the self-important and (dread word) fashionable, whose company he abominates.

>>CONTINUED



VALETE
JOHN VINCENT

John Vincent, who left in December 2006, joined the school in 1993 after a career as a prototyping engineer and apprentice trainer in the Ministry of Defence and Electricity supply industries. He was responsible for the establishment of Design and Technology as both GCSE and A level subjects in the school and became well known for his ability to make tools and materials bow to his will.

In addition to his work in the Design Technology department John played trombone in many

school concerts and productions (on one occasion continuing to play when Sweeney Todd's meat cleaver and grinder joined the orchestra in the pit). John introduced Golf to both the Station and Expeditions programmes and will no doubt be spending more time with his clubs in retirement. However, he is not leaving for a life of relaxation just yet; he and his wife Ruth are embarking on a new venture, working voluntarily in Kenya. John will be working with blind and disadvantaged students in a craft training school helping equip them to earn their own living, while Ruth will be working with the Kenyan social services.



VALETE
LUCIENNE SUMNER-FERGUSSON

GAVIN GRIFFITHS
CONTINUED

Instead, his idea of a splendid evening – as he would put it – is good, old-fashioned, no-trimmings, straight-down-the-line, character assassination. If the object of derision happens to be at his elbow, so much the better, but he is untroubled by any old-fashioned scruples which prevent him from ruining a man's reputation in his absence. Alcohol is a welcome stimulant (there is a pub known to a few of us as 'The Henry IV' upon which he is known to bestow custom) but he's happy to transfer to the Common Room or the steps of Grant's – just so long as the company isn't prissy.

While you might need to extract his fingernails before he'd admit it, Gavin is of course a deeply reflective man. True, he's inclined to see the people who make up his life as a gallery of grotesques expressly laid on for his amusement; true, he has quite a long list of dislikes (to name but a few – upmarket restaurants, well-cut clothes, skiing, abroad and, above all, the culture of blame). But he has a coherent and very strong value system. It's no accident that he speaks of Samuel Johnson (the great enemy of cant) with something approaching reverence. In Gavin's canon, just like that of Johnson, the dignity of a man rests in his fallibility, rather than in the struggle for perfection. Anyone is fair game, but no one is beyond redemption.

I believe that generations of boys and girls in Grant's and Ashburnham have come to know that as well as anyone. I can't give you any particular example of his kindnesses to them because he hides them away as a matter of reflex, and insofar as people ever hear about them, they're carefully couched in irony and understatement. For many people, staff and pupils, Westminster without him would have been a radically diminished experience.

His rasping honesty, his fearless assault on ephemera, and his determination to put a good mind to work ensure that, while he's going to be sorely missed in Grant's, there are winners in this too. Great swathes of rookie pupils and colleagues are shortly to be exposed to the full blast of Gav uncensored.

VALETE
TOM KENNEDY

I have been here so long that I now measure teachers' tenure in decades, writes MCD; by this criterion, Tom is still a bright-eyed newcomer, though by the fly-by-night standards of other recent appointments he is, paradoxically, simultaneously a stalwart of the department: his enthusiasm has inspired pupils, sometimes to their surprise, to enjoy mathematics and he has also thrown himself wholeheartedly into the thankless task of persuading the more sceptical to at least get on with getting a decent GCSE grade – all of us have metaphorically banged our heads on the wall over a particularly recalcitrant pupil, but Tom is the only person I have seen doing so literally. Perhaps, though, not so paradoxical: Tom is as energetic as one would expect of a man of his age, yet he is also a genuine old-fashioned schoolmaster, in the sense that he wants to, and does, educate in every, not just the academic, sense. He cares about his students' behaviour and their attitudes, he wants to share his enthusiasm for sport and music, and he has been determined to drag Westminsters off their chaises longues and march them across the countryside, for the good of their souls, if to the detriment of their expensive trainers. We are very grateful to Tom for all he has done here and of course, therefore, it is a shame that we, and the profession, are losing him, but equally, of course, we are delighted that he has a marvellous opportunity to pursue, and would all wish him well in his new career, in which I am sure he will make himself as successful as in his first.

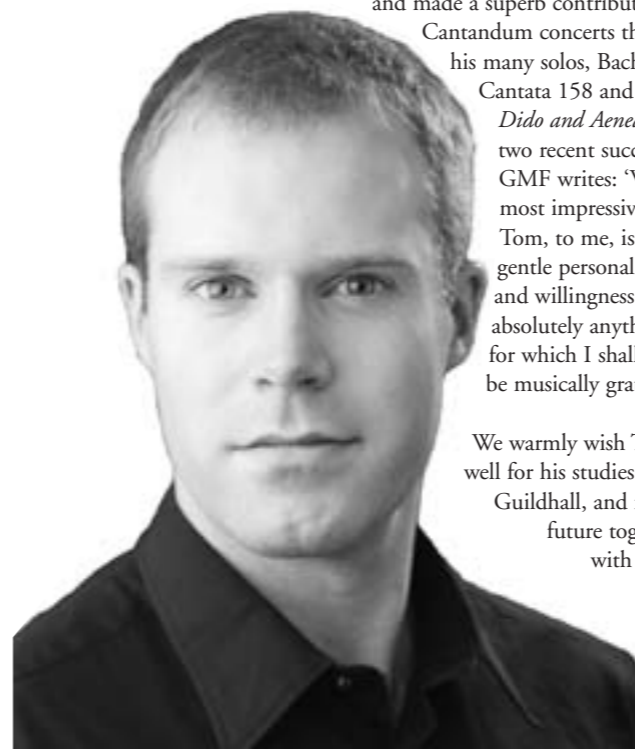
As a keen épéist and pentathlete, Tom was involved with fencing station from his arrival, taking over as master i/c two years ago, writes RDS. Fencing continued to strengthen under his stewardship – with a notable increase in the number of international épéists produced by the School. This year Westminster won the Public Schools Championships for the sixth year in a row, and with some of the strongest individual performances ever seen.

He has been an outstanding resident tutor in College, according to FMRR. As someone who loves the outdoors and has extraordinary physical fitness, he has energetically accompanied several First Election groups to Alston. He joined the house from Milne's in 2003 and has given unstintingly of his time and talents in the years that have followed. He has been a conscientious personal tutor to boys and girls of all ages; she writes: 'I have benefited enormously from the wisdom of his advice on how to approach a particular situation or pupil. Perhaps most of all, Tom has played a key role in bringing together those in the house who like to sing, and his 'College Consort' has performed memorably at the house concert each year with numbers such as Ernst Toch's *Geographical Fugue* and Benjamin Britten's *Old Joe has Gone Fishing*.'

He took the opportunity on arrival of joining the Henry VII Singers under the aegis of Gilly French, and immediately became an indispensable stalwart of this choir. He has a mellifluous voice of some beauty which chorally both blends and adds weight; he is solidly reliable, a sympathetic inspiration to other young voices and a great sight-reader. He has given memorable recitals, including a programme of Russian lieder from memory, and made a superb contribution to

Cantandum concerts through his many solos, Bach's Cantata 158 and Aeneas *Dido and Aeneas* being two recent successes. GMF writes: 'What is most impressive about Tom, to me, is his gentle personality and willingness to do absolutely anything, for which I shall always be musically grateful.'

We warmly wish Tom well for his studies at the Guildhall, and for his future together with Jo.



One woman and her dog – Archie. They arrived 8 years ago to the newly revolutionised job of Common Room secretary. What does that job entail when there are some 120 people to organise? It's difficult to define the job and in a sense Lucienne redefined and developed the job itself. Lucienne mends photocopiers; actually she calms down the member of staff who is panicking over a last-minute piece of coursework or article needed to keep a class amused. Lucienne answers the telephone; in effect she explains the running of the school to a stream of concerned parents. She has arranged flowers for events, been on Expeditions and even invigilated examinations. In fact I was sorely tempted to ask her (or Archie) to take my classes. As someone who originally studied Architecture after leaving Sherborne School for Girls and subsequently worked as a project manager for property companies in London – with a three year stint running a yacht chartering company before starting her own function-catering business in 1977, she is highly qualified. Of course we all know that the star of stage and real diva was Archie. His performance as Beanie in Street Scene in 2004 not only made him insufferably big-headed but also made history as the first live animal in a school production. It is a little known fact that when we refer to the Common Room dog we actually mean the small white fluffy creature that has sent me a Valentine carnation for the past 4 years! Archie is the force behind the team and from his little sleepy hollow he has greeted us with a wag of the tail and a roll onto his back. I don't even like dogs but this one is different.

Seriously, I will miss Lucienne and have certainly tried hard to get her to change her mind. What will the New York trip be without her? She has worked tirelessly to organise the most wonderful cultural trip over the past 5 years and its success has largely been due to her unflappable and utterly dependable management skills. The students like and respect her as we do and we will be hard pushed to replace her.

She is off to France where she hopes to do some part-time work and some property developing in London but intends to spend her time equally between London, France and Johannesburg indulging herself in her hobbies of riding, tennis and skiing.

JLC

Above:
Lucienne Sumner-Fergusson with Archie.



Above (top):
John Vincent.

Right (opposite page):
Tom Kennedy.



VALETE
DR MARTIN GUY

Martin Guy joined us from Alcatel on a part-time basis half way through Play Term 2005, while studying for a PGCE. This was his first teaching post and he played a full part in the department's record exam successes, contributing within the classroom and beyond.

He left us at the end of Election Term 2006 to take up the post of Head of Physics at Putney High School for Girls.



VALETE
NICK HINZE

On 5th February 2003 Nick Hinze missed an invigilation. You, dear reader, will think this an ungenerous beginning for a farewell to a generous and much-respected man; it is because it is so uncharacteristic (Nick was awarded a sort of anti-Digniora) that it is worth telling. And to remind him that some people will always remind him...

Nick came to Westminster in September 1997 from Trinity, Cambridge via Hamburg, Oakham ('A place somewhat northerly', as Jane Austen would have said), and two years combining music and teaching in London. A Westminster teacher needs, above all, to be master of their subject, and immediately it was clear that Nick fitted this requirement admirably. In addition we like people with a variety of interests to keep the staff amused, with determination and honesty, with a willingness to contribute in widely disparate ways, and with a sense of humour.

His devotion to his teaching and those in his care is beyond reproach; his lessons are meticulously planned and energetically taught, and are appreciated by their recipients. In addition the Chemists have valued highly his devotion to the Head of Department's role over the past three years. The organisational work that this involves is not directly seen by pupils, but it is real and demanding, and only becomes evident in its absence. I am grateful for his efficiency and attention to the Department, his willingness to enthuse and cajole when necessary, his obvious desire to do the job well. He's an excellent Chemist and an excellent teacher.

Some people like sport. Nick likes sport. That simple understatement hides an immense contribution to sports and activities at Westminster. Selecting from a long list, I mainly think of football. Coaching, playing and supporting Westminster pupils over the years, he has contributed in no small fashion to the strength of the game in the school, and has worked very hard for one of the largest stations. Squash, too, has benefited both at the South Bank and also with the LSA programme, where he revitalised the court on the roof of Hooke for pupils' use.

Above (top):
Nick Hinze.

Right:
Chemistry class.



"Pupils think teachers of whatever age are very old, and forget that all of us are simply young people who've lived longer."

His commitment to Expeditions and to Alston has been firm – vociferous when needed – and he has experienced the Lyke Wake Walk many times, supporting and encouraging those who undertake this remarkable activity. He is probably the only one in his team who can read the compass. Even in his final term he has started something new in track cycling. Cycling is a relatively recent activity for him, and true to form when Nick starts something he does it as thoroughly as can be. So with his bike, lovingly treated, and all the ancillary gear from top to toe, and with every necessary gizmo, Hinze in full flight on two wheels is a sight to behold. I shall certainly miss that!

And then there's his music. Pupils think teachers of whatever age are very old, and forget that all of us are simply young people who've lived longer. So the idea of Hinze as a rocker – in a band, for heaven's sake! – was a surprise to many. But he's composed continuously during his time here, and three CDs of his work testify to another of his numerous interests which he will be pursuing next year.

So after ten years we bid Nick farewell, with admiration and thanks for all that he has done, and with our very best wishes for happiness and success. Except that we remember the invigilation....

JRGB

VALETE
CLAUDIA HARRISON

Claudia joined Westminster in 1993, pioneering the trail from Eton to the centre of London, in her case via Oxford and the Institute of Education, London. She swiftly proved herself in the classroom, taming pupils with a calm, authoritative presence. In the Geography department she introduced the immensely popular fieldcourse to Morocco and on the Sixth Form Swansea course she laid to rest the myth that it always rains in Wales with her speciality sand dune day on the Gower coast. Somehow Claudia always chose a day when the sun shone and a March suntan was a distinct possibility! Her Upper Shell GCSE field-trip to Brighton has also become legendary – out at 9am, back by the end of school, with a fabulous day of geography, an ice cream or two and a 'Kiss me Quick' hat! Within the wider school community Claudia has been a stalwart of netball and hockey stations. However, it has been in her role as Higher Education adviser that so many pupils, and indeed parents will have encountered Claudia, guiding the destiny of countless Westminsters. No one has been more in demand around the school through the ever-lengthening UCAS season, helping out with the minutiae of the forms, and in producing much needed spare forms out of thin air when all has seemed lost! And all done in her immensely reassuring manner.

Claudia was in at the very beginning of Milne's, bringing to the role typical common sense, wisdom, humour and empathy. She has been very supportive to pupils and colleagues alike and particularly effective as a tutor to the girls in the house. Her prodigious knowledge of the university admissions system has proven invaluable and her skilful captaincy of her teams in the house quizzes over the years enviable.

From home in Dulwich, Claudia will have no excuses for not keeping in touch. Our very best wishes to Claudia, Pat, Ella and Danny for the future.

RRH

VALETE
NICK MALONEY

Nick joined Westminster immediately after graduating in Economics from Cambridge. He worked here for two years before moving to King's School Worcester. Whilst there he was a highly successful Master i/c Rowing as well as teaching a full economics timetable. Three years ago he came back to Westminster to teach economics – and proved himself once again an indispensable member of the department. He rapidly took over the teaching of the Oxbridge class with considerable success. His work of adding to department resources and IT development made a lasting contribution. In the classroom he has been an inspiring and dedicated teacher, energetically insisting on the transmission of traditional rather than bureaucratised knowledge. In Liddell's Nick was a popular and effective tutor and he immersed himself in coaching successful J14 crews and organising his own training camps. As if this weren't enough, Nick was also a truly dedicated staff helper on and advocate for Westminster Phab.

Nick modestly downplayed his own sporting achievements; few in the school knew for instance that he finished in the top 20% of his class in a two day international mountain marathon last October at his first attempt. Nick's enthusiasm for the outdoors has also been a great boost to Westminster's cross country team and it is entirely in keeping with his selfless attitude that he has given up his time to help train and encourage the current crop of athletes. No doubt Nick will make sure he continues to train hard in preparation for the 'Grim Challenge' in December in order to gain revenge on those Westminsters who beat him in 2006!

His humour, energy, enthusiasm and unswerving support for guests, hosts and colleagues alike have been greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed. Nick's promotion to Head of Economics and Business Studies at Wellington College is well deserved and our considerable loss.

RDS

Above:
'Souk' photographed
by T Elworthy.

Below:
Claudia Harrison
and Nick Maloney.





VALETE DANIEL GELDERD

In his "Salve" note, Daniel described Mathematics teaching as his second vocation, after the disappointing discovery that his first, as a Michelin multi-starred chef, only offered performance-related pay, and that he therefore earned nothing in six months; fortunately, the Westminster salary scale is more forgiving. It was very quickly clear that Daniel had indeed found his metier: he has been a very imaginative teacher, regularly offering departmental meetings his suggestions for innovative ways of getting difficult ideas across to recalcitrant children, gamely trying them out and subsequently regaling us with blow-by-blow accounts of why we should not risk following his example.

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but there are already many students who will remember the concern he has shown that they should do as well as possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to them outside class – not to mention those who still have the bruises sustained while he was encouraging them to try the rock'n'roll dancing at which he himself is so proficient. Unfortunately, Daniel does not entirely agree that he is ideally suited to working amazingly hard for a modest reward, and has decided to look for a more beguiling sinecure: his third, though not necessarily final, vocation is as an actuary. For those who are not sure what an actuary is, suffice it to say that, even amongst those of us whose idea of a thrill is to find a BMO question we haven't done before, it is not a career thought to offer the ultimate in excitement: it is admittedly a modest compliment to say that Daniel will be at the upper end of the profession's scale of extraversion, but if the pleasure we have gained from his company here is anything to go by, Daniel's future colleagues can look forward, one way or another, to a distinct upward tick in their pulse rates.

MCD

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMON ROOM

The Common Room, as ever, has had a busy and fun-packed year. The twice-termly CR Meetings have continued to provide a forum for lively debate on all aspects of Westminster life, records DJH, President of the Common Room.

A rich and varied programme of social events have helped to offset the rigours of academic life. At the end of the Summer Term, Susanna Spurr organised a wonderful party for the children of the CR in College Garden. CR turned up in their droves with their young offspring to enjoy fine afternoon of entertainment, magic, jelly and ice-cream.

Another new event was the CR croquet match against the Abbey. What better way to spend a warm Friday evening than by having Pimms and a BBQ in College Garden. The Abbey and CR drew after the matches but in the play-off Deiniol Morgan, Minor Canon and international croquet player, narrowly pipped MCD in the play off. EAS has generously presented a trophy for this year's match. As a measure of their serious competitive commitment, the CR has decided to invest in a croquet set.

The Play Term saw the inaugural CR Oktoberfest. The Oom-pah band, led by AJS and featuring RMT, NAS and Lesley Batty, was widely acclaimed to be the finest of its type in London. A marvellous display of Bavarian dancing was provided by many and enjoyed by more. DJG was the judged "Best Dancer" and Lesley Batty's costume was a prize-winning triumph. However, the the Head Master's Tyrolean hat should get a special mention, being vastly superior to the green plastic hats and blond plaits provided at the door.

The Play Term's concluding event was the annual Christmas Dinner in College Hall. The food and wine

were excellent and the whizzy balloons entertained the CR for almost 3 hours. Happily there were no water pistols in the crackers this year.

The Lent Term saw the Progressive Supper with the Abbey. As ever, this was hugely popular and it was a real treat to begin with Drinks in the Deanery this year. The quality of the food is legendary at this event and the excitement of not knowing where or with whom you are going to eat still continues to thrill. At 84 it was the biggest event of its type to date and it was wonderful to see so many of the Abbey there too. Many thanks in particular to all involved with the cooking.

The Physics Department put all others to shame with a departmental team in the Bringsty relay. MAB, RMT, KAPW and HP were the ground breakers. The Pink Elephants (the CR Cricket Team) under the leadership of JAI continue to prosper.



"The Oom-pah band, led by AJS and featuring RMT, NAS and Lesley Batty, was widely acclaimed to be the finest of its type in London."

Ian Monk must be congratulated on his fantastic recent achievement of completing the London Marathon. SDW must be congratulated on his impressive 17th position out of 3500 in the Original Mountain Marathon. This involved running a marathon one day across rough terrain and 3000 metres of ascent followed by the same the next day! NJM came 52nd in his category which was a very impressive and a huge personal achievement.

Two members of the CR took a sabbatical this year. JNH took a mini sabbatical in order to sail a 26 foot boat across the Atlantic. Astonishingly he has lived to tell the tale and is now passing on his skills to the pupils during Station afternoons. EAS was on sabbatical for the Play Term. He spent the Autumn months as a visiting scholar at Wolfson College, Oxford, and as a member of the SCR at Christchurch. He undertook valuable research in Dr Busby from Oxford and his home in Herefordshire. He toured Northern England, visiting the universities of Durham and Edinburgh. CJ launched her book, "William Holman Hunt: Painter, Painting, Paint" in October, another impressive publication from a member of the CR.

Cantandum, under the leadership of GME, continue to delight with a rich variety of concerts. Members include FGS, HP, GWS, Lesley Batty, JJK, KAPW, TDP, TAK and AJS. Their usual venues are School and St Stephen's Rochester Row but this term they have branched into singing a glorious Evensong in the Abbey and they have an impressive event of Mozart/Handel Acis and Galatea with the London Mozart Players planned for mid-May in St John's Smith Square. Last summer's Dido (FGS) and Aeneas (TAK) was a masterpiece in a semi-staged production in Ashburnham Garden.

Many congratulations to JJK, SMB, PJC and, on St George's Day to ACB, and their spouses, on the birth of Matthew, Julia, Leo and Ella respectively. We look forward to seeing them at the next Children's Party.

Finally, a huge thank you to all who have helped organise and run any of the events this year: AJS and SP have been stalwarts. In particular I must thank SDW (Treasurer) and NAS (Vice-President) for their hard work, good humour and efficiency.

Above:
Oktoberfest.
Photographed by DJH.

Above (opposite page):
Daniel Gelderd (far left).
Bringsty Relay.

Below (top):
CJRU in Alston.
Photographed by SDW.

Below (bottom):
MSS and GKJ at the
Bringsty Relay.





CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF PHAB

On a hot July day before Phab, Westminster was covered in wheelchair ramps and the kitchens were filled with everything sticky and calorie-crammed in preparation for Westminster School Phab, write participants Ellie Buchdahl (OWW) and Joe Smith (MM).

Phab is a nationwide organisation in which able-bodied students act as hosts to guests with physical or mental disabilities during one activity-crammed week – although tragically the courses have become sparser in recent years due to overly strict health and safety regulations. This year was particularly special for Westminster as it was the 30th Phab hosted by the school, and we knew it was up to us to make it the best yet.

We had been warned that the week would be emotionally exhausting, and by the time we were sitting in Yard waiting for the first guests to arrive, those warnings were beginning to hit home as we wondered how we would behave – would we know what to talk about? What would we do if something went wrong? How on earth were we going to remember the specific information about every guest supplied to us in a preliminary meeting by Phab's organiser, the legendary Mr Johnson (aka Andy or AJ – just don't call him that in history lessons.) And how were our muscles and backs going to hold up to a week of pushing wheelchairs and heaving them up and down the College stairs? The tension eased just a little when the first guest to arrive (DJ Ryan) promptly leapt out of his wheelchair (after having let Jamie push him all the way from Victoria Station) and seized a cricket bat to begin a heated game with Mr Ullathorne. Then the other guests arrived, we helped them settle in, and, with the aid of a few thousand Mars Bars and an unlimited supply of Sprite, everyone began chatting, playing basketball, dancing and laughing. The guests, especially those who had been on several Phab courses, were so lively from the start that we (and those newer guests who were a little more nervous) could not help but feel relaxed. All the hosts were linked to one or more guests with whom they shared a room. We essentially acted as carers for the

week, which involved things you hardly think twice about in your own lives – getting dressed, manoeuvring food into your mouth, going to the toilet, wiping your bum.

The guests suffered from a range of disabilities, including Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Sclerosis. However, in no way did this hinder relationships and before long everyone was getting on as if they were old friends. Any anxiety was soon replaced by a general desire to make every guest have a good time on what for many of them was their only holiday away from their carers in the whole year. The guests' disabilities became irrelevant and only remained an issue in terms of their caring and day-to-day requirements. The best way to break any form of ice was to get involved in as many aspects of Phab as possible. For example, taking a guest to the toilet is potentially awkward but for the guests it is something that someone has to do for them every day and they are used to the hosts being a bit nervous and embarrassed at first. By the end of the second or third day everyone has to break through their own 'wall' (that great Phab expression referring to the moment when you suddenly go beyond the point of exhaustion into a state of sleep-deprived delirium). After this everything becomes easy once more and by the time friends and family arrive at the show on Sunday, it is them and the outside world that no longer make sense.

Over the week we would spend the mornings taking part in workshops run by outside instructors in preparation for the great show on the Sunday, which this year was to celebrate thirty years of Phab. There was a music workshop, a drama and dance workshop, an art workshop (responsible for decorating the entire entrance to School, as well as for an amazing mural) and a film made to reflect day-to-day life on the course. We spent afternoons as tourists on outings – to the London Eye, museums, a river cruise – and a considerable amount of time tackling London Transport with a wheelchair in tow. The evening activities involved such things as a petting zoo in yard, karaoke up school, a posh dinner in College Hall and a disco in Grant's. Never again will school seem the same after Mr. Johnson and Mr. Maloney's rendition of YMCA. By the end of the week friendships had been built between Westminsters, some of whom had barely spoken before, and guests we had only met a few days earlier. The course was an incredibly exhausting week, both physically and emotionally but it was also the most rewarding, most stimulating, most enjoyable and most inspiring week of our lives.



SOVEREIGN CHANCE: A VIEW FROM OVER THERE

"Friday is the Queen's birthday. With the Queen's Scholars, I have sent along our birthday wishes to the Queen," Head Master Dr. Spurr announced during Latin Prayers on a Wednesday morning in April. As an American, I felt excused but definitely out of the loop, writes Grey Cabiness Shivers Cusack this year's Westminster Exchange student from Milton Academy, Boston, Massachusetts.

Having never considered sending wishes to a queen, I wondered what she would like most. Standing on a dorm balcony that night, I could see 180 degrees of illuminated London. Looking out, I made a guarded wish for the Queen that the days ahead be both peaceful and full, for her and her country.

Being abroad in a country without a language barrier just makes the slight verbal differences more exotic. My English teacher Mr. Chung had proclaimed, "You've never heard the English language spoken the way it's supposed to be spoken until you've been to England." However, I was still surprised by the British accents of the Westminster students and the London slang (some specific to Westminster). Words like "buff," "bear," "safe," "up-School," "brick," and "cotching" slowed down ordinary conversation for me, but made it more intriguing, too.

The Westminster Exchange gave me a new perspective on my country and myself. I was able to continue some of the courses that I had started at home, such as studies in Mandarin language, French language, and English literature. However, I was also able to take classes that are not offered at home, such as Critical Thinking and Art History, which were what I savoured most. In Critical Thinking, I was introduced to theories of logic and methods for parsing a theory into its essential components for analysis. In Art History, I began to learn how to assess critically a painting and write about a period of art, such as Surrealism, while positioning a work of art in its historical context. I even developed some opinions about art that went beyond "I like that." With extra classrooms like the Tate Gallery and the V&A, we had a chance to leave our table behind and get to the source. At the weekly John Locke Society lectures, I especially enjoyed the visiting speakers who ranged from national military experts to filmmakers from the BBC.

In the performing arts, I tried acting class with Mr. Barton and Mr. Chequer and had the chance to sing and dance in the Tom Waits' cabaret. On the weekends, I took in as much theatre as possible, including *The Mousetrap*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *Hay Fever*, *Fool for Love*, and *Fuerzabruta*. To gain this additional dimension to my education while having a home on Barton Street with the Purcell's girls and the Harris family exceeded my wishes for a full experience. It made me a better person, with better wishes for myself and for others. As Voltaire wrote, "We cannot wish for that we know not." To all of you at Westminster, thanks for this chance to learn in so many novel and indelible ways. I hope to see you all again soon.

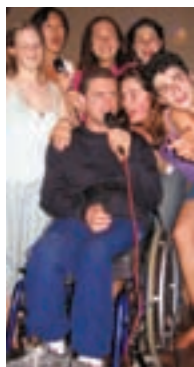


Above (top): The Abbey from Dean's Yard.

Left: Westminster Abbey.

Above: Scene from The Magic Flute.

Above and below: Events at the 30th Phab hosted by the School.





ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION

It can't be denied that certain things have changed around Westminster in the past few years, notices Christopher Sykes (MM), considering the new electronic registration system.



MASQUERADE FASHION SHOW PRETTY IN PINK

Having previously thought that Westminster's most fashionable quality was its excellent colour choice of pink, the 'Masquerade' fashion show unveiled a multitude of models, choreographers and high fashion connections hidden beneath the sombre academic exterior of Westminster pupils, admit Julie Park (DD) and Olivia Goldhill (HH), who helped organise this charity event.

Ms Brown, Jeehae Kim, Jessel Patel, James Read, Katherine Spence, Amisha Bagri also organised the event, and while the co-ordination was difficult simply because the fashion show involved so many sectors of the school, this was also what made it such a success. With made-up faces and hair, the models bravely stepped out, looking absolutely fantastic. Donated and rented clothes and accessories, from well-known brands such as Ted Baker, Lulu Guinness, MCM, Kookai, Aftershock and The Hand Collective, items designed by a parent, were flaunted on the catwalk Up School, worn by models selected from amongst the pupils. Exotic oriental coats, colourful and eccentric dresses, and amusingly tight skinny-jeans, alongside the energetic beat of the music, delighted the audience. In between the themed catwalk sessions, presenters Nicky Goulimis and Dan Brodie, attired in suitably fashionable dresses and underpants, introduced the chosen charity, WaterAid, and the life-changing difference the profit from the show would make to those in need of clean water all around the world. Two school rock bands, 'Granny Wobbly and the Space Cakes' and 'The Pik-up Artists', also played in the intervals to add to the atmosphere, while the donated items were sold in the Lecture Room after the show. The show was a great success, primarily thanks to the efforts of pupils involved in organisation, modelling, music, lights, bands, staff members, and of course, those in the audience. The £3500 we raised will go towards providing clean water to a Tanzanian town of 10,000.



Above and below: Fashion Show. Photographed by Jamie Stoker.



I've only been here for about three years but even in this short time both large and small things have changed. Dr. Spurr has replaced TJP as headmaster, waiters no longer serve us at lunch and Westminster has begun to buy up all of central London with the addition of both the Manoukian and Weston buildings. These extensions have allowed a rise in pupil numbers that perhaps led the school to invest in a more efficient registration system. Of course as always with any change in Westminster it was greeted with suspicion and cries that the world was going all 1984. The idea of giving fingerprints and on top of that having scanners in school seemed alien at the time. But despite small patches of eager, if sporadic resistance, the system has now settled in without much inconvenience.

The new, electronic system now sits quietly in every house in the form of the fingerprint scanners that discreetly register about 740 students every day. The system mostly works well except for a few people who have thumbs that the scanners take a dislike to (it's worse in winter – irritatingly in cold weather fingerprints change). Although the housemaster is still there one has no obligation to step in and say hello each morning. It's the little advances like this that are gradually changing the atmosphere of the school. No longer is there a greeting between students and housemaster in the morning and in my opinion it's sad that another level of human interaction has been taken away. It's certain that the fingerprint system allows quick logging of who is where and at what time; it is very high tech, very sleek and at first the idea of fingerprint scanning was interesting. I had only ever seen scanners in spy films so to see and use them myself everyday was novel, but all the same, were they really needed? Vocal registration worked just as well, was much cheaper and (failing deafness in ageing housemasters) 100% reliable but maybe there is a need for more security in this dangerous age and it probably is more efficient. At any rate these scanners are now a part of the school and are just one more way in which Westminster has subtly changed. I wonder what else will change in the next three years...

STARTING AFRESH: A NEW SIXTH FORMER'S PERSPECTIVE

Change – the first word that comes to mind when a 16 year-old leaves the surroundings that he has been in all his life, writes Mrinal Mohanka (BB).



"This is a place where people get on well with each other and people tend to strive for excellence in any field that they are pursuing."

This is even more so when home is close to 10,000 miles away, and having joined Westminster as a sixth former this year, there are more than just a few changes that I've been required to make. How much I've changed, I'm yet to discover.

My time as a Busbite officially began in the summer of 2006, boarding for the first time in my life. It was something which I was rather worried about, to say the least. I consider myself lucky as everyone at Busby's has been very helpful in helping this newcomer settle down,

nobody more than the housemaster, Mr Mylne. This may sound rather a cliché, but the other boarders at Busby's have genuinely gone out of their way to make me feel at home.

A lesson I learnt early on was that to get used to a new environment as soon as possible, you have to get yourself involved in as many things as you possibly can. Once that is under way you do tend to feel more at ease as you don't have the time to think about the worries that may have been plaguing you under other circumstances.

Luckily for me (yes, I do tend to ride on luck), I was involved in three out of the four short House plays, all of which, I am very proud to say, were a tremendous success. I was also given an opportunity to represent the house in three out of the four inter-house debates though these weren't as successful as the plays, as luck deserted me and pitted us against the very best!

Westminster witnesses a large influx of new students in the sixth form, primarily girls. The environment here is one that suits the students as they are given more than enough freedom and flexibility in whatever they choose to do. The only criticism I have at this stage is one that I'm sure most other boarders will agree with: it is a mystery why the school dinners are not on the same level as the lunches. Besides that, this is a place where people get on well with each other and people tend to strive for excellence in any field that they are pursuing. This is certainly a challenge, but a challenge that everyone looks forward to.

I would just like to thank everyone, especially my fellow Busbites, who have made me feel at ease already and have me looking forward to the rest of my time here.

Above: The Abbey from Dean's Yard.

Left: House Plays were one of many highlights.





WESTMINSTER PASSES INSPECTION

Towards the end of play term 2006, a very important event took place in Westminster: the school was inspected, writes Francis Gene Rowe (DD) who was intimately involved.

SEPTEMBER SATURDAY

This was a fête to remember, say both Anna Croall (DD) and Jee-Young (Grace) Kim (PP).

On 23rd September 2006, 'September Saturday' took place in and around Little Dean's Yard, raising money for several charities. Music by the staff jazz band, the smell from the barbecue and the murmurs of students' banter filled every corner of Yard and spread to Green. Yard, a social centre usually confined to the upper school, and Green, generally occupied only by the eager footballers, turned into a fairground for the entire Westminster community. The stalls were truly inventive: College tested our domestic skills in its washing line competition; Ashburnham, one's jaw size in its eat-a-cracker-in-one-go game and Hakluyt's, one's reaction time in its Bash-the-Malteser challenge. An explosion of talent was to be seen everywhere. At the doughnut eating competition, the ravenous teenage boys (and a girl) flaunted their various techniques at eating Krispy Kremes as quickly as possible. Grant's face-painting had a certain artistic flair that could only be matched by Milne's hair-spraying. To finish the look, Dryden's offered individually decorated T-shirts, to make a true fashion statement. The almost overwhelming psychic power in the fortune teller's tent added to the surreal excitement. While some honed football skills at Busby's penalty shoot-out, others polished their cricket skills at Liddell's by throwing at human coconuts. Members of staff organized a picture competition, a beer auction, Christmas card and jewellery sales and of course second-hand book sales to live up to Westminster's intellectual tradition.

Highlights of the day were the Tug of War and Gunge the Teacher. Everyone went onto Green to watch the Tug of War which took place amidst seven hundred people cheering. Attention then turned to the mouth-watering Westminster pink custard'n'beans, prepared to complement our dessert for the day, and the gigantic gunging machinery, which would have put any medieval siege engine to shame. Mr Gelderd was our lucky dessert: his run across yard to take revenge on those who voted for his gunging will forever be remembered by those lucky enough to have voted for someone else.



The day ended with the announcement of Rigaud's raffle and other prizes, having raised over four thousand pounds.

We could all see that the day was a lot of fun, but it was our ultimate aim of raising money and awareness for a wide range of charities which serves as the best testament to the success of 'September Saturday'. The two main charities we were fundraising for were Water Aid and InDeep Community Task Force. These two charities, one global and one local, were also invited to bring their own stall to the event, to help publicise their cause. Though both 'shag' day money, and the general profits from the day went to these two causes, there were several other charities represented. We saw the launch of Belu water, packaged in biodegradable bottles and donating all profits to clean water projects. ReCycle were also on Green, publicising their cause in taking unwanted bikes to Africa and asking people to sign up to donate. Overall, we raised over £5000 and felt very pleased with our little bit of summer in September. Such a success would not have been possible were it not for Mrs Brown's tremendous help and everyone's enthusiasm and generosity. Thank you everyone – we hope to see it continue next year.

HOUSE SINGING FOREVER

Bemused tourists milling around Dean's Yard on a Monday afternoon in October will doubtless have a hilariously warped image of Westminster School – although perhaps that's nothing new, declares Danielle Tobin (LL), as she considers the ritual of House Singing.

An undercurrent of excitement bubbled through the day, with telling signs such as face-paint mysteriously accumulating and banners being sneakily finished off during lessons, until the hysteria finally exploded with gaudily costumed armies swarming from the qualifying Houses, stampeding through Yard whilst chanting vivaciously. Teachers stood back knowingly and smiled at the odd football-match-like scene – although they were annoyingly effective at rooting out the bogus participants under the guise of bin bags and toilet roll trying to bag a coveted place Up School.

An hour or two of wonderfully camp frivolity, energy and pure Westminster spirit ensued, with good-spirited House rivalry raging amid the flashing lights and loud music.

There were face paints, short skirts and spandex everywhere; but it was the country tweeds, braces and cows' udders of College that did it for the judges – although perhaps the singing helped too.

Indeed, the school was inspected twice – once by the Commission for Social Care Inspectors, and once by the Independent Schools Inspectors examining the school as a whole with respect to teaching and extracurricular activities. Both sets of inspectors were highly enthusiastic about the quality of our glorious school (that goes without saying); what should be of specific interest for parents is the academic inspectors reporting that not only did Westminster offer outstanding teaching, but that the range of extra- or non-curricular activities and facilities was impressive.

My work folders were taken by the second group of inspectors for several days (along with a lot of others), and I received them back fully intact, I was glad to see, towards the end of the week. This seems to have been somehow related to actually being interviewed by the inspectors, concerning how well the school catered for the intellectual interests of pupils outside the classroom. I was part of a group of 'gifted' pupils (I am not sure what the selection criteria were to include me), interviewed by the head inspector himself. The experience was not particularly traumatising or intimidating – he seemed like a decent chap, and was very interested in our answers. Obviously, the very positive picture painted by the answers of the group was entirely truthful – we would never lie to make our teachers look good. The school provides numerous resources for pupils with wide ranging intellectual interests, in the form of lower school activities, sixth form general options and cultural perspectives, and the plethora of books loaned or given to pupils which take knowledge beyond the limits of the syllabus. He seemed awfully impressed, just as he should have been, for in this school we are all self-professed intellectuals, a fact of which our headmaster is rightly proud.

One of my classes was inspected also: a double philosophy and ethics lesson where for one period we had an inspector sitting at the back and ominously scribbling notes – he left without us realising, and after the initial shock it was quite simple to 'act natural'. All in all, the inspection week ended fairly normally – there had been some tension in the air at the beginning, but this soon subsided, and after all there was nothing to worry about. Was there?





THE GREAZE

Mrinal Mohanka (BB) travelled a long way for this ritual struggle before he realised how he had been misinformed.

The Greaze is a Westminster tradition that began in the 18th century and the end is nowhere near. However strange this may seem to the uninitiated, it involves just over 30 pupils fighting for a hair-covered pancake; do not be fooled by the extrinsic value of what they fight for; even a newcomer diving straight into the scrum, such as yours truly, knows exactly how prestigious and valued this event really is.

Having never witnessed The Greaze before, I was counting on the 'accurate' descriptions that people gave me. Understandably, I heard various versions of what it was, but the most unlikely one was given to me by Busby's matron. She questioned my actions in signing up for The Greaze as she feared for me, and told me about the numerous injuries people had suffered which ranged from the expected cuts and bruises to the not-so-sweet dislocated shoulders and knee-joint damages. This conversation left me with a strange feeling of apprehension as I honestly didn't know what I was in for. Some said it was more fun to watch while others said that I shouldn't be worried and that I would enjoy myself. If only there were more voices like the latter.

However, all the sense of apprehension disappeared at around 10:30 on the morning in February when we reported to the Dungeons to get our instructions: these were something along the lines of us not acting 'unnecessarily' violently. There were a few nervous faces around but these vanished when we went Up School where the audience were all waiting, chanting for their chosen warriors (fairly literally). This was indeed our quest for the Holy Grail and I wish I could describe the fighting and the violence of The Greaze in greater detail, but you don't get to see all that much lying at the bottom of the scrum hoping that there's someone who thinks you have the pancake and is going to pull you out, which actually happened. In the end, it was Busby's Matthew Jones-Parry, revelling in the glory, who got a gold sovereign which he had to return at the end of the day for a less exciting book token.



WESTMINSTER HOUSE YOUTH CLUB A SAFE PLACE TO GO

A three hour minimum round trip to Nunhead on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon is not the first thing most pupils would think of when presented with the choice of station, writes Anna Croall (DD)

Indeed, even those opting for a weekly stint of community service would probably be unaware of the possibility. However at the beginning of the Sixth Form when presented with the opportunity to spend my Tuesday afternoons at Westminster House Youth Club, I am glad I took the chance.

Westminster House, based in Nunhead, South London is a youth centre providing a range of services for young people in the local community, from remedial classes for girls excluded from school, to Duke of Edinburgh training, to daily homework help clubs for primary aged students. Established in 1889, the club has a longstanding relationship with the school. Westminster already sponsors the club, and provides materials and equipment, such as boots and walking gear. Nevertheless, despite this support and the contributions of council, charitable and private donors to the club, the facility is still under-funded, especially considering the invaluable service they provide in one of the most run-down communities in London.

It becomes especially apparent when working there that the centre provides not only educational and extracurricular stimulus for the children and teenagers who attend, but also a safe place to go, people to talk to and a reason to stay away from trouble. The trust granted by the community does not come easily: it is the result of years of respected work and commitment. Westminster pupils Josie Parker and myself, Natasha Bell and Joe Passmore attend on a Tuesday or Thursday during Station to

volunteer at the after-schools club, also known as LEAP, where we help with homework, play games and even referee the odd football or table tennis match.

To say the experience was wholly enjoyable would only be partially true – it is hard work! Nevertheless, the rewards are immense, especially from the relatively short time spent working there, not to mention the fact that a regular game of Guess Who?, or even grappling with primary school maths, can often be a lot of fun. Natasha remembers the time when the electricity in the building was out, leading to a whole afternoon playing football outside in the gathering dark, and it is experiences like this which stand out.

If there is one thing I will remember most about my experience at Westminster House, and I'm sure the others would agree, it is the dedication and understanding of the tireless staff, coupled with the enthusiasm of the pupils who attend LEAP. This combination is what means that, as hard as the day may have been for us or them, the club keeps going, with a smile and commitment rarely seen even here at Westminster, let alone amongst those in communities who have so much less than us.



Above: Girl at the Club.

Below: Helping a student with his homework.





WESTMINSTER FUNDRAISING

"Experience of working with the disabled is a life skill that perhaps doesn't feature on the academic curriculum but it is a priceless part of the education that we receive from the school."



CHARITIES

Westminsters have highly tuned social awareness and the school has enjoyed a long history of fundraising, reveal Hannah Cutmore-Scott (AHH) and Mrinal Mohanka (BB).

This year has been no exception and there are many plans for the future to increase the School's involvement in charity initiatives. The highlight of the year as far as we pupils are concerned was perhaps the Fun Run on the 4th of March, (and the pictures reflect this despite the cold rain that followed the runners round the route) but there have been numerous other events throughout the year raising considerable sums of money for charitable causes.



The start of the year witnessed September Saturday held on the 16th of September. The Krispy Kreme stall was the major attraction (a sell-out in under three hours) but the individual house stalls also did extremely well. Those present were also treated to live performances by various bands towards the end of the proceedings.

Soon after this Sixth Formers were invited to sign up to become part of the Envision or Amnesty teams; the two charities that organise weekly meetings for them. Members of Envision organised a week-long event to raise funds and awareness about Aids during HIV AIDS week. The week was extremely successful both in financial terms and profile-raising and one of the major highlights was the screening of the film, 'Philadelphia'.

Envision also organised weekly visits to a shelter for the homeless and members have in recent workshops been focusing on environmental awareness (including the installation of Hippos – water saving devices – in the school). Members of Amnesty have joined in various petitions to free innocent victims from prison and have helped in campaigns to stop torture, stop violence against women and controlling arms.

Tuesday Cake Break has become something to look forward to and again Krispy Kremes have featured heavily in securing these events as serious fund-raising opportunities for Leukemia and similar causes. As the year draws to a close, members of Envision are busy organizing a fashion show which has recycling as its major theme, while the

Amnesty members are occupied with the organisation of a Women's Rights-based fundraiser to support Victims of Poverty in Africa.

And as for the future – after AS exams Doctor Spurr has agreed to allow some Sixth Formers to participate in the Rose Team Collections. The Rose Team is the youth arm of Alexandra Rose Day Trust and acts as the umbrella charity for small local charities that don't have sufficient resources to have their own fund raising teams. The Westminster Rose Team will be collecting in the local area on June 21st and all support will be welcome!

PHAB will of course yet again be summoning willing volunteers once school has finished when for another year it provides a wonderful experience for disabled guests as they enjoy a week of life at Westminster. The benefit of being involved in PHAB though is not restricted to the visitors – in previous years it has been agreed that the learning experience of working with the disabled is a life skill that perhaps doesn't feature on the academic curriculum but it is a priceless part of the education that we receive from the school.

FUNDRAISING

Over the course of the year, Westminster has been enthusiastically working for charity with a wide ranging variety of fund-raising events and collections for several charitable organisations. The events included the official shag days once a term, delivering Christmas hampers to local old people and collecting bicycles to be shipped to Africa. The pupils also had the opportunity to be directly involved in the initiatives by means of Envision and Amnesty International with meetings once a week. Envision is an organisation which provides leadership and coordination for pupils in various schools involved in charity work. Amnesty International was a newly founded society this year, initiated by a number of pupils. These two groups were responsible for the ever-popular Krispy Kreme doughnut and weekly cake sales, and more creative efforts in playing chosen songs for a small fee on the jukebox in yard during a fundraising week in December for the National AIDS trust.

In addition, there were special events on a larger scale, such as the charity fashion show 'Masquerade' in May last year, and 'September Saturday'. The latter also helped to raise awareness of the charitable causes by inviting the charity organisations themselves such as WaterAid, In Deep and Re-Cycle to run their own stalls and events.. Both of these events would not have been possible without the motivation from the numerous pupils involved, and of course, help and guidance of various members of staff. Then there was the fun run on the 4th of March, in which pupils, dressed in brilliantly creative outfits, braved a sponsored 7-mile run through central London.



EVENTS

ELECTION 2006	CHARITY	SUM RAISED
Metro Blind Sports Sponsorship	Church House Fundraising	£229
Lower School Play	Alone in London	£120
'Shag' Day	EducAid and Cancer Backup	£1120
RR House Concert	Leukaemia Research	£130
WW/DD House Concert	WaterAid	£246
Cantandum Concert	Metro Blind Sports	£415
CC House Concert	ReCycle	£260
Fashion Show	WaterAid	£3152
Play – Harry's Harbour Bazaar	Alone in London	£717
Leavers' Service	Rohan School Sri Lanka (Find Your Feet)	
	Tall Bikes Tour Britain (ReCycle)	£1020
BB Quiz	Thames Reach	£546
Library Charities	Rohan School	£69
PLAY 2006		
September Saturday	WaterAid	£2200
	In-Deep Community Task Force	£2200
	Fine Cell Work	£552
	Amnesty International	£90
Cake Sales	Leukaemia Research	£441
Milne's House Walk	Trinity Hospice	£1315
Play – Cargo Blues	Alone in London	£574
Cantandum Concert	Feltham Community Chaplaincy Trust	£179
	Katy Tansley Appeal	£246
Madrigalists Concert	Leukaemia Research	£125
RR House Concert	National AIDS Trust	£2128
AIDS Awareness week	Afghan Aid, Media Support	
Carol Service	Partnership, Age Concern	£3941
	Rohan School	£125
Library Charities	In-Deep Community Task Force	£107
	Cancer Research	£115
	RSPB	£13
MM House Dinner and Auction	Trinity Hospice	£2100
LENT 2007		
Jazz Concert	In-Deep Community Task Force	£299
Amnesty International Collection	Amnesty International	£85
Library Charities	In-Deep Community Task Force	£11
	RSPB	£37
Valentine's Carnations	Whizz Kidz	
	Hope and Homes for Children	£791
Cake Sale	To be decided	£253
'Shag' Day	International Red Cross (Sudan)	
	UCLH Young People's Unit	£1100
Cantandum Concert	Diocesan Lent Appeal	£290
Play – The Physicists	Lung Cancer	£66
MM Concert	Pullen Centre (Age Concern)	£114
Rock Concert	Pullen Centre (Age Concern)	£71
The Magic Flute	Alone in London	£1459
Fun Run	In-Deep Community Task Force	
	Freedom Now	Unknown
	Overall approx. total	£29051
	Election 2006 – Lent 2007	and rising



BUSBY'S

Despite being cheated early (and now regularly) of victory in House Singing, this time with an elaborate performance of *Eye of the Tiger*, Busby's has ploughed on with characteristic resolution to achieve success in other fields. In sport, not only did we gain second place in the Towpath and Bringsty cross country races, this year has also seen the addition of the House Football Cup as the perfect complement to its cricketing counterpart already in Mr. Mylne's office since last year's competition. In pursuit of similar excellence in the fields of music and drama, we enlisted the aid of resident tutor Mr. Sproat who kept the more animalistic 5th Formers under control and the skipping up to scratch in the House Play, a production of the 'Grimm Tales' involving almost half of the house! He achieved similar smoothness in the House Concert, where we more than made up for our loss in House Singing (in which, remember, we should have come third at least). The publication of the biggest-ever edition of the House Magazine, the 'College Street Clarion', was little more than icing on this year's cake of all-round success.

BUSBY'S

Busby's – Wherever you may be,
We are the famous BSB,
And we don't give a damn whoever you may be,
'Coz we're going to rinse you, EASILY!

MILNE'S

The Milne's year began, as is customary, with the house walk – a scenic stretch of the Thames from Hampton to Richmond. The first of many house activities, the walk introduces the concept that is Milne's to new pupils: a sense of togetherness. Led by Dr Walsh, Milne's has done extremely well in the house competitions so far this year; bringing home the winners' trophy for the junior football competition and performing strongly in the Towpath, Bringsty Relay (coming second), upper school football competition and even the house ergo competition. A special mention should be made of sports day where we came a close second – again. A third place in house singing was well deserved from the strongest choir that Milne's has had in several years. Aside from our sporting excellence there were some solid performances in house debating and the Milne's paintball team annihilated Ashburnham in a 2–1 victory. At Christmas, our carol

choir led a readings-and-carols event at the Pullen Day Centre and the seasonal house quiz organised by Mr Crole was as challenging as ever and showed that the Milnites of 2006/7 are not just pretty faces. House outings included trips to the theatre (*A Moon for the Misbegotten* and *The Caretaker*), the Tate Britain (Hogarth) and, the most memorable of them all, a special preview of *Borat*. Our house concert was of a very high standard and featured talent old and new. The annual Leavers' Dinner in June at the Garrick was the usual sumptuous affair and a wonderful evening was had by the Milne's parents at the annual dinner and charity auction in College Hall in April. We say goodbye to Miss Harrison who will be sadly missed and we wish her well for the future. Next year it is our tenth birthday, so watch this space for news of our celebrations. Meanwhile, this ninth one has been great and I hope we can have as much success and fun for many years to come.



RIGAUD'S

Rigaud's elegant supremacy continues unabated, this year bringing another string of successes to those riding the golden tide.

Victory for the second year running in the House football six-a-sides competition cements the house's position as masters of the field; victory was again secured with a penalty shootout, illustrating the enduring ability of Rigaudites to entertain as well as to conquer.

We have also excelled off-pitch. From the catalogue of creative excellence within the walls of No.1



Little Dean's Yard, Rigaud's musical talent has been to the fore this year, shining through in the house concert, where excerpts from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* were sung to particularly dazzling effect by the house girls' choir (featuring the guest voices of Leila and Beatrice Tompkins as Joseph, and Dara Barkhordar, an honorary girl, as Pharaoh), thanks in no small part to Gilly French's inspirational direction; and before that in the House Singing competition, which – technicalities like the actual result aside – we won.

Such greatness is bound to attract the interest of the rest of the school community, which explains Lower Hall's status as a centre of wider Westminster social life. At the same time, we are happy to share the new state-of-the-art gaming facilities and commanding views of Yard with the less fortunate.

The loss of David Hargreaves at the end of the year, as he moves on to be in charge of Grant's will be sorely felt by all who have come to relish his charming company in the evening. This loss has been partially offset by the introduction of Charles Ullathorne's imposing presence and the arrival of a dynamic fifth form, whom we are happy to report are now eating solids and playing well together.

Continue to look out for Rigaud's, for *madness in great ones must not unwatch'd go. Ipsu Razu.*

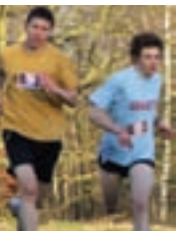
GRANT'S

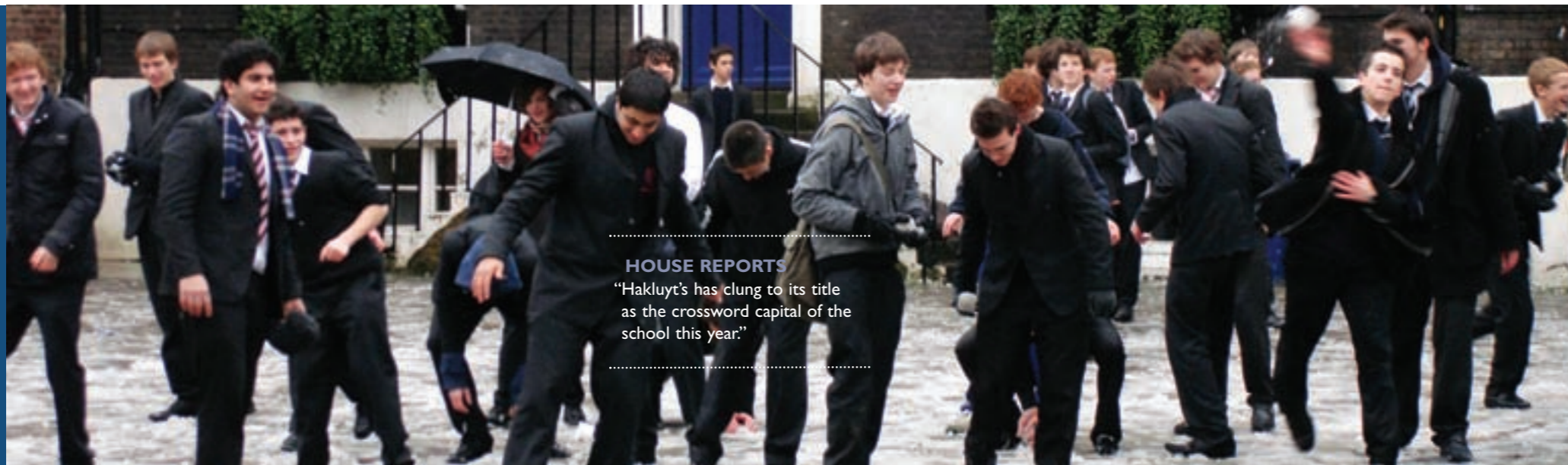
For many at Westminster Grant's is merely the location of the less prestigious dining hall; for a privileged few it is much, much more.

We've had a delightful year, with successes too numerous to do justice to here. Contrary to popular belief, sport has been at the forefront, with a resounding victory over College's 1st XI football team, who had been thought by some to be favourites to win. Last season also saw triumph at house tennis and Grant's also came close to replicating the glory of 50 years ago (when we last won junior football) but we were not fated to pass through the first round. Tom Samuel, with his Towpath win, had a marvellously rapid year.

One of the highlights must surely have been the House Concert (shared with AHH) – a musical feast in which all who played did so with considerable flair, though Cyrus Lyons' viola solo edges in a special mention. There were also two fantastic vocal performances from Soumaya Keynes and Adam Cigman Mark, both of whom also had leading roles in the recent school production of *The Magic Flute*; other house members have also been active in many fine productions.

All in all, it has been another vintage year for the boys (and of course girls) in blue.





HOUSE REPORTS
 "Hakluyt's has clung to its title as the crossword capital of the school this year."



LIDDELL'S HAKLUYT'S

Last September saw the dawn of a new era for Liddell's; the year saw unparalleled success for the house in its long history. Second place in the ergo competition, third in house football, first in the Towpath seniors team prize, are but a few of our recent triumphs.

Ed Winters, captain of the house, took the helm in what has been a glorious year for Liddells. What can be said about Ed Winters? Talented? Funny? Athletic? Intelligent? Of course all of these, but so much more as well.

Any appraisal of Liddells would not be complete without a mention of the secretaries who made Ed Winter's dreams of success possible. Toby Thomas, secretary of sport, spearheaded our assault in the house football competition and as joint captain of the 1st XI there was only one man better for the job. Julian Harvard-Barnes, culture secretary, made sure the position of Liddells as a veritable Lyceum of scholarship held firm.

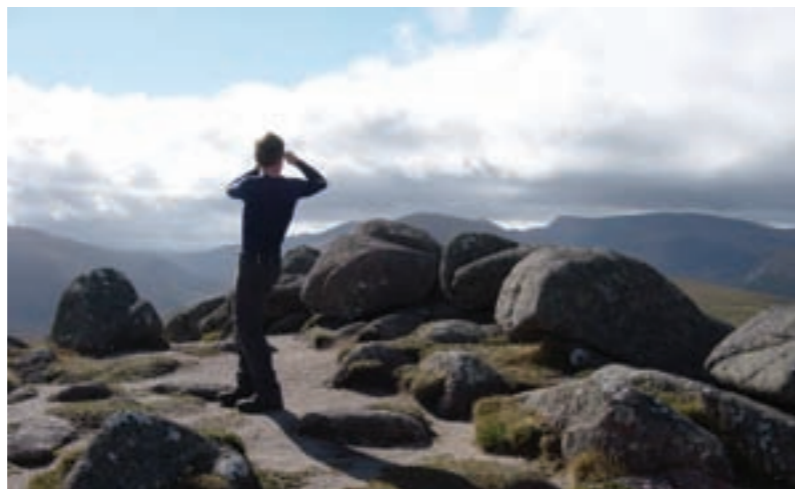
A brief mention must also go to the monitors of the house who were well represented once a week at Latin prayers. Like anything great this year has to come to an end though all who are leaving this summer will be sorely missed, the torch must be handed over. Ed Winters must go but his legacy will live on.

Hakluyt's has clung to its title as the crossword capital of the school this year, as well as welcoming Ulf Hennig, the new Head of German, as a tutor, and we're finally going to implement a long-overdue recycling system.

Though everything looked set for a repeat of last year's victory in House Football, we had to settle for second place after a 2-0 defeat by Busby's. It is a similar story in House Netball, where College just managed to get the upper hand in a close final. However, a sterling effort at Sports Day found us back on form. Satya "Silvertongue" Gunput and the compelling Peter Brescia brought us to the brink of victory in the house debating final. Though the exam season is nearly underway, the stream of extra-curricular activities is inexorable – we're eagerly awaiting at time of

writing, the Hakluyt's–Liddell's House Concert in May. This has been lovingly organised by Mrs Barry, to whom we owe special congratulations for the birth of her daughter Julia, born since the last update.

On a historical note, this year marks the 400th anniversary of Jamestown's foundation, and hence the first step in Britain's colonisation of North America. The ideas of Richard Hakluyt were instrumental in this process. Trained as a priest, he acted as Secretary of State, was a keen geographer, translated several high-profile travel accounts and even worked as a spy. A strong proponent of westward expansion of English territory, he was in the rare position of being able to promote his passions to the powerful people of the day. This spirit of exploration and discovery lives on in the ethos of Hakluyt's today.



PURCELL'S

This year in Purcell's there has been a constantly busy and friendly atmosphere, with everyone's time completely filled with school and house events. From the moment the new girls set foot in the door, rehearsals for Upper School Plays and House Singing began, with line-learning and dance practices a constant presence in the kitchen. The effort resulted in great performances and a thoroughly deserved second place in House Singing.

Play term enveloped Purcell's girls in netball matches, fives tournaments, remembering to sign in before station, chats in the kitchen, and more plays and musical endeavours. University applications preyed on the minds of the Remove, while the Sixth Form enjoyed believing that time would never come round for them.

Lent term bought pancakes, House Netball and the Bringsty Relay, in which we acquitted ourselves well. Most exciting, and exhausting, was the annual selling of carnations for Valentine's Day, where we sold over eight hundred tickets for members of the school to write Valentine messages on, tied them to carnations, and delivered them to the lucky recipients. This hard work earned us over £800 for the charities Whizz-Kidz and Hopes and



Homes, and some carnations for ourselves! The more musically talented members of the house took part in the amazing production of 'The Magic Flute.'

Finally, with the early summer weather arrived sunglasses, tennis rackets and a certain penchant for exercise early in the mornings, which shocked Mr. Harris given our previous problems with waking up.

WREN'S

This year saw a continuation of Wren's traditional sporting brilliance, with a powerful victory in the house ergo being particularly noteworthy. Wren's juniors also played their part, demonstrating their athletic prowess with a crushing victory in the Junior Towpath. Strong sporting performances were also to be had in all the following categories: Junior house 6-a-side football.

Wren's, however, is not just a house dedicated to sporting achievement. The sensational victory in the house debating was one of the high points of the year, with the valiant performance of the house chess team coming close behind. Credit, however, must be given to Grandmaster Wu and the Furious Five for overcoming one of the most promising chess teams Wren's has ever produced. Various other arenas also witnessed participation of the highest quality, especially evident in another fine display of fresh new talents showcased to celebrate Sir Christopher Wren's birthday.

With the best part of a term still to come, events such as House Cricket and Tennis, as well as Wren's & Dryden's house concert, promise to offer even more success. Probably described by some as Westminster's best kept secret, Wrenites must be congratulated on another highly successful year.





ASHBURNHAM'S DRYDEN'S COLLEGE

It has been another good year for the older of the two Houses in Dean's Yard. It has been led with aplomb by the dynamism of Hugo Brent and the intellectual acuity of Adam Tanaka. House spirit accounted for the very strong performance in some hard-fought football matches, and the gritty determination of the Towpath and the Bringsty Relay.

Fate may have dealt us a tough hand this year: there is no silverware in the trophy cupboard, and heroes remained unsung. This was most sharply felt in the house singing competition where the jury failed to recognise the true quality and talent of the performance. The House does, however, continue to produce national debaters and fine swordsmen. The 5th form too, have been impressive and between them have produced enough dignioras to wallpaper a room. One of the high points of the year must be the house concert where the quality of music was astonishingly high, and a particular accolade goes to Fred Young. The seeds of excellence continue to grow, and next year is set to be even better than this one.

Once again the year started with an unsuccessful attempt to win the House Singing, and in what is becoming something of a tradition we were knocked out in the first round. In other areas, however, there has been great success. The house chess cup remains with us, although it does help having our very own "grand-master" in the Remove. The Fives trophy was retained for the third year in a row and there was a very commendable third this year in the House Athletics Competition. Unfortunately, football success eluded us again, but we will surely meet with success next year. Music has remained extremely strong and the House Concert was maintained the incredibly high standard set in recent years. The spirit in Dryden's never seems to wilt. The fact that the separate day rooms are in such close proximity means that tight, inter-year friendships blossom and that a real sense of solidarity continues in the House.

College is an interesting place, and a tight-knit community can be found in the rooms above Wren's Corridor. The other new scholars and I were initially very much on the outside of this new world; however, with two terms behind us, I think I can say that we are part of the group now.

The general flow of boarding activities, wearing gowns to Latin prayers and going to Compline in the abbey on Monday night; these things have become part of my life and my identity as a scholar. Our victories in the House Singing and cross-country events made sure my first experiences as a house were optimistic. I am looking forward to four more years in College and a great experience throughout my time at school.



MOROCCO TRIP

"Just as we began to fear that we could be having too much of a good time Mr Wurr boldly stepped into the breach and ensured that we were all versed on Morocco's economic and social changes under the current monarchy."

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Above and top: Ullswater Expedition.

Left (top): Skye Trip.

Left (bottom): Siena to Rome Trip.

Right: Artwork by Nour Sacranie.



STUDENT EXCHANGE MUNICH

Adil Jackson (LL), Anna Croall (DD) and George Burnett (RR) report on the July 2006 trip, while Jonas Jung reports on the February 2007 initial visit by the next group of students.

For most Sixth Form Germanists, the news that we would be spending the opening four weeks of our long-awaited summer holiday in a small suburb of Munich was not the most appealing prospect. However, after meeting our exchange partners during the London-based half of the exchange in February 2006, most of us were beginning to come around to the idea. Arriving in Munich in the midst of World Cup fever, few of us were aware of just what the month would have in store. Indeed, we spent our second night camped out in front of massive screens watching Germany lose their semi-final against Italy, to the great disappointment of those around us. The exchange, however, was not damaged by this result. Unlike many Germans, our exchanges remained positive, as did we, and there began our month in Puchheim.

Unfortunately the German school term had not yet finished by the time of our arrival, meaning some aggressively early starts for what was supposed to be a holiday. However, the long afternoons and surprisingly busy evenings made up for the monotony of spending July mornings listening to a German physics lesson. Each morning we were required to spend 2 or 3 lessons with the Germans, then given lessons by our own teachers, ranging from Desert Island Discs, German style, to in-depth literary analysis with the sorely-missed Mr Stokes (RSS retired in 2006). Depending on the heat, we would finish mid-morning or at lunch, after which we were taken on trips most days. We were first given our bearings with a preliminary tour of Munich, and from then the trips ranged from tours of the Munich Opera house to a sobering and thought-provoking visit to Dachau concentration camp. On the occasions when whole days were spent away from Puchheim we man-

aged to venture as far as Salzburg, Berchtesgarden (or at least the salt mine there) and the dizzying heights of the Zugspitze. Evenings were, though, the highlight of the trip. From 18th Birthday parties on public buses to quiet nights at the Biergarten, to the occasional skirmish with park wardens over the height of lakeside barbeques, it is these moments which remain fondly in our minds. The Lußsee, about a 40 minute cycle ride from Puchheim, was the focus of our introduction to Germany's outdoor lifestyle. The cool, surprisingly clear water came as welcome relief from the record breaking temperatures of the days, especially after the gruelling, uphill ride there.

The families were themselves, without exception, extremely hospitable and ever willing to cope with our fairly limited German and occasional melodramatic moments. Our exchanges too, uncannily well-suited in most cases, proved to be more than mere hosts, becoming close friends over the course of the exchange. Finally, however, we would like to thank our own German teachers here at Westminster, as well as the Low family, who generously gave up a week of their holiday to accompany us for the final week. Ultimately, whatever preconceptions we may have had about Germany, Germans or spending our summer holidays on an exchange, the trip was both useful and enjoyable – undoubtedly one of the most memorable months at Westminster for all involved.

Jonas Jung was equally impressed, despite the lack of sunshine.

When we arrived in early February, most of us were rather nervous at the prospect of living with complete strangers in a foreign country for a whole month. But these worries quickly turned out to be unfounded, as we made friends with our exchange partners quickly and had a fantastic stay with our host families.

Westminster School is heaven on earth for pupils, with countless opportunities to further our knowledge: the Abbey, the science buildings, the music school, the library and the school theatre, were particularly impressive to us.

Teaching and learning in Westminster School is very different from teaching in our school in Germany. At Westminster classes are much smaller and much better equipped. Teachers are highly motivated and were keen on including us in their lessons. We enjoyed the classes we visited very much and we were happy that many teachers invited us back to their classes.

We thoroughly enjoyed this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of living in London and being educated in one of the best schools in the world; we would like to thank everyone who was involved in making the exchange a unique experience: our exchange partners and their families, staff and teachers at Westminster School and our teachers from Germany.

We feel like honorary Westminsters now and we can't wait to welcome our new friends to Puchheim in July.



LOWER SCHOOL TRIP RUSSIA

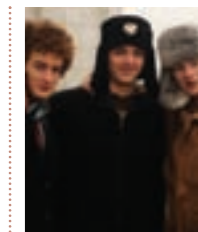
Of course no one would allow a trip to St. Petersburg without a visit to the Winter Palace or the Hermitage, and we were able to do both, asserts Vyvan Almond (CC).

The Winter Palace, which looks more and more like a giant cake the closer you get to it, has some really fabulous rooms, using the most gold I have ever seen in one building, but managing to remain within the bounds of good taste. Unfortunately, as the lighting was dim it was hard to get a good photograph of the interior. The whole area of the Palace is interesting in terms of imperial design, as the straight block of the palace is balanced by a pillar, carved from a single block of marble, in the centre of the courtyard, and the sweeping crescent shape of the buildings opposite. One of the main boasts of the Hermitage museum is that if a visitor were to look at each of the items in the collection for only a minute, it would still take about five years to get round. Thankfully for us we were only going to see some Impressionists, or our school-work might have suffered a little.

Following a culturally novel Folk festival on our last night in Petersburg, we took the somewhat basic overnight sleeper to Moscow: a genuine steam engine, of the kind normally only seen in British anoraks' transport museums. We arrived in Moscow in the early morning, to a very different and less beautiful city, largely Stalinist in aspect. However, the Moscow underground is very interesting; the trains are frequent, cheap and softly lit, while some of the stations are really very impressive, each one designed differently. It is rare to see chandeliers in a European Metro-station, and, mainly

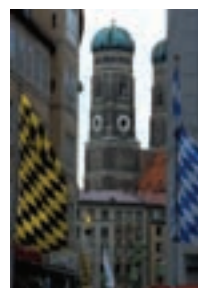
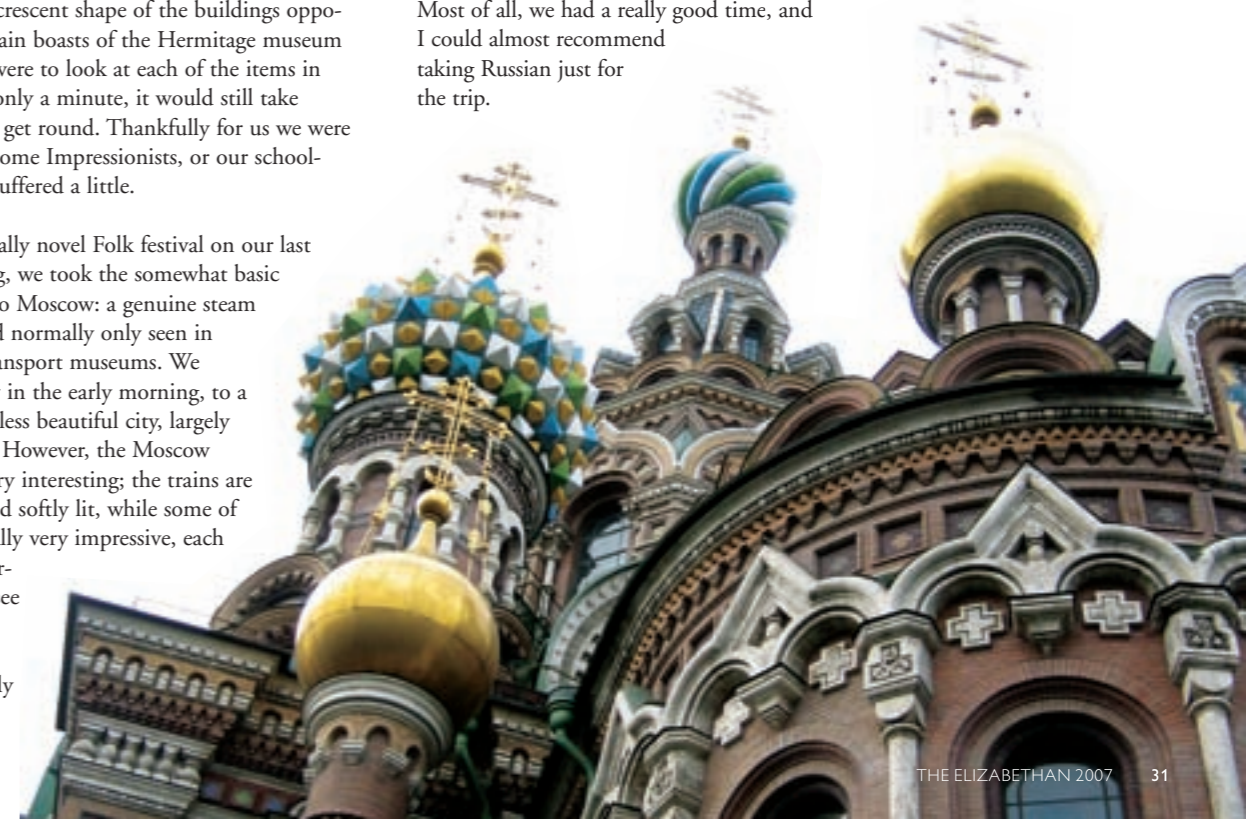
because they are warm, the Muscovites use them as meeting places. There is also of course the Kremlin, the old red fortress of the city with its huge ornamental cannon and broken bell. It was hard to be totally at ease in the Kremlin, however, warned as we were that if we happened to see Putin's staff car arriving, we were not to shout or make any sudden movements for fear of being taken for assassins. At St. Basil's church, we were interested to discover the iconic cupolas represent the points of the compass; blue and white for the North, red and white for the South, and green and yellow swirls for the East, representing the traditional headgear of the Mongols who once ruled the East of Russia, in response to which, the western cupola represents the pointed medieval Russian helmets typical of its age. Apparently, the steps leading to the top of the cathedral on the inside get progressively steeper as the price for those who wish to address God directly.

Our time in Russia was filled with interest, and we even spoke a little bit of Russian, which no one had expected, strangely. We learnt about life, and travelling. We learnt fear, cold, and how to make a really bad purchase. Most of all, we had a really good time, and I could almost recommend taking Russian just for the trip.



Above (top) and below: St Petersburg trip. Photographed by J Holt.

Above: St Petersburg trip. Photographed by A Friend.



Above (top): Student exchange.

Above: Frauenkirche, Munich. Photographed by UH.



LA CASA DEL ESPAÑOL VALLADOLID

Missing the Sunday lie-in was a sacrifice a bunch of Upper Shells and Removes were reluctantly willing to make for the cultural, linguistic experience promised by Mr. Witney waiting for us in Valladolid in Spain, claims Kunal Choraria (HH).

Our first stop in the hot sun was an old Roman aqueduct situated next to the old town of Segovia. In a group five, we found a small “authentic” Spanish restaurant which seemed to be based around the theme of Athens. We adapted quickly as it took us about two minutes to order food, after the ten it had taken to ask for a menu. Having tasted our first zest of Spanish life, we roamed around, conversed with some Spanish kids on swings and took advantage of the good weather to get in a small game of football before we left for Valladolid.

Our host family seemed eager to indulge us in some real Spanish dishes such as paella and a tapas bar binge. Unlike what it sounds, it involved an array of starters, including olives, sweet potato, calamari and other seafood combined to form a mouth-watering platter.

Apart from the food and the football, believe it or not, the main focus of the trip was to improve our Spanish oral and listening technique and then to incorporate that with the culture to really get a grasp for the language.

Our linguistic skills were improved through a series of 3 hour classes in La Casa del Español, a small academy with 5 classrooms. During the sessions our teacher successfully taught us new grammar, vocabulary and “Spanish Salsa” which were a collection of Spanish phrases that were guaranteed to score major brownie points with an examiner as well as Mr. Witney.

Our cultural rollercoaster involved a series of trips to a whole host of modern and historical locations. Although not entirely Spanish we visited an Andy Warhol museum displaying a rare collection of 20th century art, including famous Marilyn Monroe prints and an eerie electric chair in an empty white room.

Something with more of a Spanish flavour was our excursion to El Escorial. The architecture was extremely precise and outstanding. It was built so that the monastery was glamorous and “well pimped out” to quote a certain pupil, whereas the royal quarters were humble and minimalist. However the most impressive feature was the convex dome directly before the chapel. The dome, which is not supported, curves downwards and does not collapse because of the pressure created by the corners, still regarded as a work of genius.

“Obviously during the two and a half hours I spent there I had the opportunity to set my priorities in order and practice my Spanish for ‘I’m sorry, I’m so sorry, I’m really sorry.’”

This is the bit where I should be telling you about our trip to the home of Christopher Columbus but during this time, I had my own mini adventure getting stuck inside a garage. My immediate thought was that I was going to miss the Arsenal match. Obviously during the two and a half hours I spent there I had the opportunity to set my priorities in order and practice my Spanish for “I’m sorry, I’m so sorry, I’m really sorry.” When the doors finally opened I apologized and tried to avoid the awkwardness of the situation.

The trip, as expected, turned out to be good fun, providing an experience which not only left us hungry for the Spanish language but built a strong foundation for the rest of the term’s work and the upcoming GCSEs.

THE UPPER SHELL TRIP GRANADA

Met by our new family in Granada in October, they were more than welcoming. They opened up their homes to us, cooked our food which was always delicious and generally made us feel as much at home as they possibly could, writes Josh Benson (WW)

Most of our time was spent improving Spanish at school. It was very similar to being at home: early mornings, long days and very little rest. However it certainly improved our Spanish, even if there were punishments for speaking English. Despite having to be back home early we made the most of our free time after school, whether it be playing football or looking around Granada itself. We did have one day off where we went to the beach. This was the day with the best weather. No sign of rain, just sun, a welcome difference to October in London. Here we were able to test our Spanish further at the “Chiringuitos” and when talking to the Spanish boys, who ended up joining in our game of football. Before going away it seemed like it would be a long week in which all we did was work. The trip was work-based and although we did work hard, we also had fun during our free time. The week flew by.

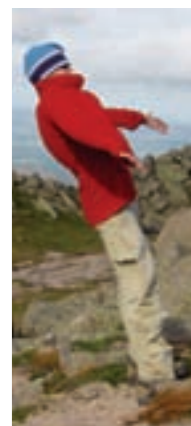


WALKING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

It’s 3 o’clock, 900m up, and I can’t feel my feet beneath the snow. Mr. Tocknell has just said something about “total” and “whiteout”, but my ears are too cold to hear much else. Welcome to Scafell Pike, winter-style, shivers Sebastian Bray.

Not that we didn’t get our fair share of good weather on the Expedition Society’s annual four-day excursion to the Lake District. The day before had seen bright glorious sunshine, which proved essential for drying our clothes after our small group’s blissful stroll through some of the most scenic landscapes in England was rudely interrupted when we walked into the middle of a bog. Luckily, Mr. Ullathorne and his culinary skills were on hand to save us from certain freezing. Whoever thought that liquid jelly could taste so good? The sumptuous cooked breakfasts and the good old-fashioned English pub-food we enjoyed on the trip were more than enough to keep us fuelled for even the hardest hikes.

Our last day’s climb up the well-known Catbell’s Ridge proved a fitting end to one of the most successful school walking expeditions yet. A gentle wander up a sweeping slope was rewarded with some spectacular sunset views over the windswept landscape of glistening lakes and snow-capped peaks over which we had struggled the day previously. We continued this spiritual experience with a final visit to a Pagan stone circle, which whilst nearly beating everyone’s favourite bog in the mud-stakes, was a fascinating insight into the area’s 5000 year-old history. A huge thank-you must go to our guides, Mr. Tocknell, Mr. Maloney and to Mr. Ullathorne for organising the trip.





A VOYAGE OF CONTRASTS MOROCCO

From the blistering intensity of the souks of Marrakech to the absolute serenity of the High Atlas this trip encompassed everything that the vastly diverse country of Morocco has to offer, reports Sam Littlejohns (RR).

The trip began with an exploration of Marrakech, and once due attention had been paid to its post-colonial urban structure we launched into the overpowering tanneries with a tour of the traditional industries of Morocco, being welcomed into minute Berber weaving shops with the incredible hospitality we soon realised was commonplace amongst these people. After the days' investigation however the city would entirely transform, with the Djemma El-Fna becoming a bubbling market place with everything from street-cooked dinners to more illicit goods being promoted passionately to all those who passed. It was impossible not to be drawn in by the mesmerised crowds which collected around the story tellers, dancers and bare-knuckle fighters who plied their trade nightly. When day broke, all evidence of this thriving mass vanished and the city was once more ready to be explored and, having resisted the offers of tens of thousands of camels and large portions of the city in return for the hand of either Hannah or Lindsey, the group pushed on out of the city for the lures of the High Atlas, suitably laden with exotic spices which sounded incredible, but which we realised soon after we left the 'pharmacy' would have little real use anywhere else. After a slightly unexpected camel ride, and paying close attention to the prime examples of semi-arid conditions, we finally arrived in the serene Kasbah that would house us for the next few days, so isolated that the journey had to be completed on foot with the aid of a mule train. From here we not only sampled the delights of a traditional Hamman (steam bath), but also engaged a local school party in an impromptu snowball fight in a field under a foot and a half of the white stuff. Sadly, ably abetted by Dr



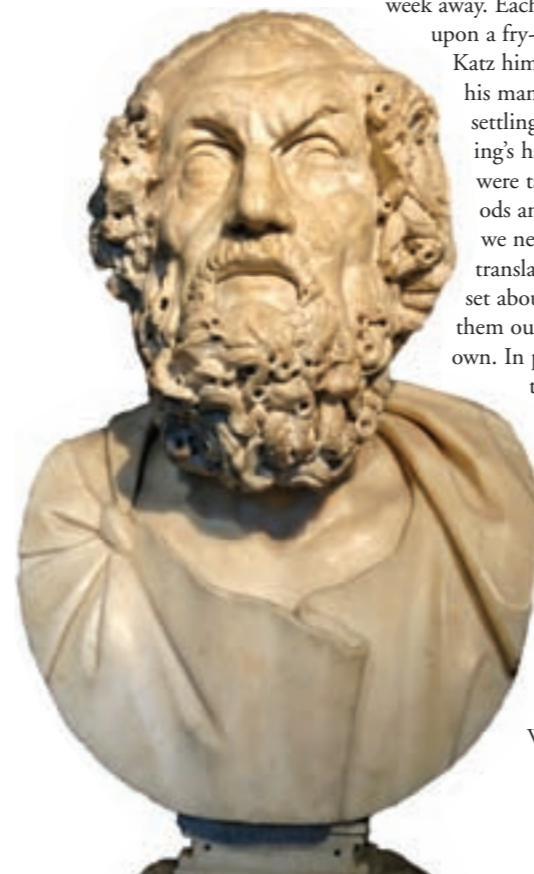
Prentice and her snow-rolling skills, the local primary school not only thrashed us but then proceeded to chase us out of the town.

The next two days were then spent on an awe-inspiring trek through the High Atlas, traversing slopes covered in both deep, crisp snow and hard-baked dusty red rock in a matter of minutes. Never again shall I have a lunch with a more astonishing backdrop than when we had mattresses spread across the path for us at the highest point of the pass between two valleys, with what appeared to be nothing less than the entire world laid out below us, backed by the vast majesty of the next mountain ridge. That night we were once more welcomed without question by the local Berbers who took us into their village, and provide as much sweet tea as we demanded, tired and eventually freezing as we were. By the time we returned to the Kasbah, perched just above the snow line it felt as if relaxation could not be more complete, but just as we began to fear that we could be having too much of a good time Mr Wurr boldly stepped into the breach and ensured that we were all versed on Morocco's economic and social changes under the current monarchy. Sadly we were soon drawn back to reality as an albeit delayed flight finally brought us back to rain-ridden London, with our group resembling the cast of Star Wars, and drawing some interest from airport security, displaying with pride the traditional Berber dress that had been haggled for passionately in the Souk the night before. Our greatest thanks to Mr Wurr and Dr Prentice for running really exciting trip and making sure we had a wild time whilst also learning a great deal. Thank you also to Miss Harrison, who despite her tremendous efforts in organising the trip was sadly unable to come. A truly worthwhile trip, even if it may take some time before I even look at couscous again!

REMOVE CLASSICS STUDY TRIP ALSTON

Even for the most dedicated classicist, a week of precious half-term devoted to polishing Latin and Greek skills is a daunting prospect, determines Basil McDonald (LL)

This is, however, how the Oxford and Cambridge Classics applicants from Westminster and Greycoats spent half of their October break. The location was School House in Alston, a less frivolous location than Rhodes, to which the group had gone in previous years, but welcoming and comfortable, bringing back memories of Vth Form escapades. After a speedy train ride and a hop in the minibus with the near-legendary Lindsay, so began the week away. Each day, we feasted upon a fry-up cooked by Dr Katz himself (another of his many talents) before settling down to a morning's hard work. First we were taught the methods and techniques that we needed to employ in translation and then we set about implementing them ourselves on our own. In preparation for the afternoon's entertainment, we made ourselves packed lunches and then could choose from a multiplicity of activities. We made excursions on foot, to Hadrian's Wall for example



or around the local area, but there were other entertainments too such as rowing on Derwentwater, scrambling down a lead mine, and appreciating what Alston itself had to offer. In the evening, recovered from the afternoon's exercise, we went out for supper, often in the local pub, the George and Dragon where we sampled the delights of their steak and game pies, but on occasion in other nearby pubs. Each night, two of us gave speeches on our particular areas of interest, with some members of the audience finding the subject matter more soporific than others. There were also hotly contested philosophical debates and gripping stories to finish off. The quirkiest highlight of the trip was the final supper in the George and Dragon. The landlord laid on a feast in the style of a Greek symposium in which we ate as close to traditional Greek food as could be managed and three local men were invited in to argue with us about why we wanted to study classics – fine preparation indeed for an Oxbridge interview! All in all, this was a brilliant trip and an inspiring experience. Many thanks to the teachers who and dedicated so much of their time to organising and running it.





HISTORY OF ART IN FLORENCE

The annual Remove expedition to Florence was again a success for all involved and was immeasurably enjoyed by everyone. By the end of our five day tour every little detail of the city had been covered with and without the aid of our guides, writes Jamie Thetford (BB).

Arguably one of the best aspects of this trip was the presence of Art History Abroad tutors, who not only were distressingly knowledgeable about the Renaissance, but also knew Florence better than many of us know London. Nick Ross, the head of AHA itself, was the man in charge, and as well as turning out to be a bottomless well of knowledge about absolutely everything, his humour was infectious. Aleid Ford somehow managed to hold the attention of every single young man (and woman) present as well as imparting her own amazing expertise. Tom Nickson then inspired all with his own stories of how he fell in love with the history of art when visiting the Brancacci Chapel, where as a student he watched a man paralyzed from the waist down throw himself out of his wheelchair and crawl into the chapel to gaze at the shared frescos of Masolino and Masaccio within.

Needless to say the art itself was incredible. Learning about the Renaissance from slides just doesn't compare to the reality, and the combination of learning history alongside paintings, sculptures and buildings themselves. The course was actually, in the end, surprisingly fun as well as fascinating. When you're told in a classroom that Brunelleschi's architecture 'makes you feel all spiritual', it doesn't quite get the message across – standing in one of his churches really does, if even to the apparently shocking extent of causing some of our number to start pouring holy water on themselves and throwing money at collection boxes. Just to be clear, we covered everything there was to cover in Florence, demonstrated by our complete and utter exhaustion by the end of the week.

In addition to the new teaching we benefited from, there was Florence itself. Beautiful by any standards, there was ample opportunity to experience the entirety of the city centre both in tutor groups and by ourselves. Dinners featured the entire group (together with tutors alongside our very own Dr Cockburn and her husband Ian who had both also been learning alongside us) and were superbly chosen, but there were also a couple-or-so hours per day for exploring, shopping and finding café's to have a rest in. Even our hotel, the Porta-Rossa – a former brothel – was epic, with truly enormous rooms, and located but a few hundred meters from YAB, a nighttime haunt where our group had the pleasure of experiencing one of those this-only-happens-in-films moments as a good-looking and scantily-clad woman burst out of an enormous birthday cake.

In reality, Florence was all we could have asked for and more. Not only was it helpful for the A-Level, but the teaching around the syllabus in addition to both the experience of the city and the independence which we were granted made the Florence trip perfectly geared towards the (finally) more-mature Remove class of 2007.



IN SEARCH OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

"Tough, fantastic" was the assessors' verdict on the twenty-two boys who completed their Expedition Section of the Silver Award in the Lake District in September 2006, writes SCH.

In groups of five or six, they had to plan and carry out a three-day/two-night unaccompanied 60 km journey in wild country. Of this 'Batch of 2005', Tom Boothman Meier, Alex Labrom, Alasdair Maher, Hugh Sultoon and Khushaal Ved were the first to receive the Silver Award, having finished the other three Sections as well, representing at least 100 hours of spare time sacrificed. We have started Gold Expeditions as well. Isobel Cave, George Illingworth, Hannah Cutmore-Scott, Lindsey Noakes, Charlotte Schroder and Alex Wessely carried out their Training and Practice Expedition in the Brecon Beacons, South Wales at Easter. We were shocked at how dry the hills were: fire engines out, seeing to grass fires on the tops, and not a tinkle of water in the rivers. In mid April. All passed with flying colours, a tribute to their intelligence, teamwork and stamina, and are now ready for the Assessed Expedition of four days and three nights unaccompanied. Many thanks to the Mr Perry Symes, the International Mountain Leader who supervised them.



GEOGRAPHY TRIP SWANSEA

To be perfectly honest, I'm not sure that many of us were looking forward to spending a week of our Easter holidays in not-so-sunny Wales, confesses Hannah Fitzwilliam (RR).

Yet from the first moment of the 'holiday', it was clear we were in for an eventful trip. We boarded the train only to be told it had broken down and after that first Saturday night geography lesson, things could only really get better.

And they did. Our animated group launched into the sand dune investigation, counting vegetation and measuring angles like true geography enthusiasts. The following days were spent exploring the city of Swansea which, bathed in glorious sunshine, looked almost pleasant whilst the locals heroically faced our determined questioning. Of course, frequent pizza breaks and shopping trips ensured morale remained high.

"The most romantic town I know... an ugly lovely town... crawling, sprawling, slummed, unplanned, jerry-villa'ed, and smug – suburbed by the side of a long and splendid-curving shore"

DYLAN THOMAS

By the time we returned home, complete with (almost) finished coursework, spirits were soaring and our geographical thirst was well and truly quenched. I think I speak for everyone when I say that we genuinely enjoyed our experience and although not everyone will be rushing back to Swansea in a hurry, for all budding geographers the trip is definitely not to be missed. Many thanks to our teachers for providing us with this productive and memorable week.



Above and right: Florence trip. Photographed by Jamie Stoker.



CLIMBING EXPEDITION SKYE

The Expedition Society's exploits continued unabated this year with the annual Skye trip during Easter, proclaims Andrew Marshall, (DD), from the mountaintops.

The glorious weather defied expectations and all probability yet again to give us some memorable days out. The party split into two groups, one climbing and scrambling on the exposed and dramatic ridges of the Cuillin, while the others went for walks and experienced the

delights of a night under canvas. Highlights for the ridge party included technical scrambling at An Dorus and on The Inaccessible Pinnacle and climbing pitches on the imposing walls above Coire Lagan. The walkers no doubt enjoyed their gentle walking as well.

Special thanks as always go to the staff for putting up with us and for organising the trip, which will continue to go from strength to strength.

HEAT AND ART IN PARIS

Arriving at the Louvre, I was immediately struck by the vastness of it all, as well as the heat of the hot spring day in Paris, gasps Nicole Taylor (WWW).

Despite the thought of the looming Mock A/S exams, the stifling humidity of Paris and the sulphurous smells in the Louvre, I was captivated by the immediacy of the art I saw on our first day. Sculptures truly come to life when seen at first hand: one can see what made these works exceptional.

That afternoon I encountered many paintings we had studied before and seeing them was to me, something akin to meeting old friends. We saw many iconic works by the likes of David, Géricault, Canova and Veronese. We even managed a quick glimpse at the Mona Lisa, which for me was not the most beautiful painting in the room, yet alone the world, and paled when compared to the passion of works such as the Raft of the Medusa.

In the course of the next two days we were whisked through over two thousand years of art with the help of Dr. Cockburn, Dr. Jacobi and Mr. Johnson. In the second morning we strolled along the banks of the Seine to the Louvre where, refreshed, we marvelled at the colours of the medieval painting and the curious Roman sculpture of a Hermaphrodite. In the Musée d'Orsay we surreptitiously avoided each others gazes and pretended not to know each other, with a few close shaves, in order to be taught the amazing collection of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Symbolist art by our own teachers instead of their official guides.

That night we went to the Pompidou Centre, where we had to make a mad dash around the gallery in only 20 minutes as it was closing an hour earlier than anticipated. However we were rewarded for our efforts by the surreal experience of having the gallery largely to ourselves, followed by the glorious views of Paris from the



“At Rodin’s house on the third morning we encountered the Gates of Hell and strolled serenely through his garden, not yet beaten by the heat and humidity.”

top of the Pompidou. Finally that evening we were set free for an hour on our own in Paris to eat.

At Rodin’s house on the third morning we encountered the Gates of Hell and strolled serenely through his garden, not yet beaten by the heat and humidity. However, the cool interior of the Musée d’Orsay later was very welcome. We even had time to squeeze in one last exam, and grab some ice cream at the station before getting on the Eurostar for home.

SIXTH FORM LANGUAGE TRIP VALLADOLID

The ten day visit to the cultural ‘hub’ of Valladolid in North West Spain this Easter provided us with the opportunity not only to experience typical Spanish life but also to improve our spoken Spanish in preparation for the looming oral examination, claims Zoë Lang (BB).

Indeed, of particular interest to foreign students of Spanish is the region’s famous purity of Castilian; the Spanish equivalent of “Queen’s English” is said to be spoken in *Castilla y León*. The city of Valladolid itself has impressive historical connections (scene of the marriage of the Catholic Monarchs, twice capital of Spain and birthplace of Philip II, for example) and we also had the chance to visit several local sites of interest, including the museum dedicated to Christopher Columbus who died in Valladolid in 1506. The city has equally risen to the challenges of the 21st century, at least as far as technology is concerned – the software for London’s Congestion Charging was developed here!

We were staying with host families, in pairs, and luckily all of the families were fairly normal, apart from the

resident slug at George and Zannis’ house! Our trip coincided with the annual holy week celebrations, during which the various *cofradías penitenciales* process through the streets in an eerie silence punctuated only by the occasional blast from a bugle, their long flowing robes and tall pointed hats not dissimilar to Ku Klux Klan apparel!

As well as the intensive Spanish classes at a small language school situated close to the historic centre, we visited the cities of Bilbao – the stunning titanium-plated Guggenheim Museum shimmered in the late afternoon light, towering over an otherwise rather drab provincial capital – and Madrid, where we were given a fascinating insight into some of the major works by Velázquez, Goya and El Greco in the capital’s *Museo del Prado*. Our final trip to the ancient university town of Salamanca – the Oxford of Spain – allowed us to search the façade of the 13th century university building for the famous lucky skull with a frog carved on it, so now we will all apparently pass our exams... and marry within a year!

On our last evening we were joined by our teachers from *La Casa del Español* for a delicious meal of typical Spanish tapas; a lovely way to end a most enjoyable few days, with many great memories.



Above and below:
Holy week celebrations.



Above (top):
Skye.
Photographed by MAB.

Above:
Group outside The Louvre.
‘Gates of Hell’.

Right:
Plaster cast of ‘Rodin’s
Gates’ in Musée D’Orsay.



WALK FROM SIENA TO ROME 25,000 YEARS OFF PURGATORY

Still at school with exams imminent, Tuscany and Lazio seemed far, far away, in spite of Mr Hinze's impassioned e-mail pleas to wear in our boots, recalls Bella Sanders, (OWW).

Frankly, reality only hit home, for me at least, much later. After clomping, fully-booted, through the Gatwick check-in system, after trying to put new names to friendly new Oundelian faces, even after being rudely woken up on the first morning by the din customarily caused when a Sieneese contrada celebrates a victory in the city's annual season of horse races, the Palio. It was only standing at the very top of Siena's cathedral museum looking out across the stunningly well-preserved medieval city that I first truly comprehended the prospect of walking 180 miles in 12 days with a 15 litre rucksack.

The first few days seemed to confirm my fears, and prove that I evidently possessed no small enthusiasm for self-punishment. Searing limbs and blisters aplenty were predominant aspects, narrowing my outlook to mere survival. However, I must not give the wrong impression, nor do a disservice to this incredible trip. Watson's Walk to Rome is no boot camp. Instead I'd call it a cross between a pilgrimage and a 21st century Grand Tour.

The penitence, as it were, came first. Hardship, however, is a great talking-point, and the Westminsterers and Oundelians were soon getting on as well as if we had not only just met a few days earlier. We found ourselves breathing new life into that old concept of camaraderie, whether involving sharing i-pods or donating Compeed.

What's more, Dr. Watson, master of timing and walking psychologist of genius, knew our limits and how to reward us: gourmet five course evening feasts accompanied by countless carafes of local wine, plus a day off after the first week by the shores of Lake Bolsena, not

to mention an encounter with Dr. Katz en route. His attitude is that the key to achieving feats of physical endurance lies 'all in the mind'. I'm inclined to agree. After all, who could have said they would be able to walk for nearly 12 hours straight? Which urban Westminster could have previously declared themselves fit to climb Monte Amiata, a mountain a third higher than Ben Nevis, before lunch (well, rather a late lunch at 5 o'clock)? Certainly not I.

By the time we reached Rome many were convinced that Watson was indeed a god of sorts; he navigated without a map at all times, walked without eating, and silenced viciously yapping guard dogs with a mere glare. Italians threw open their hotels and restaurants (which you could never find in a guide book) for our exclusive use. He knows the brutal gradients of Tuscany, and the ancient paths and Arcadian gorges of Lazio better than the locals, and has shared his love for this region with unsuspecting walkers for twenty-five years.

A large part of this trip's pleasure lies in its many antique delights, which crop up in the impossibly beautiful countryside of central Italy long before reaching Rome. The monastery church of Sant'Antimo, alleged resting-place of Charlemagne's heart, and the basilica at Montefiascone where James II scuppered his chances for the succession by marrying the Catholic Mary of Modena are to name but two.

But of course Rome was the ultimate prize, and a powerful incentive from the very first day. Ironically our new fitness sent us out exploring the sights by day (and by night) with extra stamina. The Seven Hills of Rome – what hills?! Standing in St. Peter's it was hard not to feel smugly superior to the victims of coach tours all around, having walked, talked and sweated our way to 25,000 years off purgatory!

The Walk to Rome is entirely without peer in the way it leads its participants into an eccentric but irresistible parallel universe. O lucky ones who have already signed up, you will come back recounting tales of blister heroism and sun-soaked rustic beauty, perhaps even in rhyming couplets, naturally impervious to the fact that non-walkers haven't the foggiest what you're on about (and think you're barmy). Of course they don't, the poor things.

ICE MARATHON FINLAND

When we arrived at Tampere in Finland, we found we were dressed somewhat inappropriately in jeans and T-shirts, which was unexpected in February, shivers an unprepared Ronald Thompson (RR).

It took a painful 3 hours to arrive to Kuopio where we were dazzled by all the snow and the few hours of light, but after depositing our bags we went out to do what we had come to, skate. We were surprised to find that our skates resembled cross-country skies and not ice skates, hence the name cross-country skates. We were all wobbly off the start and did one lap of 2km. That was hard. Not only were we slipping and falling, but also we were getting stuck in cracks in the ice.

Later we went out for moonlight skating, where we watched the Finns glide along the ice. Sadly enough not all of us managed to follow their graceful example. After about an hour of skating we hopped onto a bus carrying our swim trunks and with grumbling stomachs. After eating a hearty Finnish meal of reindeer steak, we put on our trunks and were ready for the biggest Finnish smoke sauna in the world. The Scandinavians have a love for steamy, hot saunas and believe there should be a good method for cooling oneself down-their solution is jumping into a hole in the ice filled with water. After baking in the hot sauna for ten minutes, we rushed outside with CD in the lead, hopped into the water and climbed back out again. It is the most exhilarating thing you will ever feel. On our second run, CD bombarded us with snowballs. The feeling of snow as it strikes your back is an extremely painful one, similar to having multiple pins stuck in you at once. After about twenty of these runs, we called it quits and went back to the hotel for a very deep sleep.

The following day we had a two-hour practice to be ready for the big race on Friday. It came along very quickly and, before we knew it, we had embarked on 25km of hard work and sweat. I think for most of us the main challenge was to conquer the sheer boredom of slowly skating along. We had to complete 2 laps of 12.5km and they were long laps. The next day we set out to do another lap. Dr. Boulton learned that beginning at a high pace was probably not the best idea. After proudly leading the pack, he landed on the ice and cut his head. Instead of winning the lap, he ended up with seven stitches and a 20 Euro bill. Meanwhile CD and Pierre Thomas raced and placed in the kick sled event. The Westminster School 25 Km skating championships results: 1st Claire Petros 2nd Tom Fielder and 3rd Pierre Thomas.

Two days later we ended up back at school tired but unusually mellow, and not a drop of snow or ice in sight.



EXCHANGE BERLIN

The Berlin Exchange 2006/07 was a great success and everyone involved has benefited from this fantastic opportunity writes Mr Hennig.

We welcomed the students from Germany in October 2006 and paid our return visit in April 2007. During their 10 day stay in Berlin with JMK and UH, pupils had the chance to explore this fascinating city.

On our first day we toured the New Centre of Berlin, an area that has been completely redeveloped since 1990 with the famous Potsdamer Platz in the centre. We also took in famous sights such as the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag building. Berlin is a fascinating place for any historian; so we visited many symbols of communism and the Third Reich, including the remains of the Berlin wall, the Palace of the Republic, an exhibition about life in communist Berlin and even a nuclear air raid shelter from the days of the Cold War. We had moving experiences when we visited the remains of the Gestapo Headquarters, the Jewish Museum and the new Holocaust Memorial. Other activities included various exhibitions, the Eastside Gallery, trips to the cinema and to the Zoo, as well as a flight on a hot-air-balloon.

Westminster pupils spent the weekends and evenings with their exchange partners where activities included outings to the suburbs of Berlin, trips to the opera and the theatre as well as picnics and parties. The pupils were praised by their hosts and were true ambassadors for Westminster School.

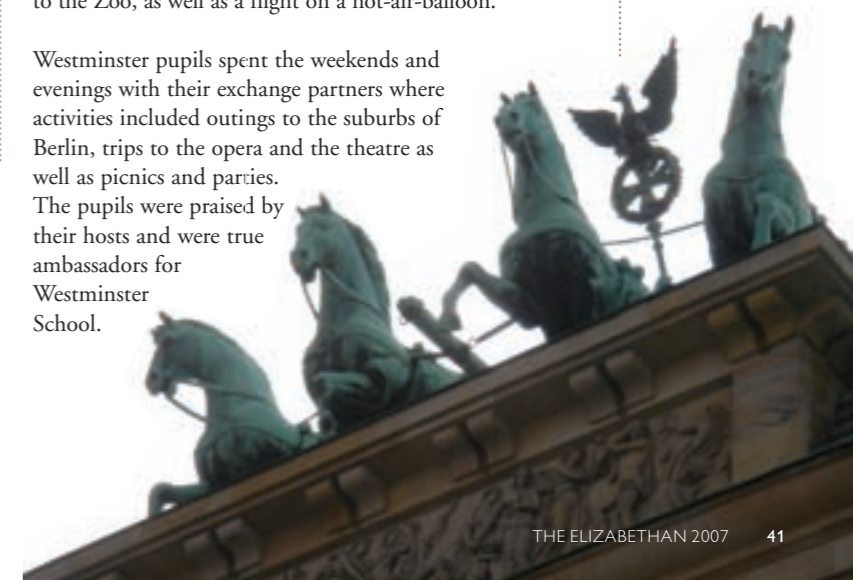


Above (top): Inside the Reichstag Building, Berlin.

Above: Wolves at Berlin Zoo.

Below: Top of the Brandenburg Gate, Berlin.

Below (left): On the podium at the Ice Marathon in Finland.





CLASSICS TRIP 2007

CHIOS

Compiled by Alasdair Maher (CC) from the combined contributions of all the class.

After a long and tiring term everyone in the Combined Classics set was avidly looking forward to a week's break on the remote island of Chios. From beautiful beaches to copious amounts of food, everyone's needs seemed to be met. The trip provided a well-needed break for our gruelling study, with a relaxing combination of football, sightseeing and limitless food.

Unfortunately, this came at a price as we had to learn Latin and Greek relentlessly through the mornings and evenings. Every morning at an ungodly hour we would be assaulted by gerunds and vocabulary from Ms. Radice and Dr. Katz until lunchtime when, our heads fit to burst, we would be allowed a short respite, taking trips to the local restaurants and beaches.

One of the defining features of Chios is, apparently, its fine array of rocky beaches. Of course, we rarely ventured out into the freezing waters except to retrieve errant footballs, although Konrad and Jeremy frequently ignored all common sense and dived straight in. Khushaal certainly paid the price of going in barefoot, but he bore the pain of the sea urchins' spikes with good grace, even in the face of Dr. Katz's penknife 'surgery'.

We went to see, amongst other things, the hauntingly deserted town where three hundred women and children committed suicide rather than face the approaching enemy. We also visited a fascinating, women-only monastery where there was only one old nun left. There were frequent visits to vineyards and orange groves, where we sampled the culinary delights presented to us, the best of all by a local resident and Westminster parent, Mrs Koula Mangos and her delightful daughter, Alexandra. From vine leaves and goat, artichokes to fish eyes – a delicacy only Hugh was willing to brave for 'man-points' – we ate plenty

during our stay on Chios. Khushaal, taking a shine to this way of life, ate more than everyone else, a feat we previously thought impossible.

By the end of the trip, we had only just learnt to pace ourselves during the course of a meal – it sometimes felt as if we'd already eaten the equivalent of our body-weight by the time the main course arrived. While we were all reluctant to leave this behind, no doubt our sporting careers at Westminster were salvaged by the brevity of our stay.

One of the defining moments of the entire trip was our gruelling football match against the Chios 6-a-side 'A team', a match we had been fervently training for whenever possible. Our Homeric football reporter describes the battle that ensued.

'Five minutes in, 2-0 down and the opposition striker rampant, was it going to be like all those other Westminster matches we played? For a moment even the supporters fell silent, shocked. Up against the cream of the Chios junior team, there was suddenly a game to save. And if the floodlights broke? Well then, we'd fight them in the shade.

As the clock ticked on, we did what we were trained to do, what we were bred to do, what we were born to do! From the sidelines our supporters cheered, 'Give them nothing! But take from them everything!' Like Persian arrows, goals rained down upon the Greeks. Even the gods envied us. Though there were moments of individual brilliance, a shot like an Olympian thunderbolt, it was the effort of the team that led us to victory. Just as in the phalanx where every man depends on the man to the right of them, so we supported one another right to the final whistle. Euro 2004 winners? We put their reputation to the test. Final score: 9-6 to Westminster.



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HOOKE LECTURE SERIES

"She highlighted many interesting facts, the main one being that were the entire planet to live the lifestyle Britons enjoy, we would need 3 Earths to sustain us."



Above (top): Artwork by Nick Reynolds.

Above: Oxford Professor of Poetry, Christopher Ricks, addresses the Ben Jonson Society.

Above (left): 'Tasha in the Library' Photographed by Jamie Stoker.



NIGHT BUS
PATRICK BEARDMORE (BB)

This is the Night Bus bringing the boarder
Back from the party, he's quite out of order.
Home via Sloane Square, a steady climb.
His housemaster's after him – he's well past time.
Yesterday's newspaper gently flutters
As her diesel engine coughs and splutters,
Snorting noisily while she passes
Emptying pubs and broken beer glasses.

Glasses of vodka, glasses of wine
He's spent a fortune at five quid a time.
Glasses of Smirnoff, bottles of Becks
Lucky for him the barman took cheques.

In the flat she passes no-one wakes
But a jug in the bedroom gently shakes.

Dawn freshens, Big Ben berates him,
The whole of Westminster awaits him.
His mate Up School stares and stares
Now he's late for Latin Prayers.

JOHN HOUSE ART HISTORY PRIZE ESSAY

AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE
DESIGNS OF ISABEL RAWSTHORNE
FOR THE 1951 ROYAL BALLET
PRODUCTION OF *TIRESIAS*

Jointly awarded to Rebecca Winter (Greycoats School) and Max Barton (BB).
Below is an extract of Rebecca Winter's essay.

During the latter years of the 19th century there had been an explosion in the interest of dance and all its forms; folk, vernacular and theatrical, and it became an essential theme for artists, whether symbolist and decorative or abstract and primitive. British artists Ben Nicholson and Percy Wyndham Lewis sculpted and painted dance in a new and abstract way, following the themes of poets and artists such as W. B. Yeats and Matisse. Isabel Rawsthorne's design for *Tiresias*, the ballet based on Ovid's Greek myth taken from his book, *Metamorphoses*, was a new and controversial angle on the theme.

Her designs expressed not just the setting of the ballet but the mythology behind it. The most apparent characteristic of the polytheistic Minoan religion was that it was a matriarchal society. This, it could be argued, was influential as it alludes to the conclusion of the myth being in favour of the female. The art of the Minoans portrays a society connected to their environment, and in admiration of the order of the natural world. Snakes were of great cultural significance in the religion of the Minoans as they symbolised eternity and immortality, whilst also being key to the synopsis, whereas octopi were a holy symbol often depicted with unnaturally long tentacles. Eagles had sacred powers bestowed on them as they were the kings of the sky and were associated with apotheosis to the deity. Animals were seen 'in their natural surroundings' with the bull being depicted in many religious and sporting images such as taurokatharsia – bull vaulting. This is seen also with the

Minoan sacred symbols which included the bull and its horns of consecration.

Not only does this imagery place the ballet within the primitive context of the Minoan people, who saw the bull as a sacred and divine creature, it also enhances the sexual nature of the production. The hermaphroditic content of the ballet, which saw *Tiresias* being transformed from male to female, caused outrage when it was first performed on 9th July 1951. The primitive was a strong preoccupation in 20th century art with the symbol of the bull or Minotaur used by many artists, such as Picasso and Eric Gill, as the archetypal notion equating to sex as a metaphor for the creative act. Epstein's Doves and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska's Bird Swallowing Fish also portray this. 'A 'primitive' tendency was already become a distinguishing feature of the 'modern'.' This is also seen with the power of dance, also associated with a creative force. In essence the use of animals to expose primitive human activities allowed Rawsthorne to explore more than simply the myth behind the ballet but also the contemporary iconographical connotations of sex, gender and creativity.

¹ Higgins, Reynold. *Minoan and Mycenaean Art*

² Perry, Gill. *Primitivism, Cubism, Abstraction: The Early Twentieth Century*

PHILLIMORE PRIZE ESSAY

HOW POPE SATIRISES HIS SOCIETY,
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO
PUBLISHING/LITERARY PRACTICES
IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, IN
THE EPISTLE TO DR ARBUTHNOT

The Phillimore Prize Essay for English Literature was won this year by James Read (LL) for his essay on Alexander Pope. An extract is published below.

The Epistle to Dr Arbuthnot is considered one of Pope's satirical masterpieces. It is of particular significance in bringing together so many of Pope's critical concerns: the attack on Grub Street, the nature and function of satire and Pope's defence of nearly almost every aspect of his career. The poem successfully satirises prominent individuals present during his life, illustrating their numerous follies. The poem also criticises three main sectors of 18th Century publishing practise: contemporary writers, publishers and certain literary critics and by doing so Pope illustrates that the literature of his day was often more about profit than quality. However, more importantly, he also manages to bring to public attention greater vices, such as greed and jealousy, through the farcical and satirical characters of: Sporus, Bufo and Atticus. These vices threatened not only the standards of 18th Century literature, but also the stability of the society as whole. Thus, whilst Pope's poem is in many ways concerned with the degradation of literature that he was witnessing, it is also concerned with the potential ruin of the moral fabric of society. Somewhat ironically, it is through the example of himself that Pope illustrates how writers and, in general, society should act. By using this example, many have come to recognise *Arbuthnot* as Pope's apologia for his life and work, further adding importance to the poem.

It was in this climate of aggressive verbal abuse that Pope decided to write 'a sort of Bill of Complaint'

against those that sought to 'attack in a very extraordinary manner... my Person, Morals and family'. It is with some irony that this 'Bill of Complaint', what with its 'naming and shaming' of key public figures was dedicated as an Epistle to Arbuthnot, for it was his letter to Pope, which, despite congratulating him as a dear friend and commending him for his "Disdain & Abhorrence of Vice", pleaded with Pope to have some regard for his own personal safety; a direct warning of the dangers of satirising individuals by name. However, for Pope that direct satire had a legitimate shaming and ridiculing function, which a more general satire lacked. Pope wrote to Arbuthnot stating, "General Satire in Times of General Vice has no force, & is no Punishment... And in my low Station, with no other Power than this [direct satire], I hope to deter, if not reform"². Similarly, Swift, another member of the Scriblerians Club believed the same, stating in his *Battle of the Books* "that in General Satire beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own". Pope's use of specific targets in the poem, such as Curll, are satirised to instruct and correct the general populace. Hence, the abusive satire present in *Arbuthnot* is not really aimed at correcting those men, who are viewed as irredeemable. Instead, they are attacked in order to dissuade the public from associating with them.

¹ Pope's Advertisement, before the start of the poem

² Pope to Arbuthnot, August 2, 1734



THE HOOKE LECTURE SERIES

Recorded by Peter Brescia (HH) and George Royde (GG). Reprinted by kind permission of the editors of *Hooke Magazine*.

Nature to Nanotechnology and Back Dr. Alan Dalton

In January, the Lecture Room was packed out to hear a talk about nanotechnology, and how the possibility of 'growing' self-assembling complex objects such as electronics could be achieved.

Nanotechnology has only been in existence for the last twenty to thirty years, owing to the recent advent of machines such as the scanning probe microscope. One of the most important substances was the carbon nanotube, almost as significant to nanotechnology now as the transistor was to electronics in 1947. Nanotubes have great thermal properties, can semi-conduct, superconduct, exhibit metallic properties, are strong and rigid, all depending on how the graphine sheets (from which they are made) are wrapped, making them incredibly useful and versatile. The only real disadvantage of these nanotubes is that their synthesis in the lab produces tubes of all lengths and diameters, which entangle with each other to give an unusable soot. The careful synthesis and application of these nanotubes is therefore essential to the industry should it ever take off.

Other topics covered by Dr. Dalton included how to use specially-tailored nanoparticles to enter cancerous skin cells, and then to use infra-red radiation to kill the cancerous cells, while leaving normal cells undamaged. He also mentioned the possibility of 'molecular transistors', made of single atoms, which could dramatically improve computing. Finally, he explained how geckos stick to walls, and can even climb them in the presence of a vacuum. A rather thoughtful question raised after the talk, namely how geckos can un-stick themselves, will doubtless provide the University of Surrey with their next research assignment.

In Pursuit of Pulsars Professor Jocelyn Bell-Burnell

This lecture was given by the world-famous discoverer of pulsars – the solar bodies which have inspired many concepts on the workings of physics. They were even used to test Einstein's Theory of Relativity (pulsar time periods are accurate to one part in 1021).

Containing a significant proportion of the mass of a star, they are generally only 20km across, with an atmosphere of usually several centimetres. One ground-breaking topic she mentioned regarding these bodies was how it was that they had been used to detect the presence of extra-solar planets (those outside our solar system). This discovery bodes well for the discovery of life outside our solar system. Those who attended were treated to a detailed timeline of the intriguing life-cycle of a star, and how it is that these pulsars are formed. Finally, listeners heard a recording of what a pulsar 'sounds' like. The general opinion was one of great satisfaction that we had heard a truly world-renowned scientist speak at the Hooke Lecture Series this year.

One Planet Living Sue Riddlestone

This interesting lecture centred around man's over-consumption of Earth's ever-more-scarce resources. She highlighted many interesting facts, the main one being that were the entire planet to live the lifestyle Britons enjoy, we would need 3 Earths to sustain us. Interestingly, also, she raised the fact that it is the UAE which has the largest ecological footprint per capita in the world (a figure of around 12GHa per capita). The lecture, from this foundation, branched out to include how schemes were being run to attempt to cut carbon emissions, as well as increase recycling waste. Indeed, Bioregional, of which she is co-founder, works hard to ensure greater recycling of paper waste in and around Britain, as well as encouraging shops to sell more local produce to cut transport-related emissions.

The final emphasis of the talk was a new model neighbourhood designed by Bioregional, in which greater insulation and other techniques have reduced heating costs by 88%, hot water consumption by 57%, and electricity use by 25%. This is truly an encouraging step in the eventual goal of the organisation to bring the world's ecological footprint down to one planet.

Geomatic Technology Simon Barnes

The final lecture of the year, this enlightening talk focused mainly on how 3-D images can be created from real life objects. The technique involves scanning a large object, such as a building, using a 20KHz laser, with an accurate range of 250m. The data from this is then assembled into a fully 3-dimensional image. What makes this technique so much better than standard photography is that distances can be measured accurately off of this image, since this is in the nature of the data. This allows schematic diagrams to be created with much greater ease than from standard photographs.

The main application for this data at the moment is mapping listed buildings to ensure that they can be repaired if damaged, and also the mapping of relics, such as the statue of Rameses II in Cairo, prior to its transportation out of the city. In addition, these images can also offer aid in the film/television industry, for helping create wire frame models which can be animated. The BBC's programme *Rome* was one of the contracts for this company.



2006 TIZARD LECTURE AN ARCHITECT'S ENGINEER

Most of us looking at an arch in a cathedral would, I suspect, wonder about the cracks in it. We might enquire whether something should be done about the crack. The answer is yes: paper over it, reveals JGRB.

2006 BROCK LECTURE 68 DAYS LATER

This year's lecture was delivered by Chris Martin, who rowed solo across the Atlantic Ocean between November of 2005 and February of 2006, writes CJRU.

Chris completed the row after 68 days, 15 hours, and 19 minutes, the ordeal taking its toll on his body and sapping his mental strength. He arrived in Antigua on the 7th of February having completed this mammoth task, and came to Westminster to talk about his experiences.

A smaller crowd than usual was present, mainly due to Arsenal's presence in the Champions League final that night, but everyone there thoroughly enjoyed the fascinating talk. Chris told us about the preparation that went into such an undertaking, and the training he had to go through. What really impressed was his determination and single-minded application to his goal. His talk was dotted with understated humour, none more so than the casual way he described life-threatening problems that seemed to occur and have to be overcome on an almost daily basis. The mental strength needed to row solo across the Atlantic cannot be underestimated.

In all it was an entertaining lecture, and really gave a flavour of his achievement. Hopefully some of the audience will be inspired to take up a demanding challenge of this sort. Next year's lecture will return to its previous time at the end of the Play Term, so keep an eye out for it.

This perhaps improbable response comes from a very simple idea which has wide application to cathedral architecture, an idea presented with clarity and humour by this year's Tizard lecturer, Professor Jacques Heyman, Emeritus Professor of Engineering at the University of Cambridge. He is the foremost authority on the engineering of Gothic architecture, and was described to me before the lecture as 'an architect's engineer', which is a laudatory term indeed.

The simple idea is this. If you have two abutments and imagine a chain hung from them, they will form what is known as a catenary. If this chain is reflected in a horizontal plane the inverted catenary forms an arch. If then a stone arch is built so that the catenary is always entirely within the stone of the arch, the arch is stable even if it cracks so long as the condition for the catenary holds true. And that is it – and it is an idea from, of course, Robert Hooke. Professor Heyman went on from simple semicircular arches to consider more elaborate structures, such as barrel vaults, fan vaults and domes, and by repeated application of the same idea showed why the cracks and the slipped stones in the vault of the Henry VII Chapel don't much matter. He also revealed how the majestic pendants of that roof are constructed from single stones in a rather simple arch. I particularly liked the pragmatism of the idea that, if a cathedral lasts for around a generation without falling down, then it will probably last for centuries.

The lecture was a fine example of a simple idea elaborated to explain apparently very complex structures, and it was highly appreciated by a large and enthusiastic audience. An audience which, moreover, will now be able to walk with insouciance under all the visible roof cracks in English Cathedrals.

Above:
The Henry VIII Chapel,
Westminster Abbey.



LECTURE SERIES
**HISTORY
OF ART**

This season's series of increasingly diverse lectures began with what was more of an exhibition, showing some of the fascinating work of the Chinese artist, JinCheng Liu, record Ted Marcus (DD) and Meng-Yun Wang (PP).

As the short talk given by his agent, Leo Malim, made clear, this body of paintings arose out of a turbulent time in his country's history and gave a fascinating insight into the psyche of contemporary China. Our next speaker, the first of two John Hall lecturers, exhibited a decidedly more Western focus in her depiction of Peggy Guggenheim's eccentric and influential presence in the world of modern art. Louisa Buck, art critic and jurist for the 2005 Turner Prize, traced the course of Guggenheim's life from her beginnings as a New York socialite, to her heyday as the foremost collector of avant-garde art in the 20th century. The account of her relationships, and affairs, with some of the most legendary figures in modern culture, such as Max Ernst and Samuel Beckett, imbued what was essentially a historical account, with glamour and excitement. The talk by Jane Glover on Mozart concluded the John Hall lecture series. The next series in the catalogue concerned the role of the producer in various film industries. Our first speaker was Michael Deeley, producer of such classic films as *The Deer Hunter*, *Blade Runner* and *The Italian Job*, and his autobiography '*Don't Shoot the Producer*' would lend its name to this series of lectures. His unparalleled insight into the minds of some of the great cinematic figures was deeply fascinating and more than illustrated the seemingly undefined, yet vital, parameters of the producer's role within a production. Moreover one of the greatest questions in film, the solution to the protagonists' plight in *The Italian Job*, was answered in a thrilling dénouement which brought this episode to a controversial conclusion. The second speaker, David Heyman (OW) is the producer of the Harry Potter film series and offered valuable advice to those considering a career in the lethally competitive industry as well as some interesting anecdotes concerning the development of the Harry Potter films from page to screen. The last speaker, Pinny Grylls (OW) provided another angle to that of Deeley and Heyman. As a film producer working more in the independent sector and as one who also makes as well as produces films, she gave a rounded view on breaking into the industry from someone still climbing the ladder. She wrapped up her talk by showing her latest documentary short film, entitled '*Peter and Ben*,' an exploration into the special friendship between a man and a sheep, which proved a technically adept example of fly-on-the-wall film making and a touching examination of personal relationships. The season was concluded with the John House Lecture, where Professor House talked about his latest book, '*Impressionists by the Sea*.' The History of Art lectures of his year exemplified the diversifying scope of modern culture and its profound impact on the way we view art today.

Above (left):
'Tomorrow'
by Jincheng Liu.

A DECADE OF ART HISTORY

It is 10 years since the History of Art Department was founded as an autonomous department, recalls Steve Conyers (BB).

Now firmly established in a lavish suite of rooms on the ground floor of the Weston Building with excellent facilities, the permanence of this subject at Westminster cannot be doubted as its yearly awards from the Good Schools Guide reveal.

Until 1997, when Dr Cockburn was asked to become Head of Department, History of Art was organised by the Art Department, and was frequently a student's fourth A-level, the extra subject. Perhaps that was why it was so hard to force my parents to take me seriously when I told them, half way through my first term of 6th Form that I wanted to take it up. It would of course mean dropping out of one of my other subjects, leaving what they saw to be a world of hard intellectual rigour for one of pretty pictures of angels and naked women. I can't really blame them – History of Art is often seen to be a cocktail subject, interesting but only ever really as a hobby, not as a discipline, the kind of subject that girls who live round Sloane Square study while looking for rich lawyers to marry. When my parents used this as their argument I really didn't know what to say. They did not seem to realise the difference between the casual appreciation of art, and the rigorous study of the social, political and philosophical causes of art works. It is analytical, detailed, and structured, leading to a critical attitude that seeks historical evidence for a reading of a work of art. Even my highly practical mother did not realise that Art History is the only humanity that has a \$6.4 billion industry directly attached directly to it. Some of these concerns weighed on me too. I had never studied it before so how did I know I was going to be any good? But something gripped me about the subject, and sitting through my first lesson with Dr Cockburn where we carefully picked out the influences of Spanish art on Manet, I knew I had made the right decision.



Two years later, I am working hard to make my offer to study Art History at Oxford, and have just got a job at Christie's for twelve weeks in the summer; again this was made possible by the department's outreach scheme which helps you to find work experience. Something happened over those two years, and I can only say that it was the History of Art Department. I have a lot to thank them for. It's quite a family down here – Dr Cockburn and Dr Jacobi are the permanent teachers, but there is also the amazing range of people they invite in from every region of the art world to get involved: from class MA and PhD students like Aleid Ford for whom the department runs an unprecedented scheme of teacher training, to inspirational eccentric teachers in three piece emerald green corduroy suits like Nick Ross from Art History Abroad. They fostered in me such a passion for the subject, such a desire to learn, that I

gobbled up the pages of the set reading. Classes at school felt more like university lectures; not surprisingly as the department's teachers also lecture at London University and we cover the material to the depth of many undergraduates; more importantly it's fun and the results show it. Ever since the department was founded, the A-level results have been rising year after year. In 1997 it was rare to get an A grade and now almost everyone does. Every year too, some Westminster students come in the top five in the country. I put a lot of the success down to the amazing trips to Paris, New York and Florence; week-long culture-fests in the greatest cities in the world. The galleries are amazing, the hotels are sometimes luxurious like the Palazzo in Florence, sometimes simple like the seventeenth century youth hostel in Paris right by the Seine and the food is to die for! But it's not all fun – the department pushes you hard, and research essays really do mean research. The main essay of the two years is a tricky one, an extended piece of work on pretty much anything to do with art history, and you are free to choose anything and are carefully guided. Those people who do sciences as well chose to do it on Leonardo's drawings of the heart, or Brunelleschi's use of mathematical perspective, and those who hope to be lawyers do theirs on copyright in painting. We were sent out to libraries, galleries and artists themselves, and I know that mine was the best piece of work I have ever done, and when the time came to give it in, no one wanted to bid it goodbye.

What the department has also managed to do over the past ten years is build up many contacts in the art world. Professor John House (OWW) of the Courtauld annually awards prizes, and the department has regular visits from art world greats and hosts an annual exhibition in the form of the History of Art Society. The Topolski Memoir has provided outreach experience as have the ICA and Christies. The Department has come a long way since its days of teaching in the dingy basement of the Hooke Science Building, and the autonomy granted in 1997 has been a huge asset for the school. It is hard to see how this department could get much better, but I have no doubt that it will.



“She ended on her current projects on imprinting in the placenta: a comfortingly scientific topic.”

DEBATING

It's a good life in the Westminster debating society: see the world, meet exotic people, and defend the School's honour, asserts Dara Barkhordar (RR), Captain of Debating.

The year has had its ups and downs, but Westminster teams have, as ever, been representing the School at competitions up and down the nation, with the impressive results speaking for the aptitude and determination of those involved and confirming Westminster's place as one of the country's leading debating schools.

The year kicked off in style with the House Competition, which was as hotly contested as ever and saw strong performances from every house, as well as from the Swing Team and its regular members Chris Sykes and Peter Brescia to whom a debt of gratitude is owed for their dedication, making the competition possible under occasionally difficult circumstances. After three preliminary rounds, College, Wren's, Rigaud's and Milne's progressed to the grand final, in which the teams debated the motion “This House Would Ban Internet Gambling”. Delivering a particularly impressive performance, the Wren's team of Usman Ahmedani and Emeric Montfront took the trophy.

The competitive debating season began with a battalion of four Westminster teams (Anna Croall & Sam Littlejohns, Usman Ahmedani & Dara Barkhordar, Peter Brescia & Chris Sykes and Khushaal Ved & Vyvyan Almond) travelling to Bristol in January to attend the annual schools' competition. Though every team performed solidly, a combination of bad luck and unusual judging meant that no team progressed past the semi-final stage.

From there, however, we went from strength to strength. Dara Barkhordar, Sam Littlejohns, Anna Croall and Usman Ahmedani all reached the second round of the Cambridge Union competition, with Usman and Anna going on to the competition's finals day, the first Westminster team to do so in several years.

At around the same time, Sam and Dara broke to finals day in the Oxford Union competition, placing highly on the tab both as a team and on individual speaker points, despite the impediment of a debate in which the team was asked to perform the difficult task of justifying the use of murder as a defence for sufferers of domestic violence. Elsewhere, Sam and Dara reached the London final of the Schools Mace competition after progressing through two local elimination rounds, the second of which the School had the pleasure of hosting (during, by unfortunate coincidence, the half term holidays of our main rival). Opposing the motion “This House Would Make Voting Compulsory” in the final, the team only narrowly missed being declared regional champions. Nevertheless, with both debaters having been invited to try for the England team earlier in the year and with this year's Mace competition providing a valuable source of experience, things can only get better next year.

As the busy Lent Term (and with it the debating year) drew to a close, Westminster supplied two eager teams to spend a weekend at the Durham Union competition. As ever, all enjoyed themselves immensely and performed well, with Sam Littlejohns in particular outdoing himself (placed 10th individually), and Chris Sykes and Alexander Guttenplan also deserving high praise for their achievement in reaching the competition's novice final.

Now the debating year ends the same way it began, with a House Competition. The Juniors' Competition, though still in its infancy, is providing younger members of the School with the opportunity to experience the exciting world of Westminster debating first-hand, as well as an environment in which young talent is able to flourish. With the ability present in the Lower School already made evident by the junior team's performance in the International Competition for Young Debaters, who knows what we'll turn up?

All that remains is to thank the huge number of people throughout the School who have been involved with debating this year, not all of whom it has been possible to mention in this necessarily synoptic account – you've made this year the blast it's been. Special thanks, however, do go out to our coaches Mr. Allnatt, Mr. Crole, Mrs. Cave-Bigley and Miss Radice, without whom we'd have nothing to write home about.

BIOLOGY SOCIETY

ALMOST NO PSYCHOPATHS HERE

The Westminster Biology Society is a fortnightly gathering of upper school biologists, reveals Cato Sandford (HH).

It was formed to give students the opportunity to share their personal interests in biology, and so introduce and be introduced to new concepts, gain a deeper understanding and sometimes even discover entirely new fields. A great advantage of this arrangement is that the level of complexity is well suited to an audience with a similar basic knowledge of the subject. I think we'd all agree that this has been another gratifyingly successful term.

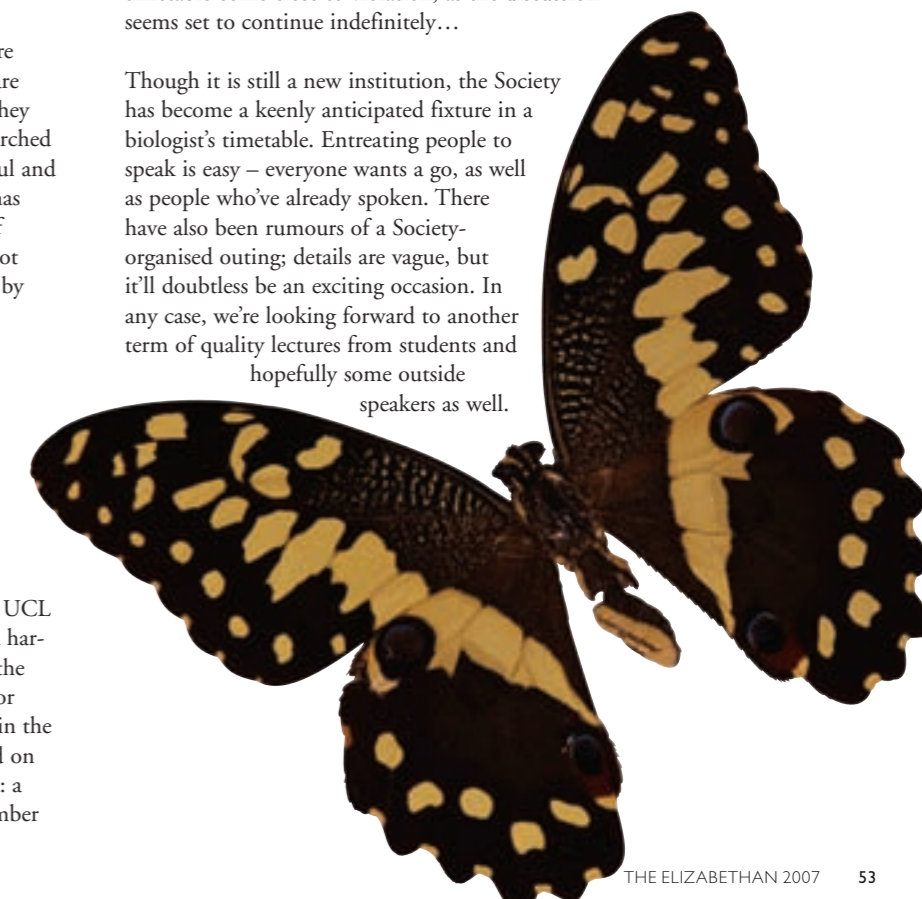
Every other Friday, a meeting is held in the Lecture Room (opposite the Library). Two short lectures are given by students on any biology-related subject they can think of. These are invariably excellently researched and delivered with impact; they make for insightful and thought-provoking listening. Zoë Rutter-Locher has done a marvellous job of organising these talks, of which some notable examples include “But I'm Not Sick – A Curious Syndrome Called Anosognosia” by Cato Sandford, “Progress in Developing an HIV Vaccine” by Eleanor Turner-Moss, “Why Passive Smoking's Not So Bad”, Dominic Allen, and “Metamorphosis in Caterpillars” by Josie Parker. A mention must also go to Adil Jackson, who tested the Society's members for clinical psychopathy. The number of positives was comfortingly low. But not zero.

We've also had the pleasure of hosting two guest speakers: in October, Professor Gudrun Moore of UCL came to talk about a career in genetics. She gave a harrowingly frank appraisal of how science works in the real world, and how to weather the competition for funding. It certainly gave the fresh-faced idealists in the room something to ponder. Thankfully, she ended on her current projects on imprinting in the placenta: a comfortingly scientific topic. Then early in November

Jenny Frost, one of Professor Moore's PhD students, gave a presentation on stem cell research and the quagmire of associated bioethics issues. Many thanks to Josie Parker for arranging these two visits.

The meetings are regularly attended by both students and teachers, who enrich the talks with thoughtful and incisive questions. Often, the strictures of the school timetable come close to violation, as the discussion seems set to continue indefinitely...

Though it is still a new institution, the Society has become a keenly anticipated fixture in a biologist's timetable. Entreating people to speak is easy – everyone wants a go, as well as people who've already spoken. There have also been rumours of a Society-organised outing; details are vague, but it'll doubtless be an exciting occasion. In any case, we're looking forward to another term of quality lectures from students and hopefully some outside speakers as well.





POLITICAL SOCIETY

The Lent Term of 2007 saw the birth of the Political Society, announces Emeric Monfront (WWW).

Westminster School did in fact have a very active Political and Literary Society during the 1930s, whose members included Tony Benn and Peter Ustinov. It has since, unfortunately, died away. Aiming to fill this vacuum, the new Political Society's main objective is to provide an informal arena for politically- or socially-engaged students who wish to develop their ideas on how the world is, or should, be run. It takes place over lunch on Mondays in the Camden Room. Discussions have so far ranged from the merits and drawbacks of democracy to the nature of a police state and the legitimacy of a nuclear deterrent. By choosing to debate the fate of the House of Lords, the Society also pre-empted Parliamentary business. However, the result of a vote cast at the end of the session carried a different outcome than that which later took place in the Commons, with a majority of students favouring an appointed, rather than elected, upper house. The society's lunches have been lively affairs, seldom leading to general consensus, but always allowing very different opinions to be both passionately argued and vigorously challenged.

It is to be hoped that this new-found political society will go on to become a thriving component of Westminster's intellectual life.



GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Social Suicide – a blow-by-blow account of the Westminster School General Knowledge team's season 05/06, confessed by Harry McNeill Adams (CC).

It's probably inevitable that a Westminster School pupil will, over his/her career pick up a fair amount of completely useless knowledge. Luckily, for those on the dizzy heights of the intellectual Everest, there is a way to put these to some sort of use. It's called the Schools Challenge, and is a way for lots of nerdy types like myself to see who knows the largest amount of mostly pointless facts.

There are four people per team, two seniors and two juniors, and the simple aim is to see who can get the most questions right. Luckily, this year that team, made up of Giles Robertson, Alex Cardona, Jeremy Holt and Harry McNeill Adams, was us. It started on a cold winter evening against St. Paul's and ended on a warm summer afternoon against Solihull Grammar School, Westminster's most successful sporting institution carrying off the Schools' Challenge Trophy for the second year in a row.

It hadn't been easy all the way through the competition. We had yet again almost been stopped in the semi-finals by RGS Chelmsford, but had won through thanks to an inspired team performance to sneak a sixty point win. So, on to the final. It was an anxious beginning, but our nerves soon evaporated as we raced into an early lead, which we never gave up, and thanks to a storming last five minutes from Alex Cardona especially, we won by 150 points and were crowned national champions.

But what was the price of the win? Well, I became very well acquainted with Guildford station, a place I'd prefer to forget in a hurry. I had to give up my fifth form outing. Most of all, joining the general knowledge team doesn't exactly send you zooming up the social ladder, thanks to people's completely unjustified prejudices. But was it worth it? Of course it was. I can say with pride that I'm a national champion, not something that many Westminsters can boast. I know I'm not like one of those mathletes in "Mean Girls", but I do feel the same kind of camaraderie with my team. And although you don't tend to meet any Lindsay Lohans, who needs to? You have general knowledge instead. So until next year, when the next lower shell is "delegated" responsibility for the writing of this article, it's goodnight from me, and goodnight from the Westminster School General Knowledge Team. Goodnight.



FRENCH PLAY: L'AVARE

"Certainly one of the most ambitious plays of recent times and the very first play to be performed entirely in French, this was definitely a challenge well accomplished by all involved."

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Above:
Scene from
The Magic Flute.

Above:
Artwork by Ralph Barton.

Left:
Scene from L'Avare.



GEORG BÜCHNER PLAY
**DANTON'S
DEATH**

When someone leans across to you at dinner and suggests that you should take a break from working and go and watch a play the usual response is a very simple but very polite no, affirms Steve Conyers (BB), righteously.

The stress of changing those unalterable study plans that you have so carefully constructed and changing out of uniform to go to the theatre is just too much effort. But for some reason the night of *Danton's Death* was different – I either did not have my excuses prepared well enough or maybe it was just fate. One way or the other, I went, sat in my seat.

When the dramatic world hears the words “*Danton's Death*” the immediate reaction appears to be “gadzooks, it's unstageable!” and they have a point. The play is, in essence, a record of speeches from the French Revolution, and it's rather too long. Georg Büchner wrote the highly researched piece in about 5 weeks, but he died before he could ever arrange for its staging. In fact the script was lost until its premiere 60 years after its author's death.

The very first scene of a drunken Danton wandering about the stage with character after character attempting to persuade him into fighting back against Robespierre's terror put the audience into drama mode instantly. The production was a powerful testament not

only to the 19th-century playwright's genius but also to the terrible consequence of employing fear and loathing in the pursuit of power.

Edmund Digby-Jones's Danton was mercurial and full of life, a bull of a man who defies his enemies and goes to the guillotine convinced they would not dare to condemn him. His booming voice gives a sense of the oratory, and puts him in direct contrast with the thoughtful, methodical lawyer, Robespierre, played perfectly by Michael Theodosiou.

This is a play about oratory, about the age of reason gone wrong and about the fickle nature of the mob. What was amazing about this production however, was that the audience themselves became the mob, swayed by the last great speech. Coming back after the interval I rather thought someone at the front would start knitting. That is not to put down the merits of the array of screaming characters, who played the mob, that made up the baseline of the production. Too many to mention, they played an array of urchins, whores, jurors and executioners, slipping with perfect ease between the roles.



SIXTH FORM CABARET
**HARRY'S
HARBOUR
BAZAAR**

As someone whose musical tastes are firmly rooted in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries but nevertheless with a taste for an occasional bit of Cole Porter and the like, I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I went, bravely all by myself, to the sixth form cabaret in June, writes a toe-tapping GMF.

But with a rare free evening and free wine and entertainment over the road, it seemed at least worth testing the water. I enjoyed it so much I came back the next night with two family members in tow.

Devised by Chris Barton, with the words and music of Tom Waits, and texts by Sam Shepard and John Dos Passos, this was ninety minutes of sheer quality entertainment from the moment I was shown to my seat and served by the ebullient MC, Edmund Digby-Jones (whom I barely recognised as the slightly self-effacing fifth former of a few years ago) through to the uplifting and extended whole-cast finale. Everything was just right, from late waitresses complaining about late babysitters (Natasha Lloyd-Owen) to the superb band (Hugh Logan Ellis, Michael Theodosiou and a plurality of Bartons). There was earthy singing from Soumaya Keynes, Miranda Foster, Krystyna Kosciusko and Max Barton; a wonderful piece about Mr Snip Snip Snip the barber convincingly sung by Ted Marcus and danced by members of the company which reminded me of *Happy Days* and *The Fonz* and couldn't help but raise a big smile from all around; the highlight for me was Matilda Hay tapdancing to Michael Theodosiou's *Tabletop Joe*. I also loved Peter Chequer's carefully energetic choreography and the evident fun that the cast had in executing it, especially in *Fly Away Home*, the irrepressible Alicia Koenig's telephone monologue to her new lover; Sophie Clarke's world-weary bar-room customer and everybody's completely convincing (well, they were to me) American accents. Oliver Hamilton could make a new career as a cocktail barman and he was ably assisted by Cecily Taube and Lottie Kirk making their roles every bit as essential as their musical and dancing counterparts.

My 14 year old companion of the second night was a girl whose headmistress has banned even the mildest of expletives from any school production; she found it a refreshing revelation that perhaps all schools weren't quite like hers. I found it a glorious end to term, deeply refreshing in the way that all good music should be – indeed I find myself still humming bits of it eight months later.

Much praise must go to Oliver Hamilton, whose speech on the night of his execution moved some of the audience to tears – a rare sight in a Westminster production.

However the last word must go to Max Hoehn, the director. Not only was he responsible for a complete redrafting of Büchner's play but he also turned the Lecture Room, with bare staging, into every backdrop he needed, and for turning what could appear to be a historical source into a real piece of theatre. The play's epic construction was not practically devised for a single architectural setting, as were Shakespeare's plays; Büchner was writing for a theatre of the mind, in which scenes could shift instantaneously without sacrificing either concreteness or wealth of detail. Max and his able stage-hands caught this sentiment precisely, and seldom have I enjoyed a play as much for it.

DANTON'S DEATH

“This is a play about oratory, about the age of reason gone wrong and about the fickle nature of the mob. What was amazing about this production however, was that the audience themselves became the mob, swayed by the last great speech.”

Above
(top and far right):
Characters from
Danton's Death
Photographed
by Jamie Stoker.



SIX PLAYS, ONE FESTIVAL
 "The ending was masterfully acted and organised to maximise emotional impact, and the climactic ending was a great moment on which to end the Festival."

UPPER SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL

This year's Scratch Play was replaced by a series of plays under the title of the Upper School Drama Festival. There were six plays performed twice each over a week. Lucy Du (GG), Robert Ellard (HH), Mrinal Mohanka (BB) and Francis Gene-Rowe (DD) were variously in the audience to review the productions.

The Upper School Drama festival opened to a cracking start, with *Absent Friends* by Alan Ayckbourn. Not only did it brew the crowds into fits of giggles, the directors did justice to the playwright's astute and sensitive portrayal of the complex inter-character relationships. Despite fluctuations in the dynamic between actors, the cast's immaculate comic timing still made it a stunning show. Ben Stevenson's endearingly jittery John and Connie Mackworth-Young's sparkingly agitating Marge shone as the outstanding performances of the night.

Next in the drama festival came two short plays by Roald Dahl. The first, *The Man from the South*, portrayed the teutonic madness of Sam Buchdahl against the abject terror of the two main protagonists, in a bizarre competition over a cigarette lighter, with a brutal consequence involving a meat cleaver and a thumb. The actors displayed strong command of accent, and created effective dramatic tension. A hard act to follow indeed: "*Mr. Botibol*" did this admirably; showing compressed biography of a lonely, failure of a man, played by Max Owens, who escapes from the world through a strange fantasy of conducting an orchestra. The actors deserve every credit for their superb interpretation of a man

who falls apart, helped by some superbly overdone silent piano playing, an enthusiastic record shop owner (Elizabeth Donger) and a deadpan butler (Ian Clancy). Two fine examples of Roald Dahl's more unusual works.

The fifth play in the upper school drama festival was *The Kitchen*. The play is based in the kitchen of a popular restaurant, the owner of which isn't the most popular of people, at least among the workers. For the owner, the kitchen comes first. Everything else can wait! The numerous chefs are trying to welcome a new cook into the kitchen and they show him what it's like to be a part of their kitchen. The play begins with the discussion of an earlier incident which resulted in one of the cooks being given a black eye. Chefs and waitresses lightened the mood in the kitchen with humorous dances and songs.

A piece directed and co-written by Ted Marcus, *Old Girls* is a reunion of a bunch of shallow, snobbish and self-interested friends who went to the same school. As the play unfolds, the girls begin to murder one another, and it becomes apparent that they have been assigned to kill each other by their old teacher, some sort of spymaster, who also assigned them to (spy on) their husbands twenty-odd years before.

There were excellent performances all round. Jo Starte gave a wonderfully hysterical

speech, while James Grover played an excellent bumbling husband, seemingly unaware of the unfolding mayhem, until at the end he turns out to have been working for the (unnamed) school all along. An excellent piece, I especially enjoyed the moment when one of the 'girls' enthuses over all the different public schools begging her son to join them – when asked about Westminster, she angrily shouts 'He didn't get a place!' – Doctor Spurr seemed to enjoy that joke – I wonder why?

The production of *The Duchess of Malfi* directed by Edmund Digby-Jones made up the seventh and final play in the drama festival, and was the longest single piece.

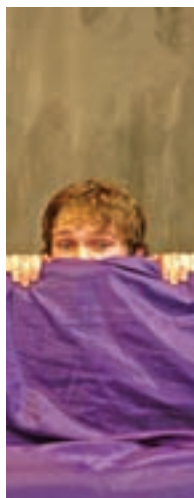
The production began in an eerie darkness, and felt stylised in its dramatic form – all the characters but Antonio (Hugo Flaux) have face paint on, the design

different to suit each character. A scary tragedy, *Malfi* is not an easy play to direct or act in, but the cast and director pulled it off wonderfully. Scene changes moved slickly, accompanied by spooky music and artistic lighting changes.

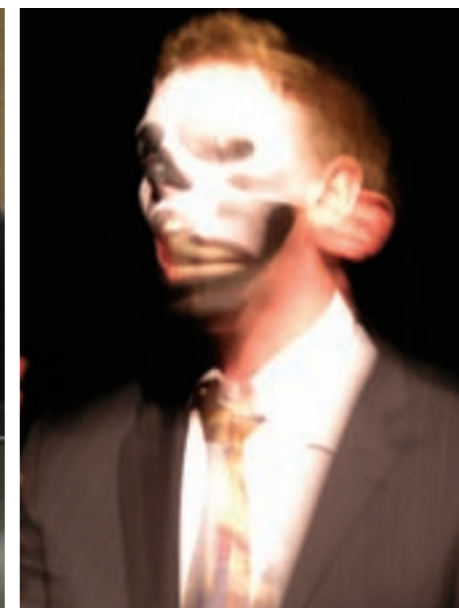
The acting was excellent, and specifically Alex Critchley chilled my blood as the malevolent duke, who falls from unsettling instability to outright insanity during the play as his mad schemes consume more and more lives. Sophie O'Mahoney gave a very effective performance as the Duchess, hounded to maintain her widowhood by her two brothers – the Duke and the Cardinal (a scary Seth Pimlot). Joe Passmore is Daniel Bosola, who tries to put a stop to them as the play concludes. The ending was masterfully acted and organised to maximise emotional impact, and the climactic ending was a great moment on which to end the Festival.



THE SIX PLAYS
 Absent Friends
 The Man from the South
 Mr. Botibol
 The Kitchen
 Old Girls
 The Duchess of Malfi



Above, right and opposite page: Scenes from the Remove Plays and the Upper School Drama Festival.





UPPER SCHOOL PLAY
CARGO
BLUES

For their winter production, the Upper School's dramatists performed a new work by Chris Barton, *Cargo Blues*, which dealt with celebrity, madness and the passing of an era, writes Robert Ellard (HH).

A rockstar (Max Barton, brilliantly ambiguous) who faked his own death in order to escape the ruthlessly commercial world of the 1960s music industry is sought out by a record company representative (Pany Heliotis), the most serious of the bunch, and a brilliant counterpoint to Barton, fallen on hard times in a car park. With the assistance of a ridiculous, and occasionally hilarious lawyer, played by Edmund Digby-Jones, and a camerawoman, Jo Starte, he attempts to tempt the musician back to save him from bankruptcy and to make music matter again. Without giving too much away, Cargo Brown refuses, preferring the isola-

tion of the car park with its plethora of deranged tramps to the blood-sucking world he fled. The set, brilliantly designed and lit by Mr. Barton and Mr. Chequer, deserves special mention for its brilliant design. A thoroughly thought-provoking evening.



Above, below, right and opposite page top: Scenes from *Cargo Blues*.



BUSBY'S HOUSE PLAY
THE BUSBERG
FESTIVAL

One of the main problems facing the director(s) of a house play is that there is a semi-official obligation, coming from the housemaster, to include as many people as is possible, so as to make the performance a full house affair, writes an unstoppable Francis Gene-Rowe (DD).

Although there tends to be a higher level of motivation from the actors, at the same time the cast has to be quite big. There are two ways of dealing with this: the Dryden's approach is to have a small cast and sling everyone else along in some marginal helping role. The other approach is to involve everyone by putting on a series of sketches. I had always preferred the former (the fact that I'm in Dryden's has nothing to do with it) until I saw the Busby's house play.

Described enthusiastically by a member of the audience as 'the funniest thing since *Snakes on a Plane*', it certainly was one of the most amusing plays that I have seen in a very long time. Set as a festival in a middle German village, *The Busberg Festival* had prudently inserted sections of dancing between the sketches. The dances seemed lifted out of the best of Monty Python tradition- the handkerchief dance was probably the funniest, although the stick dance was a strong contender – the sight of fifth form dancing to continental country music is one of the most hilarious I probably will ever witness. The sketches themselves were from Grimm's Fairy Tales, with lower school protagonists and a scattering of sixth form. Sophie O'Mahoney made a hilarious witch in *Hansel and Gretel*, but was better as a neurotic and boozy mother in *Clever Hans*, my favorite of the sketches. Overall, *The Busberg Festival* was immensely enjoyable to watch and very well put together by various directors – the band who played the music live also deserve a tribute. All in all, perhaps the best house play since I've come to Westminster.

LOWER SCHOOL PLAY
THE TAMING
OF THE SHREW

Lower School plays at Westminster tend to appeal to a very special sense of humour; gags tend to revolve around boys dressed as women, and sexual innuendo about as subtle as a brick to the farce, asserts an expert, Francis Gene-Rowe (DD), who claims to have been involved (either with cast or production) with every Lower School Play to grace the Millicent Fawcett Hall since he joined the school.

To summarise the performance, I would describe it as twice as long (and four times as well put together) as last year's *Menaechmi*. In other words very, very funny – even with the potential comic deadweight in the form of the selected play – *The Taming of the Shrew* (an excellent farce, but unfortunately possessing an Elizabethan sense of humour). A good starting point to describe the quality (in that oh-so-Lower School way) would be to point out that it actually had a proper programme – highly unusual for any Westminster production. Furthermore, whoever had put it together had actually made it funny – there was a section describing the cast members' private lives in highly amusing ways; this, coming in addition to an unusually informative section describing the play's plot and production history.

The story itself was faithful to the glorious Shakespeare version- namely a rich merchant (Baptista, played by Arav Gupta) with two daughters – good looking Bianca (Louis Lunts) and sharp tongued Katharina (Theo Gordon) – the story revolving around their eventual marriages, and the 'taming' of Katharina to be an obedient wife by Petruchio (Vyvyan Almond), an adventurer from Verona.

The production was extremely well-oiled and moved from scene to scene with great grace and efficiency – the starting scene of a boarding school dormitory was wonderfully contemporary (appropriate music, juicy posters, etc.), and there was an abrupt transition into Shakespearean speech, pulled off with great professionalism. Costume had been selected in good taste – particularly effective was the gorilla suit worn by Petruchio to represent the canon's 'absurd outfit'. Direction clearly knew what it was doing here, and Vyvyan's expression (half proud, half resigned) was priceless to see, and there were some other nice embellishments – characters being caked in ashes when crossing themselves, a crazy chipmunk dance, a man coming out of a cupboard and the drunk (Max Gill) throwing up on a member of staff (Mr Ullathorne on my night, but on different nights there were different members of staff – messrs Barot and Sproat). All this, and much more ham acting and special effects (including an exploding computer) made this an exceptional performance to see – one which will be an inspiration for future generations of Westminster, I hope.



THE FRENCH PLAY
L'AVARE

Molière's *L'Avare*, ambitiously scripted in the original 17th Century French with a cast of 13 actors directed by Mr. Arthur, was performed in the Millicent Fawcett Hall, writes Christopher Sykes (MM).

The play concerned the tale of the rich but miserly Harpagon who impedes the happiness of his children by preventing each of their marriages in different ways. His daughter Elise, wants to marry Valere, but Valere is a servant and Harpagon wants Elise to marry Seigneur Anselme. Meanwhile Cléante wants to marry Marianne, but Harpagon (who does not know his son's intentions) has his own eye on her. Harpagon's children and their lovers are forced to conceal their desire and take part in schemes to fulfil their love which lead to an eventual showdown and reconciliation at the end with the help of the rich and kindly Seigneur Anselme.

Harpagon was portrayed by Sam Buchdahl, startlingly transformed into a decrepit old man, complete with blacked out teeth and greasy hair. His long-suffering children were Elise (Katie Taffler) and Cléante, portrayed with hilariously camp flourishes by Charles Walker Arnott. Other main characters were the gentleman posing as Harpagon's servant, Valère (Alex Cardona) and the object of Harpagon and Cleante's desire, Marianne (Charlotte Seymour). The supporting roles were Maitre Jacques (the servant of Harpagon, played by Dave Clare), Maitre Simon (Will Aldred), Le Commissaire (Ben Brock), Seigneur Anselme (Emeric de Monfront). The servants were played by Flora Easton, Max Gill, Vyvyan Almond and Patrick Beardmore played the quick-witted La Flèche. Frosine, the matchmaker who arranges marriages, was played by Suzie Huldtt. The lines were almost flawless and the actors managed their French grammar while still keep-

ing dramatic necessity intact. For those who, like me, couldn't perfectly understand the 17th Century French, an English synopsis of each act was given so even the least able Francophiles could keep up. Certainly one of the most ambitious plays of recent times and the very first play to be performed entirely in French, this was definitely a challenge well accomplished by all involved.

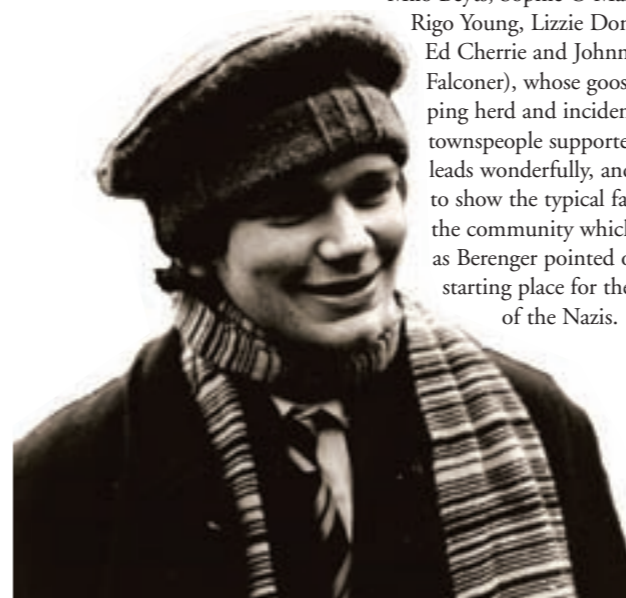


IONESCO PLAY RHINOCEROS

Queueing for Adam Tanaka's production of Eugène Ionesco's *The Rhinoceros*, it was drawn to my attention that this was the first time, as far as they knew, that a play had been put on within the bounds of the Abbey, reports the indefatigable Robert Ellard (HH).

The play, which was put on in the gym, was indeed ambitious. An example of French Absurdist theatre, it also had the peculiarity of having not scene changes, but audience movements. The lighting (overseen by Charles Howell) was sympathetic and atmospheric, and achieved solely through the use of bar heaters and the gym's ordinary lights. Tanaka's production stressed the interaction between audience and actors extremely well: at one point, I was seized by Berenger (played superbly by Edmund Digby-Jones, and by far the finest performance of the evening) as he speculated on his appearance relative to the rhinoceroses who have taken over the town.

The play, which deals with occupied France under the Nazis through the metaphor of people turning into rhinoceroses, also satirised the status of logic (performed to great amusement by Mikey Theodosiou), poked fun at the notion of a career man (Nick Finerty, rejected by the excellent Thea Stanton) and even turned its venom upon the notion of the self-improving man, through the lens of Max Owens, whose onstage transformation into a rhinoceros, combined with his rants throughout the first scene of the play, constituted a perfect foil for Berenger's studied timidity. Edmund Digby-Jones provided one of the strongest individual performances I have seen on the Westminster stage, particularly once Daisy had joined the herd, when he held enthralled the entire Gym for an extended and brilliantly varied monologue. This was his last performance at Westminster, and it is a fitting end to the relationship. Paudits must also go to Austin Nicolaides, whose Botard was certainly the most riotously funny of the performances on display. The whole was supported by an enthusiastic company (Peter Huhne, Lottie Kirk, Matilda Hay, Khushaal Ved, Milo Beyts, Sophie O'Mahony, Rigo Young, Lizzie Donger, Ed Cherrie and Johnny Falconer), whose goose-stepping herd and incidental townspeople supported the leads wonderfully, and helped to show the typical face of the community which was, as Berenger pointed out, the starting place for the spread of the Nazis.



DURRENMATT PLAY THE PHYSICISTS

Of all the (many) Westminster plays which had the privilege of being reviewed by me, I must say that my initial impression of *The Physicists* was the most favourable, opines Francis Gene-Rowe (DD).

The fact that for the first time ever there was a seat reserved for me might have something to do with that. That said, the initial atmosphere was terrific. *The Physicists*, written by Friedrich Durrenmatt, is set in a mental institution with only three patients remaining. The opening scene shows the police having arrived following the third murder of a nurse at the institution by a patient. As the play progresses, the audience discover that in fact none of the three patients (all physicists) is insane – they have all been feigning insanity for their own reasons. Two of them – one who claims to be Isaac Newton (Vyvyan Almond) and the other who asserts that he is Albert Einstein (Nicholas Finerty) turn out to be spying for cold war powers on the third physicist – Johann Mobius (excellently performed by Daniel Grant Smith), who claims to receive visitations from King Solomon. Ultimately, Mobius persuade the others to maintain their façade of madness in order to conceal his discoveries (which are of enormous import) from humanity. However, they are discovered by the genuinely insane owner of the institution Doktor Mathilde von Zahnd (Josephine Starte), who turns out to have stolen the discoveries over the years the three have been committed to the institution – the play ends with the three physicists contemplating their loss, and the impotence of their situation.

Director Ted Marcus clearly sustained an extremely high standard throughout the performance, and also credit must be given to the technical operators, cramped in the corner as they were. The venue for this performance (the Lecture Room) continued the trend of creative use of space in production this term – a terrace outside the window was used as an effective back-stage area during the performance. All the drama was very professional and high quality, and special mention should go Josephine Starte, who played a difficult role with great skill and finesse, as well as to Daniel Grant Smith for his sterling performance. That said, it was nice to see Vyvyan Almond in a sparkly Newton costume, cane in hand, with hair cascading, and a minuscule gun pointing at the ever twitching Nicholas Finerty. All in all, an excellent show.

THE PHYSICIST

"The venue for this performance (the Lecture Room) continued the trend of creative use of space in production this term – a terrace outside the window was used as an effective back-stage area during the performance."



Above:
Scenes from *Rhinoceros*.



6-11 AUGUST 2006
ORCHESTRA
TOUR TO SPAIN

Providing the opening concert of the Arts Festival in the Catalonian town of Castelldefels was not what we had expected during the Chamber Orchestra's summer tour to Spain, reveals GStJH, who led the school musicians on tour.

Nonetheless, that was precisely what we found out we had done at the end of our second concert in the 11th century church of Santa Maria when the Mayor stood up and addressed the orchestra with a vote of thanks on behalf of the Festival!

Based at the comfortable Hotel Casa Marti in Comaruga, complete with pool and stunning views of the Mediterranean, the orchestra took to the road and performed a programme of music in three different venues: as well as Castelldefels, concerts were held in the picturesque town square in Cunit and in the sump-



tuous gardens of the fascinating Museu Deu in El Vendrell, the home town of the 20th century cello virtuoso and legend Pablo Casals. Audiences were excellent, large and appreciative for all three concerts and made up of local music lovers as well as supportive family and friends of the performers.

The programme consisted of Haydn's *Trauer* Symphony no 44., Mozart's Flute Concerto in G with soloist Alex Leese, Finzi's *Bagatelles* with clarinet soloist Anthony Friend and a new composition by William Blake (MM), *The Death of Dromornis*. The concerts were conducted by Mr Hopkins with Dr Savaskan conducting the Blake. Alex Leese and Anthony Friend performed with great expressiveness and panache in their works while William Blake's challenging yet compelling work held the audiences in breathless suspense.

Time off was spent relaxing at the hotel and on various excursions including a trip to Barcelona to see Parc Guell, and the incomparable Sagrada Familia amongst other things in this beautiful and fascinating city. A trip to the *Aquapolis* waterpark provided many laughs on one afternoon, and we even managed a trip to the beach at Sitges.

The Director of Music was grateful to those colleagues who accompanied the tour and provided much help and support, Dr Savaskan, Miss Hughes-Rees, Miss Rees, Mr Witney and Dr Boulton.



18 JANUARY 2007 ADRIAN BOULT CONCERT

Guy Hopkins welcomes the Belcea String Quartet, one of the most sought-after and talented string quartets in Europe.

For the twenty first Sir Adrian Boult Memorial Concert, the school was immensely fortunate to welcome the Belcea String Quartet to perform a programme of Mozart and Bartok Up School. They have been resident at the Wigmore Hall and have an exclusive recording contract with EMI. In 2007 they are due to record the complete cycle of Bartok Quartets for them. For this reason it was particularly interesting to hear the First and Third Bartok Quartets as well as Mozart's Quartet in D K 499.

K 499, nicknamed the "Hoffmeister" after the name of a friend and benefactor of Mozart, is an extremely beautiful work in terms of the composer experimenting with a new richness of texture and sonority. The Belcea played it with burnished tone, and the sheer beauty of sound was as expressive and compelling as the musical argument.

The Third Quartet was played next and formed a contrast in every way imaginable. Written in 1927 it is in many ways the most radically "modern" of all his quartets, also the shortest and most intense. The Belcea explored and articulated with fascinating clarity the double arch pattern of the work's construction and held the audience spell-bound with strongly contrasted moods. It was clear how Bartok's new manner of developing musical material quickly led the way for Schoenberg and Stravinsky to make similar experiments.

After the interval we heard the First Quartet of 1908/9, more expansive and enigmatic than the Third. Part of its mystery is tied up in the use of the so-called "Geyer motif" in the principal theme of the first movement. Stefi Geyer was the performer of Bartok's first Violin Concerto and his first real love. The motif is first used in this concerto and was re-used throughout his career in other works, clearly with personal significance for the composer.

The Belcea performed with great animation, again articulating the structure but here in this earlier work knitting together older styles and sounds with folk elements and more modern developmental techniques.

Many in the audience spoke of how intense and gripping the playing was – surely this is the wonder of such abstract music in the hands of experts; truly the listener is transported for an hour or so to another place – another way of perceiving the world.





NEW MUSIC 2007

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC CONCERT

Contemporary music. Perhaps a difficult one. People have a tendency to be afraid of the complications that are inherent in string quartets played from helicopters, muses Robert Ellard (HH) who attended along with Timothee de Faramond (LL) and many others.

Well, let them be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. The school's contemporary music concert was, frankly, wonderful. As they do each year, the crowds braved the January chill and eagerly flocked *en masse* to School to get their annual fill of the latest sound and talent emerging on the London scene. This year the tone was less intellectually exuberant, with the performers focusing their energies on giving some of the heavyweights of the canon a serious and perhaps long overdue performance. They succeeded admirably. The evening, inevitably, belonged to Blake. His displays of virtuosity on a solo basis (Lutoslawski's "Sacher Variation") and as part of the Senior Quartet (Bartók's String Quartet No. 1, with Cyrus Lyons, Ben Van der Spar and Neil Amin Smith) formed two of the highlights of the first half. The intensity of the last movement of Bartók's first quartet, the composer's artistic arrival, was powerfully transmitted by the players who, for all the exactitude of their playing, also managed to create some of the roughness necessary to do justice to the Hungarian origins of the themes.

The highlights of the evening however were the UK premiere of William Blake's *Death of a Dromornis* and the world premiere of Freddie James' *Atmospheres pour orgue*. James's sophisticated use of chord streaming techniques and his mastery of the instrument showed him to be one of the most promising young talents to emerge from Sinan Savaskan's workshops in several years. *Death of a Dromornis* reflected Blake's developing maturity as a composer and was a demonstration of his impressive understanding of orchestral composition: there was a clear sense that this promising young com-



"The highlights of the evening however were the UK premiere of William Blake's *Death of a Dromornis* and the world premiere of Freddie James' *Atmospheres pour orgue*."

poser was finding his own voice and developing his influences, amongst them Bartok, in innovative ways.

It is a wonderfully evocative work which the programme explained was autobiographical, and was titled in tribute to a Byelorussian film about dinosaurs. The first half not only started with a bang: it ended with one as well. Cyrus Lyons' extraordinary rendition of Gavin Bryars' "*The North Shore*" was probably the single best of the individual performances of the evening. Other first half highlights of the more conventional sort included Alexander Leese and Valerie Teh's rendition of the Elizabeth Lutyens' "Footfalls", an atmospheric piece for flute and piano, which showed extreme technical poise, and Freddie James, whose two organ pieces (Jehan Alain's *Le Jardin Suspendu*, and his own composition *Atmospheres pour l'orgue*) showed great skill. The most progressive pieces of the evening were performed by George Barton, whose "*King of Denmark*" by Morton Feldman for solo percussionist was a brilliant display of the technical control which Barton is so good at.

Alex Leese showcased some instrumental brilliance in his perfect performance of Reich's *Vermont Counterpoint* in which he played the flute and piccolo, a true Minimalist masterpiece; his rich tone being well adapted to the thick harmonic textures created by the superimposition of eleven flutes (ten of which were pre-recorded and relayed in through a quadrophonic sound system). and Alexander Leese's "*Vermont Counterpoint*" by Steve Reich, The School Orchestra's contribution to the evening came in the last three pieces on the programme. Joshua Borin also succeeded in injecting the folk essence much needed to bring to life Lutoslawski's Dance Preludes.

The programme was strongly weighted towards earlier 20th century music which has been neglected in past years. Tom Kennedy's ever-intimate style of expression gave a new delicacy to the early Barber songs he selected and Ginny Middleton's burnished trumpet tone accurately captured the frantic dying moments of Romanticism in her powerful rendering of Bloch's Proclamation. Lastly, what might be termed a piece of fun, a tribute to the recently deceased Sir Malcolm Arnold (1921–2006), an arrangement of F.J. Ricketts' "*Colonel Bogey*", which we were told was a preview of a longer work to come. A wonderful evening of wonderful music: I eagerly await next year.

GERMAN LIEDERABEND

Wednesday 6th December saw the welcome return to Westminster School of the German Lieder concert, a tradition begun, encouraged and maintained by Richard Stokes, the former Head of the German department, writes Sam Buchdahl (AHH).

Previously, Westminster has been treated to a selection of Schubert Lieder, and then to the Cabaret songs of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill from the 1930s. This time, it was back to the 19th century, in the company of Beethoven (*An die ferne Geliebte*), and Schumann (*Kerner-Lieder*). Sung by Wolfgang Holzmaier and with the piano accompaniment of Imogen Cooper, the evening was an enormous success – perhaps even the best Lieder recital yet. The final applause was certainly long enough to persuade the artists to favour their audience with an encore, and even Herr Hennig's 6th Form German class enjoyed themselves – taking it upon themselves to give a (somewhat lonely) standing ovation as singer and pianist finally took their leave.





8 MARCH 2007

CHARITY ROCK CONCERT

It's just after five; it's still 2007. If it wasn't for Chris French nervously tweaking a mixing desk and the sight of a few amplifiers and a drum kit scattered around the stage, you'd think that this was a Lieder recital, writes NJH, who casts a semi-professional eye over the proceedings.

I've just got as comfortable as it is ever possible to get on those horrible seats Up School when Kahlua Dreams take the stage to polite applause. They open with a deep psychedelic rock workout that serves to showcase the axe handling skills of Thom Tyerman and Simon Cahill. It all ends rather abruptly but before we have time to draw breath Bernard Keegan-Fischer sets a huge swirling keyboard riff in motion and it feels like The Doors have just landed in SW1. Thom's menacing baritone growl shortly confirms what we are hearing is indeed their thumping version of 'Five To One'. This is followed by a grungy rendition of 'Leyla' that features Bernard on vocals and a big Alex Digby drum solo. It sounds so muddy that if the aforementioned 'Leyla' had been a hippo then she would have been a sincerely happy one.

destroy any chance they might have had of winning that court case by launching into a great cover of the wonderful 'Dress' by the same artist. The band isn't yet quite as tight as the item of clothing referred to in the lyric but they are cool and sound great, so who cares? They show their true pop punk credentials by ending with 'Teenage Kicks'; it's a good twist to hear this classic with a female vocal and Will Pote further helps to make this rendition their own with some laid-back guitar stylings in the verses to give contrast to the frenetic bridge and chorus.

Before Louis Shadwick and his outfit 'The Next Projected Sound' arrive on stage, some clever technical person finally locates the master dimmer switch for Up School. The lights go down a few notches; this is well timed as the mood of the music is about to move closer to the darker side. Louis begins to create waves of slow melodic piano whilst the Dunning brothers indulge their multi-instrumentalist tendencies in the background. Louis serenades us with his bleak lyrics: 'Caught between ghostly smiles and faded faces' begs comparison to Ian Curtis at the height of his powers. Some metronomic drumming gives 'Your Demons' and the following song some powerful rhythmic sections which bring to mind the expansive soundscapes of bands such as Coldplay and Radiohead; at times we wonder exactly what Will and Tom are doing on stage (so, it seems, do they); Louis is firmly the centre of attention as he layers on the gloom and then pierces it once more with heart-wrenching falsetto. It's refreshing that not every act on the bill tonight is peddling cheeky guitar rock and they receive warm applause from the crowd as they finish their set.

Next up are The United Exports Of London. Joe Capildeo proves to be the most energetic and confident front man of the evening so far and he lightens the mood with whooping-a-plenty and mockney swagger. The band performs versions of songs by the Arctic Monkeys ('From The Ritz To The Rubble') and The Strokes ('New York City Cops') infused with a liberal dose of Westminster camp, and some nice on-stage bitching between the band members adds to the theatre. Nick Day pummels the drum kit mercilessly

The audience are now suitably warmed up as The Rahs appear. Lucy Du is the only girl performing tonight and it is good to see that rock chick-ery is still alive and well at Westminster. Starting with their exciting self-penned track 'Pascagoula', The Rahs immediately win over the audience, although the song borrows so liberally from PJ Harvey's 'Sheela-Na-Gig' that it could merit legal action. They then promptly



JAZZ CONCERT

Despite a certain lack of support from students (Chris Sykes and I were the only ones there), notes an acerbic Robert Ellard (HH), the School Jazz concert provided a marvellous evening's entertainment.

Hosted in the Manoukian Centre's main hall, which had been "converted" into a facsimile of a jazz club for the evening, complete with tables and a bar, serving copious quantities of orange juice, it kicked off with the Big Band, who began the evening with three pieces including an excellent version of "Caravan"

throughout whilst Joe's vocals and bass-lines get rather lost in the mix; it's down to reliable George Johnston on guitar to try to keep it all together. The Exports' own 'Playground' is ultimately the track which comes across best and suggests serious creative promise lurking beneath the bluster.

The Young Hollywoods are, not surprisingly, the most accomplished act of the night. They feature Karnig Manoukian and Charlie Cosser moonlighting from their main project, 'Death Can Dance' with a highly proficient backing of black-shirted Remove beefcake; Alex Morris on guitar, Ollie Kember on drums and 'medallion man' Eduardo Musciacco on bass. The show is of course stolen by Charlie's high octane vocal delivery which is manic yet melodic; he has excellent microphone technique (something that the other singers should take note of) so despite all of his posturing and leaping around, not a word is lost. Their set consists of heavy indie powerpop songs with strong choruses; Head Automatica's 'At the Speed Of A Yellow Bullet' is followed by the excellent 'Cannibal Girl' and 'Checkmarks'. We are definitely left wanting more.

Last up are Max Barton's 'Underground Pirates'. Whilst not being as polished as the previous act their set is equally exciting; Captain Max has gathered his crew together and set a course over the discordant punk rock ocean, and returned triumphant with a giant booty of off-kilter ska and funk-tinged indie guitars! Max's rapid fire lyrics cut across the united clatter of 'Ship's Boy' Mikey Theodosiou's guitar and Charlie Walker-Arnett's bass with great clarity; songs like 'Superhero' and 'Safe Hands' have us all wanting to get up and starting shaking our stuff under the Greaze Bar (of course nobody actually does this). The excellent George Barton is the most entertaining drummer of the night, sporting outrageous stripy socks and a shirt unbuttoned even further than Eduardo Hollywood. It's a lively end to a really enjoyable showcase of fresh Westminster rock talent smoothly stage managed by John Blackwell (who ends up having to crouch by the bass amp dealing with a bad connection that has plagued the bassists all evening). Rock music may continue to evolve but some things, like dodgy guitar leads, never change.

by Juan Tizol. They were followed by the Lower School jazz band, who displayed much promise, despite the sad diminishment of the trumpet section due to seasonal ailments.

After a short interlude for solo artists, including all the innuendo conveyed by the words "Jazz Standard", for which Rocky Bamford's excellent version of "Smoke gets in your Eyes" deserves a special mention. This was followed by the Upper School's Band, who despite the loss of their regular drummer and flautist to University interviews, provided an excellent set, including a new work, "Put It Where You Want It" by George Barton (*in absentia*, replaced at short notice by the excellent Alex Digby). All in all, a very excellent evening.

MADRIGALISTS JAZZ

I have to confess to a nasty habit: I am a jazz nut, admits Robert Ellard (HH), who just can't stop the music, or indeed writing about it.

There, it's off my chest. To say that my lust for the music I love was satiated by the Westminster Madrigalists would be to lie. A break with the repertoire hitherto performed, their Jazz Evening was a rampant success, featuring everything from elegant multi-part harmonies to stunning solos, not to mention strong accompanying performances. The programme began with an unaccompanied choral version of Porter's "Let's do it", which was handled superbly with a mix of humour and vivacity. This was the first of 7 such pieces, performed all with sensitivity, accuracy and unity, with sterling solos from Soumaya Keynes and Henry Keynes-Carpenter, conjuring up strong echoes of the Comedian Harmonists. Amongst these was a version of a personal favourite, "Smoke Gets in your Eyes", which at one point had me genuinely worried that I was going to ruin the performer's balance by beginning to weep. Disaster was averted, albeit narrowly; there were also several solo pieces, including two Tom Lehrer songs, performed by Felix Tusa and Henry Keynes-Carpenter with spirited bathos, a number of pieces for voice and guitar, including a sublime version of "A Nightingale can sing the Blues" (Soumaya Keynes, acc. James Wan), Miranda Townsend and Mikey Theodosiou's version of Rilo Kile's "I Never" (conjuring up echoes of the great Chet Atkins) and Gilly French's strong version of Porter's "So In Love" (acc. Jonathan Katz). An early highlight was also a band-accompanied version of "Somethin' Stupid", sung by Felix Tusa and Miranda Townsend, which showcased the instrumental talents of the performers as well as some excellent singing. The programme ended with "Autumn Leaves", an excellent end to an entertaining evening.



WESTMINSTER MADRIGALISTS

The Westminster Madrigalists were initially set up as a small, primarily *a capella* singing group to take full advantage of a particularly strong year of Remove singers, says Soumaya Keynes (GG).

On approaching several potential singers, some were confused as to what a madrigal was, but were told vaguely it was something to do with 'fa-la-la-ing'. Research would have revealed that madrigals are 16th century secular songs interweaving close harmony with thinly-veiled innuendoes. At the first rehearsal in the Manoukian, the choir sight-read through the 'Oxford Book of Madrigals'. Miss French conducted and held everything together with expert musical direction while the rest of the choir sang standing around the grand piano. The sound was wonderfully balanced and in tune, and concert planning began immediately.

The high standard of sight-reading, and the rate at which the choir worked through music, contributed to

a decision to branch out from pure madrigals to Palestrina, Tudor anthems, and even Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*. A concert was finally arranged on the 1st of December around rowing practice, Oxbridge interviews and far too many other extra-curricular activities. After a lengthy and successful poster campaign, latecomers ended up standing at the back of a packed Manoukian. Simon Nathan's countertenor solo in Gibbons' *This is the Record of John* soared through the hall, as did Felix Tusa's baritone solo in the *Fantasia*, ably accompanied by Dr Katz. Mr. Arthur also kindly stepped in at the last minute to help with the high tenor line. In total £237 was raised in a collection for Katy Tansey, the wonderful singing teacher of many Madrigalist members, who is currently fighting cancer.

Just over a week later the choir was in Abbey, performing Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia* to the school, accompanied by Freddie James on the organ, providing a Christmassy end to the term's singing. The pressure of *The Magic Flute* meant Lent term rehearsals became more difficult, which cost the choir William Blake, but gained Dr. Walsh, and so preparations continued for the next concert. At the end of the term the choir (with additional support from staff members Miss Sharpe, Dr Prentice and Mr. Kennedy) sang Palestrina's *Stabat Mater* in Abbey. Meanwhile, rehearsals started for a black tie concert of popular jazz song arrangements such as *Summertime*, *Autumn Leaves* and *Let's Do It*, to be performed in the Election Term. The final 'Westminster Madrigalists' event is expected to be on Mayday, when the lost tradition of singing madrigals from College roof will be revived. Being a member of the Westminster Madrigalists has certainly been draining, but only because of the energy and enthusiasm everyone has put in to it, and it has resulted in a fantastic ensemble.

SCHOOL CONCERT

A welcome innovation to this year's school concert in November at St John's, Smith Square was offered by the School Sinfonietta, under the baton of Aidan Sproat, writes David Hargreaves.

Khachaturian's Sabre Dance was a happy choice to open events, rhythmical and optimistic, followed by the more testing *Pizzicato Polka* of Strauss father and son. But it was during *Les Patineurs* by Waldteufel, that I felt this youthful orchestra start to excel, demonstrating a real sense of dance as it might be played at a Ball. The arrangements were intelligent, the players confident and purposeful. By any yardstick, the Sinfonietta marks a happy step forward for Westminster's musicians.

The climax of the first half of the concert, however, was Brahms's Violin Concerto in D with Neil Amin-Smith as the soloist. He had been advised originally against attempting it – it's both challengingly long and fearfully temperamental – but his determination had melted the hearts of the Music Department. Listening, one sensed something of the enormous journey he had made: his playing was characterised by its lyricism, delicacy and finesse. Perhaps there were moments when it lacked a fraction of the power one knows he will bring to it within short years, but the final result was both personal and outstanding.

The orchestra clearly relished their part, demonstrably interested by the music, maintaining coherence during the long First Movement and the Adagio, achieving the flavour of Romany in the Third. Brahms, just like Beethoven, demands clarity and articulation, and they achieved both while eschewing any instinct to rush. Jonathan Tham was superb on the night – his tone both poignant and poised. Adrien Roux on the horn, Joshua Borin on the clarinet and Alex Leese on flute all

gave memorable moments, as did George Barton mastering the timpani with unbelievable accuracy.

Despite whispers beforehand from some of the orchestra that they were only moderately enjoying Vaughan Williams' London Symphony, come the night they rose magnificently to the challenge of performance, with some memorable playing from Adrien Roux and Cyrus Lyons. Under Imogen Tedbury's deft leadership, the Third Movement in particular was a soaring, triumphant, experience.

One curiosity of the evening came in the shape of a recollection from the wife of the late Dr John Rae, Head Master of Westminster from 1970 to 1986. When her husband first came to Westminster, the annual school concert at St John's had comprised, she thought, about six Westminster pupils. Nearly everyone else was a paid professional. *Plus ça change, plus pas la meme chose*. Happily, sometimes not.

Above and below: St John's Smith Square venue for the School Concert.





SCHOOL OPERA
THE MAGIC
FLUTE

To say that *The Flute* is a challenging piece is a gross understatement, agree GMF and Robert Ellard (HH).

There are the complicated three-part vocal passages sung by the Queen of the Night's servants and the Geniuses. There is the orchestration – Mozart was a master at writing music that sounds enticingly effortless but is far, far from being so. There is the problem of staging the piece in an original way. And, perhaps greater than any of these huge individual challenges, there is the problem of the Queen of the Night's arias.

Where to begin? The beginning. From the opening trombone fanfare that starts the overture, the piece is by its nature gripping. We were led through the overture under the direction of Guy Hopkins (leader: Neil Amin-Smith). This was a perfect foreshadowing for their later flawless deeds.

From his first entry, the pursued Tamino (William Blake) sang with perfect emotional poise and great beauty of tone. It is a danger in translated operas that no-one can understand a word. Not here: not only Will Blake, but all the other students too sang with impeccable diction. The girl with whom he falls in love, Pamina, sung by Vicky Andrews, gave a moving performance, inspiring deep feeling. The Queen of the Night's ladies (Rocky Bamford, Eleanor Turner-Moss, Krystyna Kosciuszko) performed their roles with style and confidence, especially considering the potential problems of intonation that often arise in close-harmony ensemble singing. The genii (Isobel Cave, Roland Walters and Benjamin Ainsworth-Taylor) not only had well-matched voices but also had the entire house in stitches with the mincing campness with which the roles were sung (coupled with the fact that all were dressed as Elvises). Papageno (Max Barton) from his entrance, likewise inspired much bathos: his strong

baritone perfectly complemented the more “noble” characters throughout. His sweetheart, Papagena (Alicia Koenig) performed with conviction and energy. Basil McDonald's Sarastro was delivered in a clear, powerful voice that handled the role flawlessly. In the vital role of Monostatos, Adam Cigman-Mark lent the most earthy and vicious of touches to the melee with a deliciously evil interpretation of the role. All were assisted by a more than excellent chorus.

Which leaves the Queen of the Night. I am fully aware that this article already contains far too many uses of subtle variations on the word “flawless”. The role is well-known for demanding a strong lyric beauty as well as a blindingly accurate and very high coloratura, and one sadly and all-too often sees unsatisfactory attempts on the professional operatic stage. Soumaya Keynes rose to the challenge, delivering both of the famously difficult arias with vigour, power, accuracy and (again)



“Chris Barton's staging was a delight. No tormented prince chased by a powerful serpent: the demons were in Tamino's head.”



CANTANDUM

Cantandum – the Singers and Friends of Westminster School Common Room – goes from strength to strength, trills GMF.

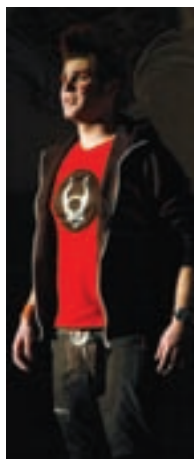
This time a year ago we were preparing for our first opera, a delightful and moving semi-staging in Ashburnham garden, directed by John Arthur with Fiona Sharp and Tom Kennedy in the title roles. There were also memorable contributions from Teehan Page as the Sorceress, dressed as a loud tabloid journalist, Kevin Walsh as the Sailor (complete with a wonderful last-minute surprise costume) and Jeremy Kemball as the impish Spirit, and a superb instrumental ensemble ably led by Michael Fields on archlute, theorbo and baroque guitar. Gilly French conducted on a glorious summer evening and the audience were enraptured.

Since then we have shown our versatility in a stunning programme of two difficult mass settings by Palestrina *Missa Papae Marcelli* and Vaughan Williams *Mass in G minor*, an a capella tour de force. We have also sung for services at St John's Smith Square and Westminster Abbey, both being a hugely uplifting part of our regular annual routine, and made our annual visit to St Stephen's with a Lenten programme based around *Messiah* excerpts including a wonderful solo Bach cantata form our own irreplaceable Tom Kennedy. We are about to make our professional debut at St John's in the Mozart orchestration of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* with the soloists of Bampton Classical Opera and the London Mozart Players; we are planning another semi-staging, this time of Carissimi's sublime oratorio *Jephthe* in a concert including excerpts from works on the same theme by the English contemporaries Handel and Greene; and we look forward to Michael Haydn's sublime *Requiem*, a piece which inspired Mozart's, in November 2007.

With a current membership of ten CR (as well as two CR partners and a few friends), Cantandum shows that music thrives as much in the adult community as it does in the rest of the School. We are hugely grateful to the Zilkha fund and to Westminster School Society for helping make that so.

the impeccable diction common to all members of the cast. Many will be the opera buffs who would have been a little worried at the idea of a school production of the Flute: she more than put any possible worries to rest.

Chris Barton's staging was a delight. No tormented prince chased by a powerful serpent: the demons were in Tamino's head. The three ladies wore T-shirts and combat pants and the Queen of the Night was a Sharon Osbourne-like character who had her nails manicured during her second aria. Sarastro was a headmagisterial figure of a school for drug addicts and drop-outs, and it was left to Tamino to save them and bring them to enlightenment. A superb concept, which held the audience's enthralled attention from start to finish. But what absolutely made the evening was the music, and the overriding memory is that of Guy Hopkins's meticulous pacing, the smoothly supportive orchestral playing and the sheer musicality of everybody involved. It was a wonderful evening.



Above, right and opposite page: Scenes from The Magic Flute.



CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

One of the best things about doing the music reviews is that you are never required to say or imply anything bad, declares Robert Ellard (HH).

The Chamber Music Concert of the 20th April was no exception to this rather pleasing amateur journalist's rule. The proceedings were opened by an ensemble of 13 clarinets (Jeremy Kemball, Joshua Borin, Anthony Friend, Molly Scott, Zoe Sheuringer, William Benet, Matthew Hutton, Sarah Clark, Ralph Barton, Mark Tocknell, Jared Isaacs, Tarini Ratheswaren, Joseph Requena [bass clarinet]) performing an Andy



Scott piece, with a strong Cubana feel. This was followed by a Haydn string quartet (Eleanor Brooke, Joe Capildeo, Zoe Lang, George Rowell), and then an absolutely faultless duet for clarinet and flute (the excellent Anthony Friend and Alex Leese) from Villa Lobos. This was followed by what appeared to be the youngest string quintet, who performed with confidence and illustrated great promise for the future through the swirling melodies of Mozart (Gabriel Trueblood, Elliot Thompson, Oscar Dub, Ivo Tedbury, Henry Allberry). The opening salvo of brass came from Gabrieli, a fanfare titled, "La Spiritata", which evoked a wonderful atmosphere of St. Mark's (Ginny Horton-Middleton, Robert Millar, Josie Parker, Ivo Tedbury, Aidan Sproat). Upholding the rightful and excellent reputation of Westminster's string players came a Beethoven quartet (Konrad Wagstyl, Felix Hale, Cyrus Lyons, Piran Tedbury) and an energetic and perfect Halvorsen string duo (Fred Young, William Amherst).

The brass then returned for a beautifully dynamic Donato Sonata (Ginny Horton-Middleton, Josie Parker, Robert Millar). There followed a Dvorak string quintet that wonderfully evoked the Czech countryside (Daniel Wong, Miranda Tonsend, Cyrus Lyons, Simon Nathan, Valerie Teh), and a series of William Blezard clarinet quartets (Joshua Borin, Anthony Friend, Molly Scott, José Roquena [bassclarinet]), which was a nice early 20th-century addition to the program, before a true highlight of recent years, the string quartet of Neil Amin-Smith, Benedict Vanderspar, Cyrus Lyons and William Blake, who played with their usual superlative poise, emotion and any other aspect of musical excellence one cares to mention, the first movement of a Beethoven quartet. The unfortunate ones who will follow them have a truly hard act to follow. After this superb note, it remained only for the Brass Sinfonia to wrap things up on a suitably light note, playing a version of the Beatle's "When I'm Sixty-Four" (Josie Parker, Henry Allberry, Adam Smith, Cosmo Godfree, Hans Larsen, Thomas Sutton, Niels Larsen, Aidan Sproat). A superb programme. Special mentions must go to Cyrus Lyons, who was parachuted in at two days' notice into the string groups, and José Requena, who appeared despite the fact that his wife was expecting a baby at the time.



ART INSTALLATION FIVE HARMONIC LOOP SYSTEM STUDIES

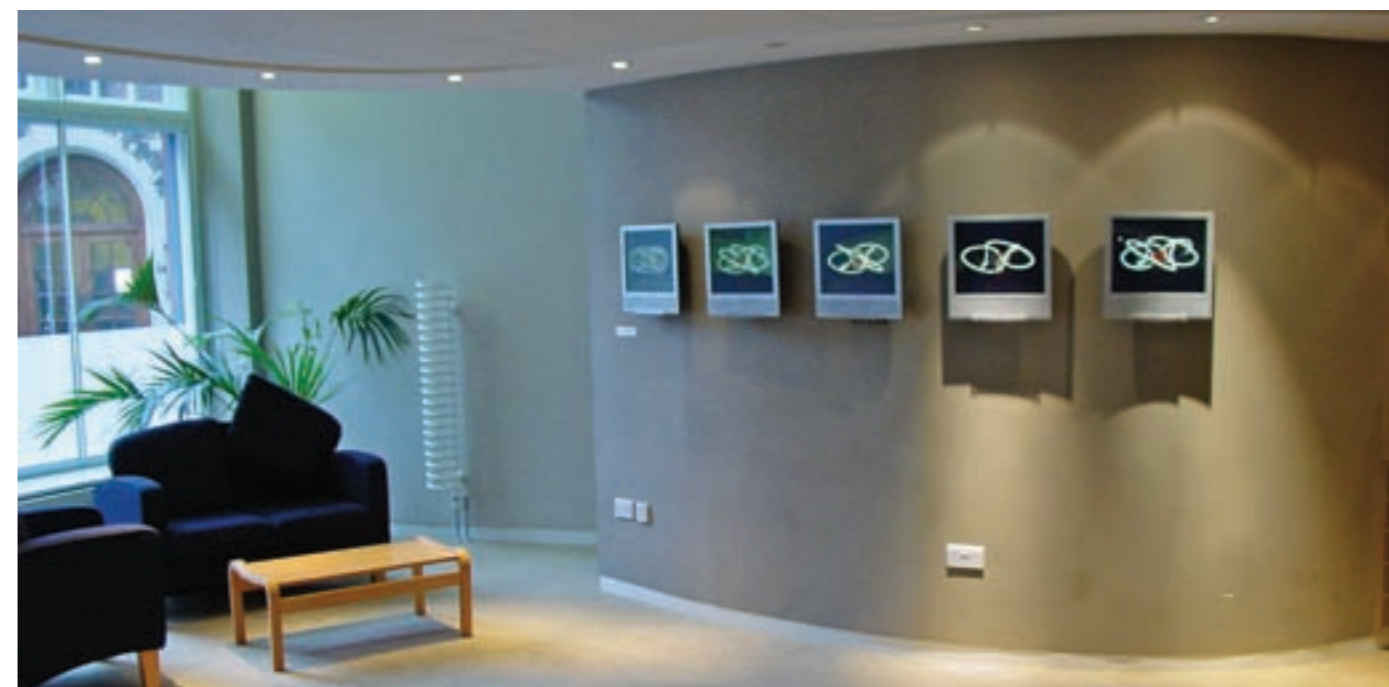
HORIZONTAL (THE SECOND, MAJOR, FOURTH, FIFTH AND MAJOR SIXTH LOOPS)



A permanent art installation by Conrad Shawcross

This installation consists of five LCD screens, data players and HD film loops. It is one of an edition of five and explores the relationship between visual patterns of linear light with the study of harmonics. Appropriate to its position in the Manoukian Music Centre, Westminster is now able to exhibit piece by a leading contemporary artist who was educated at the school

Above, left and below: The installation is situated in the reception of the Manoukian Music Centre.





EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY JINCHENG LIU

Having chosen to study the art of Jincheng Liu for my A Level coursework, I was eager to see what the exhibition, curated by Dr Cockburn, held in store given his nervous excitement about it, reports Eloise Stevens (PP).

His worries proved unfounded; within the exhibition room, the energetic chatter of a total of more than 300 people suggested more than just an enthusiasm for the Chinese nibbles on offer. In the centre of the room was a series of intricate mosaics, studies for *The Battle of Alexander and Darius at Issus*. Three heads of Alexander consisting of thousands of tiny tesserae lay on a table, each varying in expression, but remaining constant in their deep flesh tone. Among these mosaics stood a mosaic copy of Ingres's *La Grande Odalisque*, the tiny tiles hugging the arch of her back and the curve of the curtain, retaining every bit of the sensuality of the original.

These exquisite mosaics are the apex of an artistic journey that began in China, deep in the Cultural Revolution. The lights dim, and his assistant, Leo Malim, takes centre stage. Images flicker behind him as he embarks on the story of Jincheng's life and the paintings that weave throughout it. Born in 1956, Jincheng Liu's childhood was eclipsed by the teachings and regime of Chairman Mao, severely limiting his artistic freedom. Despite his knowledge of European art being restricted to a clandestine book he had been given at the age of 14, he gained a place at the Beijing Art School in 1976, the year of Chairman Mao's death. Despite six years between this event and the publication of Jincheng's graduation piece, his classmates and teacher greeted it with distaste and shock. Now *The Conqueror* hangs in splendour, in the middle of the back wall of the transformed History of Art classroom in Weston, depicting a peasant rebel rallying his troops to plunder a distant palace. So meticulous is his use of

oil that any connotations with the tyranny of Mao's reign go unnoticed, especially to the Western viewer.

Four years later, unable to cope with the suffocating political atmosphere still prevailing in China, Jincheng gathered his savings and flew to Tibet. Here, in stark contrast to China's strict political climate, Jincheng said he 'felt purified by the tranquillity of the natural world and found a sense of the human place and ideal within the eternal values of time and space.' It is this sense of detachment amongst such primal beauty that bursts from his Tibetan work and allows us to understand the freedom Jincheng felt after escaping the claustrophobia of Mao's regime. *The Last day of Winter*, for example, depicts an old woman, face bronzed and withered by the elements, looking into the vast expanse behind her, transmitting an air of tranquillity.

"In spite of the previous stagnation of Chinese art, due to the requirement that painting 'represent an inner vision' and the Cultural Revolution condemning art as a bourgeois indulgence, it seems that Jincheng Liu is representative of the new revolution in Chinese art."

However, it is the charcoal sketches which most attract my attention. Given that the nude is taboo in Chinese art, Jincheng's arrival in England in 1989 allowed him to fully explore the female form in his work. The broad strokes of charcoal fully express the sensuality and serenity of these women even as preliminary drawings.

In spite of the previous stagnation of Chinese art, due to the requirement that painting 'represent an inner vision' and the Cultural Revolution condemning art as a bourgeois indulgence, it seems that Jincheng Liu is representative of the new revolution in Chinese art. His intense emotional experiences have only served to deepen the expression behind his work, clearly conveyed to all who saw the paintings.



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FOOTBALL: ISFA PLAYOFF

"With two hundred fans sending a rousing rendition of 'the Pinks go marching on' sweeping through the terraces of non-league Corinthian Casual's floodlit ground, the team were especially eager to do their supporters proud."



Above (top):
Football match.

Left:
ISFA Playoff final match.
Photographed by
Roger Smeeton.

Above:
Tennis versus Harrow.



FOOTBALL 1ST XI: RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Westminster	6	4	1	1	13	10	13
Eton	6	3	2	1	14	6	11
Forest	6	3	1	2	12	9	10
Aldenham	6	2	2	2	12	9	8
Bradfield	6	2	2	2	6	9	8
Highgate	6	1	2	3	9	15	5
Chigwell	6	0	2	4	11	20	2



SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL 1ST XI

Played: 26 Won: 13 Drew: 7 Lost: 6
Goals For: 46 Goals Against: 30

This season had everything and as I look back on the past 7 months of action, the team should feel very proud of their considerable achievements in reaching the Play-Off Final of the inaugural Southern League and the Final of the London ISFA Cup. Although these both ended in disappointment, it again demonstrated that Westminster is justified in ranking itself amongst the best that Independent Schools Football has to offer. The players were always full of enthusiasm and although lacking in physical stature against the giants of Eton or the gritty bruisers of Bury Grammar School, they played a fast, attacking game which caused a number of well-organized sides considerable problems. On a number of occasions defences would deliberately sit deep to deny the XI any attacking space behind. This proved to be an effective strategy on occasions and next year's team will have to work hard at countering these tactics. Defensively, the team were effective, although the losses in the final suggested a positional vulnerability to set pieces when it really mattered.

After a very successful pre-season trip to France where the side won all three matches the wins began to roll in. The side dominated the match against Ardingly, played at a staggering tempo and went up to Forest School for the ISFA Sixes. Although we progressed no further than the last 16 of 40 competing Schools our performances in

the group games were stunning, winning convincingly all of our group matches against Lancing, RGS Newcastle and Chigwell. Whispers from opponents began to promote us as one of the favourites. In the knockout phase in the afternoon we went out 0-1 to St Bede's Hailsham in a game we dominated in possession but lost in the dying minutes with a breakaway goal.

The new Southern League competition gave an added spice to our fixtures so that wins against Eton and Forest actually meant something tangible. We played poorly against a physical and direct Eton side but managed to hold on to our 1-0 advantage courtesy of an early individual effort by Alex Shashou. The Forest game was a tight affair where again we looked odds-on to hold on to a 1-0 lead. An equalizer from a corner late on in the game left us only 10 minutes to fashion a win. An early and precisely delivered cross to the 18 yard area found Byron Orme, who ghosted into the box unmarked and glanced the ball with his head past the goalkeeper. We thoroughly dominated the Aldenham game and should have gone to Chigwell with 9 points in the league. The Chigwell match was played in a strong wind and on a wet pitch, but despite this we played some excellent attacking football. Defensive errors from rare but effective opposition attacks kept pegging our advantage back. Finally we secured a cushion and were 5-2 up with 5 minutes to go. With the wind in their favour, Chigwell struck twice and in the final minute hit the post with a fiercely driven shot – this league was not going to be easy!

A first class performance against Charterhouse resulted in a 1-0 lead with 1 minute to go. A foolishly surrendered free kick left Charterhouse with the final kick of the game. Cruelly they executed a perfect set piece, left our defenders stranded and scored with a simple header. Their joy and celebration suggested that this was considered a decent result for them.

A dour performance against Bradfield where we could have sewn up the league shifted the focus to the final game against Highgate where we had at least to draw. With Eton looking to finish top of the league if we faltered, this was an anxious affair and the 1st XI found it difficult to keep possession. On paper the victory should have been a formality but the reality was very different. Robin MacPherson latched on instinctively to two close-range chances and we held on till the final whistle.

The Play-off of the Southern League Final was a grand and exciting affair and there was much anticipation from the large crowd on a knuckle-cold evening at the Corinthian Casuals ground in Tolworth. A scratchy start meant that the final was lost in the first 20 minutes as the team found it difficult to establish any shape or forward momentum in this period and were pinned back for long periods by some excellent attacking play from St Bede's. The St Bede's side were a very effective outfit and considered by many, myself included, to be far and away the best side on the circuit. 0-3 down at half time, the side showed character and rallied. The match finished 1-3 with a goal from Ian Clancy and we salvaged some pride.

Some excellent performances followed, with wins against the Corinthian Casuals, Latymer and Dulwich. Our victory against KCS Wimbledon – 8-7 on penalties resulted in us reaching our second final of the season against Hampton in the ISFA London Cup. This was played on the Saturday after the end of term at Hampton and was a very even game for 60 minutes. The sides had drawn earlier in the season and Hampton had gone on to reach the National Boodles Final. An excellently-worked first goal precipitated a dramatic defensive collapse and in the following 10 minutes of madness we found ourselves 4-0 down. The game was lost 1-5 and we left the ground a little shell-shocked. Hampton were a very good outfit but it felt like one of those hard to explain phenomena which schoolboy managers often allude to.

It was a pleasure working with this group of players and with many returning next year we hope to build further on the success of this season. I would like to thank all those leaving the school, particularly Adam Hines-Green as our captain, for their fine work both on and off the pitch and wish them luck in their footballing careers. Thanks must also go to the Masters i/c of our 10 representative teams (yes we have a 4th XI now) whose hard work, expertise and enthusiasm make it all possible. As always, special thanks to IRM and David Wicks at the ground for all their valuable support and advice.

Ian Clancy, Sam Sasaki-Nasseri, Tom Lloyd and Ollie Flynn all represented the ISFA U18 South side during the season – a significant achievement.

JJK

ISFA SOUTHERN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS LEAGUE PLAYOFF FINAL

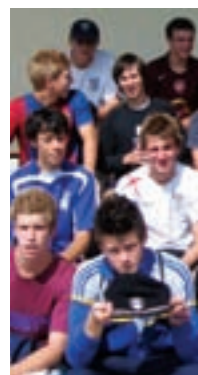
FOOTBALL

Lost to St Bede's: 3-1

Having spent a good part of the autumn term working towards their league success, this talented Westminster side were determined to make the playoff final the crowning jewel of their season, report players Adam Hines-Green (CC) and Toby Thomas (LL).

With two hundred fans sending a rousing rendition of 'the Pinks go marching on' sweeping through the terraces of non-league Corinthian Casual's floodlit ground, the team were especially eager to do their supporters proud. However, this optimism was quickly shattered as a swift interchange of passes from the impressive St Bede's midfield sent their striker through to place an assured finish past the gloves of Fred Johnson. Minutes later, this striker once again wriggled free of his marker, only to be felled in the area by Johnson. Although the tumble has been compared to those of Didier Drogba, a penalty was nonetheless awarded, and duly dispatched. Despite an improving performance leading up to the break, Westminster's defence was breached again, this time from a penetrating goal kick, which found a St Bede's head and ended up in the back of the net. Going into half time, Westminster were 3-0 down. However, for the second half Westminster were solid in defence, and began to push St Bede's back, playing some of the football which had got them to the final. Their persistence was rewarded with a goal finished with a close-range effort from Ian Clancy, but the St Bede's defence did not concede again.

A final score of 3-1 was a fair result given St Bede's domination in the first half against a Westminster side who were a credit to themselves for rallying so doggedly in the second half. The Westminster support was outstanding throughout and made the game a truly memorable occasion.



THE PLAYERS (goals scored in brackets)

Adam Hines-Green (captain), Robin McPherson (10) Tom Lloyd (10), Byron Orme (8), Ezra Rubenstein (5), Alex Shashou (3), Josh Benson (2), Rob Taylor (1), Ian Clancy (1), Toby Thomas (1), George Burnett (1), Ollie Flynn, Sam Sasaki-Nasseri, Joshua Benson, Fred Johnson, Seth Pimlott, Vittorio Bocconera, Jeremy Holt.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Winners of the Junior six-a-sides MM
Winners of the Senior six-a-sides RR
Winners of House Football BB



SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL 2ND XI

Played: 21 Won: 7 Drew: 4 Lost: 10

This proved to be a difficult season for the 2nd XI. At times we played some attractive football but we lacked the consistency of performance and physical presence required to win regularly. We began the season with high expectations and were five and five after the first ten matches. This included a notable performance against Eton (lost 0–1) and an impressive one-nil victory against Allyn's with a wonder goal from thirty yards from the right wing by Michael Theodosiou. However, this was followed, inexplicably, by a rather bleak period in the season. We lost the next four fixtures with what I will sim-

"Finally, the team pulled together and over the remaining seven fixtures we only suffered one more defeat."

ply describe, after self-censorship, as poor quality performances. A cohesive unit was failing to materialize, frustration was growing within the squad and confidence was waning. However, our season was rescued from the abyss in the second-half against Chigwell. We were three down at half-time and after a frank discussion, the team finally put on a performance to be proud of. Johnny Langton scored twice and we looked good for an equalizer right up to the final whistle. Finally, the team pulled together and over the remaining seven fixtures we only suffered one more defeat. This period also included four well earned draws, against Bradfield (0–0), Hampton (2–2), St Paul's (2–2) and Canterbury (1–1) and victories against Highgate (4–1) and the Common Room (3–1).
PAH

2ND XI SQUAD

W. Porter, T. Jelly, F. Herbert, J. Smith, T. Harrison, B. Astaire (Captain after GB), M. Benger, S. Pimlott (last four fixtures), G. Burnett (Captain, promoted to 1st XI after Christmas), M. Theodosiou, R. Wheeler, J. Langton, J. Scantlebury

SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL 3RD XI

Played: 13 Won: 6 Drew: 6 Lost: 1

The 3rd XI season demonstrated a good performance for a group of boys who showed great dedication and enthusiasm throughout the two terms. The season was cut into two by a long mid-winter fixture hiatus, but the continued improvement in the quality of football played was most encouraging.

The composition of the teams put out evolved over the season from mainly Remove to almost entirely 6th Form. The established players quickly found themselves fighting for their places and this competition was a key factor in the success of the team. Early season results were encouraging: Ardingly, John Lyon and Lancing were convincing wins (the latter a 5–0 away victory). An early loss to Eton was made up for by a very pleasing performance by a school 4th XI who earned a hard-fought 2–2 draw. The fact that we could even put out a 4th XI was a sign of our strength in depth. Our confidence was knocked by a bitterly disappointing loss to the Common Room in controversial circumstances: having a 2–0 half time lead overturned with three very scrappy goals. Joe Smith's early performances at centre back were excellent and he scored two of the best goals of the season. It was a shame to lose him to the 2nd XI.

In the second half of the Play term, results didn't go our way and we lost some close games with poor second half performances. However, we finished the term with a stunning 3–2 away win at Bradfield; Tom Dunning's last minute headed winner is one of the moments of the season for me. Our few matches in the Lent term were variable, but we finished with a well deserved win against King's Canterbury.

The team changed considerably but I would like to pick out a few individuals. Firstly, Eddie Knox who was a solid and reliable captain and left back. He was a good leader on the pitch and his solid defence and useful goals will be missed next season. Hugo Hadcock (goalkeeper), Hugo Brent, Stephen Howell and Tyrone Cummins were the mainstay of the defence. In mid-

field, Tom Dunning, Tom Godfrey-Faussett and Joe Start were the three who kept things together with useful contributions from Joe Capildeo and Arthur Campbell. Jack Dong's availability late season was vital and he finished with an impressive goal-scoring record. Finally Max Ziemer, Ed Imrie and Tom Brutton were our injury-plagued centre forwards. Max in particular was a thorn in the side of the opposition and a great character to have in the team, but all three contributed with goals and commitment.

I am pleased with the attitude and results of the team and it is encouraging for Westminster football to see that many of the end-of-season XI will be around next year. Finally, I would like to thank Paul Whittle for his valuable coaching over the season.

MJM

SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL U16A

Played: 8 Won: 2 Drew: 2 Lost: 4

Part of the role of the U16 coaching team is to be imaginative. It is always going to help the senior school coaches if players are used to trying different positions and understand how the game works in different areas of the pitch. This team had found it difficult last season but contained some talented players. Our first thoughts were to move Sultoon and Surr into midfield and to build a new defence. With the benefit of a good goalkeeper in Collis we used Holt in defense. The rest of the back four were drawn from Northover, the ever-present Fishwick, Thomas, Farquhar-Thomson and for the second half of the season Dikkers and Hickman. In midfield Sultoon and Fellows played in the centre with Surr and Nakumara providing width. Up front the capable Benson led the attack with Chichester, Start, or Talalay as a partner. The attacking format led to exciting matches. Our first opponents, Eton, were a tough test; we struggled for much of the game but put together a fine goal in the second half, eventually losing 4–1. Thomas came into centre back for the next match and made an immediate difference. A natural player, he is like his brother in his good ability to anticipate play; he started well in the new position and then just got better

and better as the season unfolded. At Lancing we played neat football in the first half and twice hit them on the break for Benson to finish. They came back in the second half to make for a 2–2 draw. There were goals galore in the Allyn's match with a 5–5 draw, on the 1st XI pitch, keeping the crowd entertained and the referee out of breath. Talalay came away with a well-taken hat-trick.

We were not going to win many matches whilst conceding five goals and this was underlined against Charterhouse when we lost 4–6. Aldenham and Bradfield also beat us 4–2 and 4–0 respectively. At Bradfield we had been 4–0 down at half-time after struggling to find any sort of form playing into a strong wind. We were much brighter, second half, and deserved a couple of goals back. Aldenham passed the ball much better than we did. At Highgate we put matters right in an excellent team performance; we won a convincing 2–0 victory against a very good side. The second term's matches were all cancelled due to waterlogged pitches but we did manage a game against the local boys club, St Andrew's, Under Sixteen team, for whom Collis and Surr play regularly. In an excellent game Westminster won 3–2, a fitting end to an entertaining season. Many thanks as ever go to Mr Ullathorne and Valance Similien for their knowledgeable assistance.

MHF

SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL U16B

The Polish writer Ryszard Kapuscinski said that *'Life is truly known only to those who suffer, lose, endure adversity and stumble from defeat to defeat.'* George Woodberry said *'Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure.'* Both of these quotations are pertinent to the season, as the 2006–2007 U16Bs went through without a win, striving against stronger and often older opposition. The progression through the season though was evident for all to see – the lessons learnt in defeat are always more acute than those learnt in insipid victory. This season saw a group of players develop, enjoy their football, and bond together as a team. The highlights of the season remain indelibly





carved in Westminster's sporting history, each with its own special uniqueness: George Rowell's save on the playing fields of Eton – no Waterloos won or lost, just a fine example of reflex brilliance; The teamwork to put the much-fancied Charterhouse team to the sword for 50 minutes; The never-say-die, unflinching and unquestioning effort from the captain Khushaal Ved, who led by example throughout the season; The sheer power in the right boot of Alex Allen, as he sent the ball into orbit from goal kicks and set pieces; The occasional moments of skill and teamwork that just brought a smile to the face of anyone watching – these are what sport is all about, and a million miles away from over-paid professionals in big stadia.

These moments capture the essence of why sport is so much fun and should be enjoyed, and although the pain of defeat can, and did, often dull the enjoyment, the attitude never strayed from trying to improve as a team. Had the weather not intervened (so often the case in this damp country of ours) the second half of the season would surely have brought a massacre of St Paul's and Dulwich...

CJRU

ROLL OF HONOUR

'Hands' Rowell, 'Razor' Smith, 'Have It' Allen, 'The Cat' Casserley, 'Nobbler' Northover, 'Mad Max' Dijkers, 'Hunter' Gatherer, '12 Men' Tagiuri, 'H' squared, 'Fireball' Stevens, 'Crucial' Ved, 'The Bullet' Roberts, 'Skills' Broadhurst, 'The Cannibal' Asher, 'The Earl of' Chichester, 'Flying' Start, 'The Machine' Amherst, 'Higher Power' Hierons, 'Lefty' Choraria, Zargs, 'Howe-zat', 'Krispy' Karim, 'Alright' Matt JP.

Player of the season: The Vedster

SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL U15A

Although the U15As won only 4 of their 15 games, they played throughout the season with a wonderful team spirit and determination. With the exception of a heavy defeat on an off-day against Alleyn's, they proved

stubborn opposition against outstanding teams such as Charterhouse, Hampton and Bradfield. Of their seven defeats, four were by a single goal, suggesting that the gap will continue to close on their strong opponents as they progress through the year groups.

Of the victories, the 4–1 defeat of a talented Forest team was the highlight of the season, though it was almost matched by the 7–2 and 6–0 scorelines against John Lyon and KES Witley respectively. Other notable performances came against Eton (2–2) and Latymer, in which the team recovered from 4–1 down to score three in the final 15 minutes to salvage a 4–4 draw. Will Miles came on as substitute to change the game, helping Vittorio to score a hat-trick, and Rafe Fletcher struck with power and precision from 1 yard out. A natural goal poacher.

The team adopted a simple and effective strategy early on in the season. They were well marshalled at the back by captain George Fellows, who played with composure, and sound awareness. He was well supported by the uncompromising and tenacious Rafe Fletcher. In front of them, Jamie Drey-Brown played the holding midfield role to defensive perfection, using his strength and sound judgement to break down attacks. Behind the three of them, Yanniss Sossidis continued to develop his reputation as the most technically gifted goalkeeper in the school. With a solid platform on which to build, the team were able to exploit the power and pace of the outstanding Vittorio Boccanera, and Tom Hjelm, who between them scored 27 of the team's 37 goals. On the left side of midfield, Patrick Meade played with poise, and an impressive reading of the game. Tom Fitzsimons played as an effective target man, and a perfect support striker for Vittorio. Will Miles played with infectious energy, able to play as a utility player in the midfield, and as a striker, and Dominic Richards developed impressively as a right- and left-sided full back. Olly Wood broke into the team half way through the season, and secured the central midfield berth as his own, and George Kirk finally discovered his position as a physically imposing centre-half, having had a mid-season break. Other players who contributed successfully to the squad were Chris Arnold, Simran Dhillon, George Godfrey-Faussett, Huxley Ogilvy, Felix Reade, Bobak Saadat, and Charles Smulian.

This has been an outstanding year. One in which the players were committed to working hard in every training session, keen to listen to ideas, and improve. They worked hard for each other in competitive games, and best of all, approached the whole season with tremendous spirit, and humour.

Thank you to all who have contributed to such an enjoyable year, including Mr Johnson, and Mr Hinze. Good luck to Mr Hinze who has given wholehearted support as a coach, a friend and a Head of department, and will be leaving to embark on year of travel, cycling, music making, and many other great experiences.

PAB

SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL U15B

**Played: 13 Won: 3 Drew: 3 Lost: 7
Goals For: 13 Goals Against: 30**

This has been another really enjoyable season. We earned our wins, battled for our draws, and were never easy to beat (except when we were thumped Man U vs Roma-style by an outstanding Dulwich team who shan't be mentioned again.) We beat the distant Lancing, the mighty Bradfield and arch-rival St Paul's, with goals from Tom Godfrey-Faussett, Dom McKinnon-Green (one vs Lancing and both vs Bradfield), and Felix Reade (who top-scored for the team with 5 across the season.) Other goal scorers who deserve praise include Oli Jones vs Ardingly to earn a draw, Simran Dhillon who slotted at Eton (having 'rinsed' the defence), Harry McNeill-Adams at Chigwell having worked tirelessly all season, and every team's friend, Mr OG vs Hampton.

The season was also a true squad effort, with contributions from more than just the aforementioned glory boys. Playing in every game was Krishin Assomull, almost ever-present in goal was Charlie Smulian sporting that fantastic Chelsea shirt. Other stalwarts with eleven starts were the skipper, David Lloyd-Webber, and Tim Bengier. Several players enjoyed spells in the A team as well as contributing well for the Bs, including Chris Arnold, George Kirk, Huxley Ogilvy, Bobak Saadat and Oli Wood. There were also a string of players who contributed valuably at crucial points in the season – James Ware, James Crandall (having missed half the season with injury), Jamie McPherson, Sasha Kaletsky and Sam Viner. Last (but not least) there were noteworthy cameos from Max Arevuo and the ever-mobile Blaise Baquiche.

So how should the manager sum it all up? This squad have been really good to work with – supportive of each other, responsive in training, and hard-working in matches. As a result, the quality of the team's football has improved whilst we've all had a lot of fun, and you can't ask for more than that. I'm not going to sign off without mentioning my colleagues either. Firstly, thanks must go to Paul Botton and his red pen coaching diagrams that miraculously appeared at the start of every session (to confuse and enlighten me in equal measure). Lastly, and most importantly I want to thank Nick Hinze who leaves us this year. Nick has been the consistent factor in U15 football all the time I've been here and beyond. He, even more than his statistics, will be sorely missed. Well done to everybody.

AJ

SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL U14A

**Played: 15 Won: 2 Drew: 2 Lost: 11
Goals For: 21 Goals Against: 48**

Undoubtedly, this was a season in which the U14A's record did not do their performances justice. There were enough good players in the age group to suggest that in years to come they will experience far more success than the two victories and two draws they enjoyed this year. They kept on working hard throughout the season despite results not going their way and they improved during the season, battling gamely at all times. Most unfortunate was that serious injuries consistently prevented the team from fielding their best eleven.

The first match came with a rip-roaring visit to Ardingly on a bright afternoon early in September. After a Richard Downey strike had given Westminster the lead, Ardingly battled back to take a 2–1 lead, only for Oscar Hard to level the scores. Both teams had chances to win the match but could not take them and the game finished in a breathless and deserved 2–2 draw. Superior opposition finishing meant that a 3–1 defeat was tasted at the hands of Eton despite Noah Viner's effort; undeterred, the team travelled to John Lyon with hopes high and duly recorded their most convincing victory of the season. An excellent hat-trick from Lawrence McNeill as well as an own goal and strikes from Downey and Hugo Schlesinger meant that Westminster recorded a pleasing 6–2 win.

Unfortunately they were brought down to earth by convincing defeats away to a skilful Forest side and at home to a powerful KES Witley team, but spirits were raised with an excellent 4–2 win after making the long trip to Lancing, thanks mainly to a brilliant hat-trick from Downey and another effort from Viner.

After half-term the matches got tougher and a narrow 1–0 defeat away to Alleyn's was followed swiftly by the daunting trip to arch-rivals Charterhouse. This became known as 'the miracle of Charterhouse' as a combination of dogged, heroic defending and brilliant goalkeeping from Oliver Richards saw Westminster withstand non-stop opposition pressure to record a 0–0 draw which felt more like a victory for us and a defeat for them. However, this momentum couldn't be maintained and we suffered defeat at the hands of Aldenham despite a strike from Alex Stewart.

Another Downey goal saw Westminster leading 1–0 at half-time away to Chigwell, but the second half saw a turnaround in fortunes and the opposition ran out 4–1 victors. This didn't bode well for the trip to an unbeaten Bradfield side but it proved to be a closer contest than anticipated and another Downey goal saw Westminster hang in the game at 2–1 for much of the match before a late third goal sealed the win for the opposition. The Play term finished with perhaps the most disappointing performance away to Highgate. Despite taking an early lead courtesy of Viner, the Westminster performance was downhill from there as cohesion gradually dissolved in a demoralising defeat.

Due to a number of unforeseen factors the shorter Lent term saw only three matches played, each one sadly ending in defeat. A brave performance away to a talented Hampton side saw a creditable narrow defeat but Westminster were then outclassed by a strong Dulwich team, although this game was notable for the 'goal of





the season' contender in the shape of a thunderous half-volley from Gus Lewis. The last match of the year saw a trip to London rivals St. Paul's and again Westminster leapt out of the blocks to take an early lead through a Stewart goal. Alas, the opposition gradually gained a foothold in the game, equalised and went on to dominate before running out deserved 2-1 victors. Looking at the season overall, the performance of three players stood head and shoulders above the rest. Goalkeeper Ollie Richards was outstanding throughout, producing breathtaking saves and keeping the scoreline respectable. Captain and centre-back Alex Stewart led by example and was committed, gutsy and defiant in every match. Central midfielder Richard Downey was the leading scorer and held the side together with his tireless work in midfield. Two players, skillful midfielder Hugo Schlesinger and the dangerous frontman Noah Viner, also showed promise only to have their appearances reduced by injury. Injury ensured Raffik Poole only took a bit-part during the season. Elsewhere, there were wholehearted performances in defence from Alex Theodosiou, Philip Cohen, George Kambourglou and Alex Diaz as well as tireless efforts in midfield and attack from Lawrence McNeill, Gus Lewis and Sam Green. Other squad players to make notable contributions included Dominic Williams, Chris Evans, Nicholas Wilson, Oscar Hard, Ben Bayley, Sam Brodsky, Edward Aldred and Jack Breuer, who deserves special mention for his excellent efforts in goal for the B team. Thanks to the players and all those staff connected with U14 football for their untiring efforts this year, and the loyal parents who gave such devoted support throughout the season.
JDK

SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL U14B

**Played: 13 Won: 2 Drew: 1 Lost: 10
Abandoned: 2 Goals For: 15 Goals Against: 71**

The intrepid Under-Fourteen B squad thoroughly enjoyed their season and, while results did not always go their way, showed great character and team spirit. Determined to play free-flowing and attacking football, this expansive style proved to be their Achilles heel. The first game at Ardingly was a case in point. End-to-end goalmouth action thrilled the crowd but Westminster left disbelieving after forsaking a 4-1 lead at half-time

(with man-of-the-match Dominic Williams and Sam Green both scoring twice). Ardingly rallied after the break and a tired Westminster held out for a 4-4 draw.

An Eton side with a cunning diamond in midfield then outfoxed the team. Jerome Kamm and Sebastian Arends went close for Westminster and Ed Aldred was a model of consistency at right-back but even he couldn't prevent a 6-0 reverse. After a defeat at Lancing the Bs were far more competitive at John Lyon, where a classy midfield display from Sam Brodsky and Chris Evans almost earned a draw. A lack of bite in attack meant that Westminster had to rely on an own-goal in a 2-1 defeat.

Confidence flooded back at home to Witley. Shots rained in on the Surrey school's goal as Westminster put on a real show. Scorers in the 6-1 hammering were Green, George Kambourglou (both twice), Will Bartlett and Evans. At Albyn's the boys were very well-organised in a tight game which was deadlocked until the last ten minutes. Albyn's were flattered by the 3-0 scoreline.

A report of the trips to Charterhouse and Bradfield is best left unwritten as inconsistency dogged the boys in November. Unquestionably the performance of the season came at Chigwell. A razor-sharp Evans cut in from the right to finish clinically. The central defensive partnership of Aldred and Ben Wessely were outstanding in a 1-0 win. Heavy defeats at Highgate, Hampton and Dulwich (where Bertie Aspinall scored a poacher's goal) meant that the final game of the season was vital for the pride of the team. The garrulous and competitive Richard Howell never ceased encouraging his side. Jerome Kamm finally broke his duck when he reacted quicker than anyone else to leave Westminster 2-1 down at the break. But the momentum was with Westminster and an early goal in the second-half seemed likely to sweep the boys to victory. This duly came – but for St. Paul's, who then ran out 4-1 winners.

An extraordinary 26 players represented the B team and all of them deserve thanks for their commitment, good humour and willingness to work hard at their game. As they add strength to their flair at Under-Fifteen level they will reap the benefits. The last word has to be one of admiration for goalkeeper Jack Breuer. Can any goalkeeper have conceded 71 goals in 13 games and played better?

2006 RECORD AND TOUR CRICKET 1ST XI

Played: 16 Won: 6 Drew: 4 Lost: 6 Abandoned: 1

The benefits of our tour to Barbados (see last issue) were seen at the start of the season as the 1st XI hit the ground running in the opening two games. The first match saw the Lords and Commons forced to consolidate by Josh Benson (2-30) and Alex Scott (3-51) but the Honourable Gentlemen were able to set the School 191 to win – a target which became even more demanding when a wicket was lost in the first over. This brought together Adam Hines-Green and Dan Brodie who proceeded to build the outstanding partnership of the season. Hines-Green (54*) was watchful whilst Brodie (119*) unfurled an array of flowing drives as he struck an excellent century including 20 boundaries. The pair put on a fine 192 to see the side home to a nine wicket victory with two overs to spare.

Buoyed by this victory, the School took on a talented Butterflies side. Jo Smith (3-28) and Fred Johnson (2-29) were well supported by Scott (3-80) to leave the Butterflies precariously poised at 147-8, but, the tail wagged and the School had to chase 202. Tom Cairns (37) and Hines-Green (47) started solidly but the game hung in the balance at 155-6. Enter Johnson (35*) and Scott (14*) with a nerveless batting partnership gave us a win by four wickets with three balls to spare.

Two matches played and two wins leading into the toughest three fixtures of the season. Unfortunately three defeats followed against superior opposition. Charterhouse showed no mercy with an awesome all-round display, but the School, unbowed, entertained the MCC and produced a sterling bowling and fielding effort to reduce 'The Club' to 116-9 thanks to Johnson (4-35), Smith (3-38) and Ross Wheeler (2-46). Again the opposition rallied through a last wicket partnership of 63 that was to prove vital. The reply started well but the innings subsided to 94-7. Enter Jake Robson who decided to blast his way out of trouble as he smashed 55* off only 31 balls. He found a willing ally in Smith and they closed in on a memorable victory until hopes were dashed at the last and the School were defeated by 12 runs.

LEADING BATSMEN

A. Hines-Green	496 runs at 38.2
D. Brodie	321 runs at 22.9
A. Rankine	297 runs at 37.1
T. Cairns	283 runs at 18.9
J. Robson	164 runs at 18.2

LEADING BOWLERS

A. Scott	26 wickets at 19.6
A. Fiskin	18 wickets at 17.3
J. Smith	14 wickets at 31.2
F. Johnson	14 wickets at 32.6
J. Benson	11 wickets at 22.8

The School began well at Merchant Taylor's reaching 64-0, mainly thanks to Hugo Hadcock (47), but, a vulnerability to spin was ruthlessly exposed and the innings capitulated to 112 all out. This was never enough and despite good bowling from Smith (2-32) a seven wicket defeat ensued.

There then followed a lacklustre draw against Aldenham in which neither side played positively enough to deserve victory. The Chigwell match was more interesting with the opposition bowled out for 203 and Alex Fiskin (6-81) starring. Westminster never got in position to chase this total although Hines-Green (75*) and Rankine (32*) ensured a respectable draw.

Fiskin (6-66) starred again versus John Lyon, ably supported by Wheeler (2-23) and Johnson (2-32). The School innings meandered aimlessly until, with 42 needed off the last twelve balls, Rankine (84*) went ballistic and smashed 28 off the penultimate over. With 14 needed off the last over the victory was on but the first four balls brought only four runs. Cue Rankine again as he hit another six to leave four required off the last ball, but finally the game was drawn.

Next up, St. Dunstan's was approached with renewed confidence and this told as Benson (3-21), Scott (2-23) and Fiskin (2-35) kept them to 154-8. In reply, Cairns (50) led the way and it was left to Rankine





(44* – 40 in boundaries) to see the team home to a comfortable six wicket victory.

A poor batting performance against Kingston GS save for Robson (37*) and Johnson (24*) saw the team slump to an eight wicket defeat.

So Westminster needed a win at Highgate to avoid their first losing season for several years. They posted a competitive target on a difficult wicket mainly due to Hines-Green (57*) holding the innings together. But Highgate looked well poised at 44–1 before brilliance from Smith (5–22) and Benson (2–9) ripped their innings apart, skittling the opposition for a paltry 68 all out and ending the season on a real high.

In summary, this was a respectable performance which began and ended the season well; the team should reach its peak over the next two years. Ten players made it into the Wisden Schools Averages with the batting led by Hines-Green's consistency and backed up by good performances from Rankine, Cairns, Robson and Brodie. In the bowling, the leg-spin twins of Scott and Fiskien were the leading wicket-takers with good seam support from Smith, Johnson and Benson.

Robson snared 20 victims and must be credited for his wicket-keeping, and, special mention must go to Brodie who carried out the difficult task of 1st XI captaincy with maturity, good humour and tactical insight.

Thanks to all the staff and coaches, especially Jonathan Hall for his knowledgeable input and good humour in assisting running the 1st XI. Tony Japhet is owed a debt for continuing to score for us, as also is Ian Monk and his assistant David Wicks. Thanks too for the support of spectating parents, most welcome at Vincent Square.

Unfortunately, I must end this report with the sad news that our umpire, Ray Wallis, passed away at the end of the summer after nigh on fifteen years of service to the School. Ray was a much-loved and well-respected umpire throughout the game and his cheerful demeanour and good humour were enjoyed by all those who encountered him both on and off the field. He was a good friend and a true gentleman who will be very fondly remembered and most sorely missed.
JDK

SEASON: 2006 CRICKET U15

You should have seen Sam Fishwick's catch in the Aldenham match: the ball was heading like a rocket to the boundary, but Sam stretched up and plucked it from the sky. The expression of astonishment mixed with admiration that swept over the team's faces was the season's most memorable sight.

Jeremy Holt was the team's mainstay: three times he scored in the forties; three catches were his in one match and he took three wickets in another as second-change bowler. On top of this, he captained calmly and professionally. Josh Benson (the younger) was his vice-captain.

Alex Fiskien took four wickets twice and Hugh Sultoon and Tom Fitzsimons did so once; Ben Collis, Khushaal Ved, David Nordlinger and Haroun Hickman each took three wickets in a match, but it was never quite enough to overwhelm the opposition.

After Exeat, Hugh Sultoon and Khushaal Ved took over the non-cup captaincy and vice-captaincy, respectively, and managed the team well.

We were knocked out of the London School's Cup in the quarter finals but Keval Patel, Tom Fitzsimons, Harry McNeill Adams and Oliver Wood, who show tremendous promise, will play again at U-15 level in 2007. Many thanks to Mark Mason, our indefatigable and invariably good-humoured coach.
SCH and MJM

SEASON: 2006 CRICKET U14A

Played: 8 Won: 4 Drew: 0 Lost: 4

A very talented year group began the season by crushing Kingston GS with a performance worthy of the glorious April sunshine. An excellent opening partnership between Keval Patel (88), who timed the ball superbly, and Oliver Wood gave Westminster a virtually impregnable platform, before George Kirk whacked the ball to great effect in a quick-fire 54.

Defending 234, Tom Fitzsimons soon destroyed the backbone of the Kingston batting with an incredible five wickets in six balls, including a hat-trick. Captain Max Arevuo's bowling spell of 3–28 included plenty of variety which confused the batsmen. A brilliant stumping from Harry McNeill Adams, standing up to Fitzsimons' pace, capped an excellent all-round display from Westminster.

A very well-disciplined performance in the field then followed at Highgate. Chasing only 132 to win (Fitzsimons 3–29, K Patel 3–29), Patel then carried on as if he was still batting against Kingston. His 66 completed a match-winning performance from him.

Merchant Taylor's then brought the boys back down to earth. After losing the toss in difficult conditions, the batters played indifferently against high class bowling. Shaneil Patel was the exception, who showed class and grit to make 39 runs and his 50 partnership with Arevuo gave Westminster a total to bowl at. The Taylor's openers raced to their target of 115 in only 16.2 overs as the bowling fielding wilted under pressure.

Wise judges say the test of a side is how it responds to a defeat. Aldenham duly suffered as Westminster proved their class to bowl the visitors out for 134. Nevertheless, the boys had to work hard for victory and lost 7 wickets. Wood was outstanding and his 77 led his side home.

Unfortunately this success proved to be fleeting as the team soon suffered two thrilling defeats. Against Chigwell the heroics of Kirk (4–17 and 35 runs) and Wood (47 runs) couldn't prevent Westminster sliding to a 10-run defeat. Harry McNeill Adams (47*) ensured a competitive total (139) at St. Paul's which the home side only reached off the last ball of their allocation of overs. Kirk took 3–27 in a four-wicket defeat.

A comfortable 63-run victory over John Lyon (Patel 92 and Kirk 43 in a total of 215; Kirk 4–35 and Tim Benger 3–17) was followed by the disappointment of defeat to St. Dunstan's. Patel, who led the side for the last four games, produced a captain's innings of 70 to take Westminster to the brink of their target. Chasing 130, a late-order collapse ushered on a 21-run defeat.
JAI

SEASON: 2006 CRICKET U14B

Played: 3 Won: 0 Drew: 0 Lost: 2 Abandoned: 1

The B team enjoyed three games under the capable captaincy of David Lloyd-Webber. Krishin Assomull starred with 3–26 in a 94-run defeat at Aldenham. Rain then caused an abandonment in the game at St. Paul's. The highlight of the season was unquestionably Kit Gallagher's spell of 4–9 at John Lyon, which Dr. Walsh described as 'unplayable'. Unfortunately for Kit, Westminster were defending the paltry total of 48 and so a five-wicket defeat was all but inevitable. The boys deserve high praise for fighting for every run in the field and never giving up the cause.

Mr. Ullathorne, Dr. Walsh, the coach Simon Massey and I agree that it was a pleasure to coach such keen and talented cricketers. Long may they enjoy their cricket as they progress up the school.

JAI



GOLF

We have started playing matches against other schools. In the first three, against King's College School, Highgate and Latymer Upper, our Captain, James Male, and our young team acquitted themselves very well, given that they were generally playing against boys two years older than themselves and given that some of our team had not played golf at all before September 2006. These results are a great credit to their promising ability and to the expert coaching they received from Gary Clements, our 'pro' at the Central London Golf Academy.

The squad comprised Finbarr Fallon, Kit Gallagher, Max Glanz, James Male, Freddy Nathan, James Pranker-Smith, Alexander Robertson and Sasha Stubbs. All won colours.
SCH



BOAT CLUB WATER

This past season has been another extremely successful one for the Westminster School Boat Club, with all year groups going from strength to strength, writes Head of Water, Oscar Mitchell (MM).

The new fifth formers have shown a huge potential, with the 1st quad coming 6th out of 15 in their very first race at Hampton Head and some extremely promising 2k ergo results. Two J14 Octos raced at the National Junior Sculling Head finishing a very encouraging 6th in the 'A' event and 2nd in the 'B' event. The Brugge training camp was a new experience for the J14s, but they took it in their stride, landing 2nd and 3rd at Ghent International Regatta in two equal quads.

The J15 squad have just started sweep oar rowing this year and are improving rapidly coxed by Matilda Hay and Charles Howell. They started the year with an excellent row at Cambridge Winter Head, and soon followed this up with solid performances at both Quintin and Hammersmith Heads. Unfortunately Brugge Head offered no opposition for the J15s, but they attacked the course in dreadful conditions to finish in a very good time. Despite winning a match over the Shiplake's J16s (a considerable feat), the J15 8+ finished 17th/28 in the School's Head, with the four finishing 4th/14. The Easter training camp in Brugge was the second training camp for the J15s and they rose to the challenge admirably. The racing at Ghent topped off the training camp for the J15s, with the top four getting bronze in the J16 four event.



The J16s had a tough start to the year, losing a few of their squad after a disappointing result last year, and losing their best ergo, Dan Rix-Standing, to a back injury. However, they have really moved on this year and have produced some really solid results: they raced very well in the Four's Head and at Cambridge Winter Head. The 8+ reformed for a superb win at Quintin head, but raced in two fours for the School's Head, with the A four coming 3rd and the B four winning novice fours. A last minute illness before training camp meant that the four had to be topped up with J15 Brandon Dadarria, who performed well to win the J16 four event. A combination of J15's and J16's performed excellently in Ghent to win J16 8s.

The First Eight has had a promising start to the season. Starting with a very enjoyable training camp in Boston, the 1st 8+ raced in the under 20 category and came 13th/64 in the High School division, losing to Hampton by 3 tenths of a second and beating Latymer comfortably. Cambridge Winter Head, although a good performance, was disappointing, with the 1st 8+ missing out on 1st place by 1 second to Imperial College. The Four's Head saw more strong results, with the 1st 4+ coming 3rd in Senior 3 4+ and the 2nd 4+ also performing very well. The first victories came in the Quintin and Hammersmith heads, followed by a hard-fought second place to Bedford Modern School in Brugge Head.

The Shiplake 1st 8+ was no match for ours, with a 3-0 victory in some short pieces. The Schools' Head resulted in a very disappointing 12th. Further disappointment came when the Eight's Head of the River was cancelled due to shocking conditions and the odd sinking. However, after an extremely tough training camp in Belgium, and the purchase of a sleek new boat, the 1st 8+ won both days of the Ghent International regatta, with the 1st quad also performing very well, coming 5th out of 10 on the first day. Both crews are ready to attack the next 6 weeks in the build up to National Schools where they will race in 1st eights and 1st quads. Special mention must go to Joshua Orpen-Palmer and Felix Tusa (winners of bow and stroke side seat racing) and to Ed Winters-Ronaldson, who has by far the best ergo in the boat club.



FENCING

It has been yet another highly successful year for fencing station, reports Edmund Wareham (WW), Captain of Fencing.

For the sixth year in the row, Westminster won the Public Schools' Fencing Championships, bringing home the Graham Bartlett Trophy for the highest overall boys' points scored, the Winston Churchill Cup for the highest score in the combined senior events and the Chapman Cup for the highest number of points in the epee events.

There were a number of superb individual performances, most notably by Marcus Mepstead who won the Senior Master-At-Arms Trophy for winning the Foil and the Epee and finishing third in the Sabre. This feat was all the more praiseworthy seeing as he does not train regularly at either Epee or Sabre. Rashid Ajami performed very well over the three days, reaching the Last 8 in the Senior Foil and the Last 16 in the Epee and Sabre. Alexander Robinson reached the Quarter Final in the Junior Final and also got a Last 16 in the Sabre. Will Peck reached the Quarter Final in the Mount Haes (5th Form) Sabre. A number of fencers also reached the last 16, which shows the strength in depth across the whole station.

Westminster Fencers continue to perform well on the International Circuit. Marcus Mepstead came 6th at the European Cadet Championships which was a fantastic result. Marcus and Rashid both also got into the Last 64 in the Leon Paul A Grade, a Senior Men's Foil International Competition. Jonathan Tham and Ramana McConnon were both selected for the British Boys Cadet Epee team and fenced at Bonn. Jonathan also did very well at a competition in Pisa. We look forward to the graduation of a number of talented lower shells to the international ranks next season.

The British Schools' Team Championships provided a good warm-up for the Public Schools Championships. The U15A Foil team (Robinson, Cornwell, Toomey) came first and the U18 Foil team (Dibb, Isakov, Morris) and the U18 Epee team (MacDonald,

McConnon, Wareham) both came second. Westminster also beat Eton by 199 points to 173 over five events and managed a very tense 153-all draw with Winchester. Six Westminster fencers also qualified for the British Youth Championships, all finishing third or higher in the London regional competition.

None of these successful results could have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of our coaches: Tomek Walicki and Leo Suarez in Foil; Maciek Wostkowiak and David Buist in Epee and Jo Maynard in Sabre. They all provide coaching at an extremely high level. Thanks must also be paid to the members of staff who give generously of their time in assisting the station: Russell Dudley-Smith, John Witney, Jon Hind and Andrew Law. Especial thanks must go to Tom Kennedy, Master-in-Charge, who leaves the school at the end of the year. It is no easy job managing a station with well over fifty members and he has done so with unfailing enthusiasm and tireless support. The whole station wishes him well

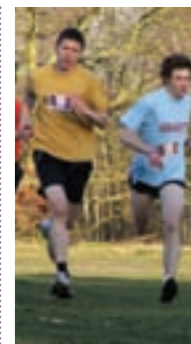
CROSS COUNTRY

The past season has somehow managed to surpass the previous two. This year's squad has been stronger in depth than before, containing several athletes capable of challenging for individual honours. All members of the squad, however, have risen to the competitive challenge and this has resulted in some spectacular performances.

September saw the fastest set of finishing times in the Towpath Races for over twenty years. Tom Samuel narrowly missed the Senior record but won the Senior event by a large margin. Jeremy Holt showed what a talent he could be with a storming win in the Inters race and Richard Downey won a keenly-contested Juniors race. Liddell's (Seniors), College (Inters) and Wren's (Juniors) emerged victorious in the age group competitions with College winning overall. Three days later the School 'A' team then dominated the Towpath Cup with three finishers in the first four; Tom Samuel winning by 50 seconds with Alex Scott posting the individual performance of the day.

The King's Trophy was the team's first big test and they responded by recording Westminster's best ever performance in this long-standing race. Tom Samuel (5th), Tyrone Cummins (10th), Tom Jelly (12th) and Jeremy Holt (17th) were right at the sharp end of the field and with Laurie Brock (BB) and Alex Scott in the mid-30s the school finished 3rd out of 19 teams, narrowly behind St Alban's and the Judd.

The momentum gained in the early part of the term continued after exeat with a stunning set of performances in the RGS Guildford Relays. Outstanding opening performances from Tyrone Cummins, Tom Jelly and Tom Samuel left Tom Godfrey-Faussett (CC) to sprint clear of the Judd and bring the team home in a magnificent second place. This represented the first time that Westminster had beaten the Judd who are considered to be one of the best schools in the country; a quite magnificent achievement. The rolling Surrey hills were replaced later in November by the squelching mud at Harrow where despite being under-strength Westminster finished 4th with Tom Jelly leading the



Above:
Vogalonga in Venice.





way, backed up by strong runs from Sebastian Bray (DD) and Felix Hale (BB).

The term was firmly rounded off at 'The Grim'; 8 miles of mud, swamp, water hazards and cargo netting on an MoD tank-testing site! In a field of some 1500 runners Tom Samuel finishing a stunning 3rd only 20 seconds off the winner and Tom Jelly powered his way to 6th. This event clearly suited the strong-men of the squad with Sebastian Bray showing signs of his improvement in 18th, Mark Wainwright (WW) 27th and Rameez Khan (LL) 41st.

For the first time in several years the school competed in the 'Knole Run' in Sevenoaks; an event regarded as the highest-standard inter-school race in the UK, held over 6 miles of undulating parkland. In a field in excess of 350, Tom Samuel led the way home in 10th with Tyrone Cummins close behind in 18th. Tom Jelly was typically obstinate and ran on despite injury and finished 25th whilst Sebastian Bray (45th), Laurie Brock (65th) and Rameez Khan (68th) closed in the team. As a result, Westminster finished 4th team and in doing so won the Macgregor Cup.

With everyone on such good form it was no surprise that the School demolished Winchester and a host of other schools on Winchester's home course and then brushed aside all the opposition at the London Schools Championships with the Intermediate and Senior teams winning by large margins. Individually, Tom Jelly finished a superb 2nd and was closely followed by Tyrone Cummins in 3rd. Elsewhere, in the Intermediate event, Jeremy Holt steamed through the field to finish a superb 6th whilst Felix Hale, Konrad Wagstyl (HH) and Dominic Richards (RR) ran strong races to lead their age-group team to victory. In the Juniors, Richard Downey finished 10th whilst Hannah Chisholm was encouraging 11th in the Senior Girls race. Consequently, twelve Westminster were selected to be part of London's squad for the English Schools Cross Country which represents the greatest number from any school in the capital.

The Bringsty Relays were as keenly fought as ever, and there were some spectacular performances. College dominated the event with their senior team recording a phenomenal time of 21:14 (an average of under 5:20 per man!) whilst their Junior team eased to victory as well.

Tom Jelly was the star performer, setting a new Bringsty record of 4:54, just a handful of seconds faster than Tom Samuel who also dipped under 5 minutes. The event however illustrated the best aspects of sport at Westminster: everyone who took part gave their all in an atmosphere of healthy competition and friendly rivalry.

In many ways the statistics of the past season speak for themselves: Westminster's senior team has been unbeaten against London opposition for the third year in a row and of the 49 schools that the team have raced against, they have beaten 47 of them – a quite outstanding achievement. In Tom Samuel, Tom Jelly and Tyrone Cummins the team has been fortunate to have three phenomenal athletes, but throughout the season there have been many other pupils who have put in big performances when it really mattered. Superb as the team's results have been, what has really impressed me is the steely edge that all members of the squad have shown over the year. Not one member of the team has been afraid to really commit themselves, to push themselves hard and to give their all for the school. In addition, the camaraderie and team spirit has been second to none; this season just shows what you can achieve when you really put your mind to it!

SDW

ATHLETICS

Hakluyt's won their fourth Inter-House title in a row after a very close battle with Milne's and Rigaud's, whilst the age group winners were Milne's (Juniors & Inters), Hakluyt's (Seniors) and Ashburnham / Purcell's (Girls). Best performance medals were awarded to Vittorio Boccanera for winning the 200 metres and Long Jump; to Felix Hale (BB) for winning the Inter 800 metres and anchoring the Busby's 4 x 400m relay team with a stunning final leg; Emma Cannon for her superb sprinting performances and Dominic Parsons who set a new Senior 200 metre record of 22.9s. Dominic deserves a special mention for setting new school records for the 100 and 200 metres in all three age groups over the past five years.

The decision to extend the number of events open to girls over the past few years has proven to be a big success and there were a host of keenly-fought events on the track and in the field. The strength in depth of the



"The highlight of the year was the School's performance in the Youll Cup, the prestigious event in which all the country's top independent schools compete against each other."

800 / 1500 metre races was particularly noteworthy whilst away from the Inter-House Athletic Sports, Tom Surr represented the borough at the London Schools Championships in the Intermediate 200 metres, a feat matched by Felix Hale who finished 6th in the Intermediate 800 metres in a new personal best of 2:12. SDW

TENNIS

The 2006 season kicked off with our traditional warm-up fixture against Putney Common Tennis Club. The weather was kind and, although missing the flair of Chris Anguelov and the bludgeoning power of Karnig Manoukian, we were able to field a solid team. Our three pairs comprised Marc Baghdadi and Ben Vanderspar, Eloise Stevens and Alex Labrom and Harry Rose and Ed Miles. 1st pair Baghdadi and Vanderspar played very well together and only conceded one game in the four sets played. The other two pairs fought well and we only just missed out on a draw by a half point from the final match. We lost eventually 5-4.

On Tuesday, 2nd May the School played the Common Room, the latter only able to provide 2 pairs due to the ever-increasing geriatric nature of the staff. The previous comment does not, of course, apply to the 2 pairs who did represent the CR, namely Mr Johnson and Mr Hayter and Mrs Cockburn and Mr Page. Suffice it to say that Messrs Johnson and Hayter did manage to get the better of Ed Miles and Ed Jeffrey, but Eloise Stevens and Jamie Macfarlane overcame Mrs Cockburn and Mr Page in 2 sets and the match was diplomatically halved.

On the Thursday the U14 1st V1 played UCS. The team was represented by Robert Millar, Felix Reade, Jack Lassados, Chris Arnold, Andrew Sawbridge and Dom Richards. It was a beautiful day and temperatures were the highest they had been in 8 months. The School lost the singles matches 4-2, but overhauled UCS in the doubles 2-1. Millar and Reade put up a valiant fight against a very strong UCS 1st pair before eventually going down 6-4. Sawbridge and Richards crushed their opposition 6-0 and Arnold and Lassados eventually managed to seal victory with a nerve-wrangling 7-6 win.

On 11th May we embarked on our annual pilgrimage to Harrow. It was a beautiful, cloudless day, ideal for a

tennis match. We lost the match overall, but there were some fine performances. In the 1st V1 match, Baghdadi and Anguelov only lost 1 game in the three sets that they played. The U 14 side also impressed and won their match 7-2. The pairings of Robert Millar and Felix Reade won all their 3 sets as indeed did Andrew Sawbridge and Dom Richards. Chris Arnold was forced to play singles as his partner did not show up and he showed real fighting spirit. He went down narrowly in his first 2 sets, but played excellently to win his third set 7-5.

On the following Saturday the school took on the Old Westminster. The 1st V1 was represented by Marc Baghdadi and Chris Anguelov, Ben Vanderspar and Karnig Manoukian and Alex Labrom and Harry Rose. There are 3 ways of looking at this match. In terms of matches, the OWWs won 5-4, and to a large extent this was due to the fact that the school forfeited one match when one player had to leave early. However, in terms of sets won, it could be looked on as a draw (6 sets all). Indeed, if one were to judge the match in terms of games won, then the school would be deemed comfortable winners (56 games to 39).

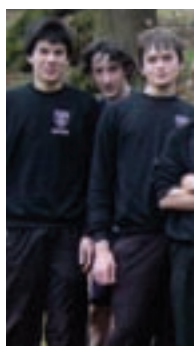
We were due to take on Highgate on Saturday, 20th May. However, the rain was so heavy that day that it actually caused a flood in the lower Common Room and we had no choice but to cancel the matches both home and away. However, May 20th was also the date of the Youll/Doherty lunch. 2006 was the 50th anniversary of Westminster winning the Youll Cup and, unbelievably, the 100th anniversary of an old Westminster, H. Laurie Doherty, winning Wimbledon. In fact, 2006 was the fifth time in a row that Doherty won the title, a feat only equalled by one other man: Bjorn Borg. Even the legendary Pete Sampras, although a winner seven times, never equalled the accolade of five championship titles on the trot.

The lunch was an excellent occasion which was very well attended. It goes without saying that old Laurie Doherty was not one of the guests, but the event was attended by two members of the winning team of 1956, David Gordon and Gerry Clarke, as well as Stephen Lushington, the master-in-charge at that time. Also in attendance were the Head Master, the Under Master, the current school 1st V1, the Wimbledon archivist, Honor Godfrey, as well as a large number of Old Westminster with their guests. We were particularly fortunate to have

"May 20th was also the date of the Youll/Doherty lunch. 2006 was the 50th anniversary of Westminster winning the Youll Cup and, unbelievably, the 100th anniversary of an old Westminster, H. Laurie Doherty, winning Wimbledon."

on display a substantial collection of fascinating tennis memorabilia as well as the opportunity to go round the impressive newly-revamped Wimbledon museum. A debt of gratitude is owed to many, but in particular to Duncan Matthews and Nick Perry, without whom the event would never have taken place.

In the week before Exeat we were due to play both Winchester and Eton. The weather was atrocious that particular week and, although we did travel to Winchester on the Tuesday, we were unable to take the U14 team because rain had waterlogged the grass courts there. The Astroturf courts looked as if they had been





smear with mud and the hard courts were particularly bleak, but 'needs must' and the 1st V1 and U15 were able to play. The former was blighted by absence due to exams and injury and did very well, losing narrowly 4-5. This match may have been unique in the sense that Eloise Stevens found herself playing against her brother. The U15s lost 1-8 and the less said about that the better. At least on Thursday, 25th, for the first time in what seemed like an eternity, it did not actually rain and we travelled to Eton with the 1st V1, the U15 V1 and the U14 V1. In a way I wish it had rained as we found ourselves on the wrong end of a real hiding. I am afraid I seem to have no record of the actual scores.

When we came back after half-term the weather had become decidedly Mediterranean. On a glorious afternoon on Thursday, 8th June, a team representing the U14s and U15s took on the Common Room. The U14 pair were represented by Felix Reade and Robert Millar. They played extremely well and finally managed to wear down Mr Johnson and Mrs Cockburn in their last match. The U15s, represented by Dipesh Mahtani and Henry Casserley also played very well. The final result was 3-1 in favour of the Common Room.

The house matches started on Thursday, 15th June. In the preliminary round, Purcells beat Wrens 7-6, College also beat Ashburnham, courtesy of a tiebreak, and Liddells prevailed over Busbys 6-3. In the semis Hakluys were surprisingly beaten by Liddells whilst Grants triumphed over Milnes. The final was won by Grants.

The highlight of the year was the School's performance in the Youll Cup, the prestigious event in which all the country's top independent schools compete against each other. As usual, the event was hosted by Eton and took place from July 2nd to 5th. The school was represented by Baghdadi and Anguelov (1st pair) and Manoukian and Vanderspar (2nd pair). Their performances were outstanding and we had our best year since 1956. We beat Warwick in the 1st round, Plymouth in the 2nd and Haberdashers in the 3rd. We then faced Reeds (Tim Henman's alma mater) in the quarter-finals and after winning this match, we then had to face the might of Repton. After winning this match 2-1 we faced a very strong Millfield side in the final. Unfortunately, having had to play 5 rounds before this match, it was a case of 'a bridge too far' and we were beaten. Nevertheless, it was a truly outstanding effort by our team. SC

HOCKEY

Played: 5 Won: 3 Drew: 1 Lost: 1

The precarious nature of hockey at Westminster was epitomised a fortnight into the summer holidays when we were informed that our normal booking at Paddington Rec would not, after all, be available for the Play Term; many phone calls later, the University of Westminster at Chiswick offered us a pitch, sometimes two, and Battersea filled the other gap in the week. Station then ran in an encouraging manner all year with the excellent fifth form intake bearing a marked resemblance to the current sixth form four years previously both in terms of numbers and ability: Horace Keating and Johnny Falconer are two names to keep an eye on in future.

We played a brace of senior matches against Trinity School, Croydon, losing the first comfortably against a frighteningly strong opposition, despite playing convincingly, and then coming within seconds of a victory in the return: a commendable draw. We beat UCS 5-1 playing some expansive, incisive hockey and then beat Latymer Upper by a substantial margin in our first ever mixed match. The Common Room, average age rising faster than UK inflation, held out against the 1st X1 until the last ten minutes when Alex Scott scored a memorable goal: 2-0 eventually.

Alex Scott proved to be both an inspirational captain and player, scoring twelve of our nineteen goals, some of them spectacular; he is very difficult to dispossess and has a fearsome shot. The sixth form provided the backbone of the senior team, the ever-loyal Ben Green again playing with guile and intelligence. Tennis supremo Benedict Vanderspar reads the game well and packs a good hit. Andrew Lloyd-Harris, fleet of foot and versatile, covers well in defence and plays with gusto. Nick Finerty provides the air of a relaxed golfer at left back and is a most effective tackler and distributor. 'Lord' William Denton prowled around up front and scored a cracker against Trinity. Ben Stevenson motored around the pitch and showed much ability and enthusiasm. Cosmo Arends played powerfully on the right wing, quick and incisive, and could become a most accomplished player in future. Ben Davies improved considerably and should feature prominently next year. Kevin Loke and Eloise Stevens provided our Remove duo, both contributing positively.

Particular praise should be heaped upon Alex Robertson from the Lower Shell who is not only a talented outfield player but also volunteered to play between the sticks in some matches for the seniors and did so with aplomb! Felix Johnston, Thomas Calf, Jack Lassados, Andrew Hyer and Oscar Dubb were other Lower Shell boys who really enjoyed and improved their hockey, often under the careful tutelage of Mr Gelderd, to whom we now bid a fond farewell.

GJAS

MARTIAL ARTS

This year the station has been bolstered by many new Lower School members, many of whom show considerable talent, promising a flourishing future for the station, while maintaining our hardcore and highly effective Upper School team, writes Nick Reynolds (RR).

In friendly matches, the team has enjoyed continued success against our traditional opponents at Harrow, with two solid overall victories, though Eton and Winchester managed to scrape a dubious victory each. However, the scores didn't reflect the closeness of the competition, with Eton's leading position being far from secure. Watch out next year!

Thanks to Coach Larry, who has continued to offer excellent instruction on the finer points of Judo, as well as offering his unique support at matches, and to Mr Allnatt, who has run the station and organised matches for us with great results. Regularly competing were Dara Barkhordar, Francis Gene-Rowe, Shaneil Patel, Dominic Allen, and James Brashko, among others, and deserving of special mention is Tom Trevor-Roberts, who won a Bronze medal in the seniors category at the Independent Schools Championships, despite being at the bottom of his weight category and so facing opponents much larger and stronger than himself. The last year has seen some first-rate Judo, and our record will only get better.

ETON FIVES

Despite the departure of James Harrison for St Paul's, Fives Station continues on the up. It is temporarily in the care of the Chaplain. There are far more pupils wanting to play than the 70 who can be squeezed in on Station afternoons. This means that lunchtime and evening sessions have grown in popularity, particularly with Sixth Form girls. This was reflected in the Schools Fives Championships at Highgate in March where Natasha Bell and Hannah Cutmore-Scott made rapid progress to the Ladies' semi-finals where they came up against a formidable Lancing pair. The first Senior pair, Laurie Brock and Alex Rankine, reached the quarter-finals but Shrewsbury 3 were too strong for them.

The hope is that many of this year's leavers, who have already played in Abbey matches and taken themselves to tournaments away from school, will be inspired by the example of OWs like Ollie Butler and Fred Krespi and continue to play. GW

Universities: Semi-finals

Oxford 1 (P Dunbar and O Butler) beat Cambridge 2 (N Gill and J O'Callaghan) 12-7, 15-12.

Final

Cambridge 1 (A Patel and A Varma) beat Oxford 1 (P Dunbar and F Krespi)* 12-9, 12-9

*Ollie Butler retired hurt after the semis, with Oxford 1 effectively conceding the title. Peter Dunbar and Freddie Krespi sportingly agreed to play the final anyway. Even if the result was academic, the final was hard-fought and very close, with some excellent shot-making on display on both sides.





NETBALL

Under the amazingly enthusiastic and motivating leadership of Lottie Kirk and Krystyna Kosciuszko the girls have had the most successful Netball season for many years. After five matches in the Play term, both A and B teams remained undefeated. Comfortable wins against Emanuel School and Lady Margaret School opened the season, and then a tougher battle for the A's against North London Collegiate took place on their excellent home courts, ending in an 11-11 draw. The girls went on to win against Godolphin and Latymer and City of London before a closely fought match against St Paul's broke the record. Even with a second match in the Lent term, we were unable to break their coherence and incredible shooting skills. Later in the term, we knew that Latymer Upper would probably also get the better of us but again, with Lottie leading from the front we gave them a good run for their money and thanks to the good will and support of their coach Lucy Asher, the experience was enjoyed by all.

The excellent play this year has been encouraged and refined by our coach Holly Collison. As a shooter for the Brunel Hurricanes, she knows the game inside out, and is experienced in playing at a high level. She has worked on skills and fitness with the teams and has supported them during the matches with her excellent 'team talks' between the quarters.

All the girls on the A team have shown their skills in different ways. Vicky Andrews has put in an incredible performance over two years, and together with Krystyna, has produced some amazing goals and skilled play. Eloise Stevens is a fantastic player with great skill and ability. Lottie defends with enormous power and presence and with good support from Hen Southby and more recently Eloise, has kept opposition shooters at bay. Impressive sixth form players on the A team have been Milly Derbyshire and Lizzie Donger who have great energy, and Hannah Cutmore Scott who will be Captain next year.

Our B team has benefited from the strong leadership of Imogen Lloyd Thomas who has also worked very hard over two years and more recently Olivia Richards has

been extremely impressive and well-motivated on court. Olivia Franklin has worked hard on both A and B teams this year and has become an impressive shooter. Zoe Scheringer has been excellent in defence and along with Jenny Bacon, Charlotte Schroeder, Francesca Briscoe Wilson and Maia Holterman-Entwistle has made this year's B's one of the strongest in several years.

The season ended with a draw in the match against the Common Room, an excellent and diplomatic result and a very enjoyable House Netball competition with a fine win by College against Haklyuts.

Netball station has enjoyed a huge amount of good will and enthusiasm from all its members this term and we have enjoyed our time at Vincent Square enormously.
AJJ

SHOOTING

This has been another year of progress for shooting station, which has seen the results of the promised extra funding in the acquisition of a smart and secure new gun cabinet and the much-needed refurbishment of the well-used lightweight rifles, record Tom Elworthy (AAH) and Rachel Tocknell (WW).

We are now awaiting the arrival of new jackets to supplement our present green and purple fashion crimes which, though they have given the club many years of good service, are now starting to show signs of age.

We have been out and about this year with two trips to Bisley, including one to shoot our own .22s on the 50 yard range, and a second, in more clement weather, to shoot a range of full-bore rifles over 200 yards; both trips have given station members a taste of shooting outside the confines of the College loft. An enjoyable Christmas shoot brought out the festive, light-hearted side of the station as we shot special cards comprising baubles and cherubs. Following a sub-standard showing against Wellington, a home match against Harrow gave the opportunity for a quick recovery of pride. Westminster finished with a considerable victory of 835 to 729 for the First VIII, comprised of Rachel Tocknell,

Tom Elworthy, Felix Mason, Chris Baker-Munton, Grace Kim, Kostya Gorev, Ben Laker and Nicholas McKinley, who proved their varied talents shooting both 10-spot deliberate and skirmisher cards. With considerable talent being developed by both new and established members of the station, the potential for future success is high indeed.

Now a qualified range officer, Mr Sproat has continued to give the station his invaluable support, help with trips, coaching and recording performance data. Thanks also go to Ms French for her assistance on the range and to Dr Prentice, who, since joining the station last September has developed her shooting skills, assisted on trips to Bisley, and studied for her range officer qualification. She is thus well set to take over as Mistress i/c from Mark Pearce who is moving on to other ventures. Since becoming Master i/c two years ago and throughout his time as coaching at Westminster, Mark has worked tirelessly to improve the station, arranging matches, providing superb training, initiating the Bisley trips, and keeping some of our more elderly rifles in service. His improved training method has proved successful in boosting motivation and interest in those new to the station, enabling them to start shooting much faster than was previously the case. We will miss his knowledgeable and encouraging presence on the range, as well as his thoughtful and all-important supply of Crème eggs and extra-large tins of Quality Street for our novelty shoots at the ends of term.

BODYSTEP

Bodystep, organized by Dr Cockburn and ably helped by Mrs Lambert, began as a new station halfway through last year, puffs Rebecca King (PP).

Based on step aerobics but with a tendency towards higher energy workouts to the latest music, it was popular right from the start. Nervous girls, who couldn't totter through half a routine then, now leap and bound through the tough hour-long workouts. Bodystep challenges fitness and co-ordination in a supportive and often hilarious all-girl atmosphere. Our instructor Rae is always infectiously smiley and inspiring and though she

has temporarily left us to get married, her replacement Sarah promises to push us to even greater heights. The music is fun and fresh with brand new tracks added every few weeks, usually just as we have mastered the last one! As a non-competitive station everyone can take it at their own level, since each routine has built-in options for higher or lower impact. However it is impossible not to improve your own fitness levels because you are so busy getting your feet in the right places that you don't notice how out of breath you are. Bodystep at Westminster has had a highly successful first year, and looks forward to many more!

JLC adds: we also now have Bodystep for the Common Room and over twenty enthusiastic members from many different departments get an energetic work out every week.

KAYAKING

The intellectual version of rowing, kayaking involves both brains and brawn whilst being an exciting and exhilarating sport, not to mention unbelievably cold, declares Ed Moseley (MM).

As any water-sports addict will no doubt feel, the prospect of getting closer to the water is an extremely attractive one and kayaking Station offers pupils the ability not only to fall into the Thames, but then to hold one's breath for an inconceivable amount of time underwater whilst encased in a high-impact-proof polythene boat.

In order to truly enjoy the Station one needs to be able to enjoy the sport in itself, which is easy given its nature and superiority to all other sports (even sailing, to which the Station swaps for the summer term). Kayaking Station at Westminster is not just an invigorating experience in which one constantly battles for survival against the elements, but it is also fun and moderately social.

Our 'formidable' kayaking team have as yet not had the pleasure of being entered for any competitions, although there has been talk of the emergence of a Westminster kayak polo team and the possibility of future sprint and slalom races; this is likely to be due to the fact that not too many London schools are up to the challenge.



“Each of us has found something we love about it, such as the fresh air, the change from a classroom environment, the friendly chats to people we would not meet normally or the tea break.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE HEATH HANDS

Every Thursday five intrepid Removes head off to Hampstead Heath for a spot of ecological community service, advocates Fredi Tickell (MM).

The organization is called Heath Hands and it is made up of north Londoners of all personalities and age groups, though the latter does tend to the retirement age. Oliver David, Phillip Crandall, Thomas Dub, Simon Cahill and I all grew up frequenting the heath and enjoying its beauty and open space. Most of us chose this option because it is outdoors though the fact it ends at around 4pm very near to all of our houses may play a small part. Each of us has found something we love about it, such as the fresh air, the change from a classroom environment, the friendly chats to people we would not meet normally or the tea break. The one thing we all agree on is there is nothing quite like a spot of proper hard work in this day and age, be it digging, cutting down trees or swinging a mattock wildly. Although our time at Westminster is coming to an end we all plan to continue in some form while we stay in London. The people we work with have thoroughly enjoyed our company and hope that a new generation will fill our steel-capped boots after we have gone. To anyone planning on doing community service in the upper school and who wants to do something slightly different, keep Heath Hands in mind; I promise you will love it.

COMMUNITY SERVICE CHARITY SHOPS

Helping in charity shops of an afternoon has always made for a very different experience outside the school boundaries, writes Meng-Yun Wang (PP).

It's a chance to talk to all kinds of new people in a social atmosphere far removed from Yard, to learn to sort, price and arrange items, to master the art of using tills and credit card machines and in the process,

to be able to spot a few bargains yourself. Jobs are typically varied from week to week but where possible managers tend to assign you the ones they see you enjoy the most. Donations arrive continuously throughout the day so there is constant organising and pricing being done, and goods which are sold or have been on the shelves too long, need to be replaced all the time by volunteers. The process is remarkably simple but it requires a lot of work, which means several volunteers usually help out at the same time. Far more complex is getting to grips with the till, which although helpfully labelled, is deceptively difficult to use. Like anything however, it is really a matter of getting used to it and one thing it certainly will teach you is the virtue of exercising patience with flustered shop assistants.

PINK ELEPHANTS

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

The Pink Elephants (the Common Room cricket team) continue to prosper, with a healthy fixture list with matches against some clubs and other CRs, reports leader JAI.

After losing to the Charlatans, despite 30 runs from Michael Milner and tidy bowling from Joe Ireland (4-1-8-2), the Pink Elephants crushed the Mandarins by 170 runs, James Kershen scoring a century and Simon Massey scoring 60. Five wickets from coach Simon Massey underpinned a terrific effort from the Elephants who only had seven players available.

An opening partnership of 80 runs between Teehan Page and James Kershen gave the Elephants an excellent start against the King's Allstars but Andrew Johnson's hostile bowling (4-1-25-2) was not enough to prevent King's from winning by 4 wickets even though JDK scored 75 not out. The season finished with a victory against the Leavers in an 8-a-side match.

JAI



LEAVERS 2006

Right:
'Matt in the art studio'.
Photographed by
Jamie Stoker.

Front cover:
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Skye. Photographed by
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