

THE ELIZABETHAN 2015

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THE ELIZABETHAN CONTENTS

SCHOOL TRAVEL	02
SOCIETIES AND LECTURES	35
ARTS	59
STATION	81
	99



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The Grand Opening of the Westminster School Sports Centre

THE LONG WAIT IS OVER

On Thursday, 12th June, 2014, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened the Westminster School Sports Centre, marking the culmination of many years' ambition and achievement. The search for sporting facilities to house the major stations has arguably been ongoing since the School's foundation 450 years ago and it was a great pleasure for all to witness its conclusion in 2014, writes Angie Garvich, Director of Development.

Pupils and OWW have in the almost two years since it opened its doors worked their special magic to give it that very "worn in" Westminster feeling! It was a great day and as Her Majesty commented that the last time she opened a sports centre was just before Charles left Gordonstoun, we think it made for a pleasant change of pace for her as well. Her Majesty was presented with a leather-bound album, crafted by pupils adept at the ancient art of bookbinding, containing photographs of royal visits going back to the time of George V.

The end of a 450-year search required the swift purchase of the 1930s Royal Horticultural Society Lawrence Hall when it became available which was then converted into the Sports Centre. The centre offers 6,000m² of facilities for climbing, fencing, Judo, dance, cricket, football and many other stations on our doorstep. Boarders now have access to leisure facilities in the evening. For the whole School community the buzz created by hundreds of pupils improving their skills and physical fitness in one place on Tuesdays and Thursdays has been a real benefit.



"The last time she opened a sports centre was just before Charles left Gordonstoun"

Anniversaries and Commemoration

TOTAL RECALL?

As the Dean reminded us in Abbey at the start of the Lent Term, this is a year of anniversaries; how we remember is often as inconsistent as what we forget, suggests Tom Edlin (OW) ruefully.

The centenaries of the First World War continue and we mark, amongst others, 200 years since Waterloo, 300 since 'the Fifteen', 600 since Agincourt, 750 since Simon de Montfort's first English Parliament met in the Chapter House, and 800 since Magna Carta. The manner and tone of the commemorations will be as revealing of contemporary priorities and attitudes as of the events themselves.

Within the school, of course, we shall have our own twist on each of these: the Marquess of Anglesey famously having it pointed out that he had lost his leg at Waterloo ('so I have!'), at a time when OWW actually held significant positions in the military high command; Dean Atterbury plotting Jacobite treason in the Deanery and ending up in exile, while High Tory Head Master Robert Freind remained in office, trusted to educate the sons of the great Whig families but deprived of any further preferment within the church.

For the older anniversaries we have our sheer proximity to defining historical events: by the fifteenth century the House of Commons was meeting in the Abbey refectory (Ashburnham Garden and the Fives Courts today), or our rather chancy role as preservers of its fabric, as when the copy of Magna Carta now in the British Library was saved, along with *Beowulf* and other treasures in the Cottonian Library, from the disastrous fire in Ashburnham House in 1731 with the assistance of the scholars.



These are good stories, worth the retelling, and they offer a pleasingly personal avenue into national history. The ways in which we are commemorating the First World War over the course of its ongoing centenaries through to 2018, connect with this sense that the individual story represents a powerful wider message. Expeditions aim to visit the graves of all OWW who fell, at least on the Western Front. Fifth Formers conduct research in History lessons, each on one Old Westminster who lost his life in the war, both forging a connection of their own across the generations and contributing to an archive of knowledge and memory personalizing the names on the paneling beneath the organ case up School.

Those very names, of course, form a memorial which stands in stark contrast to those for earlier conflicts such as the controversially-sited Crimean column out in the Sanctuary, and the Boer War tablet on the way up School. It is right that we should also recall our *lost* Great War memorial, destroyed in the Blitz in 1941, with its confident martial symbolism and extravagant figure of St George slaying the dragon, all in a tone and style with which Westminster post-1945 would surely have felt distinctly

uncomfortable, had it survived. Wars, of course, are often commemorated in a manner informed by earlier history, and it is worth remembering that we had a head start in 1919, as Sir Robert Lorimer's design for a memorial up School was already prepared. It was designed originally to mark the centenary of Waterloo and to honour the OWW of the Napoleonic campaigns.

The centenary of 1815, of course, was scarcely marked when it came around, especially on that battlefield which had become once more a theatre of war. The Great Powers had spent nearly a century intending and assuming that Waterloo would be the last great battle to be fought on Belgian soil; sometimes an anniversary is too relevant for recognition.

The re-opening of the restored School with its more sober memorial panelling, and the unveiling of the new Shell with its Latin couplet featuring the acrostic motto *Semper Eadem*, formed the central moment of the Queen's visit to the school in 1960, which marked the 400th anniversary of our re-foundation by Elizabeth I. It was a royal visit to mark the quatercentenary but also the culmination of the years of post-war reconstruction. Fifty years later and Her Majesty's

“The individual story represents a powerful wider message”

visit for the 450th celebrations included some familiar elements – the collegiate service in the Abbey, the walk through cheering crowds in Yard, lunch in College Hall – but a rather different unveiling, that of Matthew Spender's statue of the first Queen Elizabeth.

If one looks back further, the tercentenary in 1860 was the occasion of a significant improvement in our facilities, with the Dean and Chapter providing the space for the old Gym as a 'covered playground' and our first ever classroom (now the 'Markham Room' Room 37), which allowed teaching to spread out from School itself in 1861. The bicentenary in 1760, under OW Dean Zachary Pearce, coincided with the final month's of George II's life and brought no royal visits or dramatic additions to the school landscape, but did feature a splendid



afternoon dinner in College Hall, with epigrams galore, followed by an evening service in the Abbey – an interesting inversion of our more recent priorities, perhaps. But perhaps we should be planning ahead for 2018 and the 150th anniversary of the passage of the Public Schools Act, which gave us our independence and could be seen, as much as 1560, as the 're-foundation' which makes us what we are today.

Our history is of course about individuals as well as statutes. In December, the bicentenary of the death of William Vincent (perhaps likely to pass un-noticed by many within the school) will conclude a year in which we also mark 200 years since the playing fields which he preserved and which still bear his name were formally

“Westminster has never taken a navel-gazing attitude towards commemoration”

enclosed. Surely this will be a point at which we should formally honour the memory of one who spent sixty-four of his seventy-six years within the precincts? Generally we have tended only to commemorate Dr Busby's anniversaries among our Head Masters; the bicentenary of his death in 1895 was marked by a service in the Abbey. It included the publication of a full memoir of his life by G.F. Russell Barker, an antiquarian indulgence not matched on the 300th anniversary in 1995 when – as this author knows all too well – the 'main events' included the translation of the epitaph on his Abbey monument by two of AEAM's Lower Shell Latin set, a translation read out in front of the memorial on the day of the tercentenary itself in an 'intimate' service attended by a total of four pupils. Perhaps it is just that Westminster has never taken a navel-gazing attitude towards commemoration generally. Either way, it was only after the event that one of those Lower Shell Latinists realised that F.H. Forshall has already published a translation of the Busby inscription in *Westminster School Past & Present*, a crib which could have saved him a considerable amount of work...

The Abbey Address

ASTRAL ALCHEMY

The Reverend Justin White, quondam Chaplain of Winchester College, addressed the School in Abbey about the efforts we can make in Lent.



Had we all been here on 18th February, we would have experienced one of the most humbling of the Christian festivals – that of Ash Wednesday.

The Dean tells me that 600 people approached the sanctuary to present their brows. The priest, dipping his finger in a bowl of ash, made the sign of the cross on their foreheads with the words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return; turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ." It's a very powerful symbol: a humbling symbol. It is a reminder of our earthiness – that we are made of the dust of the earth; that we come from the humus – from which word derives words like humble, humility and humiliation.

"Remember that you are dust ..." These are words first spoken by God to the first man, Adam, whose name literally means 'human', or 'of the earth'.

Today, we can be a little more expansive about our origins. The astrophysicists tell us that every element of which we are made, every element in our body – the carbon, iron, potassium, sulphur and the rest – every one of them was once-upon-a-time forged in the fiery furnaces we call stars. Not in this star but in another act of astral alchemy elsewhere in the universe. So in a very real sense we are not so much children of dust, as children of stardust. Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

At this point I might ask for a volunteer. I would bring you out here, kill you – humanely, of course (there's that 'humus' word again) – chop you up, decompose you into your constituent elements, and display your ingredients here on the altar table. Any volunteers?

Well, I am told that we would be left with enough iron in one of you to make a 3 inch nail, enough sulphur to kill all fleas on an average dog, enough carbon to make 900 pencils, enough phosphorus to make 2,200 match heads. But I don't think this array of elements would account for you. I think each of you is substantially more than the sum of your parts. This is the other side of Ash Wednesday. It is about reminding you of your origins, of the stardust from which you come and the dust to which you will return,

“The prime objective of this school is to encourage you to shape your lives for good and for the good of others”

but it is also a reminder that you are made to be God-like. Like Adam, 'of the earth – human – of the humus', yet made in the image and likeness of God. It is that second calling which is what this season of Lent is all about.

So I'm sorry if you were expecting me to give you a list of all the things you should be giving up this Lent – Give up chocolate, give up Facebook, give up Call of Duty. All of these things wouldn't be a bad idea, but my instruction to you for Lent is this: Just be nicer.

Lent is indeed the season for resisting temptation. But the vilest temptations are not those of chocolate or booze or computer games or Facebook. Far worse are those humdrum little battles; daily minute by minute tussles between niceness and nastiness; between doing what you know is right, and what you know is wrong.

If you don't think that's particularly demanding, I suggest you haven't really tried it. The prime objective of this school is to encourage you to shape your lives for good and for the good of others. All other objectives are rescinded. Lent is the season to give that objective some real attention.

For 40 days we rein in our lesser appetites to give ourselves time to feast on goodness, to fatten up on niceness. And we may as well begin in little acts of humility and charity. For the little victory of being nice to each other will swell to the victory of being genuinely good, to the victory of being genuinely God-like.

So – remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. But remember also that you are made in the image and likeness of God; your destiny is to become divine.

Have a holy Lent.



Chaplain's Breakfast

NEWS FROM UNDERGROUND

Chaplain's Breakfast has seen many changes: from the comfortable sofas of Mr Feltham's basement to our posh new Refectory, from massive *pain au chocolat* to petite fruit pastries, from Hitchensian anti-theism to returning to our favourite children's books, confesses Stephen Horvath (BB).

A group of around 20 pupils gather together each Wednesday, and the Chaplain arranges a visiting speaker, a pupil presentation, or a vague topic of conversation that eventually descends into bizarre imitations of politicians.

Recent Chaplains' Breakfasts have seen a real range of highly original student productions. After the production of Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*, the actors came to talk about what they thought the symbolism meant, and how this came across in their production. Continuing our dramatic motif, Ben Brind treated us to an epic trilogy of musical parodies, with references ranging from *Les Mis* to *Star Wars*, capably assisted by many dancers and a few people who could actually sing (Bebe Lloyd) unlike the much ridiculed "big Aussie bloke" (Russell Crowe). Cutting close to the bone on all the most pressing political issues, our underground location became very useful for such strong dissent. It was lovely to see that the sweet aroma of pastries was strong enough to lure some OWS off the street, with Rory Forsyth's presentation

on Kennedy and Sheriar Kahn's discussion on Islam in France being particularly stimulating. Nico Stone and Stephen Horvath led two

"Our underground location became very useful for such strong dissent"

very interesting and quite different talks on the legacy of the Holocaust.

We have been privileged to have some fascinating visiting speakers as well. Experts who had recently returned from charity work in Uganda and Lebanon provided us with moving personal stories of the plight of communities and refugees respectively. The visit of the Chaplain of the Metropolitan Police

was intriguing, and allowed us to explore how Christian ethics support people in such difficult and often morally unclear areas, as well as touching on current issues in policing as raised by the Ferguson, Missouri shooting. Our speakers have all been remarkably at ease with a tendency for shouting and an incessant desire to mimic obscure 80s TV programmes.

The Chaplain used to joke "some come for the theology, others for the orange juice, and others for the company." Chaplain's Breakfast routinely attracts a diverse range of pupils from all year groups; our weekly chats manage to bring in a real range of opinion, and although it does sometimes get heated, there's a nice atmosphere of friendship. It is fitting that the Old Chaplaincy now becomes Surgery: where our bodies will be bandaged, our souls were thoroughly nourished by Chaplain's breakfast.



LEFT:

The Majesty Escutcheon. In a shield crowned with the imperial crown of England. Dexter: quarterly, 1st and 4th, Argent, a crois Gules (England); 2nd Azure, a saltire Argent (Scotland); 3rd Azure, a harp Or, stringed Argent (Ireland); in an escutcheon of pretence, Sable, a lion rampant Argent (Oliver Cromwell's paternal arms). Sinister: quarterly, 1st and 4th, Sable, three leopards passant in pale, Or, spotted of the first (arms of Cromwell's wife Elizabeth née Bourchier); 2nd Argent, a fess between three crosets sitchée Gules (arms of the Crane family, Cromwell's mother-in-law); 3rd Argent, two bars... (the colour of the bars is entirely indistinguishable), in chief, three hurts.

BELOW:

Cromwell's wax effigy, surrounded by escutcheons, at Somerset House.

Westminster Archives

ARS MORIENDI: THE MAJESTY ESCUTCHEON

Nestled in the Greene Library under a black velvet cloth lies a strange relic of the 17th Century – a silk banner painted with a coat of arms which was used in the funeral procession of Oliver Cromwell in 1658, reveals Elizabeth Wells, School Archivist and Records Manager.

It is commonly known as the Majesty Escutcheon. Margaret M. Verney told of the thrilling story of the Escutcheon's theft from Cromwell's coffin by Westminster pupil, Robert Uvedale, in her work 'Memoirs of the Verney Family', published in 1892:

'In the gloom of that winter afternoon the Westminster boys were marshalled to witness the ceremony. Less than ten years before they had voluntarily gathered themselves together to pray for King Charles as he was led to the scaffold, and all the Puritan governors, and the Presbyterian and Independent preachers in the Abbey, had been unable to extinguish the chivalrous loyalty of Westminster School. The

boys were now stirred to speechless indignation by the various emblems of sovereignty they saw displayed in Cromwell's honour, and Robert Uvedale, whose family had been conspicuous for services rendered to the fallen dynasty, sprang forward through the legs of the guard, snatched from the bier the little satin banner known as the Majesty Scutcheon, darted back again, and before anyone could recover from the shock of the surprise was lost in the crowd of his school fellows. It would have been highly inexpedient at such a moment to arrest and search the Westminster boys; so the bit of crumpled white satin remained in Robert Uvedale's pocket, to be



proudly displayed in after years, and preserved as an heirloom in his family.'

It is a romantic tale which, whilst it contains kernels of truth, is embroidered to the point of fiction. The real story of Cromwell's funeral and Uvedale's theft of the Escutcheon needs no exaggeration.

Mrs Verney was correct when she noted that the pupils of Westminster School prayed for Charles I's soul as the King was executed just down the road in front of Whitehall Palace >>



“Punishment, though slow, follows evil-doers”

TOP:
Dr Richard Busby, a portrait recently acquired by the school.

ABOVE:
Another Escutcheon, sold in 2013 by Sotheby's to the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon.

RIGHT:
Drawing of Oliver Cromwell's head as suspended outside Westminster Hall.

on 30th January, 1649. However, it was their Head Master, Dr Busby, who led the event and not a spontaneous gathering. His former pupil, Robert South, recalled:

‘upon that very day, that black and eternally-infamous day of the King's murder, I myself heard, and am now a witness, that the King

“The boys were now stirred to speechless indignation”

was publicly prayed for in this School but an hour or two before his sacred head was cut off’

Robert Uvedale was not yet seven when Charles I was killed; he is recorded as having become a King's Scholar in 1656. However, Busby may well have inculcated him with Royalist zeal whilst he was at the school. There is no evidence that the Uvedale family were ‘conspicuous’ monarchists, but it is plausible that they supported the crown in the Civil War.

Oliver Cromwell died on 3rd September 1658 having been Head of State for five years. Whilst he had refused to wear the crown whilst alive his funeral preparations were quite regal. Based on the protocol followed after the death of James I, Cromwell's body was embalmed and lay in state at Somerset House. An eyewitness, Thomas Burton, recorded that the rooms were richly decorated with ‘funeral escutcheons very thick upon the walls’. The bills for the funeral (which incidentally went unpaid) show that over 2,000 painted coats of arms were produced on buckram, ‘taffety’ and silk. Unfortunately, Burton continues, due to the ‘disease [Cromwell] died of, which, by the by, appeared to be that of poison, his body, although thus bound up and laid in the coffin, swelled and bursted, from whence came such filth, that raised such a deadly and noisome stink, that it was found prudent to bury him immediately’.

The elaborate arrangements for the funeral had not yet been prepared so the burial took place in secret on 10th November in Henry VII's Chapel, Westminster Abbey.

As a consequence, when the funeral procession did finally take place, having been postponed twice, a wax effigy of Cromwell took centre stage, surrounded by the painted escutcheons. The event had been carefully managed with tickets being issued to mourners whilst soldiers lined the route. Unfortunately, a squabble amongst the Ambassadors about precedence in the procession delayed departure. The journey from Somerset House to Westminster Abbey took over seven hours although the distance travelled was little over a mile. Once the procession had reached its destination darkness had fallen and the French Ambassador reported that there ‘was not a single candle in Westminster Abbey to give light to the company’. Consequently there were ‘neither prayers, nor sermon,

nor funeral oration, and after the trumpets had sounded for a short time, everyone withdrew in no particular order’.

It is at this point that it seems likely that Robert Uvedale made his entrance. Following in the tradition of countless Westminster boys he probably snuck into the Abbey after

the funeral to see the scene. A note he later penned, in Latin, which is attached to the back of the Majesty Escutcheon reads:

‘This ensign was snatched from the bier of the tyrant Oliver Cromwell, which his waxen effigy adorned with royal estate, was being magnificently displayed in the Church of St. Peter at Westminster in a mausoleum therein constructed.

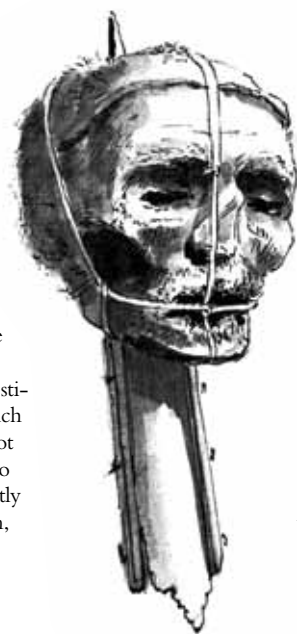
These relics of the triumphs of the man, time devourer of all things, hath a little defaced; but the memory of crimes no antiquity can abolish, until time be swallowed up in eternity.’

As a postscript is the phrase *Tarda licet sequitur poena nocentes*: Punishment, though slow, follows evil-doers.

The Escutcheon was passed down through the Uvedale family to Miss Mary Uvedale West who bequeathed it to the school on February 17th 1964. After she died it was brought to the school and John Carleton, the then Head Master, displayed it outside his study. It remained there until 2000 when it was conserved and transferred to its current home in a purpose-built case in the Greene Library.

The school's escutcheon is not the only banner to have survived the funeral and earlier this year ours was temporarily reunited with three of its sisters at the Museum of London for a BBC Television programme, Heirloom Detectives. It will be interesting to see if any more escutcheons come to light after the show is aired, although none will have the special history of Robert Uvedale's.

Cromwell's body did not rest long in Westminster Abbey. On 30th January 1661, following the restoration of the monarchy, Cromwell's body was disinterred and subjected to posthumous execution at Tyburn. His body was thrown into a pit near the gallows but Cromwell's severed head was displayed on a pole outside Westminster Hall until 1685 when it was dislodged by a storm. It passed through many hands but is now thought to be buried at Sidney Sussex College where it is buried at a secret location near the antechapel.



“I remember wondering if we'd made some terrible mistake”



Westminster in the Community: Post GCSE Day PRECISION ENTHUSIASM

As they dragged themselves across the sun-baked grass and through Liddell's Arch, the exam room sweat dried on their shoulder blades, were the Upper Shell survivors downhearted? dejected? doing their damndest to imagine they were home in bed? Well, yes, but they were determined not to admit it, claims a rather excited Elliot EG Jordan (HH).



The plan was simple. Primary school pupils would come in and be split off into workshops where the Upper Shell would be ready to teach them interesting and valuable skills – dissecting rodents in the biology department, an old favourite, for example, or pushing the boundaries of known science with magnesium, test tubes and imagination in the Chemistry labs. There we were, the planning unit, sitting in the crushingly hot morning sun at an improvised registration desk on Green, pens poised over registers. Seeing the laughing horde of primary school pupils sweeping through the arch towards us in one direction and the fatigued Upper Shells determinedly stumbling towards us in the other, I remember wondering if we'd made some terrible mistake. Fortunately, however, the Upper Shells scrubbed up superbly and neither sun nor fatigue nor the occasional Year Four escapee could stay these steely-eyed teenagers about their scholastic duty. Despite the fact that we were rushed off our feet from registration in the morning to cakes on Green at the end of the day, we unanimously agreed the project went swimmingly. From chasing up pupils wandering over the horizon, most of them being Westminsters, to teaching how to get lost in the cloisters, every Westminster present performed superbly.



Despite their promise to sit ‘with their feet up’ (sic), the teachers helped out far more than could have been reasonably expected, and I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that we would like to thank the brilliant Miss French.

I went home that day feeling that I had really achieved something, and even remembering that I still had to get the GCSE results didn't diminish it.



Westminster in the Community: Summer School THE BECKONING FUTURE

When Westminster School was first founded by the monks of Westminster Abbey, its goal was that of social inclusion. Pope Alexander III decreed that the monks should provide free and enriching education to the local children. He believed that access to academic pursuits and high level teaching was something that should be available to all and not simply the privileged few, Josh Moore reminds us.

835 years later the teachers may no longer be monastic, but the ethos of humility and social inclusion still remains. The school has a strong network of links to the local community and this is greatly exemplified by the Westminster Summer School.

Since its inception six years ago, the Westminster Summer School has certainly gone from strength and strength and the course now has a reputation as one of the leading academic enrichment programmes for disadvantaged 16 year olds in the area. The course aims to challenge and stretch the incredibly bright children from local state schools who attend the week-long programme. At its heart are academic lessons on subjects the students are thinking of studying at A level. In these lessons, the students are encouraged to think outside their usual curriculum and instead explore their subjects to a much deeper and broader level. This may involve topics such as discussing literature in French; gallery trips in Art History; rat dissections in Biology or acting out monologues in English. In addition, representatives from the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College and Kings College London visit to enlighten the students about prospects beyond school. Interactive careers workshops are run by local companies including Burberry, McKinsey & Co. and the Cabinet Office – all keen to donate their time to what they see as a very worthy cause.



“A reputation as one of the leading academic enrichment programmes for disadvantaged 16 year olds”



But none of this would be possible without the great support and help from the wonderful Summer School Ambassadors, this year including the likes of Elizabeth Mobed, Nishant Lahoti, Koshiro Kiso, Meg Tong, Arenike Adebajo and Lili Momeni. All the ambassadors were a great inspiration; their boundless enthusiasm and unquestioning helpfulness was an incredibly useful asset and enabled Westminster Summer School 2014 to be one of the most successful ever.

With plans afoot for an even bigger course in July 2015, with more trips, more subjects on offer and more students, it is clear that future is bright for the Westminster Summer School.



Westminster in the Community: PHAB 2014 THE PHINAL PHRONTIER

PHAB is a week-long residential course with the aim of providing an opportunity for people with and without physical and mental disabilities to live, work and play together. This year the theme surrounding our PHAB extravaganza was an expedition into outer space. School was transformed into a launch pad from which our voyage of fun and relaxation took off; with decorated planets hung from the rafters and the motif of a rocket ship in ascent gracing the back of every bright pink hoodie. From the very first day it was clear that PHAB 2014 would be a journey like no other, announces Siegfried von Thun-Hohenstein (LL).

Every morning we rose early, and although tired from the night before, filled with excitement for the coming day. I couldn't help but feel refreshed as guests greeted each other on their ways to breakfast. Any lingering fatigue was quickly banished in the hubbub of our shared meal.

We took part in a number of practical and hands-on workshops. There was a delightful choice of music, dance/drama, art, design, and film. I chose dance and experienced a measured progression towards the production of a play revolving around the theme of the End of the World. The other workshops each produced their own masterpieces, such as performing a piece from *2001, A Space Odyssey* and a beautiful recital of *I vow to Thee my Country*. These workshops provided an opportunity for much fun while sticking as closely as possible to our 'spaced-out' theme.

For those of us who needed some relaxation after workshops, the afternoons provided an opportunity to enjoy oneself in whatever manner we could think of. Outings to the park, to take advantage of some rare London sun, and high tea at Tate Britain was all that was required for some to recharge, while expeditions to Covent Garden, the cinema, and

the London Eye tempted others further afield. Everyone returned contented and in some cases glowing from their forays.

There was a different activity every evening. On the first night we had an arts and crafts themed circus in which the guests and hosts moved in opposite directions around a string of stalls so that everybody could meet each other. This progressed to the soulful art of karaoke on the second night, with ballads echoing throughout school. On Thursday night the group split in order to visit four different Covent Garden performances in one night. With the likes of War Horse, >>

“School was transformed into a launch pad from which our voyage of fun and relaxation took off”





>> Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, and Wicked it was a memorable night for all. Friday night heralded the barbecue and subsequent movie screening, which provided a slower pace after the whirlwind first few days. It was during these hours that I found myself most weary; however in those moments it was most clear how important PHAB is in the lives of so many people, and how the atmosphere of love surrounding you, carries you, regardless of your physical being or fatigue. In contrast to Friday's relaxed vibe, Saturday was the day of the PHAB Space Disco, during which we felt very emotional about our wonderful and amazing week spent together. The night was full of touching moments such as when Jennie named Tom her Prince Charming, or when the crowd surged to give Stew a group hug.

On the final day decorations from the art group went up all over the entrance and inside School, as parents of hosts and guests alike arrived for a barbecue lunch. We saw our relations again for the first time in what seemed an age, which only added to the joy of the moment. During the show, the dance/drama and music groups performed for the packed audience and the film workshop screened their highlights of the week. When the teachers stood up to thank everyone for the wonderful experience, the dreaded moment of parting with our guests neared. As Mrs Page said farewell to her last PHAB, there was more than one crew member with watery eyes. After the whole week everyone was touched. We said our goodbyes and prepared for departure, with truly warm and heavy hearts, bidding farewell to our fellow travellers from the Starship PHAB.

Westminster in the Community: Beanstalk Challenge CLIMBING TO SUCCESS

Beanstalk is a charity that helps children with difficulty reading to master this crucial skill, writes Matteo G. Pozzi (AHH), managing director of his team in the Beanstalk Challenge.

■ Beanstalk is a truly incredible charity. Reading is crucial in our daily lives, especially in the context of education. A reading problem inhibits the learning process in other subject areas, not just English.

“The Beanstalk Challenge gives pupils the opportunity to run a business in order to raise money for the charity”

The Beanstalk Challenge gives pupils the opportunity to run a business in order to raise money for the charity. The aim is to create a product/service, and all profit goes straight to Beanstalk. At the end of it, the team who has

raised the most money wins a prize. There are also prizes for innovation and teamwork.

This challenge is fantastic for two reasons: firstly, it raises money for a very worthy cause, and secondly, it gives pupils business experience for the future. Westminster therefore decided to participate: four teams were formed, and since November we have been hard at work developing our products/services, marketing them and selling them.

One thing to note is that schools carry out this challenge independently – teams from each school compete against each other, not against teams from other schools. The challenge is now over.

As our product, my team and I came up with an app. The idea behind it is that people are always on the lookout for a good film but often waste time sifting through piles of tiresome trailers. We sought to change that. The result? The Film Finder. For more information about the app, search “thefilmfinder” on the App Store. To discover more about Beanstalk, go to <http://www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk/>

■ “I go to St. Andrew’s every fortnight on a Monday evening for two hours and play with the kids there. I really love it: it’s a good way to relax in the evenings and everyone there is friendly.” **Jameel Sarhardwalla (RR)**

■ “Volunteering at RPT is incredibly enjoyable. The children are always so full of positive energy and it brightens your day to talk to them. It’s also a very rewarding experience. You learn about adapting your teaching methods to suit each individual child, as well as the importance of patience and perseverance. Seeing them learn and improve under your guidance is very rewarding!” **Jorlin Liu (MM)**

■ “I have been volunteering at the Pullen Day Centre every Tuesday for the past two years. At first it was a challenge, but as I built up a relationship with both the carers and cared for at the day centre, it became hugely rewarding. Learning the different bingo calls and then having a turn calling it myself has definitely been one of my most memorable experiences in the school, and in my final weeks at Westminster I realise I will truly miss spending time with the local residents.” **Jack Hochschild (WW)**

■ “I have been volunteering with a 10 year old girl who has been in and out of hospital all her life. She needed a bit of support to come out of her shell, and it has been a hugely rewarding experience to find her gradually opening up to me over the weeks; now walking through the park and having our chat is a part of my week that I always look forward to.” **Yasmeen Cooper (MM)**

■ “These last few months, Ines and I have loved visiting Nicholas at Garside House. Every week our conversations get more intriguing, ranging from the British election to China’s one child policy, all over some pretty intense card games. For a lovely man, Nicholas has a brutal streak when it comes to whist!” **Lucia Simpson (BB)**

■ “The children’s progress at St Matthew’s drama club has been astonishing; we quickly moved from wink murder to on-the-spot improvisation and practising different energy levels with the ten year-olds. One girl wrote a script for the whole class to act - Peter Pan Two - and they performed in assembly to the audience’s delight.” **Amelia Stewart (RR)**

■ “I have been helping to run the lunchtime debating club at St. Peter’s. It has been encouraging to see the group of 11 year olds improve so much over the course of the year, gaining confidence in their ability to speak and thinking more about their ideas. They always come up with great topics!” **Stephen Horvath (BB)**

■ “I help Year Six students who are studying for an extra SATs level 6 exam complete their worksheets. This has been a wonderful experience, especially since I greatly enjoy both maths and working with young children and it’s helped me to develop my teaching skills. In addition, the pupils are always extremely cheerful and attentive, making them a pleasure to work with. This is definitely one of the highlights of my week!” **Tomoka Kan (CC)**

■ “Earlier this year I started up a portraiture programme with some alms houses and a care home in the Westminster area. Although the idea is to link up with a resident and create a portrait of them over time as you visit, this is simply a nice excuse to chat and get to know them. I have really enjoyed meeting Alma, a resident at Norton house - each visit lightens my week and helps me improve my drawing skills.” **Sophie Hiscock (RR)**

Westminster in the Community: Volunteering LIFE-ENHANCING EXPERIENCE

It is hard to believe the School’s volunteering programme was established only a few years ago, as it has now grown to become such an accepted and established part of life at Westminster. What comes through above all when visiting these programmes is a thriving enthusiasm, writes Gilly French.



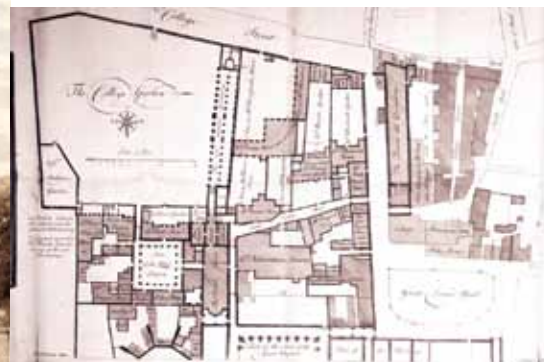
■ The programme starts in earnest in the Upper Shell, where boys work in four local primary schools, helping at breakfast and after-school clubs and running a lunchtime IT club in two schools; they also provide invaluable support at St Andrew’s Junior club two evenings a week.

Most volunteering takes place in the Sixth Form where there are significant opportunities to get involved in a number of projects. These include working in primary schools as classroom assistants, giving music lessons and specialist subject help (Maths and Latin being two notable successes) and helping to

run sports clubs; hospital visiting; befriending the elderly and lonely in local homes and day-centres and through the local charity In Deep; peer-mentoring and coaching for struggling under-privileged children and teenagers.

Many Remove students continue their commitments; a few also act as specialist classroom assistants at Frank Barnes School for the deaf after having learned British Sign Language in the Sixth Form.





Above: An etching of Sargent's view above; note that Ashburnham House has only two floors, plus attics, and 'Turtle's House' to its right remains intact as a Tudor gabled fantasy, sadly demolished in 1883 when the school replaced it with a modern classroom block.

A Brief History of Yard THE CHANGING STAGE

Little Dean's Yard was originally little more than a narrow cobbled passageway, leading from Dean's Yard, under what is now Liddell's Arch, to the School Gateway – a path still marked by the small square white stones which follow that route across Yard, records Tom Edlin (OW).



Early plans of the precincts show that what is now the beating heart of Westminster School was, until 1790, an enclosed and built-up area of Canons' houses and gardens, doors, walls and boundary markers. To the north lay Ashburnham House, behind its front garden wall and rather elegant gate-lodge; and the house between it and School known in the nineteenth century as 'Turtle's' after the Abbey organist who occupied it. To the south, the space where Numbers 1–3 now stand had been occupied by the Tudor 'Vaughan's House', an imposing mansion with a courtyard, tower and large garden, grand enough to be coveted by Protector Somerset in 1549. This house was later much altered, and converted by Robert Freind into two boarding houses, at the same time as surrounding buildings were being subdivided, extended and leased out. It was not until the eighteenth century that the area finally began to be cleared, and not until 1790, when

Robert Furze Brettingham built his terrace of three houses to a uniform plan (all, originally, with the sedan chair steps now surviving only outside No.3), that Yard began to take on something of its current form and appearance.

Even then, it was not until 1882–3 – when the deaths of their final Prebendal occupants brought the provisions of the Public Schools Act into force and allowed the School to acquire Ashburnham House, Turtle's and No.18 Dean's Yard – that Yard truly became the centre of the School, in the sense of being surrounded by it and drawing its vibrant lifeblood from the passage of the School's life in every direction across it. Since then, Yard has been the stage set on which the School performs, and the focal point around which the School gathers.

The recent laying of a splendid new terrace, with the hope that OWs will fill it with engraved names, adds a whole new chapter to the space.

Above (top left): Sargent's painting of Yard in 1837 shows the matching sedan-chair steps of Brettingham's three houses on the right, the gate-lodge of Ashburnham House on the left and the eighteenth-century 'pepper-pot' caps on the Abbey's South Transept.

Above (top right): Radcliffe's view of a similar date offers a sense of the space Yard now afforded, and gives a clearer view of the attractive Ashburnham House gate-lodge.

Above: Little Dean's Yard facing east; the old cobbled pathway leading to the School gateway is clearly visible, as is the front of 'Turtle's House' on the left. Note too the closed face of College Dormitory, ideal for playing sports against.

Above: A plan of the precincts dating from 1719 shows Yard as but a narrow passageway from Dean's Yard to School, surrounded by houses and garden walls.

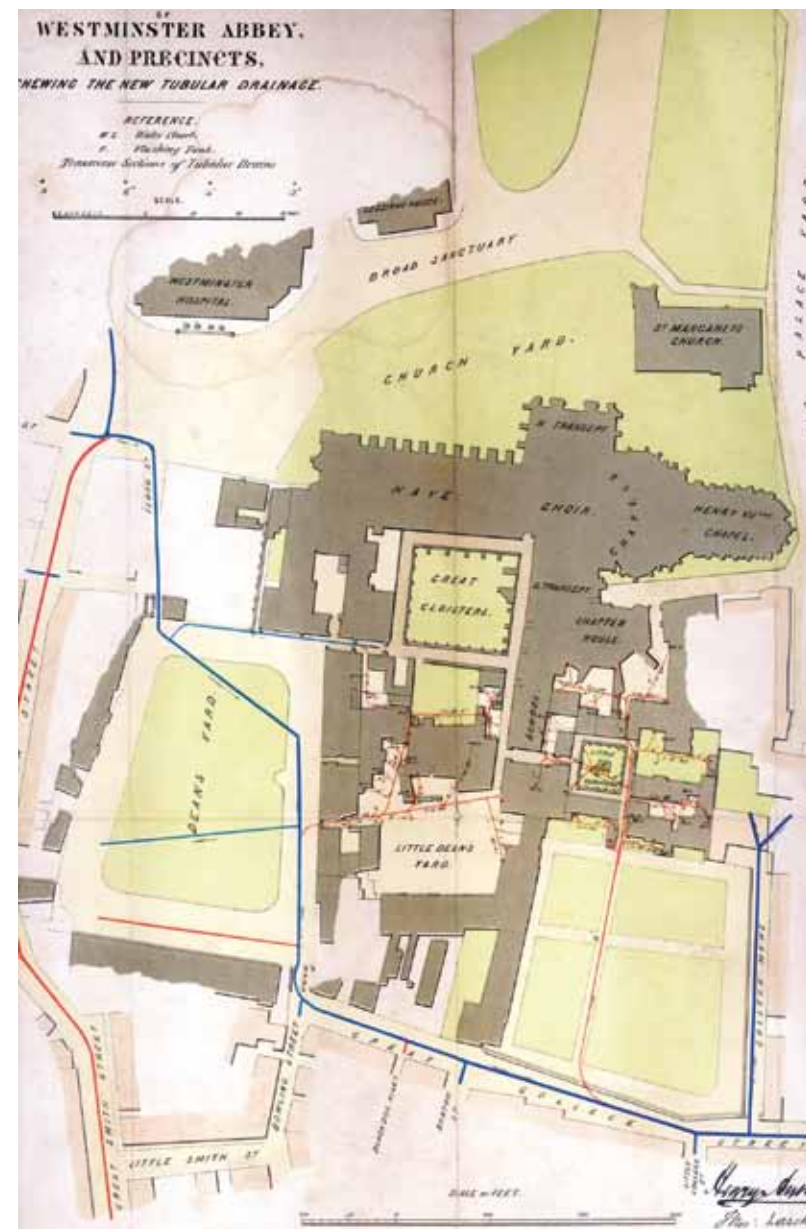
Above (top middle): With the rebuilt Rigaud's in the background, an early twentieth century view of the two five courts occupying the corner of Yard most recently redeveloped in the 1970s with the construction of the extension to 18, Dean's Yard which now houses Hakluyt's.

Middle (right): Brettingham's terrace presents its balanced façade to Yard in a print of c.1840. The house on the right – Rigaud's – would be demolished in 1896 and replaced by a gaudy but purpose-built boarding house in multi-coloured brick, destroying the unity.

Right: The originally open arcade of Burlington's dormitory, facing College Garden (above) was enclosed and converted into Election Rooms (dayrooms for the scholars, as seen in use below) in 1847. At this point the flagstones from within the piazza were reused on the eastern side of Yard, as seen in previous pictures, where they remain a far more elegant surface than the asphalt and worse found in other corners.

“Yard has been the stage set on which the School performs, and the focal point around which the School gathers”





Above: A drainage map of the precincts from 1849 reminds us of two issues the school has long had to manage: under the surface, Yard is crossed by many pipes and services to both Abbey and School properties; and while it is today the heart of the School, with 200 of our windows looking down upon it, the Abbey still uses and crosses it as of right.



Left: For comparison, the O.S. map of 1870 reveals how Yard had been opened up since the construction of Brettingham's terrace eighty years earlier, but the wall in front of Ashburnham House – still, until 1882, the residence of Sub-Dean Lord John Thynne – remains intact, so the area has yet, quite, to reach its current dimensions.

Horace Mann School, New York BROTHERHOOD OF MANN

Westminster continues to build on its links with Horace Mann School in New York. In March a group of four teachers and eight pupils spent a couple of days visiting Westminster, attending lessons and talking with their counterparts, reports Rodney Harris.

The visiting pupils were overwhelmed by the sense of history seemingly so evident around every corner. They very much enjoyed the cut and thrust of discussion in the classroom, and sampling the range of activities on offer at lunchtime. The Economics Society offering which featured the Head Boy, Ben Brind on the General Election proved to be as illuminating as it was entertaining for them. The lunchtime concert up School was another highlight, and all were amazed by the incredibly high standard of the performers. For them lunchtime was a novelty, as their day does not have a fixed lunch break, they simply take lunch in a free period (so long as they have one) because the school day comprises eight 50 minute sessions.

Teachers from each school took the opportunity to discuss approaches to teaching and learning, both in the general sense and at a subject-specific level. The current debate over how to use modern technology is as much a live debate across the Atlantic as it is here. Opinions are very much divided, but they too have decided that while the iPad was initially seen by some as having universal merit, there are many other ways in which technology can

“Two schools each located in the centres of a megacity on different continents have much in common”

be introduced into the classroom and it does not necessarily have to be iPads for all.

Two schools each located in the centres of a megacity on different continents have much in common. The biggest difference noted by the pupils who came lies in the structure of exams and university applications. They had already secured their places at American universities and were returning for their final few weeks but without the intensity of the build up to make-or-break exams at the end of the course.

Virtual Learning TO KEY OR NOT TO KEY

At the start of this year, staff were provided with iPads for use within their own teaching, and were asked to consider how iPads could be used in the classroom if each pupil had their own, records Richard Hindley, Head of Digital Strategy and IT.

With developments in the marketplace over the past 12 months, it is apparent that a more radical approach is now preferable in relation to pupil devices. Westminster pupils typically already own multiple devices – a smartphone, a laptop or maybe a tablet. With Microsoft's recent commitment to a fully cross-platform approach with Office 365, and with cross-platform support within our Firefly Virtual Learning Environment, pupils can effectively use a wide range of personal mobile devices to access Westminster IT systems via our extensive Wi-Fi network.

Our plan is therefore to encourage pupils to make their own technology choices, and then to empower them to use those devices to benefit their teaching

“Pupils can effectively use a wide range of personal mobile devices to access Westminster IT systems”

and learning. This more flexible approach gives pupils autonomy in their technology choices. It encourages them to take responsibility for discovering how to effectively use any equipment which they themselves have selected to purchase to benefit their academic studies.

The key will be to create a culture where pupils routinely bring their personal devices to lessons and use them well. The Staff iPad Scheme has been helpful in creating greater awareness of the possibilities.



Harris Westminster Sixth Form PARTNER SCHOOL

Toward the end of 2012, the school began working with the Harris Federation of schools to draw up plans for a new Free School, recruiting Sixth Formers from across London and providing two years based upon the Westminster School Sixth Form structure, writes Rodney Harris, Director of Studies.

After successful scrutiny of the bid by the Department for Education, and the subsequent allocation of premises in nearby Tothill Street, en route to St James Park tube station, recruitment of pupils began just a year later at the end of 2013. Over 300 pupils applied for places, and some 140 were enrolled when the doors opened at the start of the school year in September 2014. It was a frenetic race to have the former Ministry of Justice offices ready after conversion, but the first three floors now house the school's first intake. Work has continued through this academic year on the remaining four floors, and will be ready for September 2015. They need to be, as over there were over 700 applicants for the second entry, which will give a year group of 250.

Pupils follow four A level/Pre-U courses, and there is an extensive Options/Cultural Perspectives programme. The structure of the school day and term dates mirror those of Westminster School in order to facilitate interaction between the two schools. The proximity of HWSF to Westminster School

is unique amongst the partnerships between independent schools and academies and free schools, and has been a key ingredient to the success of the interaction during this first year.

Links between Westminster and HWSF have gradually developed through the year. To date, most of the interaction between the two schools has been between teachers, with a regular flow as teachers meet up to discuss delivery of Sixth Form courses. Some nine pupils come over to Westminster for one of their A levels (in subjects which are not taught at HWSF), while pupils also come across for major lectures. At the end

“The proximity of HWSF to Westminster School is unique amongst the partnerships”

of the lent Term, HWSF also held their House drama event in the Millicent Fawcett Hall which was a tremendous success, and the School has also been challenged by HWSF to Bridge contests (currently one win apiece). There is also a discussion group formed of pupils with similar A level subject which has started meeting and this should help chart a way for developing pupil interaction. These are early days, but the positive way in which the two schools have interacted this year has surely laid the foundations for its successful evolution.



“I have never seen Yard look so alive”

“It really is just a magical experience”

“It’s a place to go at break time and lunchtimes.”

“Watching the light change, pink at first, then yellow then orange”

“I just want freedom.”

“Camaraderie.”

“I’m not too sure about these renovations.”

“She [the statue] had become an integral part of the school....you’ve got to have a laugh on Monday mornings.”

“Don’t you think it looks like Wayne Rooney’s driveway?”

“Cool.”

“The new Yard is cleaner.”

“Chatting on the steps by the statue.”

“Yard is the hub of... banter”

A New View of Yard
VOX DISCIPULORUM

To commemorate the repaving of Yard which concluded in March, we conducted a series of interviews asking people for their views and favourite memories while the space was being dug up. Compiled by Agnes Pethers, Darius Latham-Koenig, Stephen Horvath and Elliot EG Jordan.

“My favourite part of Yard is the bench underneath the tree”



“A thinly veiled attempt to get rid of Yard football”



“Playing kiss chase!”

“When someone shouted ‘Troll in the Dungeon!’ and everyone lay down on the ground”

“Playing Yard football. The thrill of nearly breaking a window...”

“Yard looks pretty good in the snow”

“Stop constructions!”

“It’s the beating heart of the school.”

“It looks like a footballer’s driveway”

“A place where people change from their own destinations.”

“I like the old paving.”

“People use it (the statue) to grind down their cracked heels.”

“I personally enjoy...skipping across yard.”

“I find the flatness of Yard ... a metaphor for the plains of knowledge.”

“What would you have Yard paved in?”
“Steel.”

“#Yarding. It’s sitting on a bench, eating, looking *tres cool*.”
“Do you do that a lot?” “No.”



“I liked the old Yard.”

“My favourite part right now? Watching the men at work.”

“My favourite memory is of the skin-heads who used to hang about in the corners of yard when I came for my Common Room interview.”

“Dodging the cricket balls in the summer”.

“Wayne Rooney’s driveway.”

“Is this the new assault course?”

“I’m glad that Yard is finally getting touched up.”

“Are you a player of Yard football, or as would have it, Scuba football?”

“I first saw my girlfriend across Yard at breaktime”





“For the angry, a whole shelf of china and three cricket balls”



September Saturday STING RACING

Sunny weather. A full Yard. A dry Under Master. These were all things not present at this year's September Saturday, but their absence only added to its charm, opines Agnes Pethers (PP).

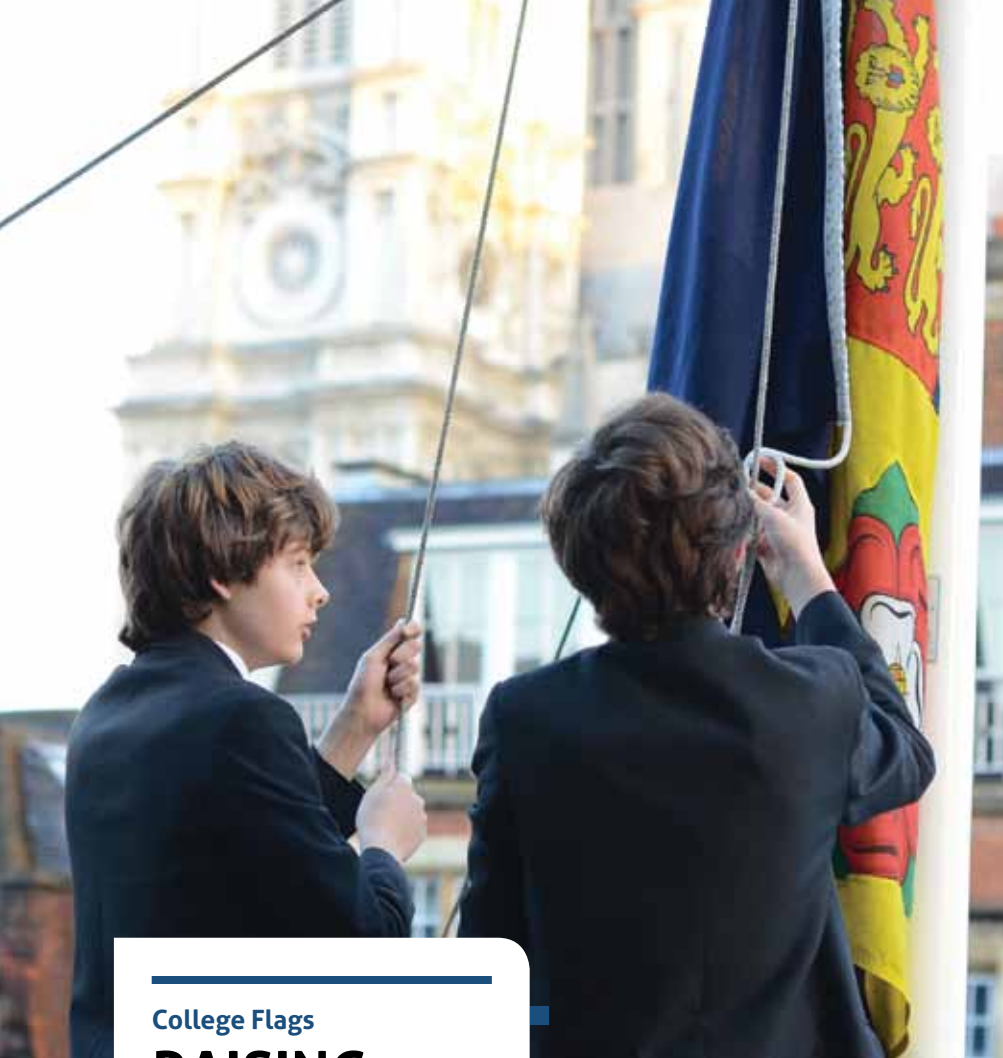
Two days after the excitement of the Scottish referendum, a grey, rainy Saturday morning dawned. By break, pupils with umbrellas and worried expressions were gathering around what little of Yard was not being dug up. Being a new Sixth Former and uninitiated in the ways of this particular school fête, I was convinced that no-one could really survive in these conditions. Little did I know the true determination of Westminsterers when it comes to September Saturday. By lunch-time, trestle tables had been erected, bouncy castles had been duly inflated, pet scorpions primed and it had even almost stopped raining. The scene was set.

There really was something for everyone, as each House attempted to lure potential customers to their particular stalls. For the hungry, a myriad of sweet treats, from candyfloss to crepes to ice cream. For the thirsty, Oreo milkshakes. For the angry, a whole shelf of china and three cricket balls. For the scientifically minded, pin the flagellum on the bacterium. For any self-conscious Lower Shells, Purcells was able to provide face paint and copious amounts of orange hair chalk for the full makeover experience. For any trainspotters, a room in Ashburnham House entirely devoted to model railways. And for the future stars, the ultimate celebrity experience – the stage, before the auction started. The list of fun was almost endless.

Events ranged from the benign, as record stalls and second hand books gradually took over a large portion of Yard, to the bizarre – scorpion racing emerged as not only a hotbed of entirely legal betting but also of potential animal rights issues. The traditional Sponge the Teacher remained popular as ever, as the Thanks must go to Mr Coward for bravely consenting to be gunged.



Two notable successes emerged from the day – not only were over three quarters of the 700 Krispy Kreme doughnuts duly eaten, but we also managed to raise over £16,000 for PHAB: a remarkable achievement for having so much fun!



College Flags RAISING STANDARDS

This year, a College tradition has been resuscitated: the raising of the flag, proclaims Dominic Brind (QSS).

The flag flies on a mixture of saints' days, royal birthdays and wedding anniversaries, and school events and anniversaries. I view the raising of the flag as a great privilege – little compares with the splendour of the view of the rising sun shining on the Abbey, or the Victoria Tower seen on a misty morning. It is a tradition that we hope to continue in years to come.



Carnation Day HEARTS AND MINDS

A day that features in the heart of every Westminster boy and in the laughter of every Westminster girl. The day when a Lower Shell can quite openly express his undying love for a Sixth Form girl and, if not escape ridicule, then at least have an excuse to do so, sighs Elliot EG Jordan (HH).



Capable of generating charity donations faster than a doughnut sale on Friday morning, and producing poetry of truly breathtaking naivety in a way that no English Department competition ever could, it's fair to say that Carnation Day has entered the Westminster psyche. This year, the torch was handed to the



“It was simply ‘all about the love’”

latest generation of Purcell's Girls. Though no longer their sole responsibility, Purcellites continue to spearhead the operation year after year. Under the direction of the wonderful Sara Lee and Alesia Burvin, they had the aphroditic task of delivering all of the billets-doux to their intended recipients, which included rewriting those that were intended to be anonymous. Although the director was unable to disclose any messages for The Elizabethan, on the topic of carnations she said that it was simply “all about the love”. This was certainly true when C-Day finally came around, with Cupid's arrows falling like steel rain on the embarrassed objects of the secret affections of the Lower Shell. The day went off immaculately, with beautiful carnations in full bloom being delivered neatly and on time. Many fires were lit that day, even if they were being lit with the Carnation message cards themselves.

“I view the raising of the flag as a great privilege”



“The Roses Procession is accompanied by all 40 Queen Scholars”



The Greaze

COMICALLY INDIGESTIBLE

For those unfamiliar with the Greaze, it does come as a bit of a surprise – a curious mixture of time-honoured tradition, the sinister threat of ritual violence, and pure comedy – rather like Morris Dancing, writes a startled but appreciative Agnes Pethers (PP).



Big Commem

PAST PRESENT FOR THE FUTURE

The biennial Commemoration of Benefactors, affectionately known as Big Commem, is the grandest School event of the academic year; one that attracts pupils, parents and Old Westminsters alike, declares Darius Latham-Koenig (DD).

Few moments throughout one's time in School can rival the sense of history that pervades the service, especially when the Abbey lights are dimmed, and the haunting Latin chants of the Queen Scholars ring through its imposing walls.

The *Commendatio* has always been a Latin service, originating in its present form from the late 19th century. It is the opportunity of the School to celebrate its official foundation by Queen Elizabeth I in 1560, as well as the gifts that have been bestowed upon it by numerous benefactors. The evening culminates in the laying of the roses on the tomb of the monarch by the Captain of the Queen's Scholars. Since 1995, the Roses Procession has included an Under School boy, an Honorary Scholar, the Head Boy, the Head Girl, and the Rose Bearer. This reinforces the sense that the whole school is represented in giving thanks. The Roses Procession is accompanied by all 40 Queen Scholars from the Great West Door all the way to Queen Elizabeth I's tomb in the Lady Chapel; the Scholars, arranged by height and chanting the monastic *Benedictus Deus*, give a telling reminder of the noble history of this academic

institution. In addition, the sense of grandeur and elegance is heightened by the fact that the whole Common Room appear in full academic dress, several rejoicing in colourful gowns from academic institutions round the world.

The service today still carries the tradition of the past, while incorporating subtle initiatives that bring about constant yet slow evolution. This year, the traditional *Te Deum* featured brass and percussion. Although this complemented the feeling of celebration within the evening, it created several logistical headaches; namely how to move instruments into the middle of the quire without disturbing the intimate nature of the Roses Procession. Luckily, there were no hitches, and the Choir performed with aplomb.

Even by the standards of Westminster Abbey, Big Commem is a large and complicated event that requires many hours of rehearsal, mostly in the evenings. However, participants and congregation alike will testify, it was a commitment well worth the final result. As ever, Big Commem is an important reminder of the gratitude that we as a School owe to those who have gone before us, and endows us with a sense of purpose.

Those for whom seeing groups of boys wrestling for the world's least digestible-looking pancake is a relatively normal occurrence, this year's was distinguished by the arrival of a drone. This hovered ominously over the proceedings – unusually not resulting in the sudden annihilation of a suspected terrorist and nine innocent bystanders, but rather close-up film coverage of the tussle for those members of the Lower Shell and Fifth Form sadly lacking in the height or chairs required for a view. However, apart from this thrilling technical innovation it was business as usual, with contestants carefully chosen by their peers, either because they are felt to have a good chance of winning, or because they are felt to have absolutely no chance at all of winning. It is this above everything else which makes the Greaze so unique as a sporting event – as if, following a grave administrative error, a rugby team and a glee club have mistakenly turned up for a match, but decided to play it out anyway.

“Ecclesiastes, for example, completely understood the whole concept”

As for the Greaze itself this year, there is nothing I can say that has not been said before by better writers than I and in far greater detail. Ecclesiastes, for example, completely understood the whole concept – “The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.” Having said this, congratulations to James Mann of Grants for managing to survive being squashed by a pile of determined boys and still keeping a large proportion of the pancake intact!





“Nagging is what turns Grant’s from a House into a home” GRANT’S



“One of the most important lessons in life is often missed here – failure” BUSBY’S

HOUSE REPORTS

COLLEGE

2015 has been a year to remember for the team in green, with more House triumphs than ever before. We took a well-deserved victory in the newly-fledged House MUN and House debating competitions, and showed domination in House badminton. This wasn't the limit of our sporting achievement however, as we retained the fiercely competitive House netball trophy, thanks to our killer shooting combo, and we once again triumphed in the senior category of the gruelling Towpath race. Perhaps most notable, however, was our performance in the House chess competition, where our fearsome fivesome took the cup with ease for an incredible fifth year on the trot. Cricket and tennis are yet to come...

More internal, but no less important are CCGK2K15 (College General Knowledge 2015) and CCTTT2 (the second year of the intra-House table tennis tournament). The

“Lord Lloyd-Webber was suitably impressed”

COLLEGE

latter was rounded off in style with an unforgettable final between Tibo Rushbrooke and Barnaby Graff. Doughnuts were provided by Matron, and after an intense match the victor was Barnaby.

Another highlight of the year was the visit of Lord Lloyd-Webber, who after a rousing Compline service was treated to a small showcase of the House's musical talent. College Choir struck once again with an *acapella* arrangement of *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, and Protik Moulik showed off his skills with a



beautifully performed *lieder*. Perhaps the most memorable act of the night was an atmospheric rendition of David Bowie's *Space Oddity* arranged and performed by our very own Matthew Bannatyne. Lord Lloyd-Webber was suitably impressed, and followed the showcase with a few anecdotes from his time as a QS.

The Dean's debate/pizza night, now an annual event, did not disappoint either. Archie Hall kicked things off with some divisive questions on topics including assisted suicide and the state of UK politics. The Dean seemed to be in his element, and wasn't afraid to join in on the friendly banter-cum-intense-debating. Matron was stellar as ever, and provided all with yummy drinks and treats.

The College concert promises to be even better than last year, if that is at all possible. The event is both a chance for the virtuosi to leave the crowd amazed, and also for our House spirit to shine through. *Amici usque ad anas* will be roared with pride as always, and will bring an end to a brilliant year.

GRANT'S

Lesser Houses tend to boast victory over their peers. Fortunately, the inhabitants of Little Deans Yard's second-oldest residence are a cut above. Even now we resist the temptation to trumpet our triumph in Girls House Football; we decline to shout our success in House



Swimming; we object to flaunting our fanciness at Rock Climbing or to vaunting our victory in Senior House Tennis. However, one solitary shout of *Habemus Dining Room* must go to Upper Shell James Mann for winning this year's Greaze with the entire pancake. Other honourable mentions go to the netball team for finishing second, the 11-a-side football team for finishing third and to our valiant chess team, who felt that showcasing our mental, as well physical, superiority would simply be too much for the other Houses to bear.

The Grant's House concert was the highlight of the musical year (sorry, Barbican participants, but it's true) with special mentions going to a stellar performance from *Boy Better Know* complete with balaclavas and a smoke machine; the glamorous Grant's Girls' Choir, and finally to a rousing rendition of *Dancing in the Moonlight* which topped off a true festival of sound.

It is difficult adequately to praise anyone willing to follow in the footsteps of one of the greatest Housemasters in the history of house-mastering. Mr Fair showed true Scottish courage, the likes of which has not been seen since William Wallace, by taking up the gauntlet and leading Grant's to our most successful year ever (in the last five years at least). He brought with him his irrepressible optimism and his never-ending supply of niceness. It was heart-warming to see young James taking his first-ever steps in Grant's and the whole Fair family has integrated seamlessly into the House.



“The House concert displayed the rich tapestry of musical taste in Rigaud's” RIGAUD'S

Our thanks also to Mr Bradshaw who came in this year as our new resident tutor and, although his baking exploits with the Fifth Form left a lot to be desired, he has done an admirable job in preventing us from burning down Grant's. Finally, our omnipresent matron, the last voice that any boarder wants to hear but the only one he really needs to; her nagging is what turns Grant's from a House into a home.

RIGAUD'S

As Dr Williams' final year as Rigaud's Housemaster comes to a close, one can only say what a year it has been: not only were the Remove able to raise the roof with their jaw-dropping rendition of the Spice Girls' 90's masterpiece *Wannabe* (pigtails, crop-tops and all), but also saw Rigaud's excel across the board. With September came the return of the House play, this time a collaborative effort with Milne's, putting on Thornton Wilder's stylistic and harrowing *The Long Christmas Dinner*. After only two weeks' rehearsal a determined cast from various years recreated the ageing of a family over a century, a realistic reminder of the transient nature of life for the packed auditorium.

The House concert displayed the rich tapestry of musical taste in Rigaud's – Durdy and Boyce's *Ain't no Sunshine*, triangle and

guitar arrangement, bringing a tear (of laughter) to everyone's eyes, and the dedication to our leaving Housemaster of the newly written ballad *Someone like Huw* acting as a suitably moving farewell.

On the sporting field we charged out with our usual panache, cruising to victory in Senior House Sixes with Sasha Foss's wonder strike goal from inside his own half, with the whole crowd of onlookers reasonably drawing comparisons between our star centre forward and the likes of Beckham and Alonso. Efforts in other athletic spheres were slightly less successful yet no less valiant, and Election term will hopefully see Rigaud's hold on to some of our often-won summer Station silverware. As Dr Williams moves on to Tonbridge, we can look back at his time as Housemaster with fond memories. He has managed to guide another generation through the school, all whilst raising his two young children (and the other 75 in the House.) Let's hope Tonbridge value him as much as we do. *Ipsu Razu*.

BUSBY'S

Whilst many lesser Houses trouble themselves with the juvenile pursuit of chasing trophies, Busby's this year has decided to seek greater goals. Given that Westminster is a school of high achievers, one of the most important lessons in life is often missed here – failure. However under the kindly gaze of PAB (our angel of the North) BB has slyly evaded any such problems. We have learnt that it truly is the taking part that counts. Our indomitable House spirit can withstand any series of sporting setbacks and despite these struggles an excellent trade-in of blondes has at the very least quadrupled our musicality as a House, resulting in retaining of the House Singing trophy for the fifth year in a row. If House Concerts were a competition, we would also totally have won that. All that remains to be said is that even if House football was not the perfect match, and House netball not the perfect catch – we could have done worse.

LIDDELL'S

It has been another extraordinary year in Liddell's. After a period of dubious playtime involvement in the school, the last few years have seen us become to the school what nitrogen is to air. Extraordinary involvement in



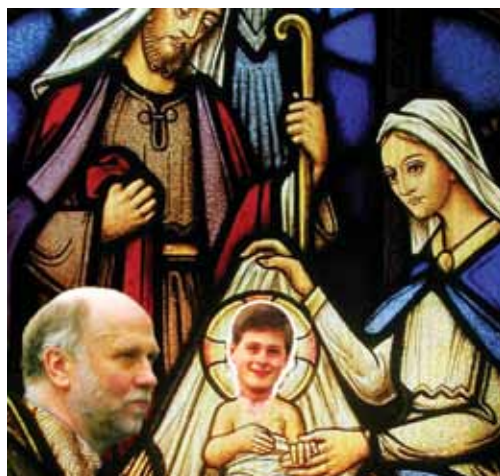
drama, music and sport has occurred at the expense of scene-stealing House victories. We are the 'Boxer' of Westminster, though hopefully will not be sent off to the knackers by a 'Napoleon' any time soon. This year much of the student legwork has been done by the much-loved Head of House, Jamie Drape with Natalie Tsui and Charlie Wall, as well as contributions by day boys Joel Ritossa and Ben Brind. The triumvirate of boarders have done a great deal to help other boarders and add to the extraordinary warmth that Liddell's exudes; given that our colour is yellow and Nick Clegg is a Liddellite it is only fair to compare us to the cheery face of the Liberal Democrats.

However, our 2015 successes have been far greater than those enjoyed by the Lib Dems. We have certainly built on last year's agonising second place at Sports Day, where we won the Boys' part of the competition. Indeed, with an extremely capable group of Fifth Form footballers we won the Junior House six-a-sides, promising much for future years, while the senior 'Lid Army' finished runners-up in the House eleven-a-side. There has been a continuation of extremely credible running performances and Mr Law and Ms Barry organised an excellent House concert. Most importantly we managed to turn out a chess team for the first time in anyone's memory. We showed ourselves to be second only to College in intellectual pursuits, finishing second in both House debating and MUN; indeed, we can feel winners as we embodied the true Olympic 'amateur' spirit compared to College's more 'East German' approach. Our cricket attempts, however, remain even worse than England's ODI World Cup campaigns. Crucially, all Liddellites owe an extreme amount to Mr Page for his constant kindness and good humour, as well as his desire for pupils to mature with a refusal to nanny obsessively in a Harriet Harmanesque style. This has provided a liberating education that be a key factor in the appointment of our fourth >>



“It is only fair to compare us to the cheery face of the Liberal Democrats”

LIDDELL'S



Fifth Former, James Bates, who dismissed two 1st XI batsmen. If any collection of performances could sum up the spirit among Wrenites, it would surely be this.

DRYDEN'S

■ Dryden's "genius must be born and can never be taught" has never had greater veracity than in this academic year.

The House threw itself into the extra-curricular scene from the start of the academic year with a House play. We put to use the theatrical skills usually employed to make excuses for late prep, and what a success it was. Performing Tom Stoppard's *Doggs Hamlet* and *Cahoot's Macbeth*, the actors excelled in speaking a jumbled English all assembled by directors Eduardo Strike and Mr H-B. The audience's particular favourites were the perpetually perplexed Matt Lewin and the dramatically collapsing damsel Nadya Kelly. It was evident from these performances that the Fifth Form had settled immediately with Matthew Carver making a fine comic Ophelia.

Mr Edlin's House Nativity 'event' at the end of the Play Term was a memorable extension of our festive carol-singing tradition. A concept inspired by the seemingly pre-ordained casting of the 'Dryden's Three Wise Men' (aka Musketeers) seemed threatened when Myrrh disappeared for an Oxford interview at the last minute, while the detained Star of Bethlehem was obliged to shine from afar (in Room 32). But others rallied round to produce a moving experience, with the Babe wrapped in swaddling bands and utterly tuneful Heavenly Host particularly inspiring, alongside the Fifth Form sheep!

The talent again was out in force at the House concert in January in which two more Fifth Formers, Harvey Parker and William Shirras, impressing with their individual pieces.



“Befriending the numerous recluses who make up Hakluyt's”

HAKLUYT'S

The Sixth Form too wanted to prove they were more accomplished than the Remove and so Alex Choi, Darius Latham-Koenig and Jinny Wang had obviously picked the most difficult pieces they could find, setting a benchmark for next year. Ensemble work was displayed in the jazz band and choir arranged by Mr Au and Miss French.

In the words of the great Bill Shankly, "Some people believe football is a matter of life and death... I can assure you it is much, much more important than that". As everyone knows, there is nothing quite like House football at Westminster. Mr. Hemsley-Brown and Mr. Edlin managed to shout every football cliché from the side-lines yet crushingly, it was not enough. The Red Army was confronted

“We have just ordered a new trophy cabinet from IKEA”

DRYDEN'S

with a corridor clash in the semi-finals against Wren's, a challenge which Jasper Baines met with style. Running from centre-half, he turned a Wrenite defender every which way

>> Head Boy in five years, which should be a record. Rose must be thanked for her invaluable behind-the-scenes efforts, as must the team of cleaners led by Izabela.

ASHBURNHAM

■ If there's one thing being in Ashburnham teaches you to cope with, it's failure. Well, that and the smell. Astonishingly, the traditional horde of cheerful defeats has been supplemented this year by some very real almost-victories. From establishing ourselves as the dominant sporting force of Dean's Yard in the first round of Senior House Football to an awe-inspiring near-podium finish of 4th in House MUN,

year, as anyone who attended the quirky 'Sir Christopher Wren's Birthday Party' celebration will testify. Jealous pupils from other Houses frequently approach us and angrily accuse Mr. Wurr of handpicking the finest academic, musical and sporting talent that joins the school every year.

Our consistent superiority over all other Houses in a wide range of competitions continued this year, despite the loss of last year's impressive Remove. Arguably the most prestigious victory came in House shooting, a result that illustrates Wrenites' innate composure when the pressure mounts. Armed with a collection of SDW's finest running spikes, the Bringsty Relay trophy was also ours, with the Senior team romping to victory and strong performances from the Juniors and the Girls. One of the individual highlights of the year was Oscar Frith's breathtaking performance – if you'll pardon the pun – in the 'underwater dash' at House swimming, where he achieved an incredible 45 metres without surfacing.

In our attempts to discourage the other Houses from withdrawing from future competitions, we did not win either form of House football. Another competition we did win,

“Ours was a team built around one half-decent bowler”

WRENS

however, was House cricket, at the end of last year. Unusually, we were not seen as the favourites by any measure: a motley crew, billed as underdogs in the quarters, semis and the final, ours was a team built around one half-decent bowler. Every member of the squad played their part but, fittingly, the crucial wickets in the final were taken by diminutive

“A House concert that has since passed into legend”

ASHBURNHAM'S

Ashburnham has, unsurprisingly, been the three syllables on everyone's lips this year. Not content with asserting our Olympian prowess in the world of athletics, we put together a House concert that has since passed into legend for its breathtaking virtuosity: highlights including a House performance of *Everybody Dance* for which a staggering some of us managed to not only learn the words, but move in time to the music simultaneously. Indeed, murmuring has been heard that we may even throw off the mantle of 'the Hakluyts of Green!' Having consulted the augurs, our high priest Darius Afkhami has looked into the distant future and confirmed this run of success should last longer than an extracurricular Prize-giving – the age of Ashburnham has begun.

WREN'S

■ Let us begin with a quote from Jose Mourinho: "Please don't call me arrogant because what I am saying is true." There you have it.

Wren's seems to be blessed with freakishly talented Fifth and Sixth Form entrants every

House', becoming more and more one where both running and chess are allowed to flourish, and in which our hobby-sport, football, takes centre-stage in an unexpected turn of events

The girls came in and had the difficult job of befriending the numerous recluses who make up Hakluyt's, yet not only did they bring welcome company but added to the ever-growing sporting prestige of the house. The Bringsty relay was taken by storm, with a merciless team of Nat, Olgly-Bear, Annis and Laz running, skipping and rolling through mud to a glorious victory. Yet prior to the Bringsty, Hakluyt's had a try at the Towpath. Our sporting prowess came into full effect as we ran to an overall first place in the competition, the junior team performing particularly outstandingly.

Chess is often hailed as the highlight of the sporting calendar. It would be a travesty to understate the importance and status of the chess competition – a travesty The Boys in Blue and Yellow could not allow. Thus a crack team was sent in to rep Mr Hopkins' clan with pride, comprised of the finest chess minds we could conjure. Heads down and fingers at the ready, the stone-cold killers systematically dispatched each new opponent. We then faced College in the final and I leave the rest to your powers of deduction.

But above all this, beyond all the numerous petty and easy battles we have won, there is one which stands out amongst them as a definitive marking point in the Hakluyt's history book. The House football eleven-a-side competition saw a team of true sportsmen, equipped with both physical grace and fine minds, send out shockwaves. The management of Michael Ogilvy was of a calibre Mourinho would be proud. Angelos Anastakis laid down firm the foundations upon which the defence placed bricks, and the midfield-layered dynamics of an architectural elegance. Then there was Zak Khalique, a striker capable of leaving even the finest defence in tears. A goal-machine and nothing less, his is a name that ought to live on in the Hakluyt's memory. >>

with speedy footwork worthy of a true Musketeer, before blasting home his shot to send us to the final. As we have just ordered a new trophy cabinet from IKEA and had nowhere to keep the trophy, we allowed Rigaud's to win the final this year, another great show of sportsmanship from Dryden's.

Other events such as the Bringsty Relays over Wimbledon Common, House chess and House debating saw Drydenites valiantly go forth and embrace the opportunities of the school. The Red Army continued to run headlong into these challenges and usually come out the other side, led unflinchingly by our fearless general, DHB.

HAKLUYT'S

■ Anti-social, awkward, nerdy... That is a Hakluyt's of the past. Or at least, this year Hakluyt's temporarily shook off our usual, useless selves and went BIG. To CD Riches's dismay it seems Hakluyt's may throw off the inhibiting shackles of the term 'that rowing

“The chambers of Purcell’s have always been a mystery to other Westminsters” PURCELL’S



>> It is a mystery why this year of all years bore such sporting fruit. One cannot pin down these moments of coincidence in which the clouds align and shine down upon our cherished Hakluyt’s. All we can do is wonder. From under the wings of Mr Hopkins the Hakluyt’s spirit has flown, reaching always better, higher, and further.

PURCELL’S

The chambers of Purcell’s have always been a mystery to other Westminsters, with its second-floor-boundary guarded by Doc’s beloved George the Cat. Yet this year we have seen a marked change. Finally, Purcell’s is a full House, with members in all years, and we are taking over the school. Our purple and white stripes are seen increasingly around Yard and Purcellites are dominating the inter-House arena.

Some star athletes emerged this year, including Maxim Postolovsky racing ahead in school events and finishing first at London Schools for Cross Country, Neha Madhotra and Chet Johal winning Doubles Badminton, bringing Purcell’s to second place in House Badminton, and many rowers including Jake Swann, Maxim, and Alix Hall representing the school in external competitions. We also have good prospects for upcoming squash matches, with talented players like Harry Alam and Ilya Kleyner.

Many Purcellites were involved in musical endeavours like the Barbican Concert in the Lent Term, and we have heard remarkable singers from Purcell’s in the Carol Service and in Abbey every week. We also saw many familiar faces in the cast of *Guys and Dolls*, following a colourful rendition of *Let it Go* in our House Concert.

We went all the way to the finals in House Debating, represented by Head Girl Sofya Shchukina and Xavier Chitnavis. We also came third in House Chess and in House MUN! Many members of our Sixth Form



were either placed or highly commended in the annual Gumbleton Prize for Creative Writing, with Jack Marsh winning first place.

House events like Gabriel Doherty and Ahad Qureshi’s ‘Jawdropping One-Night Only Quiz’ and Neha Madhotra’s House Badminton Night have made this year one of the most memorable. The initiative that Purcellites have shown has been both impressive and inspiring. Leanne Yau and Karolina Wale launched the thought-provoking Pride Society this year, informing the students about the LGBTQ+ community, and many Purcellites have given talks in societies ranging from Political Society, Law Society, English Society and of course, Feminist Society. Our September Saturday stall with games and face-painting was also a success.

All these achievements stand to show what an exceptional House Purcell’s is. However, for those of us leaving, moments like ordering pizza as a House, getting take-away meals, ice-skating or having Matron’s scrumptious birthday cakes will be equally memorable. We look forward to seeing how Purcell’s will grow in the future.

MILNE’S

“If ‘Failure is the key to success; each mistake teaches us something’, as a House we are well set for the future. Beset on all sides by injury (Nick Clanchy and George Salmon’s persistent difficulties) our previously glorious long distance running record was somewhat tarnished this year. Despite boasting a line-up containing three-time Bringsty/Towpath double winners, a fresh crop of eager Fifth Form and new girls, we had to settle for a noble third this year. Likewise, House football proved unfruitful, despite the powerful twin engines of Danny Wallis and George Salmon driving our faithful Orange Army, a disallowed goal and dubious refereeing saw that we were knocked out in the first round to Ashburnham (apologies to all ex-Milnites reading this). However, their hollow triumph was short lived. The Orange Army bounced back in impressive style for the House sixes,



narrowly missing out on qualification to the semis, but importantly, a convincing win over Ashburnham ensured that bragging rights were returned to their rightful home in 5A.

This change of fortune rightly inspired our musicians in the House concert, which went surprisingly well, with some members of Milne’s finding themselves almost too much at home in the music department, (you know who you are). Kicking off with Krishan Budheo’s heavy trap remix of Two Door Cinema Club’s *What You Know*, the audience

“Bragging rights were returned to their rightful home in 5A” MILNE’S

needed reminding that they were in fact at the Milne’s House concert as opposed to a grimy squat rave in East Finchley. A hearty rendition of *Come On*, fresh off Doc Hartley’s newly released mixtape, *Everybody Needs Some* ensured the evening was an utter success reminding the world that Milne’s stands alone; we don’t turn to other Houses to make up the numbers.

On the charity scene, Milnites showed once again their supreme selflessness, which epitomises the House. We wiped the board and came a charitable second (being too selfless to come first) in terms of funds raised on September Saturday, quadrupling last year’s total with a generous £900. The joint Milne’s–Rigaud’s House play, *The Long Christmas Dinner* directed flawlessly by Harlan Epstein, entertained and showed that Milne’s isn’t afraid to lend a hand to the lesser Houses.

In short, it is certainly fair to say Milnes is on the rise. Like a phoenix from the ashes of this year’s shortcomings, the new generations of Milnites will skip down the path of success before them. The House, like its members, is in a constant state of decorative refurbishment due to the ever-present and ever-helpful Assistant Housemaster, Sandy Crole.



SALVETE

An Interview with the new Head Master, conducted by Stephen Horvath (BB) and Darius Latham-Koenig (DD).

“Mr Derham believes most strongly in the transformative power of education”

Patrick Derham

On entering the Headmaster’s study, it was immediately noticeable that a new and eclectic approach was being taken regarding its furnishing. The office plan reflects deliberately Mr. Derham’s favourite influences and thinkers; people from whom he seeks inspiration and admires. To begin with, complementing his academic background as a historian, several volumes of Morley’s *The Life of Gladstone* occupy a distinctive place on his bookshelf. More prominently though, the portraits of three of the most important Old Westminsters hang above his desk. Dr. Richard Busby and Queen Elizabeth I figure in his thoughts regarding the day-to-day running of the school, yet it is the portrait of John Locke, the renowned philosopher, which arguably is his biggest influence. In a rather deft touch, Locke looks over Mr. Derham’s shoulder, constantly reminding him of their shared interest in a truly liberal education. Meanwhile, one of the four walls is covered with original, satirical cartoons of the early 17th century, hinting at a lighter side to Mr. Derham’s focused nature. Ultimately, the careful planning of his study reflects a wider plan allied to his vision of the school.

What is his vision then? Mr Derham believes most strongly in the transformative power of education, a belief shaped by his

varied school life that managed to include seven different schools before the age of 12, followed by naval boarding school on a merchant ship, later being offered a place at Pangbourne before ending up at Cambridge as a History undergraduate. As a result, he firmly advocates service to the community, and the latter’s power and relevance to Westminsters today. Mr. Derham wants service to become part of ‘everyone’s DNA,’ and has spoken to pupils about the need for civic engagement in more than one passionate assembly. Subsequently, the league tables are of little value to him, primarily because the different parameters used by the newspapers and government boards alike create a false picture of a school’s achievement.

When asked to describe places around the world that hold a place in his heart, the concept of community and service crops up; he visits Calcutta three times a year on behalf of a charity. India itself is a vibrant country that appeals to him on account of its inherent differences with Europe, as well as the historic contacts between the two. Mr. Derham also wishes to visit the aspiring nation-states of Tibet and Bhutan, maintaining a sub-continental trend throughout his travel plans.

Referring more directly to school matters, the Head Master answered with aplomb when asked what he had noticed most when he shadowed several pupils at the beginning of the year. Several things stood out the most; the ebb and flow of the day, the typical distance travelled on foot, and the enormous array of activities and societies on offer. Mr. Derham, a regular attendee of many school societies and matches, said shadowing pupils made him envious of the huge range of exciting chances we are privileged to have. Responding to light questioning over matters that touch a collective raw nerve, Mr. Derham declared his unwavering enthusiasm for Yard football, insisting that it comes under the umbrella of archaic yet quirky School traditions; a fabric that encompasses the Greaze, Latin Prayers, Big Commem, and the twice-weekly Abbey services. It soon becomes clear that the Headmaster’s already supportive love and admiration for the school will only develop, and his relaxed, informal personal style belies a deep sense of pride and ambition for the school. When asked about his relationship with the media, his answer was short and to the point: “I do not live for the press”. Mr. Derham maintains a modest and low-key approach towards his work, avoiding political involvement whenever possible. Nevertheless, he concedes that the state sector of education requires drastic improvement, a desire for change that he is actively involved in with the new Harris Westminster Sixth Form Academy. Once again, the theme of the transformative power of education surfaces. It is obvious that Mr. Derham is a perfect fit for a Head Master of Westminster, a man with a dynamic vision to lead it into the next decade.

SALVETE



TOP ROW (l-r):
Stephen Bailey
Helena Barton
Laura Cappenberg
Nathan Cole

MIDDLE ROW (l-r):
Amy Gandon
Ben Gravell
Dominic Jones

BOTTOM ROW (l-r):
Amal Kebaier
Michael Sugden

Stephen Bailey

■ Stephen Bailey began his academic pathway in the study of Law at Downing College, Cambridge and supplemented this with lots of investment in football during his time in Cambridge. He represented the University in a number of football Varsity matches and was awarded a Blue. After making the decision to not enter the legal profession, he spent time working in International Development and the charity sector before settling on a pathway in Education. He completed at PGCE in Religious Education at the University of Oxford and holds an MA degree in Theology. His interests are deep and wide but loves sport, theatre, literature (important as he is married to an English teacher) and travel.

Helena Barton

■ Helena Barton studied History at Newnham College, Cambridge, where she specialised in 19th century Russia. After a short time in the City, she taught at Alleyn's for three years before joining Westminster.

Helena enjoys using her evenings to go to the theatre or an exhibition and likes to use her holidays to travel further afield, particularly to the mountains as she is an enthusiastic skier.

Laura Cappenberg

■ Laura Cappenberg joined the Modern Languages Department at Westminster as the German assistant. She read English and Biology at the University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany) and Waikato University (NZ), and specifically enjoyed studying British literature. She specialised in teaching foreign languages, particularly through literature and Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), mainly in the Biology classroom. After having spent time in England and New Zealand as well as teaching English at several schools in Germany, she decided to make the move to the British capital to show the Brits how much German culture has to offer. When she is not in school, she enjoys reading, cooking and singing as well as the cinema and theatre, likes to travel and tries to see as much of London as she can.

Nathan Cole

■ Nathan Cole studied Natural Sciences at Pembroke College, Cambridge where he specialised in theoretical and computational Physics. His masters' project involved simulating the condensation of fluid in porous media, in particular focussing on how the sudden jumps in fluid density is analogous to the Barkhausen effect in ferromagnets – he accepts he is one of the few people in the world to find this interesting. Nathan can be described as a keen, but distinctly average sportsman, and enjoys playing cricket, golf and squash. Last year he ran his first marathon but swears he will not make that mistake again. Before joining the Mathematics department in September, Nathan enjoyed a summer tutoring and travelling around Europe.

Amy Gandon

■ Amy Gandon studied Classics at Pembroke College, Cambridge where she specialised in Greek tragedy, Classical art and archaeology and linguistics. Upon graduating she lived and worked for 6 months in Rome, before joining the Westminster Classics department in January 2014. The product of three generations of teachers, she cannot but feel this was a somewhat inevitable development! Beyond her Classical interests, Amy is a keen modern linguist and speaks French, Italian and Spanish. She is also pursuing further study in the Social Sciences, inspired by her work in a social psychology lab at Cambridge, investigating, amongst other things, 'attitudes to awkward silences'. Outside the classroom, Amy loves to travel – especially in her beloved Italy – and to sing jazz and funk music.

Ben Gravell

■ Ben Gravell joined Westminster from Eastbourne College, where he had been teaching for two years. He studied at the University of Bristol and wrote his undergraduate dissertation on Greek ethnicity under the Roman Empire. Currently his main Classical interests lie in Latin poetry, particularly elegy. Prior to teaching Classics he taught English as a foreign language in Istanbul and Azerbaijan and his love of travel has taken him to over 40 countries, including a 'holiday' to Iraq last year. Despite having grown up in pancake-flat Suffolk he also enjoys hill walking and plays the piano and the saxophone.

Dominic Jones

■ Dominic Jones read Classics at Somerville College, Oxford where he spent four years buried in dusty tomes – eventually specialising in Roman historiography and political philosophy. Upon graduation he changed tack, joining the Teach First programme as an English teacher. After two years in Birmingham, earning a PGCE through Warwick University, he moved south and for a year taught English and Latin in Hammersmith. In the near future, he would like to convert this

diverse experience into postgraduate research within Classical Reception. Outside the classroom, he is a keen cyclist, runner and supporter of Leicester Tigers. He spends vacations travelling, and hopes to lead a walking expedition along Turkey's Lycian Way.

Amal Kebaier

■ Amal Kebaier, is originally from Saint-Etienne in France, a city best known for its football team – and not much else. She left it for Toulouse where she could enjoy sun and exceptional teaching at the *Classe Préparatoire aux Grandes Ecoles* at the *Lycée Pierre de Fermat*. She then went on studying English and Performing Arts in France at the *Université Lumière Lyon 2*. Amal first taught English to French people before specialising in French as a foreign language. She started teaching at King's College School in Wimbledon as part of a gap year and discovered she loved sharing her passion for her mother tongue and culture. That is why she joined the Modern Languages

department in Westminster as part-time French assistant. Outside school, she is taking a master's degree in Theatre Studies, enjoying London's buzzing life and trying to understand British customs.

Michael Sugden

■ Michael Sugden joins the Modern Languages Department to teach French and German. After a Commission with The Light Infantry he studied Modern Languages at Christ's College, Cambridge and completed a PGCE at The Institute of Education. He has taught at Sherborne School, Scotch College, Melbourne and latterly at Felsted School where he was Head of Modern Languages and a Housemaster. His interests include foreign travel, theatre, cooking, tennis and walking long distance paths. Proud to be the tallest teacher at Westminster, Michael particularly enjoyed the pupil's remark on his first day: "Things are looking up at Westminster".



VALETE



Jacqueline Cockburn

It is fair to say that Jacqueline Cockburn's life at Westminster has been characterised by challenge and achievement on a remarkably wide spectrum. This observation is captured most neatly by the striking fact that she was appointed in 1984 to teach French and Spanish, but leaves Westminster in 2015 as an Art History teacher, having recently stepped down from running this outstandingly successful department.

When she arrived at Westminster in April 1984 from Brazil, Jacqueline's passion for languages found fertile ground. Beyond her French and Spanish lessons, she offered classes in Portuguese and Linguistics, and a collaboration with Richard Stokes led to a highly well-received publication of *The Spanish Song Companion*. Jacqueline's particular interest in drama gave rise to a production of Lorca's *Yerma*, along with producing no fewer than ten other plays during her first decade at the school.

Following the birth of Alexander in 1990 (her third child), Jacqueline set herself the new challenge in 1992 of studying for a B.A. in Art History at Birkbeck College. Within an astonishing ten-year period, by 2002, Jacqueline had secured her B.A., had become an associate lecturer at Birkbeck, had completed her Ph.D., and had established the Art History department at Westminster in its own right; all whilst raising a family of three boys.

It is testament to Jacqueline's energy and commitment that the History of Art department at Westminster is held in such high esteem. In 2006, the CIE Board asked her to construct the Pre-U Art History syllabus, and she was its Chief Examiner until 2014. The Art History Society has attracted speakers such as Professor John House (OW), Andrew Graham-Dixon (OW), Simon Schama, and Alistair Sooke (OW), and the talks have been a source of delight to countless pupils and parents over the years. Numerous trips to New York, Paris, Barcelona, and Rome have been greatly appreciated by our Art History students, and many of them have opted to read the subject at university level. What better witness to Jacqueline's inspirational leadership of the department?

From this brief consideration of her academic career, 'drive' and 'determination' are clearly appropriate terms to express Jacqueline's character; however, her instinctive sense of compassion and sympathy are equally central. She has been an invaluable tutor in Wren's throughout her time at Westminster, working with seven housemasters. Being one of only three female members of the teaching staff on her arrival in 1984, and with the needs of the Sixth Form girls very much in mind, Jacqueline soon proposed and filled the post of Head of Girls. On many occasions during pastoral discussions, her insights have forestalled dismissive judgments from male colleagues, and it has been this wisdom which has also made her such an excellent member of the school's staff review panel in recent years.

At the heart of Jacqueline's time at the school has been her teaching and, despite the several exciting prospects ahead, it is the fact that she will be leaving the Westminster classrooms which has given her the most concern. Unstinting dedication to her students has been the hallmark of her approach, and former pupils have commented freely on her expertise, rigour, patience, enthusiasm, and sense of fun; in short, all the qualities of which anyone who has had the pleasure to know Jacqueline is readily aware. Still, her vocation drives her on, and with lectureship possibilities ahead, as well as the educational tours of Andalusia she and her husband Ian are offering, Jacqueline will thrive as she follows her fulfilling life-path. The new venture can be found online at www.artandculturetravel.com

We wish Jacqueline and Ian every happiness for their adventure ahead, whilst knowing she is irreplaceable, and will be sorely missed at Westminster. Jacqueline has been such a faithful and supportive friend to many of us and, combined with her ready sense of fun and good humour, she will always remain in our affection.

Keith Tompkins

Huw Williams

Huw joined Westminster in 2008 to teach Biology. It marked a shift from academia to school-teaching in his career, following study at UCL and further research at the University of Cambridge, where he worked at the Wellcome Trust Gurdon Institute and Sanger Institute. It seems apt that Huw researched embryogenesis; in the same way that a single fertilised cell so quickly divides and differentiates into an exquisitely complex organism, so we have seen Huw rapidly mature from a sac of raw ingredients – compassion, intelligence and integrity – into the pastoral leader who leaves us to become Second Master at Tonbridge School. Of course, in the same way that many cells degenerate during development to sculpt the final organism, so too the shoulder-length ringlets of hair Huw joined us with have now



been scythed to make way for a managerial buzz-cut.

As a classroom teacher, Huw had immediate talent. Academic rigour, combined with ebullient enthusiasm for all things living and an interest in how students learn, mean his pupils not only made excellent progress – very many going on to study life sciences at university – but also collected an arsenal of tales of biological curiosities to deploy in dinner party conversation. Huw embraces the importance of experimentation in science teaching; he is at his most animated and inspiring when encouraging pupils to identify an unfamiliar specimen on a microscope slide, when finding an unexpected product in a biochemical assay or when waist-deep in a river hunting for fly larvae. In the same way, Huw is never complacent about teaching a particular principle and likes to experiment with his approach, constantly modifying resources and reflecting on the best way to approach a new idea. He leaves a legacy of innovative activities, many devised through fruitful and enjoyable collaboration with his colleagues.

It quickly became apparent that Huw was equally effective at supporting pupils outside the Biology laboratories and he relished the pastoral and extra-curricular aspects of Westminster life. He led various expeditions, coached football teams, introduced Volleyball as a Station and gave several years of intensive service to PHAB. In his second year at Westminster Huw was appointed Resident Tutor in Grant's and it came as no surprise when, just three years later, he was asked to take on the Housemaster role in Rigaud's.

It was not simply his experiences at Westminster that secured Huw this responsibility, but also the skills he developed in his wider passions for ornithology and surfing. Hours spent with binoculars in a bird hide had fine-tuned his power of observation, such that he could recognise a Lesser-Spotted Sign-Out-Sheet or Tobacco-Throated Boarder from a considerable distance. As a talented surfer, Huw has a skill in patiently observing the ever-shifting undulations of the sea before choosing the perfect opportunity to catch a wave. This means he judges so well the right moment to intervene in a difficult issue without being heavy-handed, or offers a word of encouragement at the most apposite time. He cares enormously about the welfare and development of pupils in Rigaud's and willingly shares in their disappointments as well as their many successes.

Huw is a loyal, fair and devoted Housemaster, with extraordinary organisational skills

(email replies within seconds), a fierce memory for chronological details ("so if you claim you were in the Library by 8.17, surely you could have...") and an unabashed competitive drive, especially when it comes to table-tennis tournaments. As a colleague, Huw is all these things and more: a supportively critical voice in improving aspects of Westminster life and valued friend to many in the Common Room. We wish Huw, his wife Laura, and their children, Griff and Rosa, every happiness in their new life in the countryside. They will be sorely missed.

Sam Baldock

Thomas Critchley (RR) Head of House adds:

People will look back at Dr Williams and say without any doubt that he has had a wholly positive impact on their careers at the school, both as a teacher and a Housemaster. His constant, meticulous dedication to doing the best for the people in his House shone through and without his help many people would not be on their current paths. He has always had his pupils' backs, and was there any hour of the day that people needed him. The mere fact that he turned up to every House event, no matter how small in scale or off the beaten track, was indicative of the way in which he took part in school life (helped along by his competitive streak – a factor which no doubt got everyone to rise to the challenge). He will be greatly missed; Tonbridge are lucky to have someone who is willing to work so hard for the sake of other people.

Sam Baldock

Throughout 2005 we were peppered with the sort of unmistakable and unforgettable personalities that change lives for ever (Blair, Galloway, Doctor Who, Charles and Camilla...) and slipping in quietly to make just as big an impression on Westminster School for the next decade was Sam Baldock, who is leaving to become an Assistant Head Master at Mill Hill. The Life Sciences in particular have been swept along by the rise of science and technology in the past couple of decades and Sam joined a burgeoning Biology Department bristling with enthusiasm and excitement. His own personal characteristics, not least his irreverent and unconventional approach that challenges the status quo, ensured he was a perfect fit for this scenario and indeed within four years he was the subject's Head. Throughout his time up Hooke his efforts have been truly transformational. Nowhere in the top two floors of the building has escaped his attention and he has succeeded in creating an environment that reflects the genuine, vibrant love he has of his subject and the teaching and learning of it. Even the Science Common Room, a bastion of scientific and technological equality, has more than a hint of biological essence about it these days. Anyone who has been in the department – to teach, study or simply visit, however briefly – will have experienced the Baldock Effect, this deceptively thoughtful fusion of youthful, playful enthusiasm and serious, high-level



The success stories speak for themselves, from his work with visiting Primary School children through to the extraordinary achievements of students in the British Biology Olympiads – at all levels he has inspired and motivated with tremendous effect. It is hardly surprising, meanwhile, that someone with his passion for drama has not been averse to sometimes theatrical innovation and his leadership has been very much hands-on in style: his penchant for rolling up his sleeves, prising open a tin of paint and re-decorating a lab is there for all to see, but his dynamic approach has been even more evident within the department's curriculum. He has always been a keen observer and student of how children learn and has explored and implemented an impressive range of ideas and methods through his academic schemes of work and teaching initiatives – and it is fair to say that such introductions have successfully diffused into other areas of the Hooke, too. The degree of his indefatigable dedication to the Science Department is all the more remarkable when one considers how active he has been in other areas of school life as well, including his work as a tutor (resident at one time), his inspirational involvement as director of PHAB for two years, and taking memorable school trips, especially to India. He taught drama in his first few years and directed many successful plays, including a riotously funny *Midsummer Night's Dream*. His contributions have been deeply felt well beyond the classroom. He emphasised further the importance of his contribution to students' experiences in wider aspects of their life at school including, doing a huge amount to make September Saturday happen; expertly supported pupils' UCAS applications in all manner of subjects from medicine to psychology; he even orchestrated the Hooke Comic relief song with more than 12,000 hits on Youtube to date. Check it out at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmMVSfvyao>

What we have benefited from in the Science Department during the past decade is representative of how Sam has approached all aspects of his time at Westminster. He has been totally committed to all his causes and always striven for the highest quality, continuously fizzing with new ideas while giving careful and considered thought to each of them. He has been a colleague of the utmost integrity, great compassion and sincerity. Above all, he has always been wonderfully positive, upbeat and good-humoured and his companionship will be greatly missed. I

(KAPW) am personally very grateful for his advice over the years and for everything he has done up Hooke. His rise up the managerial ladder may require more investment in ties and razor blades but there was always a certain inevitability about it and we wish him all the very best in his new role.

Kevin Walsh and Huw Williams

Katharine Radice

Katharine's presence and work at Westminster since 2006 has been characterised by a very special combination of personal warmth, humour and vivacity, and awesome efficiency! This combination has brought as many envious admirers as it has close friends. Much in the manner of Herodotus' story of Mycerinus who tried to defy an oracle-predicted short lifespan by working and playing all night as well as all day, Katharine's nine years at the School appear twice that number – a mark of how much she has managed to pack in to them.

A year after her arrival, she was asked to take over the role of co-ordinating the School's provision for Higher Education. For the next five years, she mastered the mass of information relating to HE establishments: she shepherded and collated the statistics: and, in presentations to Common Room and parents, shared her knowledge with great clarity and in a way that was of enormous practical value to her audience.

Similarly, her capacity to team no-nonsense pragmatism with clarity of thought and expression has lain at the heart of her Classics teaching. She is an excellent classicist, but one who has never let her grasp of the subject stand still – innately modest, she drives herself to extend her understanding and knowledge in any way she can. Her instinctive response to any opportunity which has come her way has always been an emphatic 'Yes, please!', and fitting it into her already busy schedule an afterthought – something she nevertheless seemed to achieve effortlessly! She has joint-authored books of significant value to teacher and pupil concerning language teaching and practice, alongside useful and carefully targeted schools' editions of literary works. Her charisma and strongly held views on the mechanics and ideology of teaching Classics to maximum effect have led her to be in frequent demand for INSET symposia, and a regular contributor to Examining Board consultations.

It was a very fitting climax to her work at Westminster that she should take over the reins of the Classics Department in 2012. As Head of Classics, she has been a calm and >>



TOP ROW (l-r):
Alison Leonard, Christina Wrege

BOTTOM ROW (l-r):
Beverley Pannell, Nora Kettleborough



>> compassionate focal point for the busy lives of all those around her. Self-effacingly but tirelessly, she has worked to make the lives of her department and the pupils studying Classics intellectually and personally fulfilling. She has provided active and sensitive support both to new, young teachers and to those longer in the tooth – always positive, always decisive and always empathetic. She has guided with a gentle and subtle touch and always manages to find something to praise before suggesting ways for improvement! She brims with ideas and innovations. Her pupils hold her in the highest personal and intellectual regard; they look upon her with affection and respect, in clear recognition of her obvious care for their wellbeing, and the sound advice she gives them at every turn.

dedication to education in deprived parts of Africa and her unfailing zeal and academic insight in this area (along with the dogged commitment required of such things) resulted in the award of her PhD which was richly deserved. Alongside all this she has been a leading light in the Teach First programme which has gone from strength to strength, a development due in no small part to her sincere commitment and belief in such worthy schemes. As a keen sailor it is appropriate that she has negotiated serenely and in a hardy fashion choppy waters in both the literal and metaphorical sense. Her warm sense of humour and sheer depth of ability and belief will be sorely missed and, of course, with great gratitude, we wish her and husband Hugh all the very best for the odyssey that lies ahead.
Kevin Walsh

By her own high profile within the world of Classics, and her careful attention to the promotion of the fundamental values and qualities associated with the teaching of Classics at Westminster, she has succeeded in developing important links with schools and departments around London and thus coaxing the Classics department more into the public eye. Hers is a voice that is listened to – sensible, knowledgeable and delivered with unquestionable integrity. It has been both a privilege and a pleasure working with her: and I know that her star will continue to rise as Head of Classics at the Stephen Perse Foundation Senior School in Cambridge, where she, Brendan and the boys are moving. She leaves with our sincerest wishes for continued success and happiness there.
Andy Mylne

Alison Leonard

Not surprisingly, as a geographer Alison has a very natural appreciation of the global perspective and this, coupled to high standards and a deep sense of justice within education led inexorably to her playing the principal role in establishing Westminster's link with China in 2007. The exchange has enabled pupils and teachers to experience the unique cultural experience of that most extraordinary of nations and her wisdom and passion have made a deep impact on all concerned. Her commitment to projects of this ilk has been typified throughout her time at Westminster by her

Christina Wrege

Christina arrived with a sense that she was going to do things a little differently and as she leaves us I am worried about filling the unique and specific void her departure creates! Who will do the Star Trek life classes? Or the wacky make-your-own-book sessions? Or the crazy charismatic performance art lessons! Or the multi-layered-textured-sewing-stuff! I'm too much of a wuss (or unskilled) to push these things. She has been a phenomenally brave and engaging teacher. Christina has been seriously well organised and the follow-through to her pupils is true too. She has pushed them to think more radically, intellectually and challenged them to feel deeper. Her sensibility and aesthetic values have added layers of subtle strata to the Department's outlook and enriched the landscape with innovation. Nowhere has her skill been more in evidence than in the beloved printing studios where the depth of her knowledge has been uplifting and invigorating. In her own practice you can see echoes of the philosophy – it's the mark of a great teacher, that through their own work they explore what they hope their pupils might be able to learn from. But, it's also true that her pupils have found their own voice and made exceptional work.

Christina bought into the ethos of the School from day one and has been a superb

Beverley Pannell

In her two years here, Beverley has made a great contribution to the department's teaching, being professional to her fingertips, innovative and thoughtful. She came to Westminster two years ago from the London Academy of Excellence in Stratford, East London, where she established the Economics Department. She sets herself high standards which she likewise imposes on her pupils. Political Society has similarly benefitted from her year in charge at Westminster. In a busy year, she also managed to fit in qualifying professionally through the School Direct programme. Beverley is moving to The St. Marylebone C.E. School to be Head of its Business, Economics and Enterprise Department.

Beverley's passport is stamped 'High Flyer'; it is really just a question of what direction and what role: more and more responsibility in a school? In the administration of education? Politics itself (she studied PPE at Balliol, after all). Secretary of State for Education, perhaps? Whatever she does, it will be with our support, best wishes and admiration.

Simon Hawken

Nora Kettleborough

Nora came to Westminster in September for a one-year post teaching physics on a part time basis, fresh from her studies at Imperial College. In her short time here she has contributed far more to the school than just being an engaging and professional Physics teacher. She has helped coach the Hockey team, accompanied trips and expeditions such as the Lyke Wake Walk, and been a lively and friendly member of the department. She is happy to get involved in various aspects of school life, and has shown that she is well on the way to becoming an outstanding teacher. She will be missed by all of us in the Physics department and beyond, but won't be far away as she has taken up a full time role teaching at Harris Westminster Sixth Form. I have no doubt she will do an excellent job there, and I am also sure that her presence will improve links between the two schools even further.

Charlie Ullathorne

tutor, a willing participant on Expeditions or Station and at Dryden's events. Indeed the idea of engaging with and civilising the day is bound-up in the endless beautiful tea shared to support the camaraderie. We will miss her daily dose of good fun (witty banter abounds) and, moreover, her perceptive views on the issues of the day. There are some lucky kids in Germany about to benefit from her skills and a whole lot here who will miss her greatly.
Simon Crow



TRAVEL

Beijing: Philip Henny Travel Prize	36
Choir Tour: The Veneto	37
Meiwa School: Japan	38
Munich German Exchange	38
Duke of Edinburgh: Silver Award	39
Lyke Wake Walk	39
Thames Sailing Barge	40
PGL Liddington	41
Shaanxi Normal University Exchange	42
Beijing Exchange	42
Cross Country: Alston	43
Catalunya Climbing	43
Upper Shell in Russia	44
Venice Art History	45
Upper Shell in Almuñécar	46
Lower Shell Berlin Exchange: Berlin	46
Classics Residency	47
USA Universities	48
Lake District Walk	48
Vermont Ski Camp	49
Aachen History Trip	50
Greece Climbing	51
Florence Art History	51
Tunisia Geography	52
Shaanxi Normal University Exchange in London	52
Meiwa School in London	52
Munich Exchange in London	53
RAF Benson	53
Upper School Russia Expedition	54
Greece: Fifth Form Expedition	54
Gower Peninsula: Geography	55
Paris: Art History	55
Paris French Exchange	56
Duke of Edinburgh: Gold Award	56
History in Istanbul	57
Skiing in Les Menuires	57
Madrid Exchange	58
English in Dublin	58



Beijing:
Philip Hendy Travel Prize
**HUMANITY
BEYOND
POLITICS**

The opportunity to travel to Beijing this summer through the Philip Hendy award was unforgettable, reports Alina Young (WW).

I'd chosen to study Chinese modern art for my Personal Investigation in Art History as I was fascinated by a country for whom the 20th century had been so turbulent, and was eager to find out more about how this affected art as social turbulence often does. What I'd seen of Chinese contemporary art was compelling since it was living – this was a history of art that was happening now, that was in the process of development. The difficulty was that there are surprisingly few available resources in the UK; the grant allowed me to write what would have

likely proved impossible otherwise.

Eight days in Beijing wasn't enough for my love of the city. It's busy, it's alive; wherever you go there is the buzz of people and the madness of cars, bicycles and rickshaws. Despite being alone in a foreign country, and confronted with a language I had no experience of but also absolutely no hope of deciphering, the people were fantastic. Wherever I went people welcomed me warmly, with a genuine desire to show their pride in China's rich tradition. The cultural differences were a brilliant discovery – they socialise in streets, playing cards and mah-jong; stereotypes are brought into public spaces where every passer-by knows the dance and joins in; and I was often spoken to by strangers with whom I had wonderfully entertaining conversations.

The art, like the city, came with surprises. My research took an unexpected, but refreshing, turn when I realised that my assumption of how heavily art is influenced by politics was incorrect – it's certainly prevalent but for many artists, the most interesting theme was progression from tradition; essentially everything from China's culture can be found in those ancient silk and paper scrolls. Art for China's artists was also just as much about personal experience as it is in the West – addressing questions of identity, relationships and the world we live in. To see these feelings and humanity's common experiences portrayed within another culture's art was extraordinary.

The trip was a tremendous success. I researched what I had intended, but found that



“My research took an unexpected, but refreshing, turn”

there was much more that was interesting and valuable. But what does 'success' mean? To say something is a success implies that goals have been achieved and the process is finished. After my trip, however, the process is far from over. I feel that, far more than researching for a dissertation, I have connected with China's people, culture, even its landscape (there is nothing like the spectacular feeling of standing on the Wall), and I have a growing desire to return and explore.



“Mouths dropped as we entered the vast church in which we were to perform that evening”



Choir Tour: The Veneto
**PACKING THEM
IN THE AISLES**

In July a gaggle of singers, clad in various pink garments and armed with a programme stretching from Elizabethan English music via Renaissance Europe to contemporary times, set off to Italy, announces Matthew Holland (RR).



be more than just a quick singsong. Filled, however, they all were and walking out onto the stage to a sea of expectant faces, it's fair to say a few knees started to wobble. Such is the power, however, of William Byrd that after only a few bars the smiles appeared and initial nerves gave way to a magnificent performance.

Stepping into the Venetian sunlight, the contrast between Italy and London could not have been starker. However, any thoughts of vacation were put to rest as we headed straight to the charming hilltop town of Asiago, famous for its smooth, milky cheese, to rehearse for our forthcoming concert. Mouths dropped as we entered the vast church in which we were to perform that evening and, upon realising that there were some 300 seats to be filled, it began to dawn on us that this was going to

The following day we broke into groups to potter around Venice and marvel at the stunning architecture, unique atmosphere and baking heat. Renewed and uplifted by the serenity of Venice, we piled into the coach for another day rehearsing for our second concert, at a light and airy contemporary church in the charming coastal town of Porto Santa Margherita. The performance went swimmingly, with an energy and vigour far surpassing our previous concert, to a crowd stretching far out of the back door of the church.

It was then back to *La Serenissima* where, with great awe, we took our seats in the gilded basilica of St Mark's, the most important and famous church in Venice, where we were privileged to sing mass to an intimate group of worshippers. Yet again there was no time for vocal recovery; following mass we raced through the labyrinth of Venice straight to our next venue, the jewel-box church of Santa Maria dei Miracoli for our final concert. This was the culmination of all our work and, again to a packed crowd, we gave our best performance yet, despite temperatures in the eighties and sweltering in full formal attire. Overflowing with excitement and relishing every note, the concert reached its zenith with Mr Kyle conducting his last-ever piece with Westminster, his hands behind his back from start to finish, using only his eyes and head to shape and colour the piece. The ecstasy felt by the choir following this momentous performance was tinged with sadness knowing that we had to say goodbye to Kevin Kyle, who had been such a guiding and inspirational presence for the choir.

Even a music tour cannot be all notes and the final day was spent shooting down water-slides before, with Gibbons' *O Clap your hands* still ringing in our ears, we boarded the plane to London and said our final goodbyes. It was an incredible and exhilarating tour and our heartfelt thanks extend to all who made it that way, both staff and pupils and especially to Mrs Bamping, our indefatigable organiser.

Meiwa School, Japan SCHOOLING IN THE FAR EAST

This summer, I had the good fortune to experience four days in a Japanese High School called Meiwa, which means 'bright and modest' in Japanese, reveals Hugh Spaughton (MM).

Meiwa High School is in Nagoya, 250km south west of Tokyo and whilst I am sure that it is a very typical Japanese School, it looked and felt very different from what I was used to. Like Westminster, it is steeped in culture and history. The school prides itself on having been set up by one of the Tokugawas, the Shogun family, in 1783.

Subjects on the curriculum range from familiar ones such as Maths and Sciences to more vocational subjects and both types are compulsory for the whole school. For example there were domestic science classes each week which would include learning how to cook curry rice, a very popular dish in Japan, or how to make a jumper, both of which I'm pretty sure most of us have missed out on in England.

The pupils also have Japanese lessons which are just as important as our English lessons here. They study a wide range of literature and at High School level, half of the syllabus is modern Japanese literature, a quarter is ancient Japanese literature and the final quarter is ancient Chinese literature where the language is specially formatted so that it is easier to read. Pupils are also expected to learn a new set of about 400 Japanese characters (kanji) in their three high school years.

Meiwa High School offers a wide range of after-school activities such as tennis and rugby, as well as a few traditional Japanese arts such as

judo, kendo (the art of the sword), kyudo (the art of the bow) and various forms of traditional gardening. As they had some extra slots I joined in for a couple of days and it was quite an experience. Unlike Western archery, kyudo is an art with a strict succession of positions in drawing the bow, and presentation is as important as hitting the target! Older pupils were very willing to show me and I realised how relationships are built up between the older and younger pupils. Young ones always respect older ones which is seen in their use of the polite form of Japanese to the older ones.

The attitude towards teachers is very interesting in Japan. Whilst the pupils do respect their teachers in lessons, outside classes the atmosphere is a lot less formal. Teachers do not mind pupils calling them by their first name, and they would even crack jokes together. Another interesting point was that for most lessons the teachers move between classrooms rather than the pupils. This creates a strong bond between pupils in the same class because they share every lesson in the year together. On the last Saturday before the school break, as an end of term celebration, my class went to a local Yakiniku (Japanese style of Korean food) restaurant and I was impressed to see all 40 pupils turn up. It was very good fun.

I was surprised at how formal the school assemblies were. There may not have been as many as at Westminster (perhaps twice a term) but the assembly I attended was almost two and a half hours long, and at midday in mid-summer with 1300 pupils in one great big hall you can imagine how hot everybody was. I should mention that it is very hot in Japan in Summer, around 30° to 35°C.

I was fascinated to see how different the two educational systems are. Of course many things are shared, too, such as motivation, working hard, and a passion to learn.

On my last day at Meiwa, my form teacher and my classmates gave me a booklet full of personal, hand-written comments and well wishes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pupils in the class and the teachers who made my experience so very special and to express my appreciation to Mrs. Rogers who has helped me a lot.



German Exchange Munich A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY

We nodded along; we smiled amicably; we laughed appropriately and we desperately tried not to reveal our utter confusion, acknowledge Gabriella Angest (GG) and Rohan Date (DD) of the July exchange.

After having lost the safety of Papa Hennig at the airport, we began our month-long ordeal in Munich. Luckily we all survived the first weekend and soon the trials and tribulations of immersing ourselves in a foreign culture and language became a pleasure as we began progressing and feeling the fruit of our labour, growing in confidence as a result.

During the week we attended the first two lessons of school, before meeting with our Westminster teachers. They would decide how we were to spend the rest of the day; ranging from tours of the National Theatre to swinging through the trees at a climbing park. We are tremendously grateful for the great range of activities that they organised. Once a week we took a day trip out of the city, the highlight of the three trips being to Salzburg where we had beautiful weather and experienced the stunning view from the *Festung Hohensalzburg*. Of course the other obvious high point was watching Germany win the World Cup; we were all proud to be German for the day and in the euphoric jubilation of Germany's triumph >>



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

20/20 VISIONS

We had been taught all the essential survival tips and had planned our routes through the wilds of Derbyshire with the utmost care to minimise difficult situations – at ten o'clock while watching the 2014 World Cup Quarter Finals. Despite this (or perhaps because of it), the task ahead was daunting, admits Francis Walsh (DD).

After a glorious breakfast at Hartington Hall, an exquisite 17th century manor house, and a concise briefing from our instructors, we set off on our expedition. We had relatively

high hopes from our practice a few weeks earlier, having been well prepared by our experienced Mountain Leaders: James Silcock, Perry Symes, and Jacques Moore-Hurley.

All twenty-two of us had to carry roughly twenty kilograms each in huge rucksacks. We would need to transport this load for the next three days, walking over twenty kilometres each day, with no means of washing, the prediction of formidable weather, and the prospect of eating boil-in-the-bag meals each night. Our spirits were dampened even further in the knowledge that we would be missing the World Cup Semi-Finals, both of which promised to be matches of the highest quality.

Nevertheless, Mr Hawken's beaming face couldn't fail to lighten our mood, and without much delay we were off, with all three groups setting rapid paces. To our delight, despite periods of dark clouds hanging over our heads, not a drop of rain fell on us during our first day, and we all arrived well ahead of schedule. The good weather prevailed throughout the second and third days and, despite the rocky terrain of the Peak District, we powered through our journeys, allowing for delays to retrieve lost



Frisbees from trees. By the end of the expedition we felt at one with the sweeping valleys and creeping forests of deepest Derbyshire.

Having completed the expedition each group made a presentation (complete with songs, dances, and poems) showing what they had perceived about the agricultural way of life of the Peak District. We spent our last time in Hartington Hall, exhausted and thankful for the good weather. Finally the instructors confirmed we had passed our expedition. The expedition gave us more than part of an award to put on our C.V. – it taught us many skills in teamwork and endurance and prepared us for future expeditions.

many of us forgot our nationality and celebrated as wildly as the German fans.

We can only hope that our exchange partners had an equally amazing time when they stayed with us for a month back in February and no matter how much or little each of us had in common with our partners, we all developed a bond with them, having shared an experience and lived with them for two months of our lives. Germans are famously brilliant hosts, always making us feel welcome and part of their tight-knit family, something that

“The other obvious high point was watching Germany win the World Cup”

we all really appreciated during our time there. As our final day arrived many of us were sad to depart from our host families but hopefully for many of us that won't be the last time we meet and we hope the friendships and bonds made in Munich continue to help improve our German through future visits.

A month seemed like an age at the start; after we settled in, the time flew by faster than we could have imagined and the whole group are both glad and incredibly grateful to have taken part in the exchange. We would like to thank both the Westminster teachers and the teachers from Gymnasium Puchheim for putting in such time and effort to make our trip a special one.

Lyke Wake Walk

A HARD NIGHT'S DAY

The Lyke Wake walk is a 42 mile trek across the North York Moors over hills and through bogs, much of it in the dark, which takes about twenty hours to complete, discloses Nicholas Daultry Ball (GG).

It is long, it is tiring and it is hard, but at least in part because of this difficulty, the walk was an experience that I now look back on fondly and with pride. It is rare to do something so challenging, testing my friendships, endurance and map reading skills and, while there is room for improvement in all three, it is nice to know that something that initially sounds so daunting can be possible. Although I was a little worried beforehand, I can now say that the horror stories of broken bones and hypothermia were a little overblown, and it is surprising how quickly you get used to walking in the dark.

One thing which does live up to its reputation is the cooked breakfast in the morning, courtesy of Mr Davies. It is hard to imagine anything more welcome than the sight of an



entire trailer full of food at sunrise, smoke already rising from the first sausages. The only problem is when it's time to leave the van and step back into the cold to face another leg of the journey, but luckily there's never more than three or four hours in between checkpoints where jelly babies are available.

Finally, no discussion of the walk would be complete without mentioning the hallucinations. Towards the end, when the radio mast marking the final objective was in sight, but seemed to be getting no closer, the grass began to make shapes. With a little imagination, it is possible to convince your tired brain that it is seeing pretty much anything you like. I only managed a sea of cocker spaniels, Thomas the tank engine and a dwarf, but I will at some point stay up for another thirty hours to try again.

In short, the walk will probably sound intimidating to the uninitiated, but I would heartily recommend giving it a try.



September Expeditions: Thames Sailing Barge YOUNG SEA SALTS AND OLD SEA DOGS

It wasn't a scene I expected to ever see in real life. Old sea dogs belong to TV commercials and vintage cigarette packs, claims Gabriel Allason (WW).



■ But there he was, sweating and swearing, mainly under his breath, dressed entirely in blue with a peaked cap atop his white hair. Captain Doug was the master of Pudge, a scruffy sailing barge which had seen better days. At first I thought he was cross with Pudge for being old and worn. Maybe she reminded him of himself. The captain had certainly seen better, younger, cleaner days. But suddenly there was a benevolent glint in his eye which I hadn't noticed before.

"Watch and learn, boys," Doug muttered, easing the helm over to navigate us through the narrow gap between the maze of moored boats. They were all white and blue, sparkling in the early morning sun as though teasing Pudge with their youth. The river seemed just wide enough for the barge to squeeze past. "Always follow the channel," Doug rumbled, more to himself than to his audience of novice mariners. With extraordinary delicacy Pudge seemed to tip-toe through the line of buoys marking out a channel to set her free of the shore.

I felt a small knot of anticipation leap inside me. Or maybe it was hunger – or tiredness. Two days into our Thames Sailing Barge Expedition I still wasn't accustomed to the 5

a.m. starts in order to catch the tides or to the cramped living quarters and the constant feeling that I was as damp as a wrung-out rag. This was not the stuff of mystical sailing trips – of watching the sun rise with a mug of steaming sweet tea or of dropping to sleep with waves singing a lullaby. The Thames Sailing barges were for good reason known as the articulated lorries of the river, focused on carrying their cargo rather than caressing their crew.

Captain Doug's commands brought me back to the moment. Somewhere below deck a small diesel engine began thumping against the timbers, its spluttering and coughing resembling that of its master. "Unfurl the sails," he commanded James, Shay and me who made up the rest of his command, "It's time to watch her under God's breath". I assumed that he meant wind but at that moment all my attention was required to grasp onto the oily rope that was taunting us by refusing to hoist the sails in the way the instructional video had promised it would.

Yet as canvas slowly crackled and crawled up the mast, Pudge was transformed the way an old lady comes to life on the dance floor when the band starts up. As the jib caught, the vessel danced into the waves, dipping and

"Pudge was transformed the way an old lady comes to life on the dance floor when the band starts up"

rolling with unexpected grace. "This is what she were made for," Doug said, taking the wheel in both hands and smiling at us like a father bursting with pride. We slipped through oily water with growing speed. It is as though Pudge was remembering her better days – recalling her moments of glory when she was in the fleet which sailed to Dunkirk to rescue her countrymen.

I stand on deck looking up at the full sails against a grey sky. Pudge may be old, a more ancient mariner even than Doug, but at this moment I see her with his eyes. And she is the pride of the waves.

Grateful thanks to Mr Sugden for taking us on this, the first Thames Barge sailing expedition in many years.



September Expeditions: PGL Liddington PANIC IN THE DARK

As I bent down and crawled through the tiny wooden door, the darkness hit me like a fist, along with a dank, musty smell. I kept moving along the floor, which was damp to the touch, until my fingertips brushed against a rough brick wall. I couldn't see anything anymore; everything was pitch black, swears Callum McDougall (HH).

■ My breathing was growing faster. I huddled up against the wall, ignoring how the freezing water leached through my clothes like tiny burrowing insects. Soon I started to hear people moving around me, jostling for a place to sit, and then a phone screen went on. Its glare seemed blinding after the darkness of a few seconds earlier. Looking around, I saw that we were in a small circular room, no more than three metres wide and one metre high. The few faces that I could see clearly looked as if they were floating unsupported in the gloom. Behind a few of the boys I could see a tunnel stretching off into the darkness.

"Terrified, I pressed myself into the corner of the small box I was in"



After a few minutes, a game of Marco Polo was suggested, and one of us was asked as a volunteer to hide. Eager to move the game along and get out of the tunnel, my hand shot up. I got back onto all fours and crawled into the darkness. I could hear the others counting behind me, and quickened my pace. My head thudded into a wall at the end of the passage. Stars exploded behind my eyes as I groped around in the blackness, trying to find an alternative route. My right hand moved towards the wall and went through empty space. I was momentarily surprised, and slipped. Once I had my balance back, I turned and headed off along the new tunnel.

The voices of those I had left behind in the room slowly faded away as I forged on through the maze. I went past a patch of roof which was giving off a faint light. Assuming that it must be an unused exit out of the maze, I reached up and pushed it. It did not budge. Frustrated, I kept on going. I heard voices behind me once again, and my pulse quickened. As I listened, I could hear people moving through the maze, calling to each other. Their voices echoed around the tiny passages, and panic gripped me. I had no idea where the voices were coming from! I kept going, bumping into walls and moving as fast as I could. I could now hear

people shouting "Marco!" and had no choice but to shout "Polo" back. I wasn't sure, but I estimated there to be about 3 or 4 drawings closer to me, but I still had no idea which direction they were approaching from. I passed a glowing rectangle above me and my heart leapt into my throat – it was the same one that I had seen earlier! The voices were even louder than before, and I knew that their owners must be only a few turns away from me. Terrified, I pressed myself into the corner of the small box I was in, and tried to calm my breathing.

I heard the sound of feet scraping across the wet, gravelly ground and knew that someone was in the same tunnel. Frozen to my spot in the corner, I could only wait for him to draw closer. He stopped, only a few inches from me, so close that I could feel his breath on my exposed arm. He still didn't know that I was here, but with one tiny movement he could find me. I waited.

"Marco!" he shouted, the sound echoing around me, grossly magnified in the tiny space. I took a deep breath, filling my lungs, and yelled "POLO!" I heard a scream and a crack, and I realised that he had jumped so suddenly that the top of his head had hit the ceiling! I fell backwards against the side of the wall, laughing hysterically. He'd sure found me.

Shaanxi Normal University Exchange ENLIGHTENED CONTRASTS



Once again we welcomed students from Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an who are in their final year training to be Science and Maths teachers in China, reports Kevin Walsh.

■ As well as observing lessons and having discussions with staff here at Westminister during their three-month visit, they visited a number of other schools, including Kingsford Community College in Newham, our neighbours at the Grey Coat Hospital and both Harris Westminister Academy and Harris Academy Beckenham; they attended teacher-training sessions at King's College London and the Institute of Education. Once again they were full of enthusiasm and were models of politeness and scholarship. Education at a national level in our country is entering another interesting phase and it has been especially enlightening to contrast the direction of UK policy with that of China. Our link with SNU continues to be useful and informative and we look forward to receiving more of their students next year.

China Exchange OVER THE WALL

In October, a group of twelve Sixth Formers, headed by Dr Wang and Mr Page, set off to Beijing for the 2014 cultural exchange with Beijing High School Number Four. We had already hosted our twelve exchange partners in the UK back in September, and we had therefore already got to know them, but nothing we learnt from our partners on the London leg of the exchange could compare to the incredible experience of being completely immersed in Chinese culture, writes Haitong Wang.

■ Our trip was split into two weeks. During the first we visited two ancient and historical cities: Xi'an and Dunhuang, before flying onto Beijing to stay with our exchange families for the second. The internal flights between our destinations was already longer than most European flights, giving us a flavour as to the size of China! However, actually visiting such vastly different areas of the country helped us to recognise its cultural and historical diversity – from the fortress walls of Jiayuguan in the



Gobi desert, to the ancient capital of Xi'an and then on to the modern hub of a growing economy – Beijing.

We had a wonderful time with our exchange families there, attending lessons on a number of days and exploring the city on others. We were fully absorbed into day-to-day life, which helped us better understand the local culture, dispelling many presuppositions we may have had and giving us a genuinely surprising insight into the real workings

“I'm surprised 'Yard dancing' isn't already mandatory”

of modern day Beijing. My favourite moment at BHSF: compulsory synchronised dancing in the playground at break for all of the thousand or more students – truly a sight to behold! I'm surprised 'Yard dancing' isn't already mandatory here at Westminister...

But fun aside, the exchange gave us a flavour, a glimpse perhaps, of the past, present and also future of China, helping break down the metaphorical 'Great cultural Wall' between our schools and exchange families. It is a journey that I am sure will stay with me throughout my life and inspire me in future to reach out beyond the cosy limits of home to explore the world and history around us. As Albert Einstein once said, 'the only source of knowledge is experience', and what a wonderful experience the Beijing exchange has been!

Cross Country: Alston GETTING A LEG UP

Over the October Exeat, the Cross Country team spent four days based at School House in Alston, training in the surrounding hills and fields in Cumbria and County Durham, writes Rupert Stuart-Smith (BB).

■ The days were filled with intense interval and hill sessions and fierce games of 'Articulate', finishing with indulgence in Cumbria's finest cuisine. Training twice a day, the trip included a hills session near Ullswater on what appeared to be more of a cliff than a hill, as well as



intervals and steady runs. The squad also visited Durham, including the University, Cathedral and University Woods. The culinary highlight was certainly the curry night, as the fiery takeaways from Cumbria's top Indian restaurant injected life into our sore legs. The trip certainly set us all in good stead for the season ahead and the squad would very much like to thank Mr. Wurr, Mr. Walton and Mrs. Clanchy for giving up their time to take us on the trip.

“Fiery takeaways from Cumbria's top Indian restaurant injected life into our sore legs”

Climbing Catalunya STRONG ARM TACTICS

For our September trip we went to Spain. As our instructors drove into the rocky hills, we started passing some old, abandoned stone farmhouses. Stopping outside one of them, our instructors set out the first of many delicious, if messy, picnics of salads and cheese sandwiches. For some, there was confusion as to where to sit, which ended up with a pile of people on each of the bouldering mats, reports Leo Turoff (AHH).

■ After lunch, we walked up into the hills and began the climbing expedition. We started out on some easy training courses, learned the ropes and the rock, and moved on around the hills to climb the boulders.

On the second day we were introduced to ropes. The long day wore us out and we finished by watching David, our instructor,



make hanging by three fingers look effortless. We got back to the refuge and crashed onto our beds.

The next day we drove a little farther along the cliff face to test ourselves on some of the harder courses. We challenged ourselves on the beginning of courses meant for the instructors and finished the day by swimming in the spring-fed river to cool off. This triggered some loud squealing from those unused to spring water, but it wasn't any worse than

“Loud squealing from those unused to spring water”

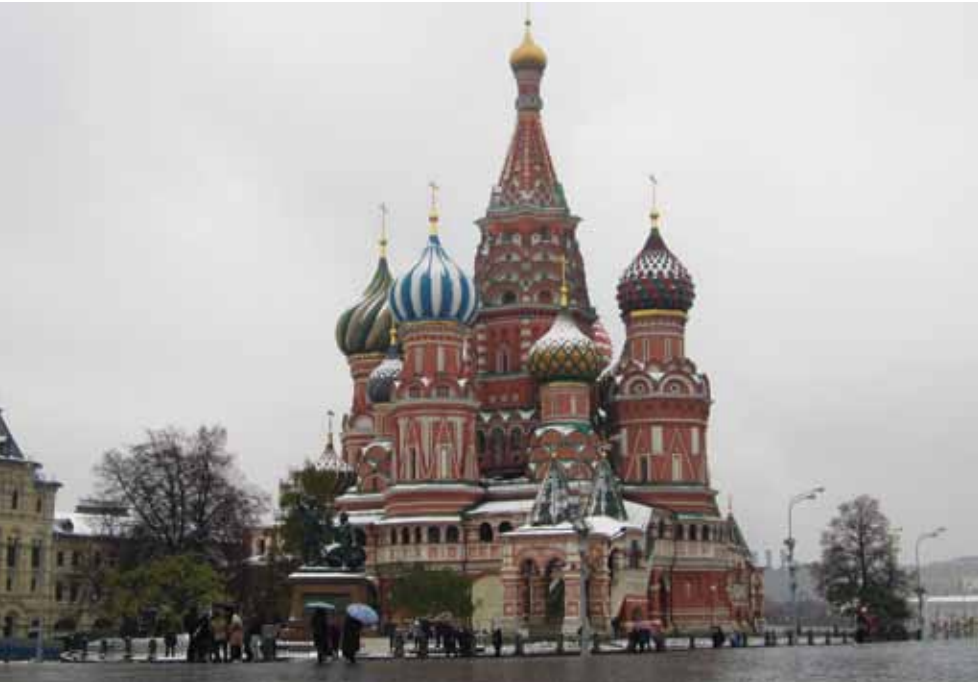
Cornwall, so we had a great time.

On the final day, we were extra careful not to fall into the trap of having Last Day Disasters. Nick and David led us on a trek up the valley sides to our final climbing cliff. We set up and were soon joined by another group of climbers with some friendly dogs, and David showed his strength through a one-handed pull up. It was the hardest climb yet and we were all exhausted after a fun two and a half days of climbing, but nonetheless we made the most of it.

We got back to the refuge and for the last supper. After a final rush for bread and olive oil, we lined up to say thank you to the chef in a long chain of gratification and to thank our amazing instructors for the incredible experience and beautiful places they had shown us. It was an enlightening and inclusive three days for the entire group.



“Many members of the group were enchanted (or repelled) by the drink *kvass*”



Upper Shell in Russia

DRIVING IMPERATIVE

The rain was thundering on the roof of our minibus as it tried to enter the chaotic car-park at Leningrad station. A man banged on the side of the bus, and shouted a stream of unintelligible, drunken abuse. Under his breath I heard Dr Aplin mutter the words: “use the correct imperative!” reports an impressed Dominic Brind (QSS).

From the splendour of a snowy Red Square lit up at night to the wonders of the Hermitage, our trip to Russia was fascinating. It started in Moscow, where the Kremlin, and the cluster of cathedral roofs sprinkled with snow, was truly a sight to behold. No less exciting was our lunch in ‘Moo-Moo’, where many members of the group were enchanted (or repelled) by the drink *kvass*. No sooner had we sampled the delights of Russia’s biggest city than we were whisked off to St. Petersburg. After an eventful sleeper train journey, including our locomotive breaking down somewhere in the Russian countryside, we were thrust into the picturesque delights of St. Petersburg. The extensive collection and

grand interiors of the Hermitage delighted us all, as did the magnificent gilded dome of St. Isaac’s, towering over the buildings. On



our final day at Catherine the Great’s palace a little way out of the city, we were treated to a glorious burst of bright sunlight, in which the gilded onion domes shone in the sun, a fitting climax to a wonderful trip. I would like to extend my thanks to Dr Aplin and Mr Jones for accompanying us, and our guides Lena and Natasha for their interesting insights into a truly fascinating country.



Art History Venice WATERGILDED CONTRASTS

Venice is a city of the old and the new. The Byzantine and the Italian. The pizza and the pasta. It holds one of the greatest squares in all of Europe; the *Piazza San Marco*. But coming in close second as the focal point of the trip was the *Campo Santa Margarita*, which, perhaps through self-fulfilling prophecy, was famous not for its basilica, but for its affordably-priced *nutrizione*, asserts a hungry Benjamin Godfrey (GG).

The city has a constant air of drama, the setting for elegance and deceit. The opulent façades of the *palazzi* distract one from the crumbling walls and dark alleys adjacent. Movement is constant in both the sky and the water, which is the life-blood of the city.

This drama is not simply however the product of nature; Longhena’s Baroque masterpiece, the *Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute*, looms impressively over the visitor, whilst the interior of the *Basilica San Marco* glitters gold with old Byzantine-inspired craftsmanship, mosaic tiling telling the mythogenesis of the city.

It was in the *Basilica San Marco* at night that perhaps the most spectacular feature of the trip took place. Entering the Basilica after hours, lining up at the entrance, we wait in darkness until gradually the Church is illuminated, the lights turning on one by one, revealing shining, colourful material. From the damp crypt to the bejewelled *Pala d’Oro* it was a truly special place to have to ourselves, lying by the altar to look up at the decoration of the domes.

A city that has often attracted the affluent, Venice’s list of former inhabitants includes



“One can imagine the leaders of the old *scuole* examining the works of the competing architects”

ture, Venice continues to be a creative, artistic centre. Strolling through the rooms of the Biennale, each representing the architecture of a competing nation, one can imagine the leaders of the old *scuole* examining the works of the competing architects vying for a commission.

Venice is indeed a place of contrasts, but one constant was the witty banter and razor-sharp insight of our teachers. We were lucky enough to have the perfect combination of expertise; Mrs G’s unparalleled knowledge of the Gothic, Dr Cockburn’s understanding of all things 19th Century and beyond and Mr. Walton’s command of the Italian Renaissance meant that we were in good hands throughout. Huge thanks to them for all the planning, patience and good company.

Peggy Guggenheim, an art collector whose Palazzo stands as much as a shrine to contemporary art as the city itself stands as a shrine to the art of centuries past. Between her collection of Kandinskys, Picassos and Dalis and the Biennale, this year concerned with architect-

Almuñécar Spanish Trip ADIÓS MEANS NEVER HAVING TO SAY 'GOODBYE'

Almuñécar is a tiny town, where the tourist centre is the second most visited attraction. Number one is the castle, of course. But, no matter what our preconceptions might have been, the trip was incredible, exclaims Regan Ring (GG).

■ We flew off with barely a minute to spare: two companions having just made the flight, delayed, they explained, by the urgent necessity to buy some pancakes

For the next three days we had Spanish lessons. They were full of interesting exercises, which included learning the lyrics to a Manu Chao song. After lessons, we went to explore Almuñécar. We visited the beach every day, climbed all the rocks, and ate *durros* and ice cream all the time.



Our evenings were filled with enjoyable and memorable moments. One evening, we saw a flamenco dance during dinner, and another day saw a hospital visit for one boy who unwisely sat on a sea urchin whilst swimming in the sea.

On the penultimate day, we visited Granada. Granada was amazing, with incredible sights and smells. We first had a guided tour around the city, and then we were able to explore the city ourselves. The famous street

markets had great deals, and an atmosphere like nowhere else in the world. The last thing we did in Granada was visit the Alhambra, with its famous fountain of lions, which was stunning.

When we left London, we all struggled to speak Spanish to a very high standard. However, on our return, we were all able to have a whole conversation in Spanish. If we had the chance to go back, we would all take it! Thanks to the Spanish department.



Classics Residency BATTLES, BOOKS AND BOARDGAMES

In October a group of intrepid classicists set off for the annual residential Classics trip, which, despite numerous suggestions that it be moved to Greece, was again in Birdoswald by Hadrian's Wall, mutters Shiv Bhardwaj (HH).



“Many an hour was spent fighting: no one was spared”

and many an hour was spent fighting: no one was spared. In the evenings we joined groups and read a play together; the *Philoctetes*, the *Frogs* and *Oedipus* were all read in translation and discussed in detail. After this the daily teachers' Scrabble match became a highlight, as Mr Jones rued his lack of two letter words and Mr Ireland dominated. Trivial Pursuit was another game on the agenda, and Mr Jones and Mr Ireland were even spotted having a game of Guess Who. We were fortunate to have Keith MacLennan, former Head of Classics at Rugby School, join us on the last day and he gave us a wonderful talk on Horace's poetry.

Everyone's Greek and Latin translation skills were significantly improved. Many thanks to Ms Radice, Mr Ireland and Mr Jones for organising such an enjoyable and educational trip.

■ This year whilst the Remove slaved away preparing for the Classics Aptitude Test that awaited them after Exeat, the Sixth Form read Book 3 of the *Iliad* and the Upper Shell *Aeneid* 2. However, there was plenty of time for adventure and the afternoons were devoted to long walks along the Wall, led by our local expert Mr Ireland. One visit to the Roman Army museum was particularly memorable as it led to the purchasing of many swords and shields. No one was put off by the extortionate cost, nor by the fact that they kept breaking,

Berlin Exchange TALL STORIES

We went into Berlin with high hopes and expecting great things. Having heard Herr Hennig's passionate pitch about the Berlin exchange since starting German in Lower Shell, we were anxious to see the leather-jacketed male in his natural environment, disclose Nikhil Shah (AHH), Hugo Harting (RR), and Philip Pfeffer (WW).

■ As we embarked on the car journey to stay with our exchanges and their families, awkward silences quickly transformed into heated discussions about our plans for the forthcoming week. Some of the highlights of the trip included the Holocaust Memorial, the Reich-

stag, the Brandenburg Gate, and other towering monuments such as the Fernsehturm, Potsdamer Platz and Mr Sugden. We found the Holocaust Memorial extremely interesting, both in terms of its clever design and its effect on those who experienced it. We also enjoyed an animated tour of the German History Museum led by metrosexual-alpha-male-supreme Jörn Dassow. This was before experiencing the phenomenon of 'The Partykeller' under the church; a tradition that we felt certain to bring back to the UK.

We met some really interesting characters, experiencing great difficulty in trying to explain the notion of 'banter' to the Germans. We also made trips to the *Hackesche Höfe* – an ex-Jewish quarter, which is now home to restaurants, cafés and lots of street art, and The *Tränenpalast*, so named after the oceanic quantity of tears that were shed there between parting families crossing the divided city. We were also lucky enough to visit the Computer Games Museum where we saw the 'Wall Of Hardware'.

Currywurst was an attraction for most and *Knoppers Milch-Haselnusswaffel* was not only fun to say but also a delicacy we eagerly anticipated at lunchtime. We found out, much to our surprise, that football and wall jumping are not the only sports the Germans love and excel at



– they are also extremely keen on Quidditch. The joy on their faces whilst engaging in the physically demanding sport was evident.

Evening activities included trips to the Berlin Festival of Light, which consisted of various art forms being projected onto the great buildings of Berlin, the opera, German restaurants and a gathering in the aforementioned Partykeller. Most importantly, we learnt a lot of German! Thanks to our exchanges and the

teachers who made the trip possible and for the wonderful time we had: *Wir hatten eine wunderbare Zeit.*

We then hosted our German chums two weeks later and the return leg of the exchange was just as successful, with trips to the Natural History and Science Museums including the Ice Rink, bowling, Trafalgar Square, Chinatown and other parts of London we know and love.



“Knoppers Milch-Haselnusswaffel was not only fun to say but also a delicacy we eagerly anticipated”





USA Universities GO WEST, YOUNG PERSON

The word 'mad' would probably best encapsulate a trip characterised by constant excitement, wonder and frantic adventures, insists Ravi Veriah Jacques (AHH), who went to check out American universities last October.

■ The focus of the trip, of course, was the set of universities and we started off in Philadelphia, where we visited UPenn and explored the peculiar invention of the Philly Steak, which is basically cheese and steak in a roll. Next in our voyage of discovery was Princeton, a university that very much divided opinion, with some attracted by its rural allure, whilst others were put off by its middle-aged vibe. The same day, we travelled to New York, with both pupils and teachers alike not disregarding the shopping opportunity. Columbia was, simply put, magnificent, its grounds reminiscent of Oxford or Cambridge, but set in Manhattan. That night we attended the Union Club, a fascinating, venerable place where we were able to talk to several OWW concerning their experiences at American universities.

Next up were Yale and Brown, to both of which we turned up fashionably late, yet we were still able to soak up the Ivy League atmosphere. Yale was an instant hit, not only for its architecture, but also for its ravishing pizza.

Last was Boston and the highlight for many on the trip, Harvard. Although its architecture was perhaps not quite as stunning as that of Yale and Columbia, it certainly lived up to the hype. Those so inclined greatly enjoyed MIT and were lucky enough to hear about the fiendish deeds scientists get up to when not doing lengthy calculations or lab work. For one or two, the Harvard Law School proved too much, with one individual almost in tears at the prospect of emulating *Legally Blonde*.

Overall, the trip was a triumph, persuading most that America is the land of opportunity for university study as well as creating some wonderful memories. Thank you so much to our teachers for organising such a fun trip and for helping to make it so entertaining and interesting.



Lake District Walk SMOOTH WALKING

We were amazed to see Mr Ullathorne happily consume a Vindaloo while two boys were close to death consuming lesser dishes, gasps Tim Oswald (WW), on his way to Derwentwater for a three day walking trip last December.

■ The constant rain forecast, gleefully pointed out to me by someone not going on the trip, did not materialise, although the very high winds and hail on the first day made it interesting. The walking was very enjoyable, and the change of scene from London refreshing. In the evenings we ate very well, including an excellent spaghetti bolognese cooked by Mr Ullathorne. Dr Prentice taught us to play *Beccaccino*, an Italian card game.

On the second day we drove into a different hostel's car park and asked if we could park there while we walked. We were told no, but were not then able to reverse the van back up the slope to get out. As we were all pushing it out, a woman, whom I shall in this context describe as unreasonable, told us to "Get it out now!" We found somewhere else to park.

The walking was lovely; the paths were



just right – visible but not too smooth. There was green and brick-red vegetation on the hillsides, and snow on the tops, that yielded beautiful views. We walked for around five hours each day. On the first day we had lunch in a large cave to shelter from the wind. On the second day we walked along a ridge then dropped down into the valley. On the third day we walked via a carefully sited ancient stone circle with amazing views all around. Many thanks to Mr Hooper and the other teachers for leading this great trip.

“The paths were just right – visible but not too smooth”



Craftsbury Ski Camp DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW

Although the WSBC Top Squad had all packed food, copious quantities of lycra, a wide range of study materials, or in Oswald Stocker's case a pair of shorts and a fisherman's jacket, none of us was quite prepared for the gruelling week that lay ahead, confirms Nick Plaut (WW).

■ Upon landing we were greeted by the sight of snow falling on dusky Boston and embarked on our journey to Craftsbury, Vermont, fuelled by the cinematic mastery of the 'Piranha' franchise and a late-night trip to McDonalds, finally arriving late at night in heavy snow.

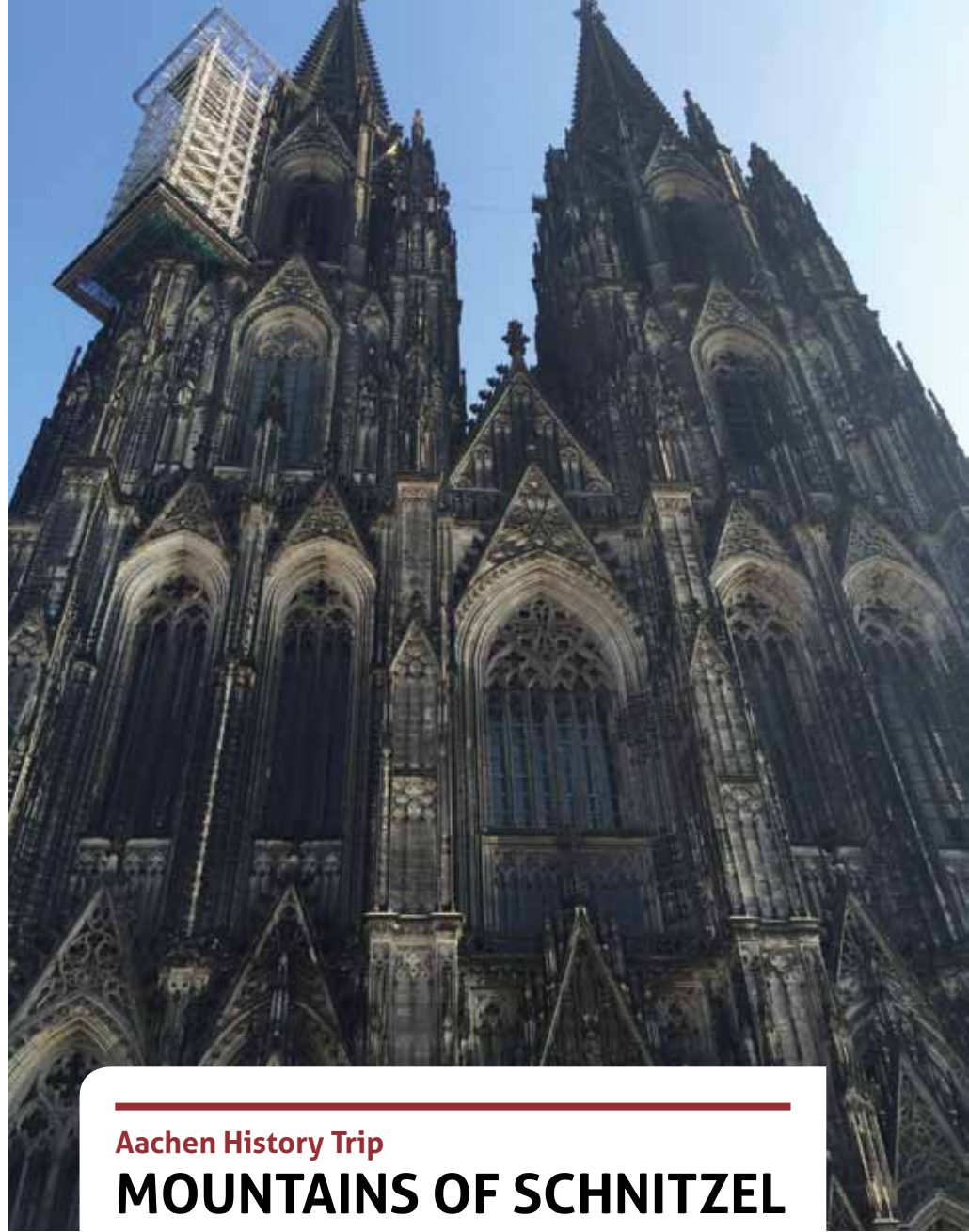
The next morning we had the first of our lessons in cross-country skiing, learned how to fall down, and giving it a lot of practice, before heading out on the 5km loop. Despite a few murmurs of 'never again' we went around another few times before heading to the cafeteria for one of Craftsbury's delicious hot meals, and then to the weights room for the daily dose of iron. Then it was back out to the trails for another 10km of skiing before heading back to the lodge for a good few hours of concentrated study and an early night.

So the next few days progressed, with the group taking leaps and bounds in technique on the slopes, and at the poker table too, under the watchful eye of Alex 'Grand Master' William. Despite the ordeals of a brief power cut and 'Meatless Monday', spirits were high throughout and the training, although tough, was rewarding. Every day we were given coaching by the full-time athletes who trained at the centre. We then had a chance to explore the beautiful trails for ourselves; greeted by views that ranged from frozen ponds and deep woodland to snowy plains. Challenged by the varied mix of taxing uphill and exhilarating downhill, we racked up about 25km of skiing a day.

Finally, on the last day we lined up for the inaugural Westminster School Cross Country Ski Championships, raced over 3 loops of a rolling 2km course in three waves. The race soon descended into a 3-part duel between Nick and James Plaut and Josh Butler of Imperial College, ending with Josh just taking the win with a sneaky overtake on the final downhill, followed by Nick, James, then Oskar Arzt-Jones. Satisfied with the training, we devoted the final evening to packing, eating our remaining reserves of microwaveable popcorn and putting the finishing touches to the spacious igloo we'd built behind the lodge. The next morning we headed back to London, exhausted but looking forward to Christmas and the season ahead.



“Aachen Cathedral was the undisputed highlight”



Aachen History Trip MOUNTAINS OF SCHNITZEL

As part of our investigation into the reign of Charlemagne, 11 Remove Historians and their teachers set off on a two-day trip to Aachen, the political hub of Charlemagne's empire. Our trip coincided with local carnival celebrations and the enthusiasm of the revelers quickly counteracted the exhaustion of our early flight, writes Arenike Adebajo (BB).

■ A service in Cologne Cathedral followed by our first authentic German lunch set the cultural tone for the day. Unfazed by the enormous portions, several members of the group got through an impressive amount of *Bratwurst* and *Wienerschnitzel*, topped off by generous servings of the local beer. We took the train to Aachen to visit the new Charlemagne Centre. The interactive multimedia displays provided a fascinating insight into Frankish daily life and customs, but the most popular exhibit was the display of Carolingian weaponry and armour, which we were excited to be able to try on.

The next day began with a tour around Aachen followed by some free time to explore the town, while Horace braved the cold to visit the spa. A tour of the treasury followed, where we were guided round an exhibition of reliquaries and illuminated manuscripts. Visiting Aachen Cathedral was the undisputed highlight of the trip. Although the original Carolingian structure had been modified with a blend of Byzantine and Italian styles, we still got an idea of the ritual and splendour of Frankish worship.

Climbing Greece

HOW A TRIP TO GREECE ENDED UP IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE (ALLEGEDLY)

In February the Westminster climbing squad was raring to get on the plane, fly to Greece, and enjoy what we hoped would be some of the most spectacular rock climbs of our entire lives. Optimistic as ever and with a tangible feeling of anticipation far greater than for any other trip, we set off without delay to Kalymnos, discloses an unsuspecting Kent Vainio (GG).

■ And then we landed, walked outside, and realized that an innocuous trip to Greece during springtime had resulted in us apparently being transported beyond the Arctic Circle. The temperatures throughout the week were freezing, even colder than the ice skating marathon in Kuopio, Finland. Yet with characteristic Westminster drive and determination the group trudged on to complete just over four days of fabulous climbing that included panoramic views over the Hellenic coast, and some wonderful moments looking down from the cliffs, only to be terrified by the drop to the sea hundreds of feet below. Unfazed by the bitter cold, we completed pitch after pitch and truly learned what it meant to climb in a harsh environment. The message was startlingly reinforced on our last day of climbing in the Grotto Grande, Kalymnos' famous gigantic cave that appears in all the guide books, as we played 'dodge the falling icicles' throughout the day.

Fortunately everyone survived the ordeal and has plenty of stories to tell, not to mention the one about our flight being cancelled on the last day due to unprecedented high coastal wind speeds. Despite this I can truly say that the trip was a resounding success, not least because of the unwavering commitment of the teachers involved – so to Dr AK and Mr Tattersall, we would like to say a tremendous thank you for providing us with an invaluable climbing experience that the climbing squad will remember for years to come.

Art History Florence

STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Our late night arrival in Florence did little to hinder our previous captivation with the city's beauty and mystery in class, write Mimi Buchanan and Rosie Young, who joined the Westminster trip from Grey Coat Hospital School.

■ The towering shadows of the Duomo left us eager for the next day's discoveries by light. We were not disappointed. The romantic city was buzzing as crowds of tourists queued to see its treasures. The musty smell of the city continued up the damp staircases that we climbed to reach the top of the dome on our first morning, a sense of vertigo when climbing its 436 steps amplifying the terror of the Last Judgement scenes that decorated its ceiling. Teased as we climbed, the cell-like windows revealed snapshots of the maze of burnt orange roofs below us. The view at the top was staggering, definitely a highlight of the trip. From here we could see the many churches, galleries and *palazzi* we would visit in the coming days.

“The view at the top was staggering, definitely a highlight of the trip”

A city renowned for its Gothic and Renaissance churches, the experience of standing in such monumental spaces was overwhelming. This contrasted dramatically with the modest cells of San Marco Monastery, decorated with beautiful Fra Angelico frescoes. Another highlight was getting lost amongst the countless gilded altarpieces that filled the Uffizi gallery. In a gallery dominated by the work of male painters and sculptors, standing in front of Gentileschi's *Judith and Holofernes* was an invigorating end to the morning's explorations.

The Bargello sculpture collection allowed us to view gods and figures of knighthood trapped in time; being able to walk around a sculpture gave a sense of continuous narrative, something not possible in class.

The value of seeing artwork 'in the flesh' made the objects we have been studying in great depth become much more tangible. Visiting Florence, and being immersed in the city's rich culture, we were able to experience the power of artwork and architecture in the context of where and when they were made.

Geography in Tunisia SPIRIT PAINTINGS

Heads turned as a loud cheer came from the direction of the baggage reclaim. The first of the 18 assorted bags and boxes of books, destined for schools in rural Tunisia had arrived, announces Horatio April (RR), reporting on the School's Geography charity trip in February.

The last stragglers would also have heard a collective sigh, as 13 tired pupils and teachers realised that the 18th box was not going to arrive. Nevertheless, spirits were high as the students met the Almadanya team with over 2000 books and prepared to throw themselves in to four days of hard work and fun.

This year, the Westminster School Geography Society is supporting a Tunisian charity called Almadanya, which is working to improve English literacy in rural towns and villages.

A number of things were lost in translation during the trip to Tunisia but we came to learn that that was just part of the fun. Our first meeting of Tunisian children was at a Lycée



called *Esprit* and, along with their teachers, they seemed to be under the impression that we were professional decorators there to help paint their arts centre. Originally providing us with the theme 'Light' and asking us to 'paint our vision', they seemed somewhat surprised when some of our party had to be shown how to mix paint. What followed was a few minutes of nervously shrugging at each other and our Tunisian counterparts, until, after a few minutes, the first tentative strokes were made. Armed only with a handful of GCSE art qualifications and a joyful enthusiasm, everyone threw themselves into the painting and soon the room was filled with excited chatter

in near perfect English and broken French. The result was several colourful canvases covered with swirling patterns and geometric shapes, but these were not the best things created that day. Painted across the top of one of the canvases was the word 'Wesprinya' and, despite it being made up, no mistake was made in the translation. It signified a unity between us, found in just a couple of hours. We found this everywhere in Tunisia; despite language differences, there was never a real obstacle and everywhere we were touched by the warmth and kindness of the people. Thanks to Mr Mann and Miss Leonard for giving us such a wonderful experience.

Shaanxi Normal University Exchange ENLIGHTENED CONTRASTS

Once again we welcomed students from Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'An who are in their final year training to be Science and Maths teachers in China, reports Kevin Walsh.

As well as observing lessons and having discussions with staff here at Westminster during their three-month visit, they visited a number of other schools, including Kingsford Community College in Newham, our neighbours at the Grey Coat Hospital and both Harris Westminster Academy and Harris Academy Beckenham; they attended teacher-training sessions at King's College London and the Institute of Education. Once again they were full of enthusiasm and were models of politeness and scholarship. Education at a national level in our country is entering another interesting phase and it has been especially enlightening to contrast the direction of UK policy with that of China. Our link with SNU continues to be useful and informative and we look forward to receiving more of their students next year.

Meiwa exchange, Japan SUPER SCIENCE HIGH

For one week in the Lent Term, a group of students from Meiwa High School in Aichi Prefecture in Nagoya, Japan visited the school, attending lessons and giving presentations. This is a school that acquired the status of a Super Science High School in 2011, no mean feat in one of the world's most technologically advanced nations, declares Kevin Walsh.

Amongst their alumni they can count the present president of the Toyota company and Masatoshi Koshihira, the 2002 winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics for his work on Solar Neutrinos. Sure enough, they brought with them a palpable love of science and technology and were eager to share their enthusiasm and knowledge. During one series of presentations they spoke in detail about the manufacture of traditional paper (*washi*). An accompanying handout was very informative and impressive, right down to the origami-style "paper clip".

"Your seemingly remarkable desire to paraphrase the word 'no'"

German Exchange London INFAMOUS PREP TIME

Now in its 51st year, the Munich exchange has become one of the longest running expeditions in our School's history. Here is what Linda Bergmayr, one of this year's guests, had to say.

First we would like to thank our teachers, Mrs Afsali, Mrs Michaelis and Mr Hennig as well as Mrs Gilbert for making this exchange possible for so many years and we hope for a long time to come! It was a great experience for everyone involved.

London is such a big and beautiful city that even four weeks were not nearly enough to discover all of the fascinating and important things you can see here: we can tell stories

about our many visits to different museums (or how big a blue whale really is), or describe the adventure of travelling on the tube with luggage for a month in rush hour. We enjoyed sharing the Westminster classroom experience, taking part in Station, the wonderful experience of being in the Abbey, exploring the archives and generally soaking up the atmosphere in 'Yard'. We might even go into detail about your seemingly remarkable desire to paraphrase the word "no" and twist it nearly beyond recognition, just to give an example of the linguistic and cultural distinctions between England and Germany.

But thanks to the care and effort of everyone here, not only our exchange partners but their families and friends as well, we quickly grew accustomed to the Westminster students' busy lifestyle and got the chance to feel like Westminster students ourselves.

Boarding was a completely new and interesting experience for all of us involved. On the very first evening we were introduced to the traditional football 'up Yard' and learned about the gatherings in the TV common rooms. Before that we had to undergo the infamous tradition of 'prep time', a duty that was in its severity unknown for us.

We are so grateful for being given the chance to get such an insight to the life of a historic and prestigious English independent school and for the fact that we did not have to limit ourselves purely to what London tourists get to know, but more of a real life experience.

We are very much looking forward to the German class visiting us in Munich in the summer, and we hope they will have an equally fantastic time as we had in Westminster!

RAF Benson THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF GEOGRAPHY

It was a crisp winter's morning when a group of intrepid geographers set out to deepest, darkest Oxfordshire, maintains Thomas Holdaway (DD).

With snow on the ground, the group was in good spirits despite the early military start. The day started with a tour of one of the hangers and the helicopters inside which was a real indulgence of boyhood fantasies. Subsequently it was time for the real point of the trip, the Geography. We heard three lectures on the great impact the study of Geography has on defence and foreign policy. To be honest, defence and security was something we had never really looked at so it was refreshing to get a new perspective on the well-trodden subjects of global warming and trade patterns. For example, the British Indian Ocean Territory is crucial to UK and US strategic interests in the region, yet the islands could be one of the first to succumb to rising sea levels. Following the lectures was a tour of the state-of-



the-art simulators which could replicate all the possible conditions that could be encountered by the pilots and aircraft in the air. Our thanks to Squadron Leader Morris and all the servicemen and women of RAF Benson for organising this truly remarkable and insightful experience and to Miss Leonard for talking the MoD into it.



St Petersburg, Russia

KNOCKING ON WOOD, RUSSIAN STYLE

As I had never been to Russia before, it was not somewhere I knew much about, admits Angel Adeoye (MM).

■ Globally, Russia likes to distinguish itself from the West, and its less economically developed cousin, the East, situating itself in a niche of history and culture.

My aim for the trip was to immerse myself not just in the language, but also in everything Russian. In so doing, I discovered many linguistic subtleties, along with body language unique to certain phrases. For example, if someone says they have been drinking and flick their throat, it means they have been drinking alcohol. And when calling someone stupid, Russians tend to knock on a wooden surface for emphasis (as in ‘as thick as two short planks’).

We were to be staying with families, and I did not know what to expect of our hostess, but she turned out to be one of the best possible. She woke us in the morning, drove us to school, saving us a 20-minute speed walk, prepared breakfast and dinner, which, disregarding a few anomalous meals, was pretty good overall, if a bit oily. I had heard many a horror story regarding Russian cuisine, so I was relieved that she never attempted to give us pasta and ketchup, which the boys on the trip received for their first dinner,

and twice thereafter too. However, I still strongly believe that one should never deep-fry a salmon, so unfortunately I cannot give Elena, our hostess, a 10/10 because of the battered fish.

Our daily itinerary consisted of school in the morning, sightseeing in the afternoon, with a few evening activities, like a ballet production of Swan Lake, and a

“We even assigned each other Russian spirit animals”

concert in the Church of the Saviour on Blood, that multi-coloured building on the front cover of every guidebook on St Petersburg. At the language school, there were numerous students, mostly in their twenties, from all over the globe, and like us, for one reason or another they were embarking on the journey that is the Russian language. Spending twelve days with five other people, two of those being teachers, although intimate, was certainly worthwhile; we even assigned each other Russian spirit animals, though I still prefer to think of myself as Leo Tolstoy...



Fifth Form in Greece

ABCs AT EPIDAUROS

What does Greece mean? asks Milo Mallaby (HH) philosophically.

■ We know it’s a country. We may know where it is, what language it speaks, or perhaps have even a vague sense of its history. But we don’t really know what it entails.

It cannot be said that our first moments in Greece were brilliant. Rain fell on our tired faces as we lugged our bags into the hotel but the rain soon gave up, and the feared bus journeys became times of fun. Suburban Athens was left behind and instead we were surrounded by mountains and plains to form an incredibly beautiful country. But that was not just what we had come to see. The

“The rain soon gave up, and the feared bus journeys became times of fun”

ancient sanctuaries such as Delphi and Olympia were magnificent, as were the city-states of Messene and Corinth. I say all this without mentioning Ancient Athens, which is the icing on the cake that everyone says it is.

The trip was great fun and describing it would take a book. Some of the many highlights included staging a race in the original Olympic Stadium, playing football on the beach at Gythion and singing the ABCs in the theatre at Epidauros. Descending into the stygian depths of the Mycenaean cistern and walking on the Acropolis are also happy memories.

However Greek identity as well as history is also really interesting. The mix of the wondrous ancient world, the long occupations by the Romans, Byzantines and Turks, the glorious (or not) War of Independence and the fiscally disastrous modern world around us were all revealed during the trip. We could not leave without feeling that we knew Greece much better than we had before.

Special thanks should be given to Mr Mylne, Mr Gravell, Mr Ireland, Mr Tompkins, Ms Morgan and our courier Nicos for the dedication and hard work that made the trip special.



Geography in the Gower Peninsula

SWAMPED WITH REVISION

At the start of the Easter holidays, Ms Leonard and Mr Wurr valiantly led the Sixth Form Geography cohort to the Gower Peninsular in South Wales, declares Teddy Favre-Gilly (LL).

■ As well as being Britain’s first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the location was soon to become our Area of Outstanding Amounts of Revision, as the teachers gave up their time to help us improve our examination skills and deliver retribution for a year’s worth of late preps.

On the first day of fieldwork we followed the River Ilston, measuring its velocity, dimensions, and most importantly playing with all the little tools we were provided with to analyse the river’s geomorphology. Having worked our way through dense swamps of mud and garlic, the scent of which still remains on all our clothes, we arrived at the *aber tawe*, Welsh for ‘river mouth’, which morphed into a stupendous stretch of sandy beaches and dramatic cliffs.

The second day saw us visiting the Gower villages and, though we were to note their morphology, development and rurality, we were given the freedom to roam the settlements and enjoy the good weather, which in most cases ended up with large groups of students bundled around the local chip shop.

Finally, on our last day, we explored Swansea and prepared ourselves mentally for the treacherous three-hour mock exam that awaited us that evening, during which we were spurred on by teachers bringing round delicious carrot cakes and biscuits which they had bought for us that day.

Although the trip was very demanding and extremely tiring, not only did it kick-start our revision but it was a necessary get-away from our busy and polluted London lives, and showed us that our geography was not just an exam-based syllabus, but an applicable study of the life and landscape of the world we live in; we are very grateful for all the time and effort that Mr Wurr and Miss Leonard invested in arranging such an invaluable trip.



Art History Paris

AN INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR ART

Whether in the Louvre, the Basilica of Saint Denis, the Musée d’Orsay, Notre Dame de Paris, the Musée Picasso, the Musée d’Art Moderne, the Centre Pompidou, or the Musée Jacquemart-André, the sheer quantity, and of course quality, of works we got to see was unbelievable, divulges Matteo G. Pozzi (AHH) of the Art History trip at Easter.

■ We had three nights in Paris, and we could not have spent them any better. The first evening we all ate in a Parisian bistro. For the rest of the meals, we went off in smaller groups, which offered flexibility and accounted for people’s differing tastes.

The second evening, following in the footsteps of famous artists and writers such as Picasso, Modigliani and Apollinaire, we went to a cabaret club called *Le Lapin Agile*. The evening consisted of various lively performances of song, piano and that essential Parisian instrument, the accordion. Any songs we recognised we sang along to, joining in with the locals, and we revelled in the atmosphere.

The final evening we went to a jazz club near Notre Dame, which was a wonderful way to spend the evening! We were dancing, listening to good music – it was a great experience.

By the end of the trip we had been fully absorbed by the spirit of this amazing city.

We stayed in a superb hotel with a fabulous location: five minutes’ walk from the Louvre, and just a few minutes from the nearest Metro. Roll out of bed and

you’re in one of the greatest collections of art in the world – not bad!

I would like to thank the teachers, Mr Walton, Dr Cockburn and Mrs Gibbons-Lejeune for making all of this possible, and ensuring that we all had a fantastic time.

Overall, it was one of the best school trips I’ve been on. But it gets better – during the Remove year, there is a trip to Venice and an optional trip to Florence. Needless to say, I can’t wait! Great teachers, great food, great art – what more could you want?

“Roll out of bed and you’re in one of the greatest collections of art in the world”

French Exchange, Paris PARIS DISCOVERED

Paris greeted us with grey skies and a band of smiling Frenchmen, claims James Wilson (HH). Unpromising beginnings they may have been, but the city soon showed itself to have much more to offer.

■ After a weekend spent bonding with our exchanges, visiting the many sights and cultural experiences, including Disneyland, we met up on Monday to discuss what we had got up to.

The Lycée Janson de Sailly, located in the 16th arrondissement, within easy walking distance of the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe, is a beautiful old building with a large black cube plonked in the middle of the central yard. However, we had little time to admire the architecture, as we were soon whisked away with our exchanges to take part in their lessons.

Now Physics and Electronics are difficult enough to understand in English, let alone in French, so when our exchanges began to shake their heads in confusion we knew we had no chance. Fortunately Dr Blache soon saved us from this and, after a school dinner which made us appreciate the quality of ours back at home, we were soon shaking our own heads in confusion over our own work in our hour-long revision session which, under the watchful eye of Dr Blache, was of course greeted with great enthusiasm.

However, we were soon set free to explore the streets of Paris, particularly enjoying a day trip to the beautiful Versailles, and a



“A moving visit to the former offices of Charlie Hebdo”

moving visit to the former offices of Charlie Hebdo. The added freedom to roam the streets of Paris on our own in the evenings was particularly appreciated, with many of us discovering our own hidden gems off the tourist track.

Nothing quite teaches you French like a week in France, and I think everyone was disappointed to have to finally say goodbye. We would like to thank Dr Blache for his wonderful organisation of the trip (and for putting up with us all for a whole week!). Returning to Blighty with many fond memories, I am sure we will all have the chance to visit such a wonderful city again.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award BLOWING IN THE WIND

“Sorry guys, can you help us? Our tent’s blowing away.” That’s probably the politest way anyone’s ever going to say that, maintains Alex Bridge (RR).

■ Our five-man group, bravely undergoing Gold training in the notorious Brecon Beacons, had been unluckily caught in a storm so strong that they had to close the Severn Bridge. At 2 o’clock in the morning we were really feeling it. So with blurry vision and head torches for lighting we hauled the second tent, with Vivek lying in it to weight it down, behind a nearby sheep shower which provided the only windblock in a sparse field, and then put the cinderblocks, which for some reason



littered the field, over the tent pegs. All this only reinforced the value of our earlier idea of sleeping in a nearby chapel, complete with organ and hymn books for light reading. The other religious site we visited was the ruins of the old abbey, where on the first night, instead of getting a proper amount of sleep, we played sardines amongst the broken columns and arches. Our hiding spot was so good that the other group went home to the field, past all the frogs that were convinced that the best

“Our hiding spot was so good that the other group went home to the field”

place for mating season was the middle of the road. The other not-so-wild life was a horse that had a habit of nuzzling your ear when you filled up on water – quite a surprise at 10 o’clock at night.

The actual walking went pretty well, despite the high winds on the ridges above the valley, which were strong enough to lean into, bag and all. We found a spring welling straight out of the ground, had to cross a huge dam, and travelled off-road up a whole mountain. Continuing the theme of wildlife, a real ram, horns and all, threatened us off the path, which left us creeping up the other way, sheepishly. But we made it, and slept all the way home. A success then, overall, considering we didn’t starve, get stranded in the wilderness or blown away.



Istanbul Trip Report STUDYING MONUMENTS

Istanbul. A city with a rich and varied past and an equally vibrant present. A blend of the East and the West, the religious and the secular and many different cultures. Its skyline is punctuated by minarets, but also by skyscrapers, suggests Eleanor Watson (AHH).

■ On our first day we visited the Hagia Sophia, a former church converted into a

mosque and now a museum. The place is vast, an amazing feat of architecture; it was the largest enclosed space for almost a thousand years. It is a melange of the Christian and the Islamic. The Byzantine, Greek orthodox history is expressed through the intricate mosaics of emperors. The Islamic is evident from the *minbar*, or Islamic pulpit, and shrine. It was the perfect way to introduce us to a city of many clashes and intersections.

Another highlight of the trip was our visit to the city walls. It was amazing to see the very walls that allowed Constantinople to remain such a stronghold for so long. This was highly relevant to our own study of history, in preventing the crusaders from entering the city in the late 11th and 12th centuries and beyond. Although we had been told about the magnitude of these walls, you had to see them for real to fully understand how vital they were in the defence of the city.

“Each was a place of calm and tranquillity”

However, the stand-out features for me were the mosques: whether the smallest mosque found nestled on a street corner next to a Burger King, one of the many mosques of the great architect Sinan or the Blue Mosque itself, each was a place of calm and tranquillity set apart from the bustle of city life. Often as beautiful on the inside as the imposing exterior design, covered with exquisite hand-painted tiles or elaborate inter-woven designs. They are still places of community and friendly exchange. It was a common sight to see men catching up on the news of the day as they washed their hands and feet before prayer. Moreover, it was incredible to see that the *waqf*, shops built to fund the mosques, were still serving the same purpose so many centuries later.

I think we’d all like to thank Mr Mann, Dr Huscroft and Dr Evans for allowing us to gain an insight into such a fascinating place.

Skiing Les Menuires FROLIC AND PLAY, THE ESKIMO WAY

■ The five hours of daily skiing, and the variety of stories coming from every ski group, allowed us to be blissfully forgetful of the approaching exams. Fun included both Dr Kov and Mr Page having to be dug out of off-piste powder snow by Remove girls; the dirty tactics used by both teacher and student on the day of our race, exemplified by Alex Bloom’s failed attempts to loosen Tom Leverick’s ski bindings; finally and not least, Julien Machiels’ valiant efforts to carry the weakest member of his ski group down the mountain between his

The ski trip was billed as the best week of our Westminster career, and, led by the wonderfully eccentric Mr Page, the promise was definitely delivered, concedes Eleanor Blackwood (PP).



skis (thanks Jules).

The lazy afternoons spent relaxing after skiing soon blended into ever-so-slightly more raucous evenings. The first evening started with the locals of Les Menuires being simultaneously shocked and entertained to see a fifty-strong snowball fight, the gentle fluffy pink of our onesies in stark contrast to the ruthless military execution of student offensives. Later in the week Mr Page and his partner Jess, although eventually drowned out by dozens of enthused teenage voices singing along, impressed with

Summer Lovin’ in the karaoke, setting the bar high for future performances. Tom Ashton’s rendition of *Fluorescent Adolescent*, which received a standing ovation, was closely followed by Mr Kingcombe’s serenading of Mr Cousins with a surprisingly gentle *Can you Feel the Love Tonight?* The following nights consisted of a lot of bonding, laughter and a charming barman named Claude, who (of course) served only virgin cocktails. Speaking for everyone on the trip, it was the most fantastic week: a special thank you to all of the teachers involved (and Claude).



Everyone came to greet us and following the customary two kisses on the cheek we left to be with our families. In Madrid, we attended school with our exchange partners in the *Colegio Nuestra Señora Santa María* in the suburbs of the city. At the school we were welcomed by the teachers and pupils and attended classes. It was amazing to experience a different teaching style to that of Westminster and we all really enjoyed the lessons we attended. The teachers were welcoming and I think enjoyed having us in the class, making sure that we made the most of our time there. One of the most nerve-racking moments was when I was asked to go up to the front of the class and explain a concept to the class, in Spanish! However, it is this exposure to Spanish that helped everyone on the trip gain fluency and confidence when speaking. The fact that we had to speak Spanish every day, all day, was tiring but it definitely became a lot easier very quickly. We spent the rest of the day with our exchanges at their houses, which helped everyone to get to know their family closely.

“None of us wanted to leave by the end of the two weeks”

We took several day trips to nearby places, such as El Escorial, the palace of Phillip II. We also took two days off school to explore Madrid, visiting the Reina Sofia and Prado. We were fortunate to be able to visit the *Descalzas Reales*, a functioning monastery with beautiful chapels and paintings, which even most *Madrileños* don't know about. As well as this we were given a huge amount of freedom to explore the city and really experience what Madrid had to offer. It was a real treat to be able to sit in the Plaza Mayor with friends and enjoy lunch in the sun. I think it is safe to say that none of us wanted to leave by the end of the two weeks and had formed close friendships with all the exchanges. It was a highlight of my time at Westminster and we are all very grateful to Mr Berg for making the trip such a roaring success!

Spanish Madrid Exchange FOREIGN CONCEPTS

What became apparent on arrival was the welcoming kindness of all those involved in the exchange, parents and teenagers alike, records Alex Long (GG).

English in Dublin SWIFT PASSAGE

In October, Dr Ragaz and six English students spent a long weekend in Dublin developing our knowledge and understanding of the life and writing of Jonathan Swift. We had just three days in the city but the schedule for our time there was packed with sight-seeing and theatre-going, our trip coinciding with the annual Dublin Theatre Festival, and exploration of all Dublin had to offer, reports Sophie Steyn (AHH).

On the first day, we visited St. Patrick's and Marsh's Library, the latter being especially relevant to studying Swift's Gulliver's Travels; amongst the library's many books and manuscripts from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, are some of Swift's own. Dr Jason McElligot gave the class a private lecture on Swift, where we were able to look at and handle some of his books, complete with his typically irascible annotations (we learned among other things that he hated the Scots!). During the afternoon, we visited Swift's university, Trinity College Dublin, and its Old Library with the amazing Long

Room. Seeing the illuminated medieval Book of Kells and the associated exhibition on Irish monastic culture was an added bonus for those also studying History. After dinner, we went to the premiere at the Gate Theatre of *The Mariner* by Irish writer Hugo Hamilton, which explores the aftermath of Ireland's participation in the First World War. Thanks to Dr Ragaz's friend, who performed the role of the mother in the play, we were able to meet the cast afterwards.

Day two began walking through Georgian Dublin so that we could experience some of the city's architecture, particularly

around Merrion Square. We also visited Kilmainham Gaol, a former prison where Irish revolutionaries, including the members of the Easter 1916 uprising, were held and executed by firing squad. It was a sobering visit, exposing us to an aspect of Irish history which we only knew through Yeats's poem on the uprising. We attended the premiere of another play, the controversial *Our Few and Evil Days* by Mark O'Rowe, starring Sinead Cusack and Kieran Hines at the legendary Abbey Theatre.

On the morning of our final day, we visited the Dublin Writers Museum, which promotes Irish literature, including works by James Joyce and WB Yeats. This was followed by perhaps the most Irish experience of the trip, which was our visit to the Guinness Museum. Immersing ourselves in Irish culture, the class agreed that this was a crucial part of the trip and our appreciation of the city!

It was a fantastic weekend, and we managed to see many different parts of Ireland's history, literature, theatre. None of us had been to Dublin before so it was an entirely new experience, and we only wished we could have spent longer. Many thanks to Dr Ragaz for organizing such a brilliant trip!



SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

John Locke Society	60
Classical Society	60
GCSE Classics Conference	61
English Society	62
Debating Society	62
Gumbleton Prize	63
History Society	64
Law Society	64
Political Society	65
Conservative Association	65
Defence Society	66
Feminist Society	66
Pride Society	67
Philosophy Society	67
Secular Society	67
EC Event	68
Model United Nations	68
Economics Society	69
Environment Society	69
John Stace Geography Society	70
Brock Lecture	70
Sub-Continental Society	71
Wave Society	71
History of Art Society	72
Finnish Society	73
French Society	73
Hooke Lecture Series	74
Imperial College Lecture Series	74
Engineering Society	75
Music Society	75
Biology Olympiad	76
Biology Society	76
Chemistry Olympiad	77
Chess	77
General Knowledge	78
Library Committee	78
Prizegiving	79

John Locke Society

A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCES

Being likened to a testosterone-mongering meerkat or (perhaps worse) Margaret Thatcher by Michael Portillo is not an experience one expects to happen. Yet, at the John Locke Society we are welcomed to once-in-a-lifetime experiences on a weekly basis, confirms Elizabeth Mobed (RR).

The great variety of speakers the society welcomes – from authors to art dealers, from politicians to professors – means we are never short of an intellectual mind-stretch.

It is difficult to pick out certain speakers as ‘highlights’, given the high profile nature of all of the speakers the society welcomes. With that said, there were undoubtedly some unforgettable moments. Michael Portillo giving his outlook on what to expect in the May election and his views on the current political landscape were – despite his comments – definitely one of them. Locke welcomed not only the likes of



“The fashion show was accompanied by an engaging insight into the legal world”

Parliament, but also the Royal Courts of Justice as Mr Justice Haddon-Cave came to speak about ‘Judges and Barristers, Advocacy and the Law’, bringing with him his QC and judge’s gowns and wigs for several willing models to adorn. The fashion show was accompanied by an engaging insight into the legal world from one of England’s most respected High Court judges – a greater expert on the profession than any we could have asked for.

Locke has also had a green theme amongst its speakers this year. We welcomed Sir Crispin Tickell (OW) – the advisor to Marg-

aret Thatcher on climate change – to speak of the policy issues concerning global warming and its broader political and socio-economic impacts. However, his warnings were then almost entirely refuted by investigative journalist David Rose, an undoubtedly controversial climate change sceptic. Though many Westminsterers expected him to be an adamant denier of all global warming statistics – and were ready to ridicule – we were all quickly proven wrong. He explained that as opposed to denying the concept of global warming he is sceptical of the projections of current

Classical Society

DRAMATIC ENDING

The programme of Classical Society talks began with Miss Amy Gandon’s seminar on Homeric Greek and, later the same week, a lecture, records Joe Ireland.

She encouraged a vibrant debate about whether Homer composed the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* himself and presented evidence for whether there was a battle in Troy contemporaneous with the oral record.

The Society then concentrated on the pleasures of reading Latin aloud. Mr. John Ha-



zel, former Head of Classics at City of London School, discussed how sound mirrors sense in Virgil’s account of the storm sent against Aeneas’ men in *Aeneid I*. He then brought to life Ovid’s encounter with a girl at the races (*Amores III, 2*) with the compelling performance of an actor. This set the stage for Dr. Armand D’Angour, on sabbatical from Jesus College, Oxford, whose research into Greek music gives him a unique angle on oral poetry. Focusing on the prologue to the *Aeneid* and the allusions to Homer, he debated how an elided vowel should sound. He then explained the interaction between the six beats (*ictus*) of the hexameter and the internal stress of the words.

Inspired by this, Westminster did very well at the Classical Association Reading Competition. Joe Devlin won bronze for his reading of Callimachus, as did Josh Rosen and Shiv Bhardwaj when they solemnly pronounced the death sentence upon Laocoon (*Aeneid II*) and Agrippina (*Annals XIV, 8*) respectively. The brilliant duo of Teiresias (Nico Stone) and Oedipus (Maud Mullan), won gold in the Greek dialogue. Congratulations also to the Sixth Form Greek chorus, whose rousing tribute to Hymen, God of Marriage, at the end of Aristophanes’ *Birds* won gold.

Meanwhile, Prof. Stephen Hodkinson of Nottingham University visited. Since, he argued, the sources for Ancient Sparta are often those who never visited or lived there,

“The sources for Ancient Sparta are often those who never visited or lived there”



climate change models, the extremist ethical language of certain climate change campaigners and the inadequacies of certain green energy initiatives. Though not all of us may have seen eye-to-eye with his views, the very nature of the John Locke Society is to offer a platform of free speech to professionals from all backgrounds, and his speech was the perfect example of this. Finally, Lee Durrell, widow of Gerald Durrell, came to speak to us about her husband’s life as a pioneer for the protection of endangered animals and the work of Durrell Institute in continuing his legacy, and showing us photos of the adorably cute animals the Foundation has been working to protect.

From politics to the protection of the environment, we then moved to the art world, in which Jussi Pylkkanen – Global Chairman of Christies – came to paint us a picture of life in art auctioning. His efficacy as a salesman was demonstrated by the inclination of half of the room (myself included) to apply for an internship at Christies by the end of his speech.

It is unbelievably difficult to give true credit to this year’s speakers and the engagement and enjoyment each one has brought to the Society. It has been a pleasure to meet and converse with them all. This year has once again proved that the John Locke Society is truly one of the greatest assets of the school.

we ought to question our view of the city. He introduced his work as historical consultant to *Three* by Kieron Gillen, a tale of three fugitive helots, working on the estate of a female owner, and their resistance to the Spartans. As its title hints, we enjoyed this subaltern response to the over-glorified picture of Sparta in *300*.

The Department has plans to perform a Greek Tragedy next year. Therefore while the Sixth Form were preparing a new stage translation of *Hippolytus*, we jumped at the chance to see it performed in a tunnel underneath the V&A. After this brilliant production, heaving with energy, Mr. Gravell contacted the director. So it came to pass that Mr. Charlie Parham talked to the Society about how the paradox of the goddess Artemis (who represents childbirth and virginity, as well as hunting) informed his approach to the play. Our trips to the West End productions of Sophocles’ *Electra* and *Antigone* were also popular. Westminster critics perhaps preferred the tone of the latter, set in a high-rise modern office-block. After the use and abuse of power, the city awoke, blinking, far beyond the stage. The haunting music underscored how life carried on, despite the deaths we’d witnessed.



GCSE Classics Conference

ALL IS VANITY

Missing a morning of lessons is certainly nothing to be sniffed at, but replacing these lessons for a range of Classics lectures was arguably just as fun and certainly interesting, claims Matthew Mears (GG).

A number of groups from other schools joined the Upper Shell to fill School and provide an attentive audience for four different lectures on Latin, Greek and Classical culture as a whole that did a lot more than simply further our GCSE knowledge.

The first – and my personal favourite – lecture of the day was given by Professor Jane Lightfoot on what sort of hero Odysseus was, considering in fascinating detail the complex moral outlook of both the *Odyssey* Book 21, our GCSE prescription, on which she also gave useful other points on literary analysis, and the epic poem in general. Next we were given two options: Professor William Fitzgerald provided a humorous look at Pliny the Younger’s vain nature as shown in his letters, which he cleverly linked to both more general Roman culture and also to how we behave today; there was a good report of the detail of Professor Jonathan Prag’s exploration of Roman sea-battles. A break for tea was followed by Professor Matthew Leigh, who described in



detail many themes and literary devices in our Latin GCSE poetry prescription in his lecture on military ethics in the *Aeneid* Book 9. Last but not least came John Taylor, best

“The weird and wonderful in Greek and Latin literature”

known to us for writing almost all of our Classics textbooks, whose talk on the weird and wonderful in Greek and Latin literature included useful comparisons between Lucian (another of our GCSE authors) and the other Greek writers he was satirising.

In all it was a highly enjoyable morning which, while giving us much new understanding of the texts we will be examined on in the summer, extended our knowledge and Classical interest far beyond GCSE level.

English Society DISTANT VOICES

This year's English Society has truly been a tumultuous ride; ranging from the car crash eroticism of JG Ballard to Wordsworth the Revolutionary and rings in *Harry Potter*, declares Ravi Veriah Jacques (AHH).



Novel-carrying hordes slipped into the literary vibrancy of D20 every Friday lunchtime, attracted chiefly, perhaps, by the impressive abundance of cake. Every week was unique, some spent diving bravely into the poetry of TS Eliot and Robert Frost, while others passed listening to melodies from the distant shores of Murakami's Japan. Particular highlights included Agnes Pether on Wodehouse, a fiercely debated discussion on the relative merits of a sometimes scorned author, and Eduardo Strike on *A Clockwork Orange*, presenting an in-depth exploration of its radical use of language. The abundance of popular fantasy talks this year has been notable – particularly *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings*, events that drew particularly large audiences, providing fascinating new ways to look at these famous stories. At the opposite extreme came the most profoundly intellectual of talks, for instance Jane Austen the Aristotelean, and morality in George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. As is clear, vast swathes of English literature have been covered, with Orwell yet to come.

Fittingly, in the year that Gove tried unilaterally to force his choice of English literature upon us, we came up with a litany of international writers. Overall, an impressive standard of talks was brought about by a noticeably literary set of students, a strong society committee (Eduardo Strike, Ravi Veriah, Archie Hall and Agnes Pethers) and, above all, an inspirational teacher behind everything – Mr Curran. With a term of broad-ranging Friday lunchtimes yet to come, the society is flourishing and has enjoyed a thoroughly successful year.



Debating Society TOP DOGS

From the Kitchen, to the Hall, to outside in the Raine, Westminster proved we can debate in any conditions, and displayed a remarkable Will to win in the finals of many competitions, puns captain Stephen Horvath (BB).

Westminster has had a truly remarkable year: having sent 23 debaters to 14 competitions, we have been one of the largest contingents on the circuit. Our superb coach Max Kasriel has helped us train many talented speakers.

Success came early at the Dulwich College Competition, where Westminster won every prize: Stephen Horvath and Hugo Raine were champions, Archie Hall was best speaker, Alex Long and Xavier Chitnavis were best novice team, and Louis Cheng was best novice speaker. We had an all Westminster proposition bench arguing for the motion 'This House Believes That Arab States Alone Should Take Action against ISIS', and cementing our reputation for strength in International Relations debates. Our form continued with Yasmeen Cooper and Edward Pickup winning the Warwick Schools Novice Final. At SOAS Schools, our novices shone: Eleanor Watson and Xavier, as well as Thomas Lindsay and Cyrus Naji all made it to the novice final, and Maud Mullan was best novice speaker. Archie was best speaker in the main competition, and Maud and Clara Rupf reached the final.

By ardently defending the standard liberal paradigm against attack from fellow Finalists Will and Hugo, Stephen and Xavier won the first ever Debate Mate Cup. They were all in the top ten speakers. At UCL Schools, Westminster took all the prizes again: Archie and Will won the Grand Final on an international relations motion about the EU and Ukraine, and Stephen and Hugo were first and second best speaker respectively. The teams of Stephen and Hugo, and Archie and Will, were unlucky to narrowly miss out on reaching the semi-finals of Oxford Schools, Durham Schools, the largest of the big three



competitions, was a tremendous success: our five teams reached the quarter finals, and three of those reached the semi-finals. Yasmeen and Eleanor were the top ranked novice team while Archie and Stephen were the second-ranked team overall.

In addition to these standard competitions, Mr. Bailey has tirelessly arranged fixtures against Harris Westminster, NLCS, and Newham Collegiate, in order to give friendly opportunities for novices and junior debaters to practise and make new friends. Archie Hall was selected for the England Debating Team, and will represent them at the World Championships in Singapore. Westminster had more candidates in the final shortlist of twelve than any other school. Will and Stephen have been involved in running a debating club at a local primary school, and have enjoyed the shorter

“Ardently defending the standard liberal paradigm against attack”

but immensely funnier speeches of the eleven year olds. In House Debating, (almost all) of the Houses performed, and did very well – the standard this year was higher than in any year in recent memory. College won the final in a close fight on the first day of the Election term.

Special thanks must go to our teachers Mr Bailey and Miss Barton, to our coach Max. Congratulations to all who competed and took part in a vintage year.

Gumbleton Prize FROM THE TRICK

By Jack Marsh (PP)

This winning entry for the annual Gumbleton Creative Writing Prize is a Pynchonesque tale of tricks and terror set in the depths of the London Underground. Juvenal, a subversive hipster artist, has just spotted the attractive Effie, at Golgotha Street station...



Her eyes sparkled constantly like the slimy undersides of snails over her iPhone. It was a Sunday, and she'd come from her mother's from deepest darkest District line. Her journey had been long from Upminster, and resorting to her iPhone to occupy herself for the duration, she compiled a playlist of '80s classics, and revisited old apps, old friends. How much she used to love Fruit Ninja and Temple Run. Her name was Effie, now biting a mint from a pack of Trebor Mints while gently swaying, but o! the lyrics passed her by – was it Huey Lewis and the News? Hip to be square. So catchy, so life-affirming.

Effie was racking up a score on Temple Run incomparable to anything before. Finally, she missed her jump and fell into the deathly waters surrounding the Mayan ruins. Game over. This was her 27th go yet. Over and over she had died in that game, burnt alive or drowned, and over and over she was reincarnated into the same Indian Jones lookalike avatar. It struck her it was all very strange. The Take on me music video came into her head. And it occurred to her – an occurrence which she later forgot – that perhaps life, the universe and everything is just an app, the soul plays life like a game, trying better each time. She was living a virtual samsara, the grand rectangular iPhone screen of Brahma Apple Inc. Or maybe God is playing an app. And her life's but pixels. Metempsychotic gigabytes to be effaced and re-written. God could go to another app, another universe with different laws of physics, when he gets bored of this one. What happens when God turns off his iPhone, she thought.

Looking up: "Crap. It's me." but said gentle. It was her stop already. All the passengers had left. Where did Time go? She rushed out the train. In a metal chair at the very end of the platform, Juvenal woke up to an alluring siren of tinnitus from afar, like a dreamy rapturous wail.

In her haste, Effie's leg had slipped and got stuck in the gap, between platform and train, snagged into the metallic machinery underneath the Tube-train. Her other leg was stretched out inside the Tube. The platform became a chorus of beeps and the doors jammed on Effie's leg. This added greater ferocity to her screams. She was in such pain, inconsolable, unrelapsing tendon-splitting, spitting deep fat-fryer thigh-deep. Her iPhone dangled from her ears by the earphones still connected, down in the gap swaying gently with her tugging leg. Her agony to the tune of Karma Chameleon. Mad at the injustice, nobody to help, unable to move her leg, her screaming curses became wails primeval, nonsensical, red gold and green red gold and green.

In the purple cap that read "Supreme", Juvenal lunged toward her, tried to pull her out.

"No, stop, stop. It's painful, my leg is caught, jammed. No really, stop!" she hissed, "No, leave me, leave me. It's too painful."

He pulled her once more.

"You're gonna kill me. Call someone."

"Don't panic!" And he hauled her up in a singular unconditional motion and Effie writhed as she rose in scraping empained increments. She lay there finally, her blond hair immingled with hyperventilation and tears, staring confused at her saviour, who ignored her imprecations to get help. Someone who seized the moment. She barely noticed him handing her iPhone back to her, This Charming Man now playing, which had fallen on the platform in her upheaval and had cracked.

Of course, Juvenal recognised that such times of suffering and relief could bring total strangers together: fertile ground too for male-female bonding. By 4:40 p.m. or so, he was in the triage of the local A&E with Effie, holding her hand. Effie was all patched up, some minor contusions, but with rosy cheeks of a growing attraction to her tall hero Juvenal. She was all smiles, and those blue eyes and she swooned. Eyes peripheral, through a window that suggested dusk and London, pouting a little with the eyebrows – micro-expressions, so he remembered his father intoning, and eyebrows are the haikus of seduction – he squeezed her hand gently. Juvenal seized the moment once more.

"Effie, forgive me for asking, but what would you say to a coffee; or a drink; or a bite? To recuperate and all."

"A bite to eat, I tell you, would be fabulous." Gosh, his eyes, she thought, how unkempt he was with that blond hair, how cute, such blue eyes, blue the colour of... They sat opposite each other and a window between them mediated the silence.

"Well, I know a little place just out of the hospital here. Do you know Granatarbo Semoj? I'll pay. You must've heard of it: the first Esperanto cuisine restaurant in the world. To-die-for European fusion; go there all the time. Where do you live, if I may ask?"

"I live near here actually. Wait, Granatarbo? That's like the most expensive restaurant, hardly a 'little place'. Are you sure? Look, I really don't mind a Chai Latté and Biscotti at Caffè Nero, as thanks."

"No, no. I have money enough. I mean, if you've got someone – somewhere to be, then, please, go. I don't mind. It would be a shame, because..." Juvenal pulled that look again, master of the eyebrows and the eye-pout. Blue the colour of—the brandy-blue flame of a Christmas pudding or the low blue flame barely luminous of burning sulphur, she thought obscurely, deeply.

"No, I don't. Of course. Take me anywhere."

"If you insist."

Looking sidelong through the window onto a pale battle flag of the ancient nation of winter that was the evening sky: "Crap. I left my rucksack on that bloody bench. I liked that flask."

History Society FIERCE AND BIZARRE

**What links the following?
Magna Carta, Agincourt,
Waterloo and WWI?
Ben Brind (LL) offers 40
marks for the correct answer.**

While the above would make a particularly ambitious OCR A2-level coursework essay, the simple answer is that all of those events have had a centenary anniversary this year. The incorrect answer would be that all of them are railway stations. Another incorrect answer would be that there has been a History Society talk this year on all four. In fact the only one in

which there has been a direct History Society talk is the First World War, with Dominic Brind's entrenched defence of Field Marshall Haig against subsequent criticisms. Impressively, History Society stayed away from these well-trodden paths in a continued drive to discuss some of the more bizarre historical occurrences that maintain (little or no) significance in today's society, most notably Nico Stone's 'Invitation to a Witch Hunt', the sequel to his previous talk on 'Werewolves, Bankers and Paedophiles', which explained the practice, as opposed to the theory, of witch hunts. More importantly this year was the 169th anniversary of the Repeal of the Corn Laws, which I argued was more important than Magna Carta in both History Society and later in the Historical Association's 'Great Debate', with the essential prop of a loaf of Tesco value bread—knowing the price of a loaf is essential for any politician.

Other particularly notable talks include Archie Hall's discussion of 'Orientalism', Oli Ramsay Gray examining Braudel, Will Kitchen's hysterical discussion of Thatcher and Izzy Rosales's exploration of the role of Tudor women.

The two high points of the year were the Camden Historical Society meetings. In March, Professor John France, lecturer at Swansea University and author of 'Victory in the East', came to talk to an extremely high turn out on 'The Origins and Practice of Holy War'. Our next talk by Professor David Abu-

“A continued drive to discuss some of the more bizarre historical occurrences”

lafia proved to be another fascinating talk. He spoke widely on the history of the Mediterranean and his bestselling book, *The Great Sea*, which spans almost 25,000 years of history. The committee hopes that next year will prove as historically thoughtful!

Charitable Trusts' covered Scientology and a debate over public expenditure. However our learning was not confined to the lecture room – we visited the Supreme Court during a lunch break and, I'm told, many were inspired to enter the legal profession by virtue of the hours Judges (don't) appear to work.

Truly, what made the Law Society such an enjoyable initiative and such a pleasure to run was not simply its ability to attract wonderful speakers and visit the nearby court, but its capacity to inspire several of my peers to partake in legal research, explore the law, and discuss their findings behind so many of the pressing issues we face today and have faced in years gone by. From terrorism to feminism and Hong Kong's democracy to online

“To say the level of discussion improved would be to forget the intellectual pleasures that the law provides”

privacy, my peers' talks have astonished me in their depth and breadth. I would like to think that our political viewpoints are now a little more coloured in and our innate desire to find reason behind the decisions which govern ours and others' lives are somewhat sated.



Law Society CORRUPTION, DEMOCRACY AND RIGHTS

The Law Society held its inaugural meeting in Election 2014 on the subject of bribery in the midst of corruption allegations against FIFA Secretary-General Sepp Blatter, reports Raaid Casoojee (BB).

The discussion, as is typical with Law Society meetings, branched into wider matters of law with the Chaplain recounting that bribery does not necessarily have to be of a monetary nature. From there the discussion hovered around the school's recruitment policy and hypothetical sexual inducements to the question of whether such actions would be deemed 'facilitating payments', considered legal in a number of countries, in certain industries. To say the level of discussion improved would be to forget the intellectual pleasures that the law provides.

The Society would later be visited by Dominic Grieve QC, MP, the former Attorney-General, who discussed his views on the UK staying bound by the ECHR. He spoke on the ECHR (and the controversy around it which culminated in his sacking) and ISIS returners' passports. He is also writing an article on human rights for the upcoming Westminster Law Journal, the Mansfield.

Next came Hong Kong barrister, Jacky Lai, whose navigation through Hong Kong cases enlightened many; and UCL Law Professor Charles Mitchell, whose talk on 'The Law of



“Disagreement, dissent, discussion and debate”

Political Society THE RIGHT TO BE SERIOUS

“Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians.” At PolSoc, this is a mantra we've taken to heart, at least partially because if it weren't true our society would have little to no purpose, admits Archie Hall (QSS).



Over the past months, we've held brioche-fuelled talks and discussions with some of the highest attendance of any weekly society, on a huge range of topics, both big-ticket and criminally under-reported. We started off deciding whether *PolSoc était Charlie* and, in what became a recurring theme, there was a great degree of disagreement, dissent, discussion and debate. We moved on to discuss a smorgasbord of other noteworthy issues. A few highlights included discussing to what extent the West should adopt an ISILationist towards the Islamic State, an Attenborough and Sloth-filled talk on conservation and animal rights and an exploration of the slippery situation of

sliding oil prices. We rounded off the term with the inaptly-named 'Goodbye to Netanyahu?' talk on the Israeli election, and the hotly-contested PolSoc Quiz, featuring questions such as "The leader of which far-right Israeli political party has a name amusingly similar to the leader of the UK Greens?" (Naftali Bennet of the Jewish Home Party), which was eventually won by the team 'From Ljubljana with Love'.

A great term all round, with exciting developments to come as the General Election approaches. In particular, we'll be holding a mock election with a mock leaders' debate in which we hope many thoughtful ideas will be Mili-banded about.

Conservative Association HANGING FROM THE RAFTERS

Conservative Association (not Society; society doesn't exist) got off to a flying start this year, ably organised by Dr. Kalivas, proclaims Nicholas Stone (BB).

We initially expected an underwhelming response from the school of Tony Benn and Chris Huhne, but Conservative Association has arguably become Westminster's best-attended society. At our first meeting – a talk by Mr. Page on Thatcher, the current party and the ethics of voting – many students had to stand outside the room. There simply wasn't room for all of them

“If only some of them could have hung from the ceiling like bats!”

This happened again at the next WSCA talk, 'Chris O'Connor on Drugs', at which Chris argued the libertarian proposition that all drugs should be legalised, and ably dealt with all points from the 70-strong floor. Because of numbers some were actually on the floor. With our attendance exceeding the available space yet again, Jacob Rees-Mogg MP visited a packed Lecture Room to discuss how everything from Magna Carta to John Locke falls under the remit of Tory thought, and a number of pupils had to be turned away at the door. If only some of them could have hung from the ceiling like bats! Mr Rees-Mogg kindly stayed for tea with us afterwards, and was grilled thoroughly by our committee.

Our next lecture was a double act: Peter Chua and Can Artunkal spoke on 'Reform of the State', presenting their solutions to the health and education services respectively. Sadly they are not yet in the Cabinet. Bernard Jenkin MP was next to address us, and spoke to an enthralled audience on the present political disengagement in Britain. The most recent meeting was a trip to hear an interview with Jonathan Aitken. We have also been encouraging canvassing for the impending election, and we may even make the crucial difference to the result. We can only hope!

Defence Society

DEF TO ALL RESISTANCE



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL
DEFENCE SOCIETY
Sic vis pacem, para bellum
—Est. 2015—

When I first decided to found the Westminster School Defence Society, the most curious response was from a teacher. 'Defence Society?' he said quizzically, 'What, against ISIS or something?' confesses Elliot EG Jordan (HH).

Back in February we had our inaugural talk, provided by the fantastic Christopher Frost. We enjoyed his stories of servicing landmines with the Mujahadeen in the Afghan mountains. The support that we have had from the School's defence community has been simply colossal. In 2015, that community now has, for the first time, a dedicated society to share and nourish their interests – complete with a rather snazzy motto, which we believe makes us the first society to have one. Many thanks to Dr Huscroft, who made the society possible by providing his patronage and a room to meet in, and Eddie Schmeltzer for his constant support in the running of the Society. DefSoc, as we have rapidly become known, was founded to 'Provide excellence in the study of aerospace, defence and espionage' and we have every intention of providing that for many meetings to come. Thanks of course to everyone who has supported us so far, aside from the occasional shout of 'Warmongers!' We look forward to our next call to arms. Over and out!



Feminist Society

HOW TO BE A PERSON

In its second year at Westminster, Feminist Society has proved to be a welcoming platform for a variety of speakers and an excellent forum for discussion on a wide range of topics, affirms Neha Madotra (PP).

This year's talks covered sexism in developed and developing nations, in the workplace and in the home, and in the law and in society. Sofya Shchukina and Arenike Adebajo spoke on 'Feminism Today' to begin the academic year with an introduction to feminism and the diversity of issues being addressed by the movement. Shalaka Bapat delivered 'Misogyny in the Media', which looked at the presentation of women in the media and the influence it can have in constructing people's attitudes towards women.

This year's Sixth Form quickly became involved in Feminist Society with new girls joining the committee and also presenting talks. 'Why India needs Feminism', presented by Juliette Boury and Neha Madotra, provided a deep insight into the issues faced by women in India and how they compare to the issues faced by women in the UK. Nurit Chinn and Stephen Horvath's talk on 'Women at the Bar' looked at the interactions of feminist movements with the legal system and inspired a stimulating discussion on the topic afterwards.

However, Feminist Society's largest audience this year was drawn by Elliot E. G. Jordan. His highly anticipated and controversial talk titled 'Dispatch from the trenches: a Men's Rights Activist Officer in the War on Men speaks out against Feminism' packed D21 as never before with an enthusiastic and interactive crowd.

In February, Feminist Society was proud to welcome its first external speaker, Frances

Scott, who presented her 50:50 Parliament campaign. The Lecture Room was filled with students, teachers, campaign t-shirts and wristbands, and, of course, Frances Scott's energetic voice. The talk was a great success with pens and petitions circulating the room afterwards.

Most recently, Feminist Society was able to invite a group of students to the Old Westminster Women's Networking Event. A panel of four OW women, primarily working in business, discussed how being a woman has influenced their careers and answered questions on their experiences in the working world. It was a great opportunity to meet not only the

"How being a woman has influenced their careers and answered questions on their experiences"

panel but also other Old Westminster women currently in university and the workplace.

This has been a great year for Feminist Society so far and we hope that the society will continue to grow and diversify. Many thanks to all those involved with the society.

Pride Society

TOLERANCE+

The overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received since the launch of Westminster's first-ever Pride Society in late January only goes to show how relevant and important gender and sexuality is to us all, writes Leanne Yau (PP).



"Westminster is a naturally tolerant and accepting school"

Starting this society has been a long-term goal for Karolina Wale and me, and we are extremely proud (ha!) of its success. Westminster is a naturally tolerant and accepting school, which is largely the reason why the society is so popular in the first place. The room we used for our inaugural meeting was not only completely packed, but also had around twenty people outside pressing their ears to the door! Lina and I quickly discovered that what the school needed was not a lesson on how not to be homophobic, transphobic, or otherwise narrow-minded and offensive; rather, we needed a better awareness of LGBTQ+ rights and its relevant issues, and a safe space for open discussion and input by students and staff alike.

So that was what we did. We had speakers giving talks on all things LG-BTQ+ (e.g. demisexuality, trans rights, and, more recently, the questionable existence of a 'gay gene'), followed by discussions that often turned into heated debates, which went on for so long we had members of staff shooing us out of the room for class! Coming up, we have film nights, outings, and much more for everyone to look forward to. It is my hope that Pride Society will go on for years to come.

Secular Society

LOSING MY RELIGION

This year SecSoc, as it has become affectionately known by a small yet devoted troupe of attendees, has continued to go from strength to strength, believe Ben Brind (LL) and Alex Bloom (BB).

This year the society has tried to combine the excellent talks from students with some external speakers; the most noteworthy home-grown talks were Mr Bailey's discussion of 'The dialectics of Secularization' and Callum Greaves' 'Faith and Reason'. Indeed, Alex Bloom's ability to have a different haircut for every Society meeting should be noted in the School's archives. Having haggled over dates (and merchandising), we could hardly believe our luck when A.C. Grayling, one of Britain's, if not the world's, most famous philosophers and humanists, came to talk up Lecture Room last November. The talk was well attended and Professor Grayling delivered a peerless eulogy to the secular cause, all the more impressive for his complete lack of notes. The Professor was so swamped by interrogators, sympathetic and indignant, that he was unable to leave the

school for at least half an hour after his talk, whilst selfies were snatched at every opportunity. After Professor Grayling the star-studded line-up continued, with Andrew Copson, Chief Executive of the British Humanist Association, outlining the 'Case Against Secularism' and proving that not all atheists and secularists approach the question 'à la Dawkins'. Finally Dan Roberts, who runs the Skeptics Society at the widely acclaimed New College of the Humanities, regaled us with a riveting tale of losing his Catholicism, having previously travelled the world promoting Christianity and 'speaking in tongues'. He also took time to mock Ben Brind's excessive finger bandage, a victim of Guys and Dolls, in scenes bizarrely reminiscent of Grayling's description of Alex's thumb cast as 'one of the seven wonders of the modern world'. Extraordinary scenes!

Though the time has come for us to hand the reins to a younger, livelier (and maybe less aggressive) contingent of secularists, we are both immensely proud of what we have been able to achieve with the society and sincerely hope that SecSoc has made room for a strong, sceptical forum at the heart of Westminster that, as we are reminded so regularly, is the home of the liberal education.

Philosophy Society

ZOMBIE REASONING, ABSTRACT CAKE

Philosophy society has remained diverse this year, from talks informing us why all physicists should do philosophy, why we should consider that our neighbour may be a zombie and why we can say we have free will to how names work and the aesthetics of the sublime, announces Leora Sevi (PP).

The Sixth Form Philosophy Essay Competition winners asked whether we can free people against their will as well as whether distributive justice is a concept that can be achieved in reality. A highlight was our external speaker from LSE, who assured us that death isn't so bad if we turn to Epicureanism (and that's not a prescription to indulge – it turns out hedonism isn't what we thought!). We've been particularly pleased to be joined by many members of the lower school, exploring subjects they won't come across in the curriculum. Philosophy Society hopes to continue raging with plenty more noumenal cake.

EC Event

WESTMINSTERS
MOCK COUNCIL

Westminster attended a mock Council of the European Union, held at the Foreign Office on the 8th of December, confesses Stephen Horvath (BB).

Nicholas Daultry Ball and I were representing the ministers of Greece, alongside the other 27 member states of the EU. I was working on the topic of children in criminal proceedings, and the 28 member states were able to identify a strong compromise. This event was organised by the European Commission, and I was very lucky to have my committee group chaired by Jackie Minor, the ambassador of the EC to the UK. Nicholas was working on the topic of energy efficiency, and his group was chaired by Michael Rupp, the Director General of enlargement of the European Union. Both groups came together for a plenary session at the end, in which revised proposals

“We were debating in the historic Locarno Suite”

were presented. We were debating in the historic Locarno Suite, and David Lidington, the Minister for Europe, came to speak to us on the work of diplomats at the EU and how the UK's domestic policies affected its representation in Brussels. Nicholas and I both learnt a lot from the incredible speakers and honed our negotiating skills, and we are very thankful to Mr Jones for organising this.

Model United Nations

GLOBETROTTING



The delegates of Westminster have taken the Model United Nations stage by (unanimous) storm, maintains Stephen Horvath (BB).

This year has seen Westminster take part in conferences across the country and indeed the globe, and excel at each one. At the Royal Russell and HABSMUN conferences in London, Westminsters were able to debate and pass their resolutions, and many students were congratulated for their efforts with commended, distinguished and best delegate awards. Special mention should be given to the Westminster team representing France at HABSMUN: Charlie Wall, Neha Madhotra, Clara Rupp and Elizabeth Mobed, who won best of the best delegation award – an exceptional achievement.

A small group of Westminsters were fortunate enough to travel to Berlin in November to participate in the BERMUN conference, alongside students from across the globe. Representing the nation of Israel, the group did fantastically in their committees, passing their resolutions and actively taking part in debate. In fact, the group were so true to their national policy that following the Opening and Closing Ceremonies they were congratulated by students from Israel for their convincing performances.

Raaid Casoojee and Charlie Wall took part in the ICJ representing Croatia in the 'Croatia vs Serbia' genocide case, with Sara Lee acting as a judge in the case, and the boys did brilliantly to win. Another group travelled to Dublin for the SAIMUN competition, and again found success, as our Indonesian delegation was commended, three of our delegates won individual awards, and

we had our Security Council resolution passed in General Assembly.

This year also saw the inaugural House MUN competition, with five delegates from each house taking part. College came to be victorious representing the delegation of Saudi Arabia, but congratulations go to all those who took part in what was very high quality debate, especially in the light of the fact that for many people this was their first experience of the MUN debating style. The Westminster MUN Society has grown exponentially in its popularity and success this year, and special thanks are due

“They were congratulated by students from Israel for their convincing performances”

to Ms Gandon and the MUN committee for their on-going dedication to the society. Though Model United Nations may only be a model of the real thing, it certainly has an impact on those who take part in making them think about the wider problems facing the world, whilst also being great fun to take part in. I can only hope the society continues to thrive.

Economics Society

CAPITAL
PUNISHMENT

This year has been a triumph for Economics Society, not only because cake was never scarce but also due to the variety of issues discussed. Topics ranging from Bitcoin to 'It's not just the economy, stupid!' attracted a large number of intellectually curious economists and non-economists alike, reports Arnav B Kapoor (MM).

Inequality has been much in the news this year and we did a season on this hot topic and related issues. We were privileged to have The



Right Honourable Frank Field MP come to discuss whether or not social immobility can be justified. He stressed the importance of ensuring some degree of equality of opportunity from an early age. Dr Gabriel Zucman, author of 'The Missing Wealth of Nations' and one of the pre-eminent economists in his field, delivered a lecture on 'Inequality and Taxation in a Globalised World'. There was a fascinating discussion on the need for a world financial registry as well as a brief explanation of how one might (hypothetically) set about evading

tax. The GINIus (if you'll pardon the pun) that is Fergal Hanks (OW) provided an overview of 'Capital in the 21st Century'.

There were also several talks with a macroeconomic theme. Mr Robert Chote, Chairman of the OBR, gave the Annual Economics Lecture with a riveting talk on 'UK public finances: crisis and consolidation'. He showed how different data can paint a different picture and gave an insight into the world of economic forecasting. Mr Peter Vis, a self-confessed Europhile, captivated interest by outlining his views on the EU. Elyas Helmke (OW) returned for an interesting talk on the state of the German economy while there were also talks on the Greek and Russian economies.

The committee would like to thank the Economics Department and especially Mr Simpson, without whom this year would not have been the success that it has been. We would also like to thank all those who volunteered to give a talk as well as the loyal attendees – turnouts have been really fantastic this year (between 40 and 80 for external speakers). We hope you enjoyed the year.

Environment Society

SHINING THROUGH
THE GLOOM

This past year, the Westminster Environmental Society has continued to take bold leaps forward in cementing its place as one of the school's most successful societies, maintains Rupert Stuart-Smith (BB).

With ambition clearly focussed on exceeding the triumphs of previous years, which included the school's great recycling revolution, we set out with the simple and singular goal of making Westminster a better place for both pupils and its surrounding environment. Mixed recycling schemes now operate in a number of selected Houses as the society has continued its focus on creating real change in the school. However, the Environmental Society also diversified its output, including a number of lectures given by pupils on a variety of topics including overconsumption of material goods and wildlife conservation. Society members have also been encouraged to attend environmental marches in London, emblematic of the society's desire for engagement beyond the walls of the school. The society also continued its long-running commitment to charity fundraising, with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) its selected charity for this year.



“Members have also been encouraged to attend environmental marches in London”

However, more was to come as the year culminated with the society's two biggest achievements to date. The long-running ambition of the society for solar panels to be installed on Hooke appears to have ended in success, as the school stated its intention for this to come to fruition. Finally, in late March, the society hosted its first visiting speaker: John Ashton, the former UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Special Representative for Climate Change and cofounder of E3G, a think tank focussed on sustainable development. Speaking on the topic 'Climate Change: why young people are getting a raw deal and what they can do about it', Mr. Ashton spoke about the detachment of politicians from the general public and the relationship this has to environmental issues. This was a thoroughly thought-provoking and inspirational talk, which left everyone in his audience determined to make a positive difference to the world around them in our lifetimes.



“The Dean was said to be thrilled”

John Stace Geography Society A PLACE TO THINK

What is it to be a geographer? This is the question that the John Stace Geography Society has sought to answer this year. Given the diverse nature of the lecture programme that has been put on, the Society is still pondering this question, contends Thomas Holdaway (DD).

■ The highlight of our calendar this year was the autumn lecture delivered by Dan Snow on Geography's role in history, which sated the appetites of both historians and geographers alike. The Society kicked off with a step into the unknown, a competition between two bright Lower Shell geographers on the wackiest geography they could come up with. It was an interesting idea which garnered much discussion over the following days.

This year also saw the continuation of the JSGS magazine which was more successful than ever before with 40 pages of all things geographic. On Commonwealth Day (a much-overlooked celebration in our opinion) a geo-breakfast seminar was organised. With talks on the Commonwealth's role in the world from the Lower School geographers to a Commonwealth inspired musical recital, via Commonwealth poetry and a marvellous tea tasting with Westminster's resident expert, Matthew Holland, the Dean was said to be thrilled. All speakers expressed great passion on topics they have profound knowledge on, from the rainforests of Venezuela with Ana Maria Attyde, to Elin Haf Davies's astounding row across the Atlantic, to the intricacies of setting up a fossil museum in Dorset courtesy of General Sir Michael Hobbs.

Behind the headline events we have done a great deal in supporting both the Lower School and various prep schools with which we are looking to build connections. Through new-found links with the Royal Society for



Asian Affairs we saw the first prep school essay competition which, judging by the quality of the entries, was an overwhelming success.

In addition to our in-house programme, the Society has enjoyed a number of local trips including: a visit to HMS President to learn about the role of The Royal Navy in protecting our trade routes and combating the illicit drug trade; The Worshipful Company of World Traders' Tacitus Lecture given by Baroness Scotland; a EU debate at DLA Piper as well as RSAA events about China's ethnic minorities and Afghan culture.

The Society would like to say a huge thank you to all who have supported us this year. We also wish to shamelessly plug our JSGS twitter feed (@westminsterJSGS) for those looking for a bit of geo to spice up their lives!

Brock Lecture: Tim Emmett THE CONCEPT OF POSSIBILITY

The Brock Lecture 2015 was given by Tim Emmett and entitled *The Concept of Possibility*, reports Rupert Stuart Smith (BB).



■ To most of those present, such 'possibility' seemed distinctly unattainable as the speaker recounted his experiences as a professional extreme sports athlete, specifically as an ice and rock climber and professional wingsuit B.A.S.E jumper, as well as a marine zoology graduate. He spoke about some of the frightening truths of the dangers of these extreme sports, his inspirations, and some of his most impressive achievements, including making the first ascent of Helmcken Falls in Canada, one of the most famous ice climbs in the world. He has also

“The first ascent of Helmcken Falls in Canada, one of the most famous ice climbs in the world”

achieved 4 podium positions at the World Ice Climbing Championships and been nominated for the *Piolet D'Or*, which he described as being the climbing equivalent of the Oscars.

The speaker made use of his wide range of achievements to reinforce the message of his talk: that through perseverance, determination, and seizing any opportunities that may arise, we can all realise our dreams. He told the audience how through being open-minded, we all have the capacity to achieve things we may otherwise not even have attempted. Overall, this was a truly inspirational talk, given by a man whose life story alone was sufficient to inspire his audience to strive for excellence and challenge their own concepts of possibility.

Sub-Continental Society DANCING LIGHTS

We have had a wonderful first full year after the Sub Continental Society (previously known as the Indo-Pak society) was refounded by Eish and Raaid, writes an enthusiastic Nikhil Shah (AHH).



■ In the summer, we had a variety of presentations and discussions hosted by society members about all topics sub-continental, ranging from 'The Indian Elections' and 'India's Economy' to 'The future of test cricket' and 'Sex Appeal in Bollywood'. We also had our first ever Bollywood film night, 'Three Idiots', leaving our audience bursting into fits of both laughter and tears, as they enjoyed sub-continental snacks. We started off the academic year with a bang on September Saturday at our inaugural Bollywood Dance, dancing to Shava Shava, screwing light bulbs and patting

“Dancing to Shava Shava, screwing light bulbs and patting dogs with passion and vigour”

dogs with passion and vigour, all dressed up in Sub-continental attire for shag day. We

ended the term with another event that we hope to continue in the years to come - our Sub-Con Xmas Curry Night - in which we welcomed new members and welcomed back OWS who were part of the society last year as we enjoyed some delicious food in Masala Zone. This (Lent) term has been Pak-ed full of Indo-resting presentations too, with topics such as 'Language in India and Potential Problems associated with it' and 'India's nuclear programme' as well as some more Bollywood Film Nights including 'Student of the Year' and 'Kal Ho Naa Ho'.

Wave Society MUMMIES' BOYS AND GIRLS

Far from the usual cry of free doughnuts or flashy external speakers, WAVE society whispers a subtler, and more unusual note, notes Matthew Holland (RR) soothingly.

■ Meeting once every half term, WAVE explores the cultural and often quirky side of our fantastic location in the centre of London, taking advantage of local museums, experiences and areas of cultural and intellectual interest.

Having redefined and re-established the WAVE philosophy, the year kicked off with an enthralling and strangely eerie night-time visit to see the Egyptian Mummies up British Museum. Drs Simons and Kalivas, selected and approved as having the appropriate WAVE mentality, accompanied an exclusive group of Upper School pupils on what was an enormously interesting and engaging experience.

“An enthralling and strangely eerie night-time visit to see the Egyptian Mummies”

The stillness of the museum at night, now emptied of all but the dedicated few, combined with the immense and exciting history of Ancient Egypt and its extraordinary culture made for a truly remarkable and memorable trip.

Following a Monty Python style 'and now for something completely different' approach, the pizza and bread-making workshop at a baking school in Borough Market became the next exploit for the WAVEs. Marketed as a skill all students should know, the course was immensely popular with demand far outstripping supply. As usual, the lucky few ventured forth and returned all the wiser, equipped with a wealth of bread and pizza-based knowledge (and also caked in flour!).

The society is, of course, immensely grateful to our ringmasters, NJS and NGK, for ensuring we look left and right whilst crossing the road and for fully engaging and immersing themselves in the outings; it makes them all the more fun! With a tour of the sewers and a chocolate-making workshop on the horizon, WAVE has continued, and will continue, to be as unique and tremendous a society as can possibly exist within Westminster School.



History of Art Society ART COURSES

This year, the Art History department hosted five lectures open to all students and parents, on a variety of different topics, writes Benjamin Walton.

Our first visitors were Josephine Breese and Henry Little, from their contemporary art gallery in Clerkenwell and Ben Street, a former teacher here and now lecturer and guide in major galleries internationally. The lecture took the form of a panel discussion, with all three answering the questions from curating a private gallery, to the value of art, or the justification of contentious work in important collections.

Later in the term, we heard from Dr. Gavin Parkinson from the Courtauld Institute of Art on the progression of Magritte's career. Considering the works which made Magritte famous alongside his lesser known works, Parkinson explored the aims and main ideas behind Magritte's artistic evolution. From Simon Shaw-Miller, a leading Art Historian at Bristol University, there was a lecture on the role of music as a model for the drawing, painting and pedagogy of 20th century abstract artist, Paul Klee. These specialists made the rarefied seem accessible, and in so doing they revealed something new about these familiar names.

As well as contemporary and 20th century art, the lecture series included the topic of Love and Marriage in the Renaissance by Nick Ross, Director of Art History Abroad. Having taught for twenty-two years in Italy, Ross's insight into Italy and the spread of the Renaissance was especially relevant for us as we are studying the Renaissance as part of our Pre-U course. The final lecture was focused upon how the viewer interacts with art and how the role of the viewer plays into the artists' conception of their work. Jess Barker's *How We View Art* considered the relationship between artist,



artwork and audience as a dynamic, exploring the way in which this influences our experience of the work.

The lecture series this year was not the only extra-curricular activity hosted by the History of Art department. To relieve the exam stress, Westminster hosted its very own Peasant's Dinner, based on Van Gogh's Potato Eaters. The Gastronomic Art Society set up dinners in the style of famous paintings, with food and costumes to match. It was a night of more feasting and less peasantry – once again proving Art History to be the most creative department in its teaching methods.



French Society ...DES ARTS AND DES LETTRES

The society has met several times through the year to discuss a range of Gallic interests, writes Sebastien Blache.

Dr Virginie Guichard expanded brilliantly on French director Clouzot, a favourite of hers, through theoretical and practical interludes. Her captivating talk was interspersed with extracts from four pivotal films in his various career, which spanned three decades, from film noir, to Nouvelle Vague-like style to experimental cinema in the 1960s and 70s.

Dr Helen Abbott (Sheffield), a classically-trained soprano as well as a lecturer, gave a most inspiring talk on 'Baudelaire and Music': she mapped out the various musical interpretations given by composers over the last two centuries. She also gave a wonderfully detailed analysis of two of Baudelaire's most famous poems, namely *Correspondances* and *L'invitation au voyage* and sang extracts herself.

Dr Bradley Stephens of Bristol University, one of the world's leading authorities on Hugo's *Les Misérables* came to talk about adapting the seminal and sprawling 19th century novel, a quest for redemption, a social manifesto, a democratic pamphlet, a mirror held to the France of the Restoration. His demonstration was extremely informative, full of humour and wit.



Finnish Society

FROZEN – THE TRUE STORY

A country of introverts, saunas, lakes, snow and reindeer, Finland may not initially catch your eye. Finnish Society was therefore set up to provide an insight into the colourful culture and history of this remote region, which is relatively unknown compared to its Scandinavian counterparts. Maxine Vainio (GG) spills the beans on this Arctic country.

Finland in 10 facts:

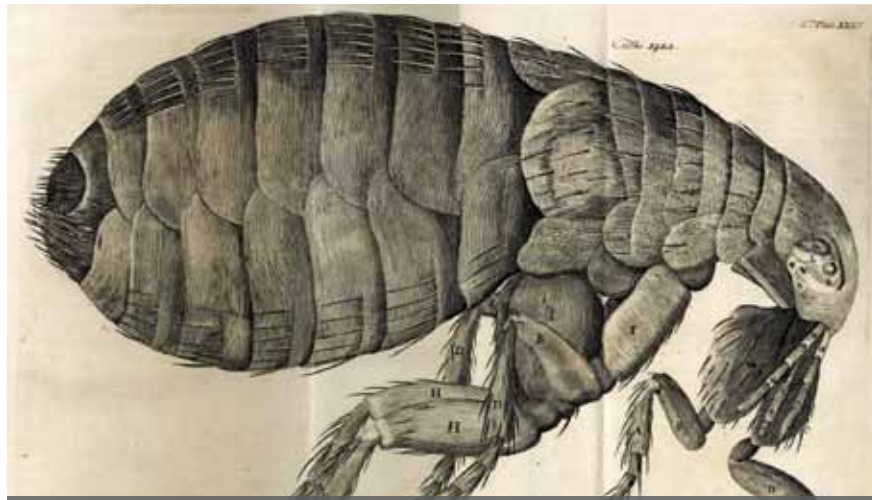
1. You know you've made friends with a Finn when he at looks at your feet instead of his own while talking to you.
2. It is the most sparsely populated country in Europe with a population of 5.4 million, approximately 16 inhabitants per km² and 2 million saunas.
3. The official language is suomi (Finnish).
4. In 2010, the Finns created a National Failure Day. It occurs annually on October 13th.
5. 98% of the population are Lutheran Christian, which is the primary state religion.
6. Valentine's Day is known as 'Friends' Day'.
7. Finland is the land of a thousand lakes, the land of the midnight sun and the land of the Northern Lights.
8. In summer the sun does not set; in winter it does not rise.
9. Wife-carrying and mobile-phone-throwing are sports.
10. Santa Claus is from Lapland. Each year, he sends out more than 4,000 letters to children around the world.

“How could I not want to have a Finnish passport?”

The inaugural meeting was held in February 2014 and saw the brave skaters participating in the Finnish Ice-Skating Marathon return with a newfound respect for the country and a handful of useful phrases; everything from 'minä rakastan sinua' (I love you) to 'kippis!' (Cheers!). From then on, the society has discussed all things Finnish and even expanded into the realms of the successful Nordic Social Model. A particular highlight was the Christmas meeting, which included a debate on whether Santa Claus was from the North Pole or Lapland, along with an abundance of homemade Finnish pastries and Glügg wine, non-alcoholic of course. Needless to say, everyone who has attended the society has left asking themselves: how could I not want to have a Finnish passport? It has snowflakes printed on it! Or maybe they just wanted some more of that Finnish chocolate...

Hooke Lecture Series

JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS



This year's Hooke Lecture Series was inspired by a particularly remarkable event: the 350th anniversary of the publication of *Micrographia* by Robert Hooke (OW), records Kevin Walsh.

■ The opening talk of the series was actually a pair of presentations given by Dr Felicity Henderson of Exeter University and our very own Head of Art History, Mr Benj Walton. The fascinating evening began with a look at Hooke's life and then focused on the significance of image in scientific history. One well-known fact about Hooke is that there is no known portrait of him, though recent paintings have been produced based upon contemporaneous references to and reports of his appearance. Indeed, one such portrait was on view this evening, the winner of a competition held by the Royal Society in 2003. Also on view were the school's two copies of the *Micrographia* itself, displaying Hooke's iconic drawing of a flea. Dr Henderson certainly brought Robert Hooke to life with a compelling account of the man's story – which included his training as an artist – whilst Mr Walton added to the magic of the evening with a most thought-provoking and informative discussion of how images of people are recorded in portraits and the power of their depiction.

In the second talk, Prof Malcom Burrows FRS (Cambridge University) continued the flea theme with a wonderful description of his work looking at how fleas and other insects are able to leap such extraordinary distances. His video footage will never be forgotten by those who were present and, indeed, I still wince at the very thought of his video of the unfortunate weightlifter.

Micrographia was produced as a result of Hooke's amazing, pioneering work with the relatively new microscope and so it was fitting to have a talk in the series about the history of microscopes.

“I still wince at the very thought of his video of the unfortunate weightlifter”

It was thus with great pleasure that we welcomed Dr John Hutchison from Oxford University, a past president of the Royal Microscopical Society. His account of the history of the development of the microscope included a model of an early Van Leuwenhoek version and culminated with a description of the latest state-of-the-art scanning electron microscopes that produce the almost alien-like images of the tiny bugs that share our personal space without us ever being aware of them.

It was perhaps stretching the umbrella quite a long way to include a talk about antimatter in a series of talks about Hooke, but one must not forget that he was a man with deep thoughts and ideas about the nature of substance itself and he would have fully appreciated the beauty and intrigue of the subject. Dr Thom Wall of Imperial College gave a spellbinding account of the nature of antimatter and of his own personal involvement in the theoretical and experimental investigations of it. His knowledge, enthusiasm and clarity of exposition typified the Hooke series as a whole and left the audience in no doubt that Hooke, his *Micrographia* and his intellectual legacy are things of which we must continue to be extremely proud.

Imperial College
Lecture SeriesLEANING
TO DREAM

Once again the Imperial College Lecture Series, held in the Play Term, illustrated the diverse areas of expertise required for undertaking cutting edge scientific and technological research, confirms Kevin Walsh.

■ In his talk on Pioneering Wi-Fi Technology, Prof David Skellern (also of the University of Sydney) spoke not only of the science behind the Wi-fi systems we meet every day, enabling communication between our ever-expanding personal portfolios of wireless devices, but also of the application of

“To realise such dreams requires leaning on colleagues in related disciplines”

this technology in medicine and transport. Self-monitoring and treatment of conditions such as diabetes and automatic vehicular functions are now a reality thanks to Wi-Fi.

In her talk on DNA Methylation in cancer diagnosis, Dr Melina Kalofonou revealed that current research at Imperial suggests that the technique is likely to lead the way in the identification of certain tumour types and thus the accurate targeting of specific chemotherapy treatments.

In the final talk of the series, the audience was treated to the Viking-like Prof Tor Lande (also of the University of Oslo) and his extraordinary breadth of ideas in the world of sensing technology. His comprehensive survey of past and present perspectives of the digital revolution was followed by a look into the future and considered uses of radio-frequency transponders in the world of hi-tech, yet financially accessible, imaging technology.

In all the talks, it was clear that whilst a specific area of expertise was required to take a particular idea forward and to apply it in a novel fashion, to realise such dreams requires leaning on colleagues in related disciplines and the broad-minded approach to science could never be better demonstrated.

Engineering Society
DOWN TO
EARTH

Matthew Holland opened this year's Hooke Engineering Society in spectacular fashion with an extended edition of his coursework on 'Latex as a Protective Barrier', testifies Emma Li (BB).

■ Complex concepts in materials science were presented in a humorous context – Matthew explained clearly the microscopic polymer structure of latex and how this determines its macroscopic properties and utility. This was followed by an impressive demonstration involving an inflated condom which was blown up using ordinary baby oil. Free glove samples ensured a high turnout of over 30 people.

Despite the last minute loss of our next

Music Society
SOUND
COMMITMENT

The word 'society' in its current sense perhaps does not capture the essence of what the Music Society does, asserts Ravi Veriah Jacques (AHH).

“Not yet another relentless talk factory”



speaker to illness, committee member Edward Pickup stepped up and presented a compelling argument about the future of nuclear power, complete with surprisingly humorous anecdotes about nuclear disasters. Somehow the audience all left thoroughly convinced that, contrary to the typical media portrayal, nuclear power is an extremely safe and viable option for the future. Scheduled speaker Kent Vainio gave his talk on a later date about the interface of maths and medicine in a joint venture with Biology Society. Positron emission tomogra-

phy as an unlikely vector with which to image the body provided us with an insight into the (non) cutting edge of science.

Another highlight was Thomas Lindsay's aerospace talk covering the prospects of a British Space Plane, complete with crowd-pleasing explosion videos. Meanwhile, Lawrence Berry and Kartik Prabhu brought space within reach with an inspiring account of how they used a balloon, a GPS system and careful calculations to capture footage of altitudes of 30km and the curvature of the Earth from their back garden.

In a fitting tribute to our proximity to iconic London feats of engineering, next term

“Surprisingly humorous anecdotes about nuclear disasters”

Engineering Society is welcoming Roma Agrawal, one of the Shard engineers. We look forward to reaching ever greater heights in what promises to be a fantastic talk.



■ It is not yet another relentless talk factory, nor is it a hotbed of intellectual curiosity and endeavour, rather it has sought to present instead a haven of peace in an otherwise stressful and uncompromising school timetable. Most aptly, it is a lunchtime concert series displaying the musical talent at Westminster. Whether it be in the luscious chapel or up School, the concerts have invariably been of a high standard, drawing much praise from all who came. Four concerts have so far been organised by the diligent committee Ravi Veriah, Yuma Kitahara, Hamzah Zaidi and Lucia Simpson. The first three concerts, all in the chapel, provided several defining performances, most notably Yuma displaying his immense aptitude on the clarinet, Lucia's voice being a revelation and Ginny Leigh's flute playing profoundly moving the audience.

At the end of the Lent term came the society's moment of glory, the concert up School. A full fifty people came, a diverse audience including visitors from America and assorted friends from Harris Westminster. The concert started with an accomplished rendition of Mendelssohn's piano trio followed by Tommy Leo performing Bach at his typically lofty level. Next came Hamzah playing the mellifluous, yet powerful *Silent Woods* by Dvorak and Lucia singing Handel. Last came Ravi Veriah, performing the virtuosic Gypsy *Zigeunerweisen* to round off the concert. The first four concerts have been an immense success, and with two already planned for the summer term, this fledgling society is very much flourishing.

Biology Olympiad TREASURE CHEST

Westminster's dominance in the British Biology Olympiad continued this year, with a terrific haul of eleven gold, ten silver and nine bronze medals. As such, Westminster remains the most successful school in the history of this competition, claims a modest Sam Baldock.

All Remove Biologists took part in the first round of the competition in February, tackling problems on topics as diverse as the development of the nervous system in embryos, the regulation of biological clocks in plants, identifying 'performance-enhancing genes' in athletes, the behaviour of slave-making ants and the evolution of warning markings in poison frogs.

Horace Chu, Nishant Lahoti, Alex Mayorov, Rory Meryon, Alistair Milne and Siegfried von Thun-Hohenstein ranked in the top 2% of competitors and consequently won places in the competitive second. Of these, Alex Mayorov made it into the top 0.2% of competitors and continued to the national finals at the University of



Warwick. Unfortunately, having committed to the British Chemistry Olympiad team the day before the finals, Alex had to withdraw from the competition – much to the disappointment of the national selectors!

All indicators suggest the current Sixth Form Biologists are well on track to continue Westminster's success story in this competition in 2016.



Chemistry Olympiad TREASURE CHEST II

Westminster chemists were in their element again in the Olympiad this year, picking up a healthy number of certificates, including ten Gold, a record thirty five Silver and twelve Bronze boasts a proud Richard Kowenicki.

Alex Mayorov and Jared Jeyaretnam were ranked in the top 20 of over 6000 students and so were both selected to participate in Round 2, the first time two Westminsters have qualified for this round since 2009. Alex has subse-

quently been selected to represent the UK in a team of four in the International Olympiad in Azerbaijan this coming summer, a remarkable achievement and the third time in four years that a Westminster student has represented the UK in the International competition.

In other competitions Jared Jeyaretnam and Meg Tong were awarded Roentgenium Certificates in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, placing them in the top 1% of over 4000 entrants and Lawrence Berry won the overall video prize in the prestigious RCSU Science Challenge, all the more impressive considering he was up against students from Imperial College, as well as School.

“The third time in four years that a Westminster student has represented the UK”

Biology Society A CUT ABOVE

This year, Biology Society has been aiming to provide an easily accessible foray into some of the more interesting and varied aspects of biology, targeting all students rather than only those who study the subject, report Benjamin Fitkov-Norris (AHH) and Stephanie Yung (PP).

We started the year off with the highly anticipated Biology Quiz, which saw the prestigious Golden Microscope awarded to the winning team. This was followed by a glimpse into the mind of environment enthusiast Rupert Stuart-Smith regarding the impact of the shipping industry on marine animals, as well as an intriguing yet informative talk on orthopaedic surgery in animals by Molly Kearney. Orla Hanks managed to captivate a record number of attendees with her personal experience of dyslexia, whilst Jorlin Liu provided us with a



much needed talk on the negative effects of chronic stress especially with exams on the horizon. We wrapped the Lent Term up with the grand finale of a rat dissection workshop, providing a refreshing hands-on experience in contrast to all the previous lectures. Overall, the Biology Society has had a very successful year, and we look forward to another, in order to provide a respite from all the exam stress!

“The grand finale of a rat dissection workshop, providing a refreshing hands-on experience”



Chess MODERATE SUCCESS

This has been another moderately successful year for the school chess team, as a strong new Fifth Form contingent joined the more seasoned players of last year's team, acknowledges Nick Clanchy (MM).

In particular there were great hopes for Dion Huang, who deserves special mention for his achievement in representing England at the World Youth Chess Championships in October. Even with Dion on board (*sic*), however, the year got off to a slow start as Westminster hosted the preliminary round of the Team Chess Challenge, in which eight teams competed. After four rounds it was, disastrously, the Under School that went home victorious with qualification for the next round, leaving the Westminster A team of Nick Clanchy, Dion Huang, Tibo Rushbrooke and James Meredith with quite some humble pie to eat! That said, congratulations should go to the B team of Alex Popper, Zak Warsop, Rob Wang and Ilya Kleyner for their strong performance, coming a close third. Things soon picked up for the team in the National Schools Championship, when Raghav Nayak, Eugene Daley and Zak Warsop joined the A team. Having swept through the group stage without serious worry we won our first knockout round against Forest School, only to lose to Wilson's School in the last sixteen. Our thanks once again go to Mr Davies for organising an ever-busier schedule of matches. We hope to go further next year!



“After four rounds it was, disastrously, the Under School that went home victorious”

General Knowledge

PIPPED

By Westminster's exceptional standards the previous two seasons of general knowledge campaigning have been hardly impressive, runners-up both years to Tonbridge in the Regional Finals, mutters Ben Brind (LL).

This year, therefore, the team of Ben Brind (Captain), Nico Stone, Jake Swann and Alex Foster were determined to make amends. Despite the fact that only one member of the team wore glasses, returning veterans Nico and I were relatively confident. Our confidence only increased as we romped through the regional competition, with a particularly satisfying and comfortable first-round defeat of Tonbridge and an impressive performance from our juniors. The Inter-regional round posed a supposedly tough challenge against the Perse School, last year's National Champions;

however, an exceptional performance from Nico produced a crushing victory. So in late April we were one of eight teams in the national finals, held on home turf. Against KES Birmingham, 'a full-glasses team', we started poorly as they raced to a 130-0 lead. However, the vanguard of Nico and myself launched a stern fight back and gradually reeled in what was an exceptional team. With two minutes to go the match turned ill-tempered over a dispute of 'Where are the Ashes held?' They answered 'a cup', a ridiculous answer, and we correctly answered 'Lords'; however, excessive parental arguing from their side cost us not only the potential for 50 points in bonus questions, but precious time. We narrowly lost 820-780. This was intensely disappoint-

"Only one member of the team wore glasses"

ing. However, we immediately regrouped for a straightforward but often tight victory against Hereford to reach the plate final, where we were content with launching a blitzkrieg at roughly the 20 minute mark to tie up the match by a few hundred points. The Plate final brought a trophy with a strong performance from the whole team against RGS Lancaster. The future bodes well!



Library Committee

NEVER SAY DIE

It seems awfully long ago looking back on it today, when the legendary Jack Lennard approached an impressionable Fifth Former, bearing a smile and a rather nice tie with books on it, recalls a misty-eyed Elliot EG Jordan (HH).

To cut a long story short, before I knew what was happening, I was sitting down in my first Library Committee meeting, wearing that very same tie. After that year, the Committee fell into disrepair before being disbanded all together. Before long, I was the last member of an almost defunct committee. However, on the first day of this academic year I decided to change that – and the Westminster School Library Committee was reborn, stronger than ever. Accompanied by Vivien Hasan, Assistant Chair, soon the Committee was armed with its very own Facebook Page, our newsletter, The Librarian and, most importantly, a group of friends dedicated to running the committee.

With every passing day, I am amazed at the volume of support that the committee has received. Sadly, Vivien moved on at the end of the Play Term, but we were delighted to have the superb Alina Young as her replacement. The Librarian newsletter, with its fortnightly circulation and scores of eager readers, has been a particularly successful item, and I have frequently found myself mobbed as I hand out a new issue in the evenings, with the literary competitions and satirical book reviews being particularly popular. We have also seen success in fundraising, raising money for Help for Heroes and Westminster House, and we are sure this will continue. We have every intention of continuing with the same good work that we have done for as long as Westminsters can put up with my editorial notices! See you in the Christie Room.

"Before long, I was the last member of an almost defunct committee"

2014

PRIZEGIVING

Art

Art Remove Barnaby Lewis
Art Remove Archie Squire-Lindsay
Art Sixth April Yao
Biology Vivek Shah
Art Sixth Tim Oswald
Art Upper Shell Cameron Durdy
Art Upper Shell
Art Lower Shell

German

History Alfred Murray
Art Lower Shell Sam White
Art Fifth Lucas Haarmann
Art Fifth Tom Fior Harcourt

Biology

Biology Remove Emilie Finch
Biology Upper Shell Kushaal Desai
Biology Lower Shell

German

Physics Philip Pfeffer
Biology Lower Shell James Wilson

Cricket: U15 Player of the Year

Biology Fifth

Geography Maxim Postolovsky
Physics Joshua Rosen
Biology Fifth

Chemistry

Chemistry Remove Matthew Shin
Chemistry Remove Yikai Zhang
Maths Jared Jeyaretnam
Chemistry Sixth
Chemistry Upper Shell

History

Maths Kent Vainio
Physics Dipen Hansjee
Chemistry Lower Shell
Music

Chemistry Lower Shell
Electronics

English

Russian Liam Zhou
Chemistry Fifth Ryan Kang
Maths
Chemistry Fifth

French

Greek Martin Leake History 2nd
Physics Hein Mante

Computer Science

Computer Science Lower Shell Oliver Turnbull
Computer Science Lower Shell Baptiste Bouvier
Computer Science Fifth

Electronics Freddie Poser
Computer Science Fifth James Bithell

Drama

Drama, Remove Daisy Hayes

Drama Upper Shell

Religious Studies

Elizabethan Photography 1st

Drama Lower Shell

Special Drama Prize

Drama Oli Bennett Award

Peer Supporter

Eduardo Strike

Philip Freeman

Finlay Stroud

Michael Davin

Amy Karet

Drama Lushington Prize

Drama JECA Performance Award

Economics

Economics Sixth

Geography

Music – Brass

Economics Sixth

Economics Sixth

Electronics

Electronics Remove

Physics Maskelyne Prize 2nd

English

English Remove

English Sixth

English Phillimore 2nd

History of Art

English Sixth

English Phillimore 1st

History

Philosophy

English Upper Shell

English Lower Shell

English Fifth

Creative Writing 3rd

English Fifth

Creative Writing 1st

English Fifth

Creative Writing 2nd

History

English Phillimore 2nd

History of Art

English Phillimore 3rd

English Phillimore 3rd

French Philip Webb

English Phillimore 3rd

Greek

History Mitchell Prize

English Society

English Society

French

French Remove

History Walker Prize

Latin

Russian

French Sixth

French Sixth

Latin

Spanish

French Upper Shell

German

French Lower Shell

Maths

French Fifth

French Gibb

Martin Ball Piano Prize

Russian

French Gibb

French Philip Webb

French Stuart Leaf

Greek

History Neal Prize

French Stuart Leaf

Spanish Stuart Leaf

Will Stevens

Max Reynolds

Henry Kitchen

Elizabeth Mobed

Hugo Ventham

Tom Hartley

Jessica Webster

Sophie Steyn

Arenike Adebajo

Mo Barry-Wilson

Francis Walsh

Thomas Duggan

Rory Budd

Cyrus Naji

Jamie Baty

Harlan Epstein

Eleanor Smith-Hahn

Charlie Wall

Tom Ashton

Daniel Lubin

Walker Thompson

Ilya Kleyner

Maxine Vainio

Luca Patriniche

Daniel Gonzalez Pavesio

Jake Swann

Forbes Anderson

Babuné Anthony

Patrick Fitzgerald

Gabriel Barrie

Natasha Jones

Geography	
Geography Remove	Rebecca Mason
Geography Remove	
History	Harry Spillane
Geography Upper Shell	
Music	Darius Latham-Koenig
Geography Lower Shell	Toby Morrison
Geography Lower Shell	Will Allen
Geography Fifth Form	Louis Cameron
German	
German Upper Shell	Theo Legeris
German Hugo Garten	Erica Douglas
Greek	
Remove Prize for Classics	Nicholas Kenny
Greek Sixth	Max Gurassa
Greek Upper Shell	Nico Stone
Greek Lower Shell	Francis Morse
Greek Lower Shell	Tom Lister
Greek Fifth	
Music	
PE	Alex Ross
History of Art	
History of Art Remove	
Music Singing	Izzy Kent
History	
History Remove	Eleanor Shearer
History Sixth	
Philosophy	Nicholas Clanchy
History Upper Shell	
Latin	Stephen Horvath
History Lower Shell	Thomas Nightingale
History Fifth	Gabriel Allason
History Martin-Leake First Prize	Luke Dunne
History Martin-Leake Third Prize	Robert Doane-Solomon
History Mitchell Prize	Alex Bloom
History Neale Prize	Pip Frizelle
History Walker Prize	
Remove Philosophy	
Maundy Money	
For outstanding contribution to School societies, in particular John Locke and Chaplain's Breakfast	Rory Forsyth
History Whitmore Prize	Caitlin Bailey-Williams
Latin	
Latin Remove	William Frost
Latin Sixth	Rowhan Janjuah
Latin Upper Shell	
Religious Studies	Shiv Bhardwaj
Latin Lower Shell	Alexander Popov
Latin Lower Shell	Adam Dean
Latin Fifth	
Music	Sahil Shah
Latin Fifth	James Fenner
Mandarin	
Lower Shell	Henry Jones
Mathematics	
Maths Remove	Ralph Kramer
Maths Sixth	
Music Solti Prize	
Physics	Meg Tong
Maths Sixth	Ling Yu Choi
Maths Lower Shell	
Physics	Protik Moulik
Maths Fifth	Alexander Chen
Maths Senior Cheyne	
Music Percussion	Jessica Yung
Maths Senior Cheyne	
Physics Maskelyne Prize – 2nd	Alyssa Dayan

Maths Junior Cheyne	Benjamin Dayan
Music	
Music Remove	Eliza Millett
Music Adrian Whitelegge	
Music Sixth	Joshua Ballance
Music Lower Shell	Theo Guttenplan
Music Instrumental Woodwind	Flora Walsh
Music Jazz & Popular Music	Charlie Strachan
Music Solti Prize	Katie Harris
Physical Education	
PE Fifth	Archie Harker
Physics	
Physics Remove	Ying Li
Physics Sixth	Daniel Kim
Physics Maskelyne Prize 1st	Alice Cao
Physics Maskelyne Prize 2nd	Seung-Ki Lee
Product design	
Product design Lower Shell	Thomas Erridge
Religious Studies	
Philosophy Remove	Lucy Fleming-Brown
Religious Studies Lower Shell	Zachary Stanley
Religious Studies Lower Shell	Tom Fitzgerald
Religious Studies Fifth	Dexter Hsu
Religious Studies Fifth	Callum McDougall
Russian	
Russian Sixth	Matthew Bannatyne
Russian Sixth	Theo Tindall
Russian Lower Shell	Shaan Amin
Spanish	
Spanish Remove	Reuben Williams
Spanish Sixth	Bonar McGuire
Spanish Upper Shell	Alexander Long
Spanish Lower Shell	Hadrien Janbon
Spanish Lower Shell	Jordan Aguiar-Lucander
Peer supporters	
Peer Supporter	Elizabeth Dunne
Peer Supporter	Jasmine Curtis
Peer Supporter	Ben Merrett
Peer Supporter	Helena Khullar
Peer Supporter	David Conceicao
Peer Supporter	Tom Anderson
Peer Supporter	Erica Douglas
Peer Supporter	Lucy Oliver
Peer Supporter	Rachel Zou
Peer Supporter	Michael Davin
Peer Supporter	David Vardanyan
Peer Supporter	Thomas Hanton
Peer Supporter	Jessica Webster
Maundy	
Maundy; for his outstanding contribution to Bookbinding	Armand Brochard
Maundy; for his outstanding contribution to History Society, Geography Society and Music	Leo Lerner
Maundy; for his outstanding all-round contribution, notably to Music and Football	Oliver Iselin
Non-subject prizes	
U14 Player of the year	James Balgarnie
Elizabethan Photography 2nd	Sebastian Darke
'Venetian Room Panorama'	Jamie Ho
Clarke Cup for Civic Engagement	Sofya Shchukina
Harvard Book Prize	
HM Prize for Head Boy	Alex Bishop
Elizabethan Photography 3rd	
HM Prize for Head Girl	Francesca Ho
Music Prize Strings	



ARTS

MUSIC	
Music at Westminster	82
Sir Adrian Boult Memorial Concert	84
Orchestral Concert	85
Barbican Concert	86
Contemporary Music Masterclass and Concert	87
Cantandum	88

DRAMA	
The Dumb Waiter	89
The School Musical: Guys and Dolls	90
Guys and Dolls: The Music	91
Sixth Form Drama Festival	93

VISUAL ARTS	
Art Department: Remove Final Show	94
Artistalks: Ivo Tedbury	96
Art Mart	96
GCSE Art Show	97
Design and Technology	97
The Elizabethan: 2015 Photography	98



Music at Westminster THE FOOD OF LOVE



Another action-packed year of music-making at Westminster saw many new initiatives taking place and, yet again, hundreds of pupils performing across a wide spectrum of musical genres, reveals Director of Music, Tim Garrard.

Pupils involved themselves in concerts, masterclasses, recitals, competitions and workshops, collaborating with many different people including top professionals, The Westminster Choral Society and pupils from five nearby primary schools.

The Election Term 2014 began with a fascinating Contemporary Music Workshop and Masterclass under the direction of Dr Savaskan, with advisors David Campbell and Alan Andrews and members of the renowned contemporary group, the Octandre Ensemble. A number of premieres were given by pupils in front of an extremely appreciative audience. This workshop paved the way for more contemporary music to be performed at St John's in the autumn. Busby's and College gave their House Concerts, and Mr Kyle gave his final Vocal Concert before leaving to become Director of Music Performance at Mill Hill. Towards the end of term, a number of pupils took their ABRSM examinations before the Summer Concert was given primarily for Lower School Ensembles. The Leavers' Concert, Leavers' Service and Election Dinner brought the musical term to a close, before the Choir embarked upon its tour to Venice.

The Play Term got off to an exciting start for the choir with the Installation of the new

Headmaster in the Abbey and the Service for Parents of New Pupils. Towards the end of the first week, the WMOTY Winners' Lunchtime Recital was held at St John's, Smith Square, featuring the 2013 winner, pianist Tommy Leo and second-placed Yuma Kitahara, clarinetist. Yuma opened the recital with music by Bax and Weber before Tommy performed works by Ligeti, Schubert and Liszt. The first week had still not quite finished for the school's musicians, as a number of the School's jazz musicians provided music at the Fifth Form Barbeque at Vincent Square.

Violinist James Tett gave a very polished performance of Kreisler *Liebeslied* at the Prep School Heads' Dinner during the second week of term and later the 13+ music award holders shared the stage with a number of excellent new Sixth Form musicians in the New Soloists' Concert in the MMC.

September Saturday was full of musical offerings from various bands and solo artists who each took it in turn to up the volume in Little Dean's Yard with open air performances from the stage. We were treated to more popular music highlights, with songs by artists including John Lennon, James Brown, Stevie Wonder and Katie Tunstall, at the annual Popular Music Concert.

Both chamber groups and larger ensembles performed to appreciative audiences at the Chamber Music and Ensemble Concerts, before the Lower School Orchestra (LSO) and the Symphony Orchestra performed at St John's, Smith Square at the Orchestral Concert. Cellist Joshua Ballance featured in a performance of Elgar's *Cello Concerto in E minor*, and a performance of Dr Savaskan's *The Final Journey of Eduardo de Visce* conducted by the composer himself.



"The Chamber Choir popped over the road to sing carols in the Houses of Parliament"

The 28th Sir Adrian Boult Memorial Concert was given up School on the subject of the First World War by the international bass-baritone, Christopher Maltman and pianist Joseph Middleton.

Purcell's, Grant's and Ashburnham gave excellent House concerts, each bringing together a range of hugely diverse performances and, in the Abbey, the Choir, brass, percussion and organ performed John Rutter's *Te Deum* at the Commemoration of Benefactors. Several of our clarinetists worked with Karl Leister, Former Principal Clarinetist of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.



Towards the end of the term, a large number of pupils took ABRSM examinations whilst the Chamber Choir popped over the road to sing carols in the Houses of Parliament. Yuma Kitahara was awarded the Philip F Walsh Memorial Prize for gaining the highest mark awarded in all ABRSM Grade 8 Clarinet examinations taken in the year ending December 2014.

Finally, the Carol Service included carols by Pearsall, Howells, Darke, Adam's *O Holy Night* and Sixth Former Darius Latham-Koenig's new carol, *The Lamb*, chosen by internationally renowned OW composer Julian Anderson.

The Lent Term began with the Concerto Concert, up School, in which Henry Kitchen (trombone), Emily Sheng (cello), Koshiro Kiso (violin), Oliver Ramsay Gray (cello), Izabelle Batkovskye (violin), Matthew Bannatyne (oboe), Michael Natzler (piano) and Theo Tindall (piano) performed works by Jacob, Kabalevsky, Mendelssohn, Haydn, Bruch, Mozart, Beethoven and Liszt respectively.

This year's Jazz Evening saw exciting performances from the School's jazz community including the Fifth Form Jazz Band, the Jazz Funk Band and the new saxophone ensemble, as well as an excellent performance by the saxophonists in the Remove. Wren's, Dryden's,

"Our chamber music groups again represented the School in the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival"

Rigaud's, Milne's, Busby's, Hakluyt's and Liddell's all presented highly entertaining House concerts whilst the School's new Head of Singing, Mr Andrew Kennedy, oversaw his first Vocal Concert. The Lower and Upper School concerts gave pupils the opportunity to perform solo repertoire to an exceptionally high standard.

The piano competition was, this year, adjudicated by Timothy Barratt, Head of Keyboard at Dulwich College, and won by Protik Moullick and Tomoka Kan in the Junior and Senior sections respectively. Henry Kitchen and Theo Tindall were invited to a trombone coaching session from Jesper Busk Sorensen, trombonist with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. After the workshop, he arranged to meet them at the stage door of the Royal Festival Hall where they were able to sit in on a rehearsal with Sir Simon Rattle!

The School's annual musical was, this year, *Guys and Dolls*. This was a truly exceptional production with fantastic leads in the shape of Anna Simmons, Tom Critchley, Harlan Epstein and Bebe Lloyd. Mr Hopkins brought everything together musically both on stage and with his excellent pit orchestra.

During the Holocaust Memorial Service, the Choir performed Michael Horvitz' haunting anthem *Even when God is silent*, whilst

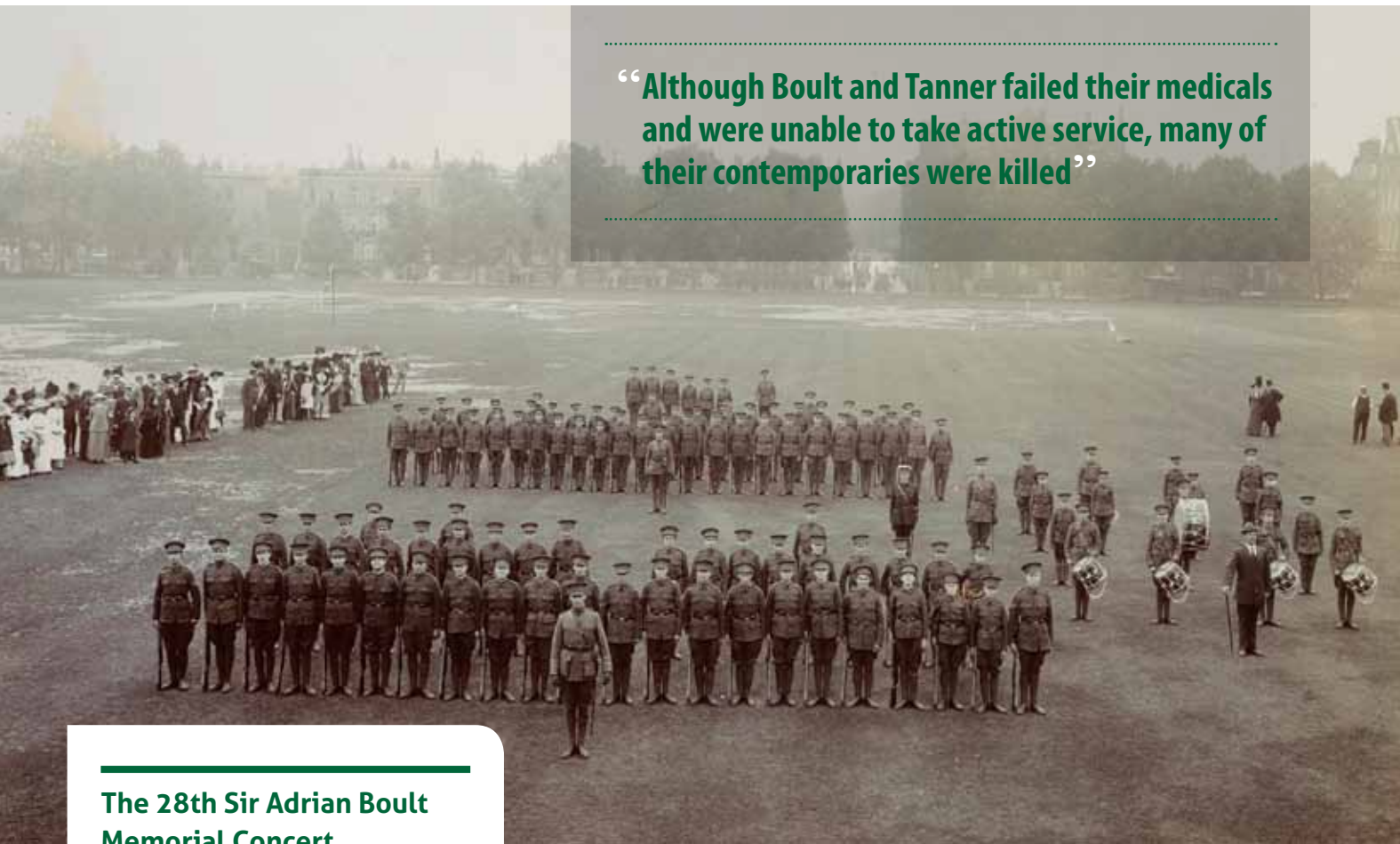
during Lent it gave its annual performance of Allegri's *Miserere*.

The second Ensembles Concert of the year allowed many of the School's ensembles to perform the repertoire on which they had been working during the term, whilst two of our chamber music groups again represented the School in the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival. Congratulations to Ravi Veriah-Jacques, Sol Paek, Sam Bates and Josh Ballance, who progressed to the final in Oxford.

Providing a spectacular finale to the term, The Choir and Orchestra of Westminster School and The Westminster Choral Society, along with soloists Ruth Jenkins-Robertsson (soprano), Matthew Cammelle (tenor) and David Stout (baritone), performed Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* at the Barbican. The assembled forces were joined by primary school pupils from Soho Parish, Millbank Academy, St Peter's Eaton Square, Westminster Cathedral Primary and St Vincent de Paul, in front of a packed audience. In the first half of this concert, the orchestra gave thrilling performances of Vaughan Williams' *Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus* and Mozart's *Symphony No. 40 in G minor*.

Congratulations to the many pupils who achieved distinctions in their ABRSM music examinations (including Hugo Venham who achieved Grade 8 Distinction on double bass and piano in the same examination session!). Congratulations to Tommy Leo who became a prize-winner at the prestigious Hilton Head International Piano Competition in the USA, and to all those who were invited to play in orchestras such as the London Schools Symphony Orchestra, the National Children's Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

“Although Boulton and Tanner failed their medicals and were unable to take active service, many of their contemporaries were killed”



The 28th Sir Adrian Boulton Memorial Concert

THE SOLDIER: FROM SEVERN TO SOMME

This year's Sir Adrian Boulton Memorial Concert, given by the internationally-renowned bass-baritone, Christopher Maltman and accompanist Joseph Middleton, was themed around the First World War, records Tim Garrard.

Elizabeth Wells, the School archivist, explained that in December 1908 at the end of his first term at Oxford, Adrian Boulton returned to Little Dean's Yard for a social gathering. His visit was a favour to his friend Lawrence Tanner who was then Head of Grant's. As part of the evening's entertainment, pupils and guests alike performed songs to the assembled company. The event appears to have been a great success, with twelve pupils and Old Westminsters performing songs, including Boulton himself who sang the folk song, *The Berkshire Tragedy*.

Within a decade, although Boulton and Tanner failed their medicals and were unable to take active service, many of their contemporaries were killed and injured. Four of those who sang that night in 1908 lost their lives in the war.

In 1921 the names of these four fallen OWW would join 218 of their peers on the war memorial up School. However, this monument was destroyed by an incendiary dropped during the Blitz which left School a bare shell. Following School's reconstruction in the 1950s a new memorial was created on the organ case, combining the names of those who died in both World Wars.

With all this in mind, Christopher Maltman's programme, *The Soldier: From Severn to Somme*, served as a profound and fitting tribute to those former pupils whose names were illuminated as a backdrop to the two performers on stage.

Maltman's programme began with songs about home, with poems by A.E. Housman set to music by composers such as Butterworth and Somervell. These were followed by the journey to war with an international mix of works by Fauré, Ives, Gurney and Mahler. Upon returning from the interval, the battle commenced with Gustav Mahler's *Commander in Chief*, Gurney's *In Flanders* and songs by Schumann and Wolf, before an epitaph of Finzi, Somervell, Butterworth and Poulenc's *Lune d'avril*.

Maltman conjured up vivid imagery throughout not only with his voice but through his eyes and an innate storytelling ability. His delivery was packed full of drama and emotion and, from the very outset, he transfixed his audience with the most exquisite, rich tone and a beautiful, musical line. Crucially, he was outstanding at conveying the words and their meaning. The compassion with which he crafted song after song was felt by an audience deeply moved by the subject matter.

Songs by Gurney yearned for England's green and pleasant land from distant battlefields, as did works by Finzi, Somervell and Butterworth. What seemed bizarre on paper from a programming perspective was how these English songs were juxtaposed with others by composers such as Fauré, Schumann, Wolf and Mussorgsky. Yet one was able to consider the equally ill-fated plight of the French, German and Russian soldier. Words and music united nations and reminded us all of the tragic loss of life, hope and loved ones in every land.

Orchestral Concert St John's, Smith Square

THE NEW LSO

On the evening of Monday 10th November 2014, an orchestra of over fifty pupils walked onto the stage at St John's, Smith Square, to give their inaugural performance beyond Little Dean's Yard, writes Tim Garrard.

How could this be, you may well be thinking, as the orchestra performs at St John's every year? A brief scan of the stage revealed that, with the exception of the two harpists, both of whom were guests of the assembled orchestra, every one of the fifty or more pupils was male. Again, perhaps you are wondering how this could have happened, seeing as the School became co-educational in the early 1970s.

The answer is that this was the LSO. Not the London Symphony Orchestra but, rather, the mighty Lower School Orchestra, led by Fifth Former James Tett and conducted by Maestro Hopkins.

This was a hugely impressive performance with excellent solos by Harvey Parker (flute), Alexander Popov (oboe), Yuma Kitahara (clarinet), Tom Lister (bassoon) and James Mann (trumpet). School orchestras often lack in quality within the sound of their string sections yet, with so many able players in the

Lower School, the warmth of timbre defied the youth of these young musicians, nowhere more so than in a cello section led by the excellent trio of Hamzah Zaidi, Regan Ring and Christos Daly. These players immediately brought the fate of the protagonist to life, announcing Carmen's entrance with a really atmospheric and poignant legato in the upper register. There followed *Aragonaise*, a fiery dance in which the audience was transported to Spain and Carmen's tempestuous world, and other movements including *Seguidilla* and the mystical *les Dragons d'Alcala* in which percussion and pizzicato strings conjure imagery of a gypsy dance. *Les Toreadors* allowed the orchestral tutti to end on a high, and to round off what was a highly polished debut performance.

“The orchestra rose to the challenge and created something rather extraordinary”

The LSO made way for the Symphony Orchestra at this point for a performance of Elgar's iconic *Cello Concerto in E minor, Op.85*. Each year, musicians in the Remove audition to perform a concerto in this annual St John's concert, and cellist Joshua Ballance was this year a worthy winner of this audition process.

All eyes and ears are on a concerto soloist, and there is certainly no place to hide, especially when the repertoire is so well

known, yet Josh gave an extremely impressive performance of Elgar's four movement masterpiece with a real sense of forethought, musicality and freedom of expression. Under the baton of Mr Hopkins, the orchestra played with great passion and accuracy. Particularly notable was the way in which the players approached this repertoire as chamber music at times, especially when cello soloist and cello section worked together, eyes fixed, to find a perfect ensemble.

The second half of the concert belonged to the world of contemporary music. Conducted by Dr Savaskan, the orchestra performed Benjamin Britten's *Paul Bunyan Overture*, Charles Ives *The Unanswered Question* with trumpet soloist Ginny Leigh, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' *Five Klee Pictures* and, finally, Dr Savaskan's own *The Final Journey of Eduardo de Visee*.

Whereas the first half of the programme would have been known to the vast majority of the audience, a small minority would have known this more contemporary repertoire. Yet, in each piece, the orchestra rose to the challenge and created something rather extraordinary. None more so than in the Savaskan which ended the programme. To see magic in the eyes of the players at the end of a long evening of music making suggested that they took a great deal from having performed this piece in the presence of the composer. Certainly, the rousing crescendos, extended performance techniques, motivic development and the overall soundscape of the work fully engaged the members of the audience who were all extremely appreciative.



Barbican Concert

BACK IN THE DAY

In what has now become a fully established tradition in the school's musical year we all made our way east to the ancient City of London and to the brutalist Barbican in March for this year's grand concert, writes Teehan Page.

■ Economists seem to think that the economy can keep getting bigger and better *ad infinitum*. On the evidence of this year's showing our Barbican concerts can too.

The concert began with Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus*. Westminster Strings played this at the ensembles concert in the previous term and what was a very enjoyable performance then had become a highly polished and mature realisation by the end of March. Vaughan Williams' instantly recognisable modal string writing needs excellent ensemble, sumptuous tone and perhaps, most difficult to achieve with an amateur orchestra, a lightness of touch. Too often one hears the simple folk tunes he collected at the beginning of the 20th century overblown in performance and the mastery he had of blending the lightest of ditties with the most profound and often dark-hued musical themes is lost. Under their sympathetic conductor, Robin Ashwell and leader, the excellent Meg Tong, we were treated to a performance that was sublime. The transitions from common time to triple time lilted and bounced and the strings shimmered and sang, whilst the harp placed a wonderful cherry on the top of this delightful musical bakewell.

On May 2nd 1971, nestling between T Rex's *Hot Love* at number 6 and Ringo Starr's *It Don't Come Easy*, at number 4, Mozart's *40th Symphony* reached its highest position, of number 5 in the BBC pop charts; a unique achievement for a piece of music written the 18th century. It is therefore very possible that this



“The harp placed a wonderful cherry on the top of this delightful musical bakewell”

symphony is the most listened-to piece of classical music amongst a 'certain age group' which was well represented in the audience.

There is perhaps no greater challenge to a school orchestra than playing the classical repertoire. Tuning must be perfect, speeds judged to perfection and ensemble must be tight and flexible. There is no Romantic bluster or inaccessible modernity to cover errors. There is nowhere to hide! It is rare for a school orchestra to perform without 'bumpers' (professional players, often teachers who join the orchestra late on in the day) but this performance was a proper school orchestra with no extra help and it was a terrific experience to see and hear our orchestra produce such a wonderful performance of such a well-known piece. From the urgent galloping of the opening movement to the intense, harmonically adventurous writing of the last movement we

enjoyed an uplifting and hugely enjoyable performance. My special award goes to the French horns who coped very well with the demands of Mozart's writing.

After the interval our orchestra was joined by our choir and choral society as in previous years but in addition this year it was our pleasure to welcome the Westminster Primary Schools' Chorus and I hope they enjoyed their time with us as much as we enjoyed having them with us. They added so much to our evening.

Like it or loathe it, Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* is an extraordinary piece of a music and an inspired choice for our concert. Known widely as the music in the *Old Spice* aftershave advert of the 1970's (was there an intentional early 70's theme tonight I wondered?) it was a magnificent showcase for our players and singers who managed the extreme demands of the unique score with thrilling brio and 100% commitment. The piece falls into no recognisable category and the 'galley-like' timpani accompaniment resolutely thundered out by Darius Latham-Koenig drove the whole performance with urgency and precision. Mr Garrard steered the unwieldy juggernaut from the commanding bombast of *O Fortuna*, through the lewd and boozy Latin pub songs of the in *Taberna* section, and that campiest of choruses, *Tempus Est Iocundum*, back to the

final repeat of the opening chorus, with brain, brawn and beauty.

I've always assumed Orff hated solo singers as he gave them all unsingable music, but David Stout the baritone soloist managed to produce thrilling heroic tone in the very high-lying sections, appropriate rumbling gravitas in the low-lying parts and a genuinely funny set of suitably inappropriate booze inspired noises in the sections that required those sounds! This was a bravura performance. So too as the Dying Swan, Tenor Matthew Cammelle sang and acted his extraordinary aria with great effect, his elegant tenor (and counter tenor!) adding humour and pathos to what must be the oddest tenor aria in the repertoire. Orff is a little kinder to the Soprano soloist, whose music, whilst stratospherically high-lying, contains some enchantingly evocative lyrical writing that is very reminiscent of Cantaloube's famous *Songs of the Auvergne*, incidentally used in a Dubonnet advert of 1972! Ruth Jenkins-Robertsson sang this section absolutely wonderfully.

So many people worked so hard all I can do is give them my most profound thanks. We are exceptionally fortunate to be able to offer to our students the chance to perform in a world-class concert venue and equally fortunate to hear them do so. I wonder what next year will bring?

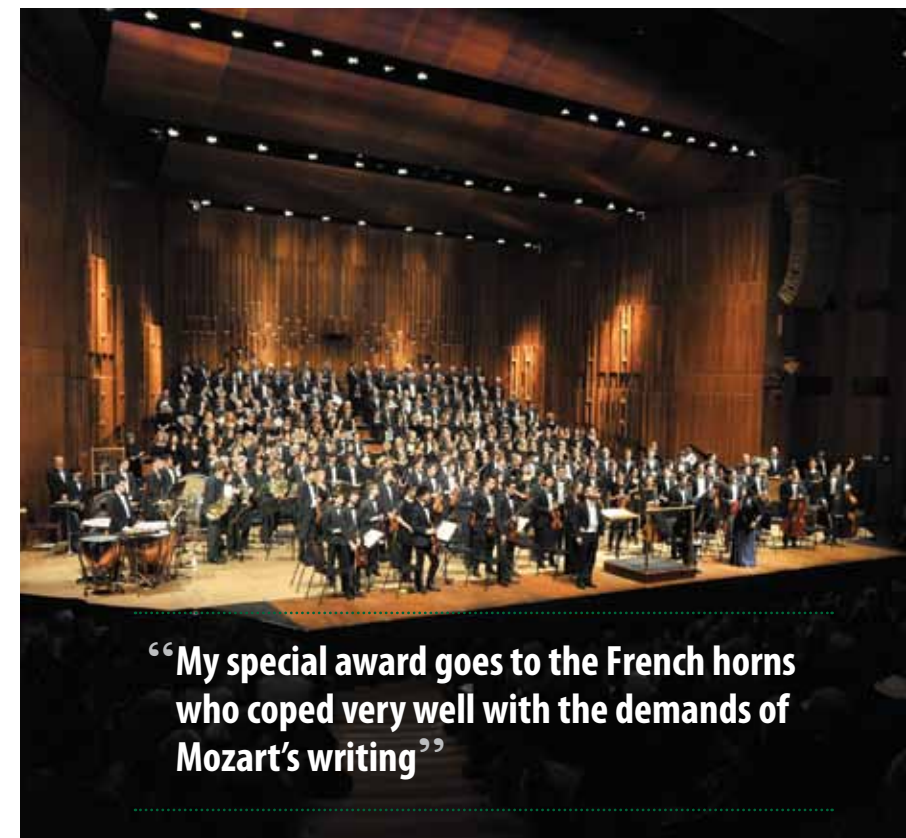


Contemporary Music Masterclass and Concert

SOUND SKETCHES

This year the Contemporary Music Concert and Masterclass was once again a great success, with the usual mix of students' own compositions and works by some of the greats of the 20th century, including Morton Feldman, Witold Lutosławski and Luciano Berio, reports Nicholas Clanchy (MM).

■ As last year, we were tremendously fortunate that two members of the Octandre Ensemble, Noémi Györi (flute) and Correntin Chassard (cello), were able to give up their time. First they conducted a masterclass with the pupil performers and composers; they then performed some personal favourites of their own from the contemporary canon in the concert itself, the highlight of which was perhaps their joint performance of Saariaho's *Mirrors*, a brilliant example of the in-vogue 'spectral music'. Central to the concert were the pupil compositions, first of which was Joshua Balance's *Transitions*, a highly interesting piece drawing on the experimental sound- >>



“My special award goes to the French horns who coped very well with the demands of Mozart's writing”

“A fitting tribute for Josh, who has contributed hugely to the music at Westminster”



>> world of innovative American composer John Cage, and aleatoric techniques pioneered by Lutoslawski and Penderecki. Next was Kristiana Smilovska's (WHA) sparkling *Sketches for Ringtones*, demanding a virtuosic performance from both herself on the piano and Noémi on flute. Third, Annis Easton put forward her *Sketches of a River*, a beautiful piece of programme music tracing a river's path from source to sea, like the other pieces on show part of her A level coursework written, as ever, under the expert guidance of Dr Savaskan.

The concert ended with a performance by a large pupil ensemble of *Decision Music*, again by Joshua Balance who was also the conductor – a fitting tribute for Josh, who has contributed hugely to the music at Westminster through both performance and composition in his five years at the School. We can only hope for an equally successful concert next year, and thanks once again go to Dr Savaskan for all he does in organising the event and in supporting student composers throughout the school.



“It has been a season to top all seasons for Cantandum”

St Margaret's Church, Westminster, opening with *Let thy right hand be strengthened*, one of Handel's famous coronation anthems. The piece requires a strong opening and the period orchestra and choir came together brilliantly, giving the piece the confidence it needs and deserves. The Handel theme continued with *O Praise the Lord with One Consent*, a setting of several psalms from the metrical New Version. The soloists, always sourced from within the choir, tackled the difficult arias with immense fluidity, contrasting them extremely effectively.

The pinnacle of the evening, however, was Fauré's *Requiem*. A combination of the drama of the piece and the beauty of the church brought the choir to life as never before and their sound filled the acoustic perfectly. The opening movement was delivered with depth and emotion, sending shivers down the spines of the audience. Rupert Derham's stunning *Libera Me* proved to be the climax of the piece, with the soloist and choir converging perfectly, creating a mesmerising sound.

It has been a season to top all seasons for Cantandum, and if their Summer concert is anything like their Winter, the audience are in for quite a treat.

Cantandum BUSY PROGRAMMING

I must confess that, when I first attended a Cantandum concert three years ago, I was somewhat apprehensive, admits Matthew Holland (RR).

■ The thought of a choir composed of teachers, staff and their friends did not fill me with confidence and I attended my first concert with low expectations. I could not have been more surprised.

The quality and technical ability of this small chamber choir astounded me then and has astounded me ever since. They tackle challenging repertoire ranging from early Renaissance to Britten and beyond with incredible relish and sensitivity to musical detail, however slight. These programmes are often put together with few rehearsals, due to the difficulty of organising sessions around busy timetables, yet Miss French uses her efficiency and musicianship to take pieces to performance-standard in ludicrously short periods of time, a testament to the skill of both the director and the choir.

This year has been no exception and Cantandum kicked off with a November concert in

The Dumb Waiter

WAITING FOR THE END

The Dumb Waiter is about two men waiting in a room for their next 'job', to murder someone for a mysterious company, writes Ghazi Jabre (DD).



■ What they don't know is that the victim is going to be one of them. Thomas Critchley as Ben and Matt Lewin as Gus portray a classic Pinter production, theatre back to its basic elements: an enclosed room with unpredictable dialogue and a plot that keeps catching you unprepared. They fill the roles of dumb and dumber as they converse about nothing in particular, from a crazy story in the news about a man crawling under a truck, to going to see Tottenham Hotspur. However, as the play progresses the story starts on a darker path, with a dumb waiter that seems to have a mind of its own, delivering orders for food that Ben and Gus could never fulfill. It begins to seem like a joke as Ben and Gus start discussing what they think these dishes are, but the orders keep coming and then they start talking to whoever is up there through the speaking tube.

During the production, memories of 1984 with its famous line "Big Brother is watching you" played in my head, a reminder of how little control we have over our lives. Pinter's well-known comedy of menace was very much in evidence in this production and there were laughs to be had, but throughout I was on edge and the laughs were always accompanied with anxiety at what would happen next. I thoroughly enjoyed the production and would definitely watch it again given the chance; the only advice I would give before going in to watch this is to clear your mind of any expectations because Pinter does an exceptional job of making sure you don't know what is going to happen next.

“The laughs were always accompanied with anxiety”





The School Musical:
Guys and Dolls
**THE SHOW
THAT ROCKED
THE BOAT**

Sweeping from the sleazy nightclubs of New York to an empty prayer Mission, from all-night craps games to a romantic evening in Havana, this year's production of *Guys and Dolls* was a lively and exciting survey of humanity, high and low, declares Stephen Horvath (BB).

Guys & Dolls was really a taste of '20s New York, with superb accents, a truly sleazy underworld, and tensions always close to the surface. Harlan Epstein captured the precariously positioned Nathan Detroit perfectly as he frantically tries to scrounge enough money to host the long-running game, evade the police and appease his gamblers, all the while running after his long-suffering fiancée. Bebe Lloyd shone as Miss Adelaide, owning the stage as she led her Hot Box girls but also portraying the emotional turmoil in her Laments. The delicate dynamic of this fourteen-year engagement was shown in their 'love me, hate me' fight scenes, and climaxing in their superb rendition of *Sue Me*. This long-standing



couple were in contrast to the blossoming and unlikely romance of Sky Masterson, legendary gambler, and Sarah Brown, mission leader, played by Tom Critchley and Anna Simmons respectively. As they travel from the street to the mission house to Havana, a tumultuous affair begins and all bets are off. All these tensions come to a climax in the mission house where, in a role Nick Frost was born for, Nicely-Nicely Johnson leads the gang to repent and not rock the boat.

In addition to the superb individual performances, the ensemble dances were some of the most exciting and memorable moments of the evening. The Hot Box Dancers were superbly choreographed, and managed to pull off their ambitious spinning-rings elegantly and with a big smile. Taking to the stage at multiple points in the story, they provided an excellent setting for the struggling romance of Nathan Detroit and Miss Adelaide. The costumes



“The ensemble dances were some of the most exciting and memorable moments of the evening”



were glorious and very fitting for the time, although the cast alarmed unwary passers-by in the street when the dancers made a classic Prêt dash during the break.

Tension mounts as Sky desperately tries to fulfil his promise to deliver a mission house full of sinners, and the Guys come out in excellent form for their huge numbers – and not just because of the towering size of Big Jule, played by 6'7" Ben Brind. The collection of brightly coloured double-breasted suits would have only pleased our previous Head Master and possibly alarmed the Under Master on a shag day, but became a rather remarkable swarm of colour.

The mission band were a crowd favourite as they frantically tried to find sinners to please the intimidating-yet-swooning Izzie Suckling as General Cartwright, and Tom Ashton's superb Irish accent met with rapturous applause as he paraded with his marching drum but without a drumstick.

Guys & Dolls taught us many things: that the shell up School does actually slide up into the ceiling; that a spot of illicit gambling can always be squeezed in under the radar (Fifth Form take note); that men must be married before they can be transformed into respectable husbands; and that the truth always emerges in the end, and, in Musical Land, always in song.

Guys and Dolls
THE MUSIC

Considered by some to be one of the greatest musical comedies of all time, *Guys and Dolls* is filled with splendid tunes, rousing ensemble numbers, and intimate duets, writes Darius Latham-Koenig (DD).

Beginning the show with the Overture, Frank Loesser, who wrote both the music and the witty lyrics, wisely decided to treat the audience to a medley of the main numbers – a medley that the 18-piece strong pit orchestra performed with aplomb. This is immediately followed by the characterful *Fugue for Three Tinhorns*, which was adroitly carried out by Nick Frost (Nicely-Nicely Johnson), Kushaal Desai (Benny Southstreet) and Eduardo Strike (Rusty Charlie). The neat interplay achieved by their musical argument sets the comedic scene for what is to follow. The intentionally >>



“The orchestra really let their hair down in the riotous Havana”



“Guys & Dolls taught us many things”

decadent number with swinging brass and scattered fur amongst members of the band, while the male cast members strutted their gambling selves in *Luck Be A Lady*. Nick Frost blew the audience away with his stirring rendition and leadership of *Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat*, while the full ensemble's memorable rendition of the title number left the audience in raptures.

Frank Loesser's brassy, immortal score left the audience humming tunes for the next week, while instilling in both the band and cast a sense of true musical perfection – *Guys and Dolls* really brought out the musical best in all of us.



Sixth Form Drama Festival PUTTING THE MUSE IN AMUSEMENT

On a hot summer morning after the GCSE exam period in 2014, a dramatically-inspired group of nearly-sixth-formers gathered at the Millicent Fawcett Hall, reports Elliot E. G. Jordan (HH).

The plan was to meet the new Sixth Form girls, and to begin a special drama course. Ms Farr and Mr Chequer introduced a plan to bring pupils together in a medley of Renaissance-era drama scenes, organised, directed and starred in by the pupils themselves. Following a day of drama exercises then auditions, we dispersed for the summer.

After a few short weeks of frenzied rehearsing in September, the programme consisting of twelve carefully selected scenes from a variety of Shakespearean plays was ready. The MFH had been transformed into an Elizabethan theatre, complete with balcony, columns and portraits on the walls, and now the tragedy, comedy and all-round dramatic excellence of the production was presented in impressive variety. We went from sighing at the beautifully romantic performance of Leanne Yau as Bel Imperia and Rupert Stuart-Smith as Lorenzo, cheering when Will Kitchen as Balthazar put

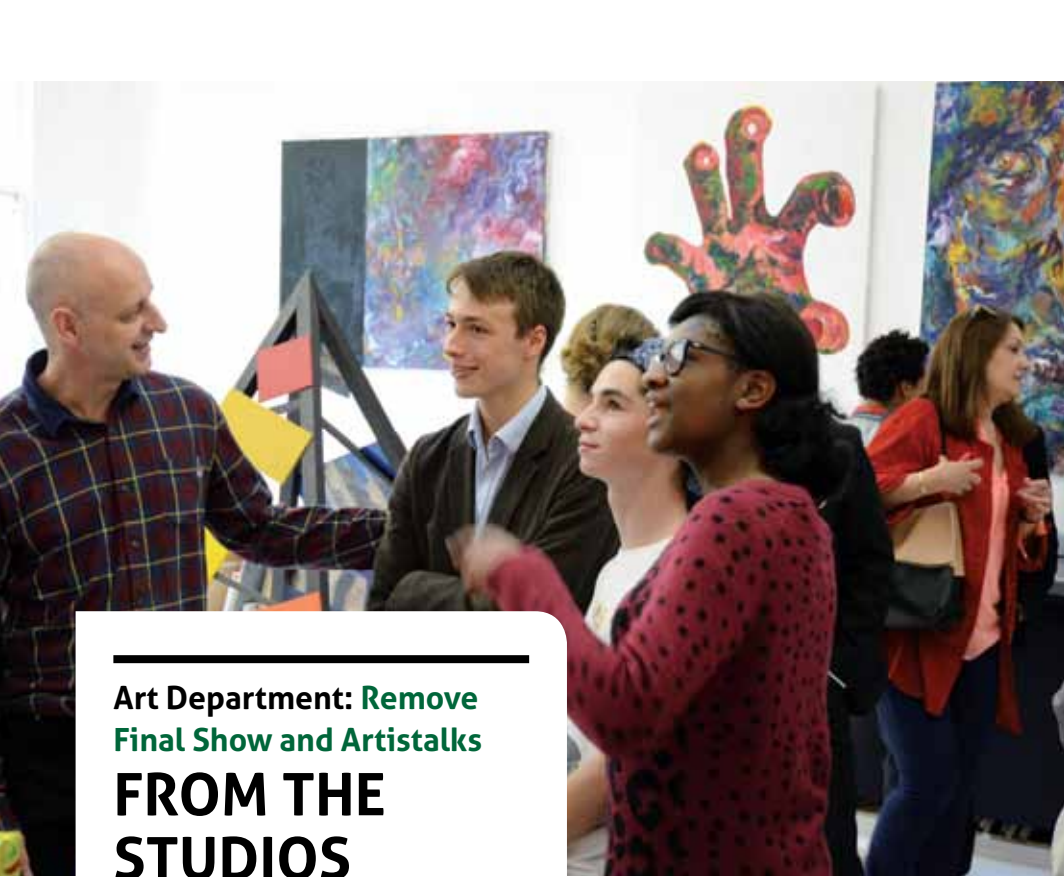
a knife between the latter's shoulder blades, to chuckling at the enigmatically hilarious exchange between Nuritt Chin as Olivia and Laura de Lisle as Viola in *Twelfth Night*. The evening went from the heart-rending performances of Ginny Leigh as Isabella in *Edward II* to the tragically topical monologue of Madeline Capstick as Constance in *King John*. We laughed at Matteo Pozzi's flamboyantly brilliant Brachiano in *The White Devil*, made all the better by the manipulative retorts of Horatio April as Flamineo, then cried at the tragic death of Eduardo Strike's astonishingly vivid Richard, Duke of York at the hands of the sadistic Queen Margaret, played excellently by Isabel Suckling.

We were intrigued by the political cut-and-thrust between Zoe Adeniyi's regal Cleopatra and the hapless Roman messenger Alexas, played by the suitably nervous-looking Stephen Horvath, in *Antony and Cleopatra*, not to men-



tion her superbly-played servant Charmian, Victoria Stewart. The audience was thoroughly amused by the opposing performances of Sophie Benson and Juliette Boury as Mistresses Ford and Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, followed by the captivating performances of Agnes Pethers and Eleanor Watson as the Good and Bad Angels in *Dr Faustus*. The latter, played by Arun Dolan to full effect, was gleefully dragged down to hellfire by Elliot Jordan.

The night finished with a brilliant interpretation of Bottom by Jack Marsh, aided in his hilarious rhetoric by Christos Ioannou to great effect as Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Congratulations to Mr Chequer in his first year as head of Drama, and to Ms Farr on their collaboration; they carried off this new venture in a way that would have had Shakespeare, Marlow and Kyd applauding in their graves.

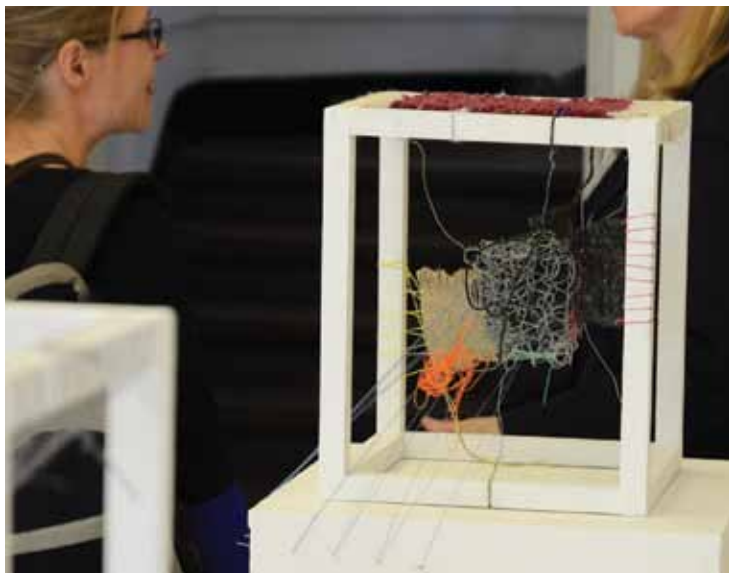


Art Department: Remove Final Show and Artistalks FROM THE STUDIOS

There's always a sense that each year might be the best we have ever known, claims Simon Crow, Head of Art.

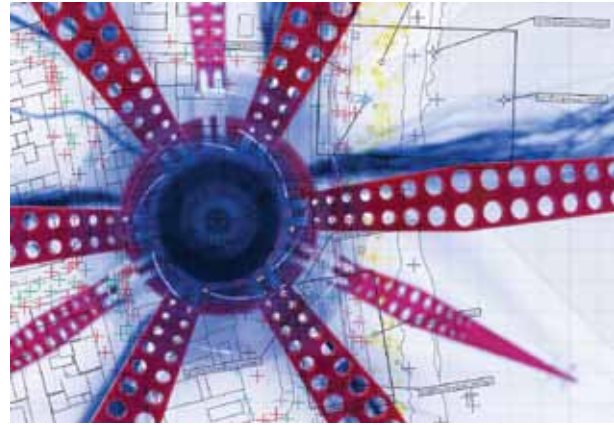
It's true to say the Department goes from strength to strength – the beautiful studio spaces are enviable and expansive and invite ambitious work. The trust that teachers place in their pupils to follow their hearts and intellects through the tricky territory of intellectual and aesthetic concerns is fundamental and defines the ethos. You can see it in the Remove SOLO shows – www.soloschool.co.uk – shows by Patrick Fitzgerald, George Newton, Jack Hochschild and Tara Golan were in themselves scintillating and wonderful things, and all entirely different. The life class has inspired, the etching room has been heavily in rotation, the atmosphere alive – the studios busy in the weird space between school and home.

The critiques were tense and fun – feisty debate raged. And the art – it's always a treat! It was Ivo Tedbury who led the ARTISTALKS this year with his account of life at the Bartlett School of Architecture, from where he has just graduated with a First, of course! There was a show too by Ed Sheldrick – his stunning photography, mounted on brilliant light-boxes, which hovered between attraction and disgust. Sadly we have to say good bye to Christina Wrege and thank her for her efforts: she will be missed.



“Studios busy in the weird space between school and home”





Artistalks: Ivo Tedbury ADAPTING THE ENVIRONMENT

As part of the Art department's Artistalks series, Ivo Tedbury OW, graduate from The Bartlett at UCL, presented a fascinating account of his university experience as a student of Architecture, detailing design projects ranging from an Icelandic multi-purpose agricultural compound to a proposal for Formula 1 racing tracks in Rio de Janeiro, reports Ethan Loo (GG).

Using a stimulating visual presentation, showing examples of his CAD work, from axonometric drawings, plans and elevations to artist's impressions of a finished product, he illustrated the grand possibilities in producing schemes that attempt to incorporate local geographical or cultural contexts and new technologies, to provide innovative solutions to our current problems. Indeed, Ivo used a conveyor belt and folding structure to explore how an artificially

“A moving camera might capture snapshots of an image of a ‘ghost-landscape’”

warm, sheltered area for crop-growing and habitation might be built in a cold climate, and explored how a moving camera might capture snapshots of an image of a ‘ghost-landscape’. For the potential architects of the school, the talk, despite involving designs which may not have seemed pragmatic for some, was deeply insightful and exciting, offering glimpses into the experience at The Bartlett, and how its conceptual emphasis might both confuse and enthuse.



Art Mart A RIGHT ROYAL COLLECTION

This year's Art Mart took place in the Camden Room in September. Elliot Jordan (HH) interviewed Michael Ogilvy, one of the organisers.

- **EEGJ:** So what is 'Art Mart'?
- MO:** Art Mart is a raffle that raises money for charitable causes, which involves some pretty big name artists and famous people, like Helena Bonham-Carter, Mario Testino, Tim Burton, Tarka Kings and Henry Hudson.
- **EEGJ:** What is your role in this year's Art Mart?
- MO:** My position is Editor-in-Chief, President, King, Ruler, Organiser, Secretary and Builder of Art Mart.
- **EEGJ:** Is this the first year that Art Mart has taken place?
- MO:** Art Mart was set up last year. We are not the original creators, not the founders, sadly, although we are king. It was set up by Archie Squire-Lindsay and Mandy Forsyth.
- **EEGJ:** How many pupils are involved in Art Mart?
- MO:** The pupils involved are essentially Arthur Fincham and me, although we had lots of help from people such as Marco Bertone, Plum Schragger, Angel Adeoye, Sam Bates and Lewis Bixer.
- **EEGJ:** How much exactly are these items selling for?
- MO:** Well, it was a raffle so the idea is that you buy a ticket for £35 and you have a chance of winning a piece of art, either from the students or a working artist.
- **EEGJ:** Do you know how much you've raised?
- MO:** About four thousand pounds.
- **EEGJ:** What will happen with that?
- MO:** It will be going to a charity called Core Art, which is for the mentally ill, encouraging them with their artistic exploration.
- **EEGJ:** Do you have any advice for potential future Art Mart members? Anything that you enjoyed or disliked?
- MO:** Well, it got quite stressful towards the end. We'll be headhunting pretty soon for new presidential candidates. We suggest the next Presidents (or Kings or Queens) should email people pretty quickly to get them involved. It all happens very swiftly at the start of the Play Term.



GCSE ART SHOW



Design and Technology STUDIO



Drama
Long Christmas Dinner



School
Waiting

The Elizabethan
2015
PHOTOGRAPHY



Station
Cricket



Activity
Tea tasting



School
Library



September Saturday
Soak the Teacher



Fireworks
Big Ben



STATION

Football: 1st XI	100
Football: 2nd XI	102
Football: 3rd XI	103
Football: U16A	103
Football: U16B	104
Football: U15A	104
Football: U15B	105
Football: U14A	105
Football: U14B	106
Girls' Football	106
Cricket: 1st XI	107
Cricket: U15A	108
Cricket: U14A	109
Cricket: U14B	109
Water	110
Monaco Rowing	111
Fencing	112
Eton Fives	112
Tennis	112
Cross Country	114
Athletics	114
Triathlon	115
Hockey	116
Junior Hockey	116
Martial Arts	117
Golf	117
Real Tennis	118
Shooting	119
Squash	119
Swimming	120
Sailing	120
Body Beat	120



Season 2014–2015 FOOTBALL 1ST XI

**P:23 W:10 D:2 L:11
GF:34 GA:43**

A change is as good as a rest, so they say. Well, it was certainly all change in terms of 1st XI playing personnel this year, reveals James Kershen, retiring Master in charge of Football. Of the 14 players who took part in last season's LIS Cup Final only three remained, necessitating a serious rebuilding exercise, as well as a steep learning curve for the players.

■ With a tough fixture list, this proved testing, especially in the first half of Play Term. However gradually, lessons were learnt, jigsaw pieces slotted into place, and the side developed the unity, spirit and work ethic which has become a trademark of Westminster 1st XIs in recent times. Having built a team virtually from scratch, to end up with the playing record they did was an achievement of which both players and management could be justifiably proud.

All did not start well. Pre-season culminated in an encouraging draw with the Old Westminsters, but a fruitless visit to the ISFA Sixes was followed by dispiriting defeats away to Eton and Charterhouse, sandwiching a morale-boosting victory at Marlborough.

A good League draw against Brentwood followed, but there was to be no ISFA Cup run as we lost to Bedford Modern. In fact, unlike last year's XI, this one excelled in the League rather than Cup, finishing a very respectable third in their division, including wins over Forest, Aldenham and Highgate.

Defeats though, against John Lyon and Alleyn's, brought the curtain down on a difficult first segment, but there was promise in the post-Exeat loss to Latymer as the management had now settled upon their strongest line-up. Indeed, this kick-started a purple patch as defensive synchronicity clicked and the team won six of the next seven matches, including six clean sheets and victories over Winchester, KES Witley, City of London and revenge over Bedford Modern.

Inclement weather forced a three-week break and the team never quite hit its straps again. Following disappointing defeat to St Columba's, there was victory over King's

“The most frustrating, depressing, thrilling, uplifting, euphoric, rewarding and memorable moments”

Canterbury, but thereafter, three more defeats in which results did not fairly reflect performance quality. Pleasingly, the team was to finish on a deserved high with victory against City of London which brought with it some symmetry as, after seven seasons at the helm,



the Master i/c's tenure ended, as it began, with a win at Vincent Square over the Citizens.

But what of the players? As in previous years, success was built upon a solid defensive platform, and for that you need a good goalkeeper. Angelos Anastasakis fitted the bill as he grew in stature throughout, adding command of the area to shot-stopping prowess, and all with another year to come. Full-backs, Sam Dunning and Marwin Kalo, adapted well to new positions and developed impressively, culminating with Kalo's wonder-strike in the last match. In the heart of the defence, Dan Andreyev and Jasper Baines were more Laurel & Hardy when they started, but improved dramatically and transformed into more like Adams & Keown by the end.

In the middle of the park, Marco Bertone got fit and surpassed expectations, delivering



some teasing set-pieces and scoring with a few excellent strikes. Alongside him, Max Clark continued to grow in quality and command, and should be a pivotal figure next season, bossing the midfield. Out wide, Olivier Dadic was the find of the season, with a phenomenal engine and great determination, he became a key player, scoring important goals. Captain Ollie Tuch completed an outstandingly, versatile three years in the 1st XI which saw him perform sterling work at left-back, left-midfield and centre-midfield. He led by example in terms of work-rate, reliability and will-to-win, and will be sorely missed.

Up front, it was heart-warming to see Bonar McGuire fulfilling his potential at 1st XI level for a whole, injury-free season. He was leading goal-scorer, causing defenders problems with strength, speed, skill and sweet strikes off either foot. Dante Tejuoso and Barnaby Graff shared the striking duties alongside McGuire, with the former providing pace and power, and, the latter showing skill, intelligence and technical ability. Both should prove more influential next season.

These were the major protagonists, but, there were valuable contributions also from Sam Bates, Horatio April, Joe Schwarzmann and Theo Legeris who were all unlucky not to feature more, although the last three should be main players when they return next year.

On a personal note, it is with mixed emo-

tion that I step down now as Master i/c Football after seven seasons in charge. These years have produced many of the most frustrating, depressing, thrilling, uplifting, euphoric, rewarding and memorable moments of my entire teaching career. Overall, I shall look back on my tenure with great happiness and pride at building upon the work of Jeremy Kembal in improving the provision of Football at the School, as well as the standing and reputation of Westminster on the Independent Schools Football circuit.

I wish my successor, Chris Kingcombe, every success as he takes over, and, I am confident that he will do an excellent job.

There are many 'thank yous' to be made for the last seven years. Firstly, to all the parents and OWs for their support as spectators; to Groundsman and 'Director of Football', Franklin Barrett, and his assistant, David Wicks, who have been unceasing in their hard work and devotion. Thank you also to all the Football Station staff and coaches for their help and support. Especially, I owe a lot to the outstanding 1st XI coach, Paul Barnes, to his enthusiasm, straight-talking and expertise, as a foil and, occasionally, a shoulder to cry on. Thanks all the players whose commitment and devotion has made our tasks all the more simple and enjoyable.

Finally, as Vincent Jones once said: "It's been emotional!"

“Defensive synchronicity clicked and the team won six of the next seven matches”



FOOTBALL 1ST XI: RESULTS

ISFA Cup
• Bedford Modern (h): Lost 0–2

LIS Cup
• City of London (a): Won 1–0
• Latymer (a): Lost 1–3

Elgin Capital League
• Eton (a): Lost 0–4
• Brentwood (h): Drew 2–2
• Forest (a): Won 3–1
• Aldenham (h): Won 3–0
• Bradfield (a): Lost 0–6
• Highgate (h): Won 1–0

Other matches:
• Old Westminsters 2nds (h): Drew 1–1
• Charterhouse (a): Lost 0–6
• Marlborough (a): Won 4–1
• John Lyon (a): Lost 0–3
• Alleyn's (a): Lost 0–3
• Latymer (h): Lost 1–2
• Winchester (h): Won 1–0
• KES Witley (h): Won 8–0
• Bedford Modern (h): Won 1–0
• St Columba's (a): Lost 0–4
• King's Canterbury (h): Won 4–1
• Old Westminsters 1sts (h): Lost 1–2
• Dulwich College (a): Lost 0–2
• City of London (h): Won 2–0

Leading Scorers
• B. McGuire: 8
• O. Dadic & B. Graff: 4

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

• Junior 6-a-sides Liddell's
• Senior 6-a-sides Rigaud's
• Senior 11-a-side Hakluyt's



Season 2014–2015 FOOTBALL 2ND XI

P:17 W:7 D:2 L:10

With early season movement between the 2nd and 1st XI squads, it took some time for the team to settle, reports Stephen Bailey.

Once into their stride there were some promising early performances in the season and most impressively a comprehensive 8–0 demolishing of Marlborough College 2nd XI and, at the tail end of the season, a 6–0 victory over Dulwich College 2nd XI. However, against tougher opposition, the team sometimes failed to play to its full potential and suffered at the hands of Eton and Bradfield. We narrowly lost out to Brentwood School 2nd XI which was reflective of times when we found ourselves plagued by undoing early hard work with unfortunate errors.

Nevertheless, there was some excellent football played at times and real progress made



“A comprehensive 8–0 demolishing of Marlborough College 2nd XI”

in team shape, fluidity and the development of individual players. Tom Leverick secured the captaincy for the season and led his side well. Mihir Date offered a dominant presence throughout the season in goal and other particular strengths were George Salmon

in centre midfield, Alex St. John growing in confidence in his aggressive and ruthless midfield play and Jamie Draper offering composure and stability in defence. Nick Frost offered a strong attacking option early in the season, which was taken on by Zak Khaliq when he returned from injury.

A large number of players were involved in the squad overall this season and a number made the transition through to the first team, notably Joe Schwarzmann and Barnaby Graff. It is fair to say that the team spirit was excellent and the squad benefitted greatly from the professional guidance of Matt McEntergart. Well done to all.

Season 2014–2015 FOOTBALL 3RD XI

P:15 W:3 D:0 L:12 GF:24 GA:46

The Third XI had a very enjoyable season. They played good, passing football and always worked hard for each other on the pitch, records Joe Ireland. The whole squad had an excellent attitude to training, led by Mike Ogilvy and Max Gurassa, who shared the captaincy very well.

A terrific game at Eton could have gone either way before James Chapman was skewered in the tackle by an opposition midfielder. Clearly affected, the boys succumbed 3–2. At Charterhouse, Sasha Foss was outstanding in midfield. Westminster hassled the opposition and in a narrow 2–1 defeat, took plenty of heart back onto the coach.

Soundly beaten 6–1 on Brentwood they may have been, but Westminster scored more than a consolation goal when Dan Howitt

struck from the edge of the penalty area. They knew they had found a lethal finisher, whom they hoped to service for the rest of the season.

Heavy defeats at Winchester and Bradfield came either side of some excellent performances. In a thriller against the Common Room, Mike Ogilvy, Song Kim and Clem Farrar combined well, leaving the teachers to chase their shadows. Howitt scored twice but Cecil Nyako did the same as C.R. eventually prevailed 4–3. Ivo Trice joined Howitt in an attacking formation against Latymer. The eponymous hero scored twice, the pick of which was a spin on a sixpence to finish at the far-post. A wondrous Latymer direct free-kick decided the game 4–3 for the visitors.

The two best results (6–1) were at Aldenham and St Columba's. The defenders were marshalled superbly by Max Gurassa and goalie Andreas Jespersen. At Aldenham, Howitt scored a brace as, inevitably, did Trice. At St Columba's James Geddes' magic boots fell apart, and were strapped up by the home coach. Fate dictated that Geddes would then score a booming volley off the very same tape. The tireless Max Greenbury scored a fine goal there too.

A frosty pitch at Highgate proved heavy going for the visitors, but the promising Leonard de Baynast Cheval and Bohee Ahn made their debuts. Mo Barry-Wilson had shown silky skills before suffering an unfortunate injury.

The happy few who made it performed heroically in defeat (1–0) at Bedford Modern, including Kim, who ran the game in midfield, allowing Michael Jennings to express his skill,

“James Geddes' magic boots fell apart, and were strapped up by the home coach”

and the excellent Gurassa, Ruben Pauwels and Alessandro Genovese. There was no hat-trick for Trice at King's, but his familiar duo put paid to the home side 2–0.

The end of the German exchange precipitated a change in fortune for the Thirds, who lost to Dulwich and City, despite trying their hardest. Kushaal Desai defended well along with Oscar Schwartz. Previously they had led 2–1 at half-time against OWs, with Barry-Wilson and Kofi Arthur creating opportunities. Eventually OW pressure overcame the boys, but Westminster had more than won the respect of their opponents. As Jespersen moved to defence and Giovanni Musella became 'keeper, the team began planning for the future.

Many thanks to Dr. Williams, Mr. Hayter and Paul Whittle for their coaching and to all who played for the 3rd XI. Their forbearance in running for a few weeks in a row due to waterlogged pitches was another high point; they were uncomplaining and might even have enjoyed it!

Season 2014–2015 FOOTBALL U16A

P:12 W:3 D:3 L:6 GF:18 GA:29

The late, great Terry Pratchett, who died earlier this year, once wrote; “The thing about football – the important thing about football – is that it is not just about football”, insists Josh Moore.

Looking back at the U16A's season this year, it is easy to understand what he meant; it has not only been a season with some great matches and footballing prowess on display but one which has seen individuals push themselves out of their comfort zone, players bond-

ing as a team and some great feats of boldness in the face of adversity.

The season started in September with an early trip to Alleyn's. The match ended with a 3–2 loss for the boys in pink and the next month included losses against Eton (3–1), Charterhouse (8–2) and Brentwood (4–0) but a glimmer of hope came with a roaring 1–1 draw against a strong Winchester team. Buoyed by this single point the boys travelled away to Aldenham and won emphatically 6 goals to nil. This was more like it, and sure enough the boys finished the season with draws against Bedford Modern (2–2), King's Canterbury (1–1) and wins against Highgate (0–2) and Dulwich (0–1).

Between the posts Isaac Rodgers has saved us on many occasions. His reactions and judgement make him one of the best shot stoppers in the school. The defence have equally worked hard. Max Kalia, Ed Hitchcock, Welles Iselin, Regan Ring, Omar Zakaria and Francis Morse have all had match time in the back four and all have demonstrated a tremendous strength and resilience in the face of some strong attacking teams. The midfield stars have included Hadrian Janbon, Oli Lloyd-Williams, Will Sergeant and Jackson Philips each with

their own area of expertise – Jackson with his precision on the ball and quick feet, Oli with his strength and gutsy determination, Hadrian with some great vision and awareness and Will with a fiery passion and incredible speed. Up front, Phil Freeman has remained one of the most passionate players on the pitch and along-

“Great feats of boldness in the face of adversity”

side him Luis Lesmes has bravely stepped out of his usual defensive position, proving himself a natural striker with an eye for a goal and an ability to finish chances, demonstrated in scoring a hat trick against Aldenham. What's more, with the likes of Advik Banerjee, Alex Popov and James Wilson improving all the time, next year certainly looks bright.

Many thanks must go to the U16As coach, James Lewis, as well as all the parents who have come to support the boys throughout the season.



Season 2014–2015 FOOTBALL U16B

The 2014–2015 season has been a difficult season where we have had to learn from some heavy defeats, confesses Luke Lorimer.

The first weeks were hectic, with Allyn's, Eton, Charterhouse and Brentwood our destinations. Despite being 4–1 up against Allyn's, we contrived to lose 5–4. The following fixtures against Eton and Charterhouse were not so evenly matched as Westminster went down 7–0 and 7–1 respectively. New personnel were called up for the match against Brentwood and there were many strong performances, but again we lost by the odd goal (2–1) as was the case against Winchester (3–2).

As winter set in we played Bradfield; their strength in depth was there for all to see and we again lost heavily. Lesser boys will have dropped their heads, but many strong characters came up to the fore and pushed everyone else on for the last fixture of the term against Highgate. Demonstrating a nice passing game, we dominated for large periods but could not find the winner, with the game ending 1–1. This at least ended the losing streak.

As Lent term arrived, some sessions and fixtures were called off due to adverse weather conditions. A much fitter St Paul's side controlled the game at Vincent Square as we again went down 7–1. As the season was closing in without 3 points to our name we travelled to Bedford Modern; the boys produced a mature performance, winning 1–0.

We went into our final game of the season away to Dulwich on a high and produced our best performance of the season (winning 3–2): clear communication, crisp short passing and tireless passion from all. This was indicative of the great improvement many of the boys have enjoyed and I wish them all the best in the Seniors.

Season 2014–2015 FOOTBALL U15A

**P:18 W:5 D:1 L:12
The season started badly for the U15s. Eton and Charterhouse were too strong, and Brentwood narrowly knocked them out of the ISFA cup 1–0 with a fluke of a goal, insists Charlie Ullathorne.**

But as the quote from the great American Football coach Vince Lombardi (below) shows, the character of the team is revealed when they are knocked down. The U15s got up. They won the next two matches against Forest and Winchester, both 2–1 and then nearly got a result against a strong John Lyon team in a crazy 4–5 loss with two goals each from Archie Harker and Timmy Goodman. Aldenham were soundly beaten away from home, and a makeshift team beat KES Witley on a no-school Saturday.

After Christmas there were fine performances against Kingston GS who were well beaten 3–1 with a brace from James Fenner, and in particular a very good draw against the much-fancied Highgate team with 'keeper Harry Clarke outstanding to repel

“It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get up”

their advances. However, the season ended with a few tired performances and some key injuries resulting in a run of 5 losses. The U15s have been knocked down again. That's OK. The question is now will they get up



again next season? The team have the makings of a quality outfit, and there have been huge strides forward in progress, so I am confident if they work hard they will do so.

It remains to name a few outstanding players, starting with the 'keeper Harry Clarke. His shot-stopping was phenomenal, and more than once he came to the team's rescue. In defence the captain Alex Chen was a rock alongside the talented James Balgarnie. The full backs rotated with Davide Bertone, Sonny Ashcroft, Jackson Saez, Cameron Goalen and others all playing their part. In central midfield the strong presence of Lodovico Genovese and Jimmy Oniya was alloyed to the tenacity of Timmy Goodman and the brilliance of Archie Harker. On the wings the skills of Jeremy Legmann, Alex Ross, Cassian Lewis and Alex Szoke were welcome whilst up front James Fenner bagged several goals and the likes of Syren Singh and Ed Williams were very useful additions.

Much is owed to the coaching of Bleu, who worked tirelessly to whip the boys into shape. The player of the season this year is not the bookies' favourite, Archie Harker, who – whilst superb at times – was sadly out injured for a fair bit of the season; nor is it the heroic keeper Clarke, but the captain and central defender, Alex Chen, who led by example. When he gets knocked down, he always gets up.

Season 2014–2015 FOOTBALL U15B

**P:14 W:4 D:1 L:9 GF:23 GA:43
The first match in front of a home crowd against Eton revealed the goal-line gymnastics of Noah Jackaman that reliably continued all season, reveal Tom Cousins and Nathan Cole.**

Luke Buckley-Harris and Davide Bertone (captain) formed a solid central defensive pair whilst substitute appearances from Harry Dew (striker) and Freddie Feltham (central midfielder) secured their places for the season. Westminster went on to lose the game 2–3. Bertone's performance saw him spend the majority of the rest of the season with the U15As. A set of skilful players dominated the midfield

selection with their attractive football – Ed Williams, Charlie Howe and Ed Easton.

Losing Bertone created a leadership vacuum in the team. Luckily Jimi Oniya stepped up to create a team spirit and structure that was evident both on and off the pitch. Anish Thuraisingham teamed up with Buckley-Harris in central defence, creating the most enduring and dependable partnership of the season. Harry Lindsay took up the right-back position to become an adept defender.

As the team stabilised, Westminster saw narrow losses against rivals Charterhouse and Winchester. The 2–6 hammering by Brentwood finally sparked them into action. Visiting team John Lyon saw Westminster all pulling in the same direction; the home side getting their first win (4–3). Despite controversy over a refereeing decision, Westminster went on to win with the same score line against Aldenham.

The New Year saw Westminster lose its second captain to the U15As. They lost both home and away matches 4–0 against Highgate, either side of a nail-biting goalless draw against City of London. Following highlights of the season were a 3–1 win against Bedford Modern and a 4–1 away win against Latymer, in which despite a late start due to transport chaos, Cameron Goalen vindicated after scoring twice.

Both individuals and the team collectively have progressed enormously this year. Player

of the season for his stamina and tenacity goes to the dedicated Dew, who could always be relied upon to turn up and terrorise a defence. Other performances of note came from Alex Roberts, Liam Sanderson and Alex Szoke.

“Despite controversy over a refereeing decision, Westminster went on to win”



Season 2014–2015 FOOTBALL U14A

The U14As have worked hard through a challenging first season and gelled into a very strong side with an excellent team spirit, writes Chris Kingcombe.

With an incredibly difficult start to the season and heavy losses to Charterhouse, Brentwood and Eton it would have been easy for the team to get down-hearted. However they showed great grit and determination in training and soon progress was there to be seen. Improvements off the ball led to a much tighter defensive record in the second half of the first term and better use of the ball in possession and more confidence led to us carrying a much greater attacking threat. With these developments, results improved with many tight games and the run up to Christmas included very good wins against Winchester, KES Witley and John Lyon, a tough draw against Highgate and a particularly good performance in defeat against a very strong Aldenham side.



The second term included a battle against the elements, opposition teams with a lot of training and matches affected by the adverse weather. Despite these the team stayed focused and improved together after the strong base they laid down in the previous term. With a good shape off the ball and a regular back four we were able to work more on our possession and attacking play in training. This was fruitful as the six 11-a-side games were accompanied by 13 goals, most of which were from the impressive Ori up front. The Lent term's results were much improved with 3 wins and 3 losses. The losses were all by a single goal and most of these

matches could have gone either way, showing the competitive nature of the side. With a comfortable 4–1 win against Kingston Grammar earlier in the term it was particularly nice to finish on two straight wins against King's Canterbury (3–0) and a hard-fought 1–0 win against a very good Dulwich team. All in all, things look very positive for the future for this squad and I am sure that they will have continued success as they progress through the school.

The entire team would like to thank Cecil Nyako for his constant energy and enthusiasm. Thanks also to the many parents who supported the team throughout the season.

Season 2014–2015 FOOTBALL U14B

**P:14 W:5 D:1 L:8
GF:22 GA:34**

The U14B team took a while to get going this year, but their late run of form was reminiscent of the purple patch that, at the time of writing, might see a fine Leicester City team avoid the drop in the Premier League this season, writes an ever-optimistic Richard Kowenicki.

Early fixtures against traditionally strong opponents such as Eton and Charterhouse did not dent the boys' confidence and good performances against Brentwood and Winchester went narrowly unrewarded. The draw that followed at Alleyn's was less than we deserved, but

did prove a turning point, with a number of victories following. Perhaps the best performance of the season was the match against King's Canterbury which saw us finally demonstrating our goal-scoring prowess. As the team settled into the season a core of players began to take the lead. Kamran Shirvani, our captain, and Parth Agarwal combined well in the centre of defence, the former breaking down the play and the latter sweeping effectively. They were ably supported in midfield by Ishaan Kotecha and Jack Belanger who got better at retaining possession as the season went on. Other players who featured prominently included Lucas Glanville, who was excellent at holding up the ball and Milo Mallaby and Oscar Young who were both effective down the wing. There are many other players who contributed to the team this year, particularly when Alston trips left us a bit short, but the stand-out player was Bhushan Dadarkar, who moved from midfield to attack and finished comfortably our top goal-scorer. That he plays for a club outside school was self-evident throughout the season and his prospects as he progresses through Westminster look good.

The quality of the football played was impressive at times, the team spirit was overwhelmingly positive and the team was a pleasure to manage.



Season 2014–2015 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

P:10 W:5 D:1 L:4

A strong intake of new Sixth Formers, combined with the experience of the Remove, has meant the girls' football team has had their strongest season to date, reports Bhavna Choraria.

The team had a very promising start at the ISFA National Sevens, coming second in their group and qualifying for the cup competition, only to be knocked out in the quarter finals by the formidable King's Taunton team. Some tough matches followed, with a draw against KES Witley and a disappointing loss against South Hampstead in the ISFA U18 Cup. However, these matches showed what

needed to improve, and with the guidance of our coach, Junior, the mistakes became less frequent and the play more aggressive. The momentum really built in the Lent term, with wins against City of London, the first in three years, against Bedales and the OWW. It was great to see so many OWW back playing at Westminster, and to hear of footballing successes at university level.

Special mention this year must go to Orla Hanks, who has dominated the midfield (when she hasn't been injured!) and is our leading goal-scorer this year. Annis Easton and Sophie Rylands have proved a force to be reckoned with, sharing many goals between them as well. Other newcomers who have shone

“It was great to see so many OWW back playing at Westminster”

include Plum Schragger who has impressed with her commitment and speed; Emma Kumleben in defence has been totally reliable and instrumental in many of the clean sheets

this year, as has Victoria Stewart who stepped up to play in goal. We will miss our departing Remove: captain Gabriella Angest and Eleanor Blackwood who have always made a difference and set the example on the pitch, and Olga Iturri-Tyler and Laura Minoli who have both improved considerably and proved valuable all-round versatile players. We wish them all the best with their future footballing careers! Our thanks, as always, to Junior and the team at Vincent Square for all of their help.

Season 2014 CRICKET 1ST XI

P:16 W:8 D:1 L:7 A:2

After a stellar 2013 season and the loss of several key players – particularly in the batting department – the 2014 Westminster 1st XI were always going to find life more difficult. So it is great credit to them that they managed to enjoy a 'winning' season in which victory was tasted more often than defeat, and, in which they came very close to retaining the London Schools' U19 Cup, declares James Kershen, Master in charge of Cricket.

The idea behind the pre-season tour to Barbados was to be able to 'hit the ground running' for the English season, but the 1st XI found anything but Caribbean conditions when they arrived at a cold, wet and very green Alleyn's for their first match. The batsmen failed to come to terms with the contrast and, although Dan Andreyev's (3–8) spell gave hope, there were simply not enough runs on the board.

A few days later though, tight bowling and Angus Mylne's (49) batting allowed the 1st XI to begin their Cup defence with a comfortable

win over Sir George Monoux College. The MCC brought a powerhouse team brimming with First-Class experience, but, the match was ruined by the weather after excellent spells from Graff (3–39) and skipper, Kavi Amin (4–24) as well as outstanding wicket-keeping by Ismail Salim (2 stumpings & 2 catches) had set up an intriguing run-chase.

Aldenhams were powerful also and proved too strong, with Graff's (57) half-century the only bright spot. However, the 'yo-yo' effect continued as Chigwell were thumped in the next match with Oliver Iselin's swashbuckling 28 ball fifty (52*), backed up by Alistair Stewart (34), setting a commanding target. In reply, Chigwell were blown away by Graff's (4–9) pace as Westminster embarked on a four-game winning streak with John Lyon the next

“What followed was the bowling and fielding performance of the season”

victims. The Lyonians were unable to handle the quality of the Westminster attack with U14 leg-spinner, Alex Vinen (3–22) producing the best figures, whilst Stewart (38*) made sure there were no slip-ups chasing down a small target. The Butterflies provided a sterner test and useful contributions from Stewart (40), Salim (32*), Graff (31) and Mylne (30) ensured a competitive total to defend. This the Westminster bowlers did to great effect as the opposition were unable to recover from the hostility and pace of Graff (4–15). The fourth win in

a row came against the Old Westminster in the Jim Cogan Cup, thereby maintaining the School's 100% success rate since this memorial match's inception. The OWW side boasted several of their Cricketer Trophy team but was unable to break the shackles of the disciplined School bowling with Graff (4–22) to the fore once again. In reply, the game hung in the balance until Mylne (39) played the decisive innings to ensure a narrow victory.

The next match against Charterhouse was too big a step up in standard and, in spite of a respectable bowling performance – led yet again by Graff (3–40) – the batsmen were unable to cope with the opposition's penetrative attack. Highgate was a much more even contest although ultimately it was to be decided in favour of the Cholmeleians due to their greater batting firepower. >>

CRICKET 1ST XI: RESULTS

LSCA U19 Cup

- Sir George Monoux 115–5; 1st XI 116–3
- 1st XI 102–7; City of London 51
- Newham 174–9; 1st XI 93

Other matches

- 1st XI 71; Alleyn's 72–5
- MCC 129–8 dec. Rain.
- Aldenhams 210–4; 1st XI 111
- 1st XI 150–3; Chigwell 45
- John Lyon 71; 1st XI 72–1
- 1st XI 186; Butterflies 126
- Old Westminster 153–9; 1st XI 156–6
- Charterhouse 193–7; 1st XI 93
- Highgate 165–8; 1st XI 137

>> Not the ideal segue then into the London Schools' Cup semi-final against City of London and it looked even worse at 0-2 after 3 balls! However, Westminster scabbled to 102 thanks mainly to Eugene Daley's (26*) efforts in the closing overs. It didn't seem much to defend but what followed was the bowling and fielding performance of the season as the Citizens found themselves 0-2 after 4 balls. There was no way back for them though with Andreyev's (3-8) pace and aggression leading the way and sending Westminster into the Final to face Newham College.

Unfortunately, it was to be a case of 'after the Lord Mayor's Show' as the 1st XI went from the sublime to the ridiculous in the field, missing at least seven chances – some difficult and some not. Newham were too good a team to give that many chances to and they did not reciprocate as Westminster's batsmen fell well short of retaining the trophy.

A disappointing end to the season then but it was one in which there had been more highs than lows. The team's success was founded on strength in the bowling department backed up by fielding and catching which improved throughout the year – discounting the final game. The batting was unpredictable and workman-like at best, but, with many players returning for 2015, this area will be targeted for major improvement over the winter.

Individually, Graff was comfortably the 1st XI Player of the Year as leading run-scorer (398 runs at 30.61) and wicket-taker (30 wkts at 10.10). He formed a hostile new ball partnership with Andreyev (18 at 19.16) who was deservedly the Most Improved 1st XI Player. They were backed up by the seam bowling of Daley (11 at 27.63) and Ollie Lloyd-Williams (15 at 20.46), as well as the spin of Vinen (15 at 14.40) and Amin (22 at 19.77). The latter was the second-highest run-scorer also (169 at 14.08), and, his captaincy improved throughout the season and should go from strength-to-strength next year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff and coaches connected with Cricket Station for their efforts throughout the year, and especially, Keerthi Ranasinghe for his expertise and enthusiasm as 1st XI coach.

In addition, I would like to thank the Groundsman, Franklin Barrett and his assistant, David Wicks for all their hard work, Scorer, Tony Japhet to whom again we owe an immeasurable debt. Thank you too, for their devoted support, to the many parents who were welcome spectators at Vincent Square and beyond.



Season 2014 CRICKET U15A

P:8 W:4 L:4

In a year when Kevin Pieterse's autobiography pointed fingers at the state of the England dressing room, the U15A cricketers showed that team spirit was alive and well in Westminster cricket, proclaims Charlie Ullathorne.

■ No egotistical mavericks were needed, and it was genuine all-round performances that got results with 7 different names up in the intranet for getting 30+ runs or taking 3+ wickets.

The season began in the glorious May sunshine at Aldenham, where the hosts made a few too many runs courtesy of their captain making a half-century, despite excellent bowling figures of 3-16 from Westminster's King of Spain, Shaan Amin. The Westminster reply faltered and fell agonisingly short.

This was rectified in the next match away to Alleyn's, where tight bowling from Ollie Lloyd-Williams (on loan from the firsts) and Advik Bannerjee (3-11) restricted Alleyn's to a paltry 78 runs which was easily knocked off by Westminster to record a famous victory. Another away match to Highgate saw Lloyd-Williams star with the bat this time (48) to help compile a competitive total of 119-8, which was made to look enormous when Highgate were dismissed for 67 through impressive bowling from Will Fryer (5-25) and James Wilson (3-6) alongside left-earner Matt Carlton. A thrashing!

Chigwell were a dispirited bunch and Westminster comfortably put them away with excellent bowling, particularly 3-7 from

seamer Fryer, and some intelligent batting from James Wilson (34 not out) resulting in an 8 wicket victory.

The U15/U14 combined LSCA cup team won their first round match without a ball being bowled due to inclement weather, and so progressed to the second round vs Ilford where some canny bowling from the opposition, and some foolish batting from Westminster contributed to our exit. James Wilson's bowling figures (4-15) were the only real positive on the day.

John Lyon proved a little too strong despite a battling knock from 'keeper Isaac Rodgers (35), and in a high scoring game Westminster narrowly lost the last match of the season to

“Easily knocked off by Westminster to record a famous victory”

Kingston GS. Despite excellent innings from Tom 'slogger' Lister (39) and captain Shaan Amin (44), they couldn't quite match Kingston's 174, falling a few runs short.

The player of the season was James Wilson for his all-round performances with bat, ball and in the field. He was a quiet but effective member of this talented, ego-free team. Also special mention to the captain, Shaan Amin, and vice-captain Advik Bannerjee, plus the performances from Ollie Lloyd-Williams who deserved his place in the first team but was always willing and able to star for the U15s whenever he could. Thanks to Mark Mason and BDW for their help in coaching, and with the likes of Aidan McConnell, Dan du Toit, Alex Popov and Adam Dean showing real talent and promise these cricketers will go from strength to strength.



Season 2014 CRICKET U14A

P:7 W:3 L:4 A:2

This talented squad formed a strong team-spirit and thoroughly enjoyed their cricket. At full strength, they were a match for anyone. Most of the matches were close and the boys flourished in tense situations, announces Joe Ireland.

■ The first of these thrillers was the visit of Alleyn's, who were restricted to 131-7. Off-spinner Freddie Feltham was the pick of the bowlers with 3-26. The fielders offered excellent support and a catch in the deep by James Bates proved crucial. Coby Graff combined watchful defence and elegant sweeps in his innings of 34 and combined with James Balgarnie (24*) to secure the win.

Stifled by good bowling on slow wickets, the batsmen struggled to 57 at both Aldenham and St. Paul's, but the shackles were broken when Jimi Oniya flayed Chigwell for 71. Syren Singh (37) and Alex Benson (33) both scored freely and posted the proud total of 191-4. Sadly Chigwell's 211-5 was out of reach, but they couldn't master the seam and swing of Arjun Bhardwaj, whose 3-22 took the bowling honours.

Rohan Dhir, bowling full and straight, found form with 3-27 against John Lyon. Chasing 127 to win, in a welcome return to fitness, Archie Harker crashed 56 and 10-man Westminster were cruising to victory. But chaotic run-outs changed the match and the umpires gave special dispensation for Alex Vinen, whose game for the 1st XI had already



finished, to bat at number 11. He relished the opportunity and two sweetly-struck cover drives secured victory.

On a glorious day at Kingston GS, Balgarnie took early wickets and Oniya (3-12) yorced out the opposition middle order, leaving Westminster on top at tea. The target of 127 allowed the batsmen, especially Harker (32),

“Watchful defence and elegant sweeps”

to express themselves on their way to a five-wicket victory. Highgate, however, proved a sterner test. Both teams' batsmen gorged themselves on Vincent Square's postage stamp. Passers-by, regularly engaged in fetching the ball back from the road, formed quite a crowd as Highgate racked up 193-6. Oniya, hitting hard and straight, led the chase. Singh (48) was top-scorer, but wickets continued to fall and the run-rate mounted. Skipper Balgarnie (38*) was left high and dry as Westminster were dismissed 10 short of the total.

Congratulations to the whole squad, who will ensure Cricket Station fields competitive and entertaining teams as they move up the School. Thanks also to Mr. Fair and Matt McEntergart for their coaching and support throughout the season.



Season 2014 CRICKET U14B

P:4 W:1 D:0 L:3
The U14B Cricket Team made fine progress throughout the Election Term with all members of the team making observable advances with the bat, the ball and with their fielding, reveals Nick Fair.

■ The team began with a memorable 13 run victory against Aldenham, in which James Tett was the star of the bowlers with his 3-6 in a short spell and Regan Ring also played a significant role with his quick-fire 33. They then lost heavily to a strong St Paul's side before incurring narrow defeats against John Lyon and Highgate – and lost their fixtures at Charterhouse and Merchant Taylors' to rain. The highlights of the season were James Tett's consistency as a batsman and a bowler, the extent to which Luke Buckley Harris improved as an all-rounder and how much better a Captain James Bates was by the end of the season compared to the beginning. However,

“Playing positively even if they were not always victorious”

most satisfying of all was the manner in which the team played the game; all players worked tremendously well together, playing positively even if they were not always victorious. My sincere thanks go to all the parents who came to watch and the boys themselves for everything they put into the season.



Season 2014–2015

WATER

The summer of 2014 began with the National Schools Regatta at the infamous Holme Pierpoint in Nottingham, reveals Nick Plaut (WW), Secretary of Water.

■ On J14 Friday, two J14 quads did very well to make the finals and the second crew exceeded expectation by snatching a bronze medal. On the Saturday under sombre skies the medal haul continued with the J17 coxed four who powered to a bronze in the J18 1st 4+ final. Then it was the dynamic duo of Sam Meijer and Cameron Kerr who blitzed to a gold in the Championship Double in what chief coach Bill Mason described as the ‘hors-

“A crew from every year group managed to win a national medal”

d’oeuvre’ to the weekend. Led to the 1750 metre mark by the White twins of Windsor Boy’s School, Sam and Cam turned on the heat, crossing the line a length and a half ahead. Just an hour later, the J16 Championship Eight took off into a roaring headwind, falling almost a length down to St Paul’s at 750m gone. However, at the commanding word of cox Matthew Holland the crew opened the throttle and began to hunt St Paul’s down. With 750 to go the lead had shrunk to half a length, at 500 a quarter and in the last 30 strokes the bow of the Westminster crew edged ahead to a half-length win.

The next day proved to be equally dramatic. In a nail-biting finish the J16 coxed four edged past Kings Chester to a bronze in a display of true underdog grit. Yet perhaps the highlight of the weekend was the performance of the Championship Quad. Setting off next to the highly favoured crew from Sir William Borlase, the crew of Kerr, Meijer, Ulvestad and Moss battled stroke for stroke with Borlase all the way down the course, trailing by just half a length coming into the last 500m. Yet in what seemed to have become signature Westminster style the crew surged back, causing the Borlase crew to falter in the last 100m with Westminster taking the national title. Westminster’s commanding presence in the UK rowing scene could be seen by the appearance of its distinctive pink in ten finals and countless semi-finals over the weekend. In fact, a crew from every year group managed to win a national medal.

After that the focus was on Henley Royal Regatta, the pinnacle of the history and tradition that makes English schoolboy rowing so special. Westminster sent three crews: the top quad – the flagship crew – a J16 eight and a J17 coxed four. The eight and four were entered in J18 and University events respectively so were at Henley more for the racing experience than a shot at the win. The strength of both crews was as evident as at Marlow regatta a week before, where the J17 coxed four put out a time of 6:39 (8 seconds faster than the National Schools Record) and the J16 eight managed to beat a number of school 1st VIII’s in a time which would have also broken the national record. Sadly, the J17 four just missed out on qualification and though the J16 eight qualified for the regatta, they fell at the first hurdle against Brunswick School USA who were 10kgs heavier a man. The quad dominated their first race against High Wycombe, battled their way to another win against a powerful Leander crew but fell on the Saturday against Borlase, who went on to win the Fawley Chal-



lenge Cup convincingly. So the season ended, both a success and a motivation to do even better next year.

It was on this note that the new season began. As the new J14’s arrived and a new Top Squad met one could feel the boat club buzzing with excitement about the year ahead but also with the motivation to do whatever it could take to make it a memorable one. September was punctuated by a flurry of encouraging results at various regional heads over all the year groups. October saw Sam Meijer dominate the Youth men’s single and the Plaut brothers came 3rd in the Youth men’s double at the Head of the Charles in Boston USA, the world’s largest rowing event. If this wasn’t enough, Sam won the J19 single at the Armada Cup by over three minutes, defeating Olympic gold medallist Olaf Tufte along the way (we’ve all done stuff, Sam). Nick Plaut won the J17 single with James Plaut taking the bronze.

Then the [even] more serious racing calendar began with the Pairs’ Head, won overall by Sam and our Swiss boatman Dom, and junior pairs finishing 2nd, 5th and 14th. At Great Britain November Assessments Sam Meijer and Alex Balgarnie came 1st and 7th respectively in the junior men’s single and the

“In the last 30 strokes the bow of the Westminster crew edged ahead to a half-length win”

combinations of Stocker/Plaut and Edwards/Bentley came 5th and 10th. Soon after that the J16’s stepped up to the plate at Fours’ Head and came 14th among a large field of J18 quads while Sam Meijer teamed up with two Swiss National Team rowers and one GB senior lightweight to take 3rd overall – beating a number of international crews along the way.

While Sam Meijer and Alex Balgarnie headed off to Nantes for a GB junior development camp, the rest of the top squad flew out to Craftsbury, Vermont for a successful cross country ski training camp at the beginning of the Christmas holiday. After that and a short break it was back to school and focus began to fall on the Schools’ Head. Westminster dominated Hampton Head winning the 1st VIII, 2nd VIII, J16 4+ and J154+ events. On top of this, a strong showing at February GB Trials reinforced confidence, with a win in the junior single and 2nd, 3rd, 7th and 15th in the junior pair. Turning out in similar style at the Hammer-smith Head, the VIII, J18 coxless four and J16 VIII won their respective events.

So a strong Westminster contingent descended on the 69th Schools’ Head. In a blustery headwind the river ran pink. The VIII won the Championship Eight for the first time since 1971 and the second time in history. The J16 VIII won the J16 Championship eight by a convincing 11 seconds. As if this wasn’t enough the junior fours won theirs by 9 seconds and the J15 coxed fours their category by 25 seconds. This certainly made it the best Schools’ Head ever in the boat club’s history.

After Schools’ Head the sights are set on the summer. With a successful Easter training camp on the idyllic, mountain-framed Sarnersee in the bag for the top squad and the J16s, they and the rest of the WSBC crews moved to their Belgium training camp for Ghent International Regatta. Over the two-day regatta Westminster hauled in over 10 golds, including U23 singles, U23 fours and open doubles.

Now lie ahead the National Schools and Henley Royal Regatta. The strength of the squad coming into the summer was never more evident than at the recent Great Britain April Trials, where Westminster pairs made up 3 of the 6 boats in the A final and won the D final of the pairs and Sam came second by one foot in the single scull final. Astonishingly all of the Westminster VIII have been made it to Great Britain final selection! Roll on the 2015 regatta season!



Monaco Rowing

WESTMINSTER COASTAL ROWERS CROWNED CHAMPIONS IN MONACO

This year was a remarkable year for Westminster’s coastal rowing endeavours. With the kind tuition and support of la Société Nautique de Monaco, Westminster has been training down on the Côte d’Azur for four years now, competing each year in the Challenge Prince Albert II championship, announces Sarah Leonard.

■ This year however the goal was clear: CD decided that it was time for us to take the title so we flooded British Airways with rowers and Monaco did not know what had hit it when pink lycra started appearing on every street corner.

Most unfortunately for those hoping to get a sun tan, the weather conditions were horrific and the towering waves made for a tough but exciting weekend of racing. However, not even the torrential rain could dampen the team’s spirits. With parents supporting on the sea wall and the contribution of Old Wets who joined us to compete in the Open and Masters events, Westminster was out in force!

There was plenty of success as the J15 Quad, racing in J16 Quads, and the Girls’ Quad each won on both days, whilst the J16s were 5th in the J18 event. CD managed to take two gold medals in the Masters Events along with the Old Wets who took Bronze in the mixed doubles. Arguably, most impressively our top Quad finished 5th in the Open

“Monaco did not know what had hit it when pink lycra started appearing on every street corner”

in a stellar international field behind national champions and Olympians.

The main objective though was to win the Prince Albert II Trophy, which we did as the third club on points behind Monaco and Cas-sis who, as previous winners, were not allowed to take the title. The weekend was worth it and the team returned exhausted but with a glamorous piece of silverware!



2014–15 FENCING

This season, winning came to us naturally, writes Daniel Kim (QSS).

Indeed, we got off to a great start, dispatching Winchester with ease for our first victory of the season. After our first match, we expected the opposition to be much tougher, since we were facing our old rivals Eton and Harrow. This was not the case. We managed to defeat our opponents with relative ease, racking up an impressive 4–0 record throughout the term. By Christmas, we had gone through the whole of Play Term undefeated.

We continued into the second half of the season with much of the same gusto and finesse, as we picked up hard-fought victories over teams such as St Benedict's and St Paul's. We escaped some sticky situations with some exceptional performances from Burgess and Prasad (sabre) as well as Daultry Ball (epee)

who proved that even though there is no 'i' in team, there are 5 'i's in individual brilliance. Our winning spree came to an abrupt end in our final two matches of the season due to injuries to several members of the first team, but we ended the season with an impressive 11–2 record.

Next up was the annual Public Schools competition. We had some very strong showings from Wang, Kim and Burgess who placed in the top 32 in their respective blades. The juniors also put up some great performances, with Sran, Boucher-Rowe and Goodrick-Green coming into the top 32 in the rankings. Special congratulations to Sam Wilson, who achieved an incredible joint third result in the Mount-Hayes Boys category.

The future of fencing looks bright. Although 6 of the 8 regular team members will be leaving this season, there is great potential amongst the juniors so I have no doubt that they will be able to create a strong team for the future. I would like to thank Tomek and Leo for their excellent coaching, as well as Mr Law and the other teachers for bearing with us in our coach journeys.



2014–15 ETON FIVES

This was a great season: it ended on a note of real triumph in the National Schools' Championships, but Westminster Fives has been characterised by the spirit, enthusiasm and flair exhibited by players at all levels throughout, announces Andy Mylne.

The high point was the performance of Lewin and Salim in reaching the semi-finals of the Nationals – further than any Westminster pair has reached in the competition, and just a month after winning the 'Pepperpot Trophy' at the Kinnaird. The quality of their play and the dynamic spirit with which they competed won praise from many. Their success should spur on the players in lower years!

The U14s progressed encouragingly over the year: the experience of Doody was a great asset, and finally his pairing with Gore appeared to produce the greatest success. Other emerging players of quality are Hubbard and Mount. It was a shame that Westminster was not able to field a full complement of players for the Nationals as Gore and Huang were away in Alston, but the injection of the athleticism of LSA players, led by Drake, proved very handy. Indeed, Hubbard and Drake went

further than any previous U14 pair in the Nationals, making their way past the group stages and the 2nd & 3rd rounds, only to be beaten by a strong Eton 1 in their quarter-final.

The U15s too have enjoyed success over the season; spearheaded by Benson and Koksal – even though these two were not able to pair up on as many occasions as desired – there were good performances from Muminoglu, Young, and, particularly in the Nationals, from the pairing of Vinen and Acevski. Shine and Graff too are emerging as players to watch. This all points to strength in depth. With a sharpening of their competitive edge and increased practice, they could challenge at the higher levels next year. Certainly that Benson/Koksal, with magisterial dominance, and Vinen/Acevski, with an admirably gritty and competitive display, both went through the first day of the Nationals to the quarter-finals

suggests that they have what it takes to be aiming at further success in the years ahead.

Dogged by injury and with very few supporting players in their year group, Amin and Guttenplan formed an admirably gutsy U16 pair. Successes at Charterhouse and Berkhamsted were encouraging; and the two of them must take the positives of these performances on into the next two years. As ever, practice and time spent on the court is what will assist them up onto the next tier of competitiveness – they have spirit enough!

The keen anticipation with which the season was approached at Senior level was increasingly justified. Salim and Lewin may have garnered the glory with their skill and athletically dynamic style of play, but they were excellently supported and challenged by a very hard-working and enthusiastic group of able players. Capstick was notably the team's



“Supported and challenged by a very hard-working and enthusiastic group of able players”

most improved player, working very hard at his game: Critchley too showed real quality in his play, when he could be tempted from glory on stage. Support too came from the Sixth Form, where a nexus of Malik, Shah and Lim was available to step up and perform at a high level, offering plenty of hope for success next season. Great too to see Sharma and Birnie flying the flag for Westminster Girls' Fives in a match against St Olaves; they showed how far players can progress in a year.

As ever, the enthusiasm, patience and talent of Matt Wiseman as coach fuelled the atmosphere of enjoyable competitiveness within the Station throughout the season.

2014 TENNIS

The 2014 tennis season was a particularly good year for our senior tennis teams, despite a disappointing final tournament at the Youll Cup in Eton where we narrowly missed out in the second round to Hampton, reports Clare Leech.

Despite summer rain and a couple of cancelled fixtures, we had a busy fixture calendar with matches against the usual opposition in the form of Eton, KCS Wimbledon and Winchester. We were also supported this year by the >>

>> excellent and now well-established coach, Alex Henderson, who worked tirelessly with the pupils throughout the season on doubles tactics, as well as an enthusiastic support staff, all under the strong leadership of Aleks Mardinian in his last year as Captain representing Westminster.

We enjoyed a successful senior and junior House tennis competition this year with Liddell's winning the junior competition, Grant's the senior boys' and Ashburnham the senior girls' for the second year running. We saw some solid performances across all age groups with the young stars of the U14 age group, Davide Bertone, James Pasint-Magyar and Jeremy Legmann, as well as the well-established first VI at U15 level, having just returned from the pre-season tour to Spain, and who will be eager to be included in the senior squads in 2015. The senior teams were mostly unchanged with the added inclusion of Ilya Kleyner and, when not rowing, Valentina Sassow, who represented the 2nd VI a number of times.

The season got underway with the annual trip to Harrow in the rain. Despite a loss at

“Westminster Tennis has entered a really exciting period with good depth in all year groups”

Eton and a number of cancelled fixtures, overall wins at Winchester and MTS set the very young 1st IV up nicely for the Youll Cup at Eton on the last weekend in June. With a new team kit and some sunny weather to match, feelings were high for the four-day Youll Cup tournament. Despite some early nerves, things went to plan in the first round against with Rozanov and Goodman at first pair winning comfortably 6–0, 6–0 and Mardinian and Tuch also winning easily 6–0, 6–1 to take them through to the second round against Hampton where they were unfortunately outclassed on court and which also left

them without the Plate completion to contend for. With three of the team still here for the next two years at least, we can hopefully build on this experience in future years.

Westminster Tennis has entered a really exciting period with good depth in all year groups and the excellent young talents of Andrew Rozanov and Timothy Goodman both playing at national level. New Fifth Former Leo Rozanov, having just played his inaugural school match in the senior first pair, winning all three matches against Harrow's first VI offers outstanding hope for the future. The junior pair have a really strong chance at the forthcoming Thomas Bowl Cup and with our new captain, Tibo Rushbrooke, and Leo Rozanov potentially able to join up with Andrew Rozanov and Tim Goodman next year in the senior Youll Cup competition, the future looks bright! Here's hoping that Westminster Tennis enjoys an equally fruitful year in 2015 and sees some well-deserved success at the end-of-season Youll Cup and Thomas Bowl competitions.

2014-15 CROSS COUNTRY

With so many of last year's squad leaving at the end of last academic year, expectations for the forthcoming season were very low indeed, admits Simon Wurr.

However, some familiar faces have improved beyond all measure, and when combined with some strong new talent, the squad has managed to surpass even the most optimistic of targets by a considerable margin.

Will Allen (RR) got the season off to a flying start when he took a sensational 27 seconds off Tom Samuel's Inters Towpath record, running a time of 13:47 for 2.5 miles, with Maxim Postolovsky (PP) in second (and only 5s behind) also smashing the old record. Adam Mee (PP) won the Juniors race, Elizabeth Mobed (RR) the Girls and Rupert Stuart-Smith (BB) the Seniors, with Hakluyt's claiming the overall inter-House title.

A core group of rowers strengthened the squad for the King's Trophy on Wimbledon Common in early October where the school finished a very encouraging 5th A team, and our B team yet again won their category and defeated no fewer than nine schools' A teams.



The demanding Alston training camp brought the first half-term to a brutal close, with those in attendance hardened after experiencing some tough sessions in both the Pennines and the Lake District.

The Guildford Relays demonstrated our strength in depth, with Westminster teams finishing 6th, 8th and 11th out of 29 teams. At Harrow, Isaac Adni led home a strong Junior's team, with four finishers in the top ten whilst Nick Clanchy made a remarkable return to racing as our top Senior after twice suffering from a collapsed lung in 2014. These performances brought us to the annual slog around the GRIM; an 8-mile multi-terrain race held on an MoD tank-testing site. Eloise Davison was the first female athlete home in the entire race out of 2000 competitors, whilst

Rupert Stuart-Smith finished an astonishing 10th place overall.

With some Christmas training under their belts, this momentum carried through to the Knole Run, where two individuals stood out: Maxim Postolovsky for finishing a stunning 7th out of 350 (all the more amazing for only being in the Lower Shell) and Eloise Davison in the girl's race, who missed out on individual bronze by the most slender of margins. Strong packing resulted in the boys finishing 6th out of 40 teams and the girls a best-ever 7th out of 25 schools.

The run of successful results continued, with Isaac Adni winning the Junior's race at Winchester, our crack Girls' team triumphing at the Radley Relays, where Oli Ramsay Gray led home the whole field on first leg and >>

>> Eloise Davison finishing 5th at the South East Schools in Somme-like conditions. The London Schools saw Westminster finish in top place overall for the 12th year in a row, with our Junior and Senior teams winning their respective team competitions, and the Inters just being pipped into second place. The highlight of the whole season however was undoubtedly watching Maxim Postolovsky blast round the mud-drenched Hampstead Heath course to win the Inter Boys London Schools – a remarkable achievement in itself, but especially so as he still has next year in that age group. Nick Clanchy, Eloise Davison and Ellie Evans

“The London Schools saw Westminster finish in top place overall for the 12th year in a row”

were then selected along with Maxim for the London Schools team to compete at the prestigious English Schools Cross Country Championships in Blackburn.

So many others have helped make this season such an enjoyable and successful one: Mr Walton and Mr Jones who have run the Thursday sessions whatever the weather, Dr Kowenicki who has pushed the pace along at our Friday LSA runs and Mrs Clanchy for giving up her half-term to attend the Alston training camp. Thank you!

2014 TRIATHLON

In the early morning mist of a late September Sunday, four Westminster teams arrived in Tooting to compete in the South London Swimming Club team triathlon competition 2014. We had School teams, old WET teams, a Physics department team and a staff team – the school was demonstrably represented and was awarded the director's cup for dedication to the sport, announces Rupert Stuart-Smith (BB).

Despite the event's comical twist – those on the cycling leg of the race had to obey traffic lights, of which there were several on the course – the indomitable staff team 'Dare 'em to tri' of Dr Prentice, Mr Kemball and Mr Wurr stormed through in first place, with a combined time of 43 minutes, 49 seconds. The pupil team, with John Leslie braving the freezing water, Oskar Artz-Jones timing his sprints around the traffic lights and Rupert Stuart-Smith running down the competition on the home straight, managed to pinch second position in the junior category. They



“The sheer strength of will required by the swimmers to jump into an open-air lido at 7 am on a Sunday was impressive”

were followed closely by the aptly named Old WET team with Armand Brochard and Will Pannetier showing there's still life in the legs after Westminster. Exceeding all expectations, the Physics department's team 'In the Spurr of the Momentum', consisting of Miss Kettleborough, Mr Ullathorne and Dr Prentice (again!), rolled in just one place behind the OWW team. Whilst the sheer strength of will required by the swimmers to jump into an open-air lido at 7 am on a Sunday was impressive in itself, so too were the overall results from all of the Westminster teams and the school was awarded the Race Director's Cup for dedication to the sport whilst we all enjoyed a well-earned bacon butty.

2014 ATHLETICS

With the Election Term ever-more packed with examinations, the season is inevitably crammed into a handful of open meetings and the Inter-House Athletic Sports. After the success of the switch to a Friday night format in 2013, this was repeated in 2014 with more parents than ever witnessing a frenetic two hours of action, writes Simon Wurr.

In the Inter-House competition Busby's triumphed overall, breaking the Wren's stranglehold on the event, with both Houses a considerable margin ahead of the rest of the pack. In the age group competitions, Ashburnham won the Juniors, Liddell's the Inters, Busby's the Seniors and Wren's the Girls title. The individual best performance awards were won by Archie Harker (BB) for winning both the Junior 100m (12.4s) and 200m (25.9s), Ed Bentley (LL) in the Inters age group for his 200m and 400m victories and Ollie Iselin (BB) for winning not only the Senior 400m but also the High and Long Jump competitions for good measure. However, the athlete of the meeting was undoubtedly Eleanor Smith-Hahn (WW) who smashed both the Girls 100m and 200m records, with new lightning-fast times of 12.6s and 25.5s.

As well as these performances, a host of other athletes helped brighten up the cool May evening. In the Juniors competition, Harry Clarke (AHH) was possibly the first person ever to win the unusual combination of 400m, 1500m and Shot Putt, whilst Maxim

Postolovsky (PP) surged clear of Alex Chen (CC) in a tight 800m race. In the Inters events, Welles Iselin (BB) destroyed the opposition in the Inters 800m, Will Allen (RR) set the pace in the Inters 1500m beating all the Seniors competitors for good measure in what was a mass start, with all 33 competitors charging round the track simultaneously. Hugo Ross (BB) impressed with victories in both the 100m and Shot Putt. In the Seniors competition, Tom Hildebrand (BB) edged an exciting 100m, Sam Dunning (LL) won an equally tight 200m race, whilst Edmund Fitzgerald (BB) muscled his way to the Shot crown. In the Girls competition Mary-Alice Davison (WW) retained the 800m title only a few seconds shy of her own record time from last year and Daisy Hayes (CC) impressed with a decisive win in the Long Jump.

Away from the Inter-House Athletic Sports, a core of athletes competed in the Rosenheim League meeting at Battersea Park, with the leading performances coming from Archie Harker in setting new PBs in both sprints and Will Allen winning the 3000m >>



“Some of his fellow competitors will go on to become future Olympians”

>> where he dipped under 10 minutes for the first time. Archie subsequently qualified to compete for the borough in the London Schools Championships in both the 200m and 300m, where against stiff opposition he finished 3rd in both events, setting new PBs of 24.4s and 39.4s, which place Archie well inside the top 100 in the UK for his age group. Given the likelihood that some of his fellow competitors will go on to become future Olympians, these were exceptional results.

As ever, my thanks go to the hardy bunch of staff who helped man Station whatever the weather!

Season 2014–2015 HOCKEY 1ST XI

P:7 W:5 D:1 L:1 GF:20 GA:5

The Westminster Hockey 1st XI was filled with many new faces this year, writes Edwin Audland (AHH).

Despite a rude awakening against UCS, the team bounced back fantastically and lived up to the standard set by last year's team. This culminated in an emphatic 3–0 victory over St Benedict's, a team who in April competed in the Bath Schools' Hockey Festival.

Five clean sheets in the season is testament to the quality of our defence: spearheaded by Rohan Date playing sweeper for the second successive season, and centre back Taylor Boyce, who provided splendid defensive performances throughout the season, especially in the victory over St Benedict's, the defence was magnificent. The two were also able to take comfort from the fact that they were supported by a top-class goalkeeper in Charlie Wall. Westminster summer-signing Xavier Chitnavis and Lawrence Berry at left and right back respectively went from strength to strength this season, providing not only defensive security, but also offensive presence on the counter attack, and Niimalan Kailayapillai also excelled in his defensive duties.

In midfield, both Tibo Rushbrooke, who scored a brace in the victory over St Dunstan's, and Alex Lee continued where they left off last year, emulating and surpassing their success,

“Not only defensive security, but also offensive presence on the counter attack”

and linked up lethally in attack. Jack O'Shea was among the most dependable performers of the team, providing versatility by playing in all of the midfield and offensive positions, and scoring the goal of the season against the Common Room. Max Clark, taking time out of the football season to join us, was phenomenal in the midfield, scoring the winner in



a nail-biting match against Eton. Although joining late in the season and playing through an ankle-injury, Elizabeth Mobed was stellar, and her fitness levels and constant movement was an example for the whole team. Vivek Shah also impressed this season, playing out of his skin and scoring on his debut. Archie Hall and Ginny Leigh, who excelled in a very physical draw against Alleyns, impressed on the wings. Rohan Dhir, William Ashton and James Pasint-Magyar played admirably when called upon, really holding their own against much older opposition.

Although often a lone forward due to our formation, Alex Zimmerman played wonderfully all season, constantly menacing opposition defences with his pace, providing assists and scoring an excellent brace against the OWW.

We are all very proud of what we have achieved this year, and a huge thank you must be made to Mr Simpson, who not only organised an entire season's worth of fixtures and pitch sessions, but also after 30 years of coaching hockey is retiring from management at the end of the year.

Season 2014–2015 JUNIOR HOCKEY

This season had looked promising for the U15s from the beginning, with new additions from the Fifth Form giving our squad the depth that we lacked last year, suggests captain Rohan Dhir (RR).

They certainly delivered, with Taran Jawa adding touch and finesse to a midfield marshalled by Rohan Dhir, Kiran Weston showing great pace and persistence and Neer Singal developing into a fine striker – all adding to the established strength and awareness of William Ashton,

Shay Gillams and James Pasint-Magyar. Special mention too of Akshey Rajani in goal! A hard-fought 0–0 draw at Alleyn's showed us how hard it is to win, though we came close...but within days our hard work really paid off with a smooth 4–0 victory at UCS. We beat Eton for the first time in three years; enlivened by one of the substitutes' stirring words of encouragement, 'We'll crush them like the strawberries in their eponymous pudding',

“We'll crush them like the strawberries in their eponymous pudding”

we ran away with it 3–1 after a tense first half. Unfortunately we narrowly lost 3–2 at St. Benedict's where we were denied an equalising goal by the finest of margins, but the prospects for the future look bright indeed. Thanks to Mr Edlin & Mrs Murphy for coaching (and stirring words); and to the mythical Double-L, as ever.



2014–15 MARTIAL ARTS

The last two years have been a golden age for Westminster Judo, proclaims Alex Bridge (RR).

Most of the squad has matured and as more people have joined a powerful group has developed. On home turf we did well against rival schools whenever they visited, particularly Harrow, who we can defeat despite their large size and rugby builds. We therefore had high hopes going into the independent schools championships in High Wycombe, where we excelled last year. Sadly, resident judo star George Kuhn had to drop out at the last minute, but we still had a strong selection of fighters. James Mann excelled in his category, winning 3 out of 5 and coming back strongly from being beaten in his first fight by a supposedly 16 year-old black belt who looked about 30. Arkady Shevchuk, Cameron Durdy and Alex Bridge all landed in the same weight category in the senior block. Arkady, looking pretty scared going in to the competition, this being his first in many years, won his first fight before being beaten by Nikita, the Harrow star. Cameron fought well too, landing a huge hip throw on an opponent twice his size. Fresh from being thrashed at Southend International, Bridge won his first two fights and met Nikita in the final, who had knocked out Cameron in the semis. It was an intense fight, lasting almost the full three minutes, with both coaches screaming us on from the sides. Bridge took the lead early on but Nikita's drop



shoulder throw eventually won the day. Bridge ended up with silver, and Cameron with bronze. The future looks bright though, with new talent coming through and the old guard not yet finished. *Os!*

“Beaten in his first fight by a supposedly 16 year-old black belt who looked about 30”

2014–15 GOLF

This year's golf station was on the whole a great success. All students made tremendous strides forward in both their understanding and execution of the game under the close tuition of coaches Glenn and Gary, reports Jordan Aguiar-Lucander (AHH).



The weekly sessions on the range or on the course brought top-notch banter and by the end of two terms, every single student felt that they had enjoyed the course and greatly improved their game. This year Westminster took part in three matches. In the first at West Sussex Golf Club, the two Westminster pairs of Jordan Aguiar and James Balgarnie, and George Newton and Leo Gallagher placed well. In the second, Westminster narrowly lost 2–1 after a stellar performance from first pair Aguiar and Balgarnie, where we also saw some new additions to the team, notably George McGarry, Maxwell

“The weekly sessions on the range or on the course brought top-notch banter”

Manning and Francis Morse. In the third, Westminster narrowly lost out against the Old Westminsters in a tightly contested match at RoyalMid-Surrey Golf Course. Looking ahead to the future, things certainly look bright as our youthful yet talented squad will continue to improve and we hope for more victories in the years to come. If you are interested in learning more about how to play golf, we encourage you to join the Station which runs from September to April.



2014–15 REAL TENNIS

In the 600th anniversary year of Henry V's lads outing to France, it must once more be remembered that real tennis plays a key literary role too in Shakespeare's later work. In many ways our progress this year was as impressive as that of Henry V's longbowmen, argues Koshiro Kiso (WW).

■ Drawing fresh blood from the Sixth Form, we 'veterans' started term by recalling how to play this arcane sport: with reinforced wooden racket and cork balls, complex indoor court of nets, winners galleries and numbered regions, maneuvering and tactical play were key. The irregular low bounces, the vast range of serves, the placement of the staple squash-slice hybrid shots, these were to be mastered. The Play Term was indeed spent playing, playing and playing and within weeks, with encouraging advice from coach/mentor/resident legend Mr Woodman, shot-making made a triumphant return. Then quickly came serves, volleys and even occasional winners! A term later, we felt somewhat confident enough to take on the big guns at the National Schools Doubles Championships in February. Remembering our exit as 3rd place in our groups last year, we resolved at



least to try and get past group stages, and many a train journey was spent discussing teams. It was decided we would field two pairs: the first being (apparent third-in-command) myself and Falstaffian vice-captain Ben Brind, the second being (captain) Tom 'Henry IV' Holdaway and rising star Ghazi 'Prince Hal' Jabre.

Disaster befell us: just days before the match the captain's beloved pink racket fell and smashed, the vice-captain's finger fell foul of a penknife and I fell ill. Nevertheless we assembled that crisp Sunday morning, and entered our matches in pink-striped shirts, tracksuits, or in one case a green v-neck jumper. Sets were first to six, sudden death on second deuce. Nerves and what felt like sub-zero temperatures in court meant our first two matches flew by with 2–6 losses to Seaford 2 and Canford 2, both teams playing fluidly in shirts and shorts. However, now warmed up, we clawed back against MCS to 5–5. It was here that Ben decided to enter god-mode, with a backhand slice-volley to save a match point and a subsequent 6–5 victory. By similar divine intervention, our Seaford loss was discounted due to player illness and we advanced to semifinals for the first time in School history. Our second pair had similar good fortunes, leading 3–0 v Seaford 1, dropping five consecutive games (3–5), and finally prevailing 6–5 on a sudden death deuce. Their

second match versus Clifton 2 was somewhat less glorious, with a bagel loss. However, they too advanced to the semi-final stage as the Oratory school withdrew.

We scrambled over points in semi-finals. Our glaring ten-inch height difference may have put off conventional oppositional tactics, and against Clifton 2 we fired off winners and employed horribly effective methods of aiming shots towards the weaker player. At 5–4 we clinched victory when Ben produced a streaking winner with an error margin of less than half a yard. Finals here we come! Second pair fought valiantly, but Canford 2 were ruthless, and a 6–3 loss resulted. They subsequently fin-

“Ben decided to enter god-mode”

ished an admirable 4th. With finals, we 'cultivated' our own version of real tennis, smashing, swiping and slamming every conceivable shot at walls, nets and roofs, creating similar carnage to Henry V's longbowmen. However we eventually lost due to our energy reserves hitting rock bottom, and finished runner up after 4–6.

Having received simply marvellous participation prizes of wristbands after our first match, we were pleasantly surprised with crystal trophies commemorating our runners-up placement in the Seniors B-Grade. The four of us had indeed performed to our best, and our post group selfie reflected our feelings of triumph; indeed, we finished as the top London School. We must thank Mr Woodman for his patient encouragement, and look forward to the further growth of this sport. Until next time.

2014–15 SHOOTING

It's been a particularly strong year for the shooting teams, culminating in six Full, two Half and five Third Pinks awarded at the end of the season, records Kevin Au.



■ The 1st VIII won three out of their four side-by-side matches, in both the five-bull (cadet) and ten-bull (NSRA match) disciplines; this year's shooters have been regularly scoring 96 or more on ten-bull cards, including a perfect 100 from Edward Rong, the best results in several years. Westminster A, B and C teams performed well in the BSSRA Leagues, with Westminster A team finishing top of division 1 in autumn, winning the Pollard Trophy, and Luxi Liu and Edward Rong achieving the highest individual scores in the division. In spring some of the less experienced shooters came to the fore: the B and C teams finished second and third in their division, with James Barrons and Sophie Hiscock achieving the highest and next highest individual scores respectively. There is much talent, therefore, going into next year's Remove.

Within school, the Novices beat the Common Room in the inaugural autumn meet; and in House Shooting Wren's took the title from last

“The Novices beat the Common Room in the inaugural autumn meet”

year's champions, Busby's, whilst Olivia White retained her position as Top Shooter.

Sadly, we said goodbye to our coach, Derek Robinson, who retired at the end of Lent Term at the age of 84. The occasion was marked by a tea party in his honour, attended by current and OW shooters, staff, and members of his family. He has threatened to pop in from time to time; good news for us, since we'll miss him greatly.

2014–15 SQUASH

This was our most successful year for competitive squash so far, and the first in which we took part in the National Schools Championships run by England Squash and Racketball, announces Andrew Tolley.

■ In the group stage, we beat Highgate and Trinity (Croydon) and lost to Whitgift and St Paul's. As a result, we went through to the Trophy competition, in which we beat Bradfield College and then lost to Wellington College, which sadly kept us from the finals in Manchester.

Near the end of Play Term, we attended the one-day Lexus Cup competition at Epsom College. The tie against the Charterhouse second team was a controversial victory: ties are decided by games won (which were equal) and then by points scored, irrespective of the score in matches (which was 2–1 to Charterhouse). As a result, we came top of the second division and claimed our first piece of silverware. A week later, we competed in a tournament at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford, with opponents including Marlborough College and St Bede's. We did not win.

Friendly matches this year included victories against Dulwich College, Reigate Grammar, City of London, Merchant Taylors', Reed's and Felsted, and losses against KCS (Wimbledon), Sevenoaks and St



“The tie against the Charterhouse second team was a controversial victory”

Edward's (Oxford). Our double-header against City Freemen's and St John's (Leatherhead) produced a double victory, while a similar event against Tonbridge and King's (Canterbury) produced a double loss.

The 1st V comprised: George Padfield, Harry Alam, Ilya Kleynier, Eugene Daley and Alex Cheveley.

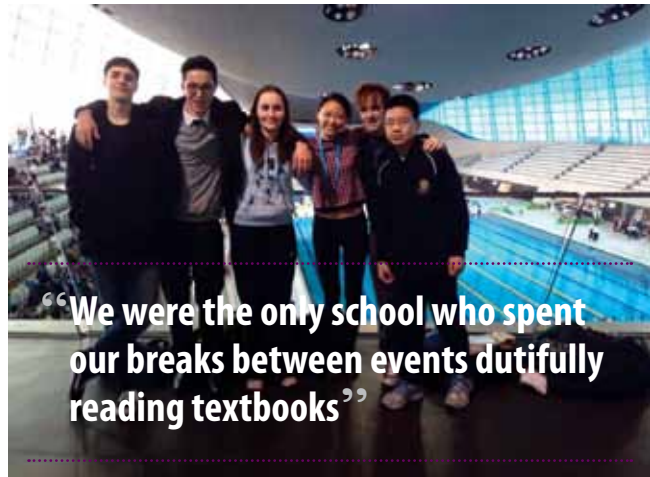
2014–15

SWIMMING

2015 saw a very successful season for Westminster swimmers. Decisive victories and strong results at local and national swimming galas have truly shaped this Station into a sport the school can be proud of, as Westminster emerges from obscurity to make a name in the swimming world, attests Sofya Shchukina (PP).

■ The strongest performance this year was at the City of Westminster Schools' Swimming Competition. The field of competitors was large, and the school triumphed, scooping up a total of 11 Golds, 2 Silvers and 5 Bronzes. Special mention must go to the senior boys, who won every race in their age category.

Still in high spirits from the victories at the competition, Westminster put forward a boys' team and a girls' team for the prestigious Otter Bath Cup, the most important national swimming competition for independent schools. The standard of swimming was incredibly high, and Westminster put up a stoic fight, with the boys qualifying as second reserves for the freestyle relay B-final. Albeit not the strongest in the pool, the team certainly lived up to Westminster's academic reputation as we were the only school who spent our breaks between events dutifully reading textbooks and working. The day was a wonderful experience: swimming in the Olympic pool was quite a treat!



The hugely enjoyable House swimming event was won by Grant's, making this their third consecutive win. The atmosphere at the poolside was dangerously electric as swimmers cheered their teammates on, resulting in four new school records. The event ended with a spectacular Underwater Dash, where Jorlin Liu's incredible performance in the very last heat won her the trophy, as well as matching the previous school record of a whopping 50m.

The progress being made in swimming Station is considerable – this year has made the squad much stronger, as well as allowing individual swimmers to flourish. We give a huge thank you to Dr. Prentice for her enthusiasm, organisation, and endless encouragement, and coach Pete for our enduring but fun training sessions. With some strong performances this year, we look forward to what the next season will bring.

2014–15

SAILING

After lunch on a Tuesday, a band of Westminsters take the short walk to Westminster Boating Base for Sailing and Kayaking station, writes Alex Long (GG).

■ From battling the tides up to Vauxhall Bridge, to cruising down from Chelsea with a glass of hot chocolate, to hiking out full tilt with a backdrop of Battersea Power Station, Sailing Station offers it all. Sailing close to the wind on the Thames with the sun shining down every Tuesday really is a breath of fresh air. Some weeks we even take a trip out in a powerboat and one of the most memorable moments for me was driving the speedboat under Tower Bridge and down to Canary Wharf; it is like something out of a movie. The thrill of dodging barges and enjoying everything the river has to offer really is unprecedented. There's never a dull moment. The instructors are always there to help us learn new tricks and the level of our Sailing and Kayaking notably improves over the course of the year. On behalf of all of us that do the best Station Westminster has to offer, I'd like to thank Mr Hooper for everything he does for making Sailing Station such a memorable and enjoyable one.

2014–15

BODY BEAT

Some might initially underestimate the achievements of those taking Body Beat station this year, concedes Sam Baldock.

■ In fact, the mighty dance aerobics collective have faced up to numerous challenges posed by the likes of Ariana Grande, Jessie J, Fatboy Slim and Kevin Bacon..

Our competitive side has been channelled through our participation in enormously popular events, such as 'Bring A Buddy to Body Beat!', where dancers of all abilities had to fight for their space in the largely overcrowded dance studio. The 2014–2015 season has proven the Body Beat crew to be welcoming and ambitious, yet most importantly to have significantly developed coordination skills, as well as impressive levels of fitness. For this, we can only thank our wonderful instructor, Mandy.

In the face of their critics, the 'Body Beaters' feel proud in the knowledge that just one hour of intense Zumba-flavoured dance aerobics on an otherwise dull Tuesday afternoon can burn up to 500 calories! It's infectiously fun and open to all, whether you're a bored gym bunny or an open-minded footballer.

LEAVERS 2014

Name	University	Course	Year of entry	Name	University	Course	Year of entry
Adhami, D	KCL	Biomedical Sciences	2015	Loughney, E	SOUTH	Physics with Astronomy	2014
Aedy, T B				Lyness, K	OXF	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014
Al-Rashid, H	AA	Architecture	2015	Ma, Y	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014
Aliberti, N				Mafi, A	OXF	Medicine	2014
Anderson, F	CAM	Law	2014	Mardinian, A	CAM	Engineering	2015
Anderson, T	OXF	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014	Marjanovic, S	OXF	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014
Andreyev, J	UCL	Modern Languages	2014	Mason, R	UCL	Geography	2014
Anthony, B	OXF	French	2015	Matsumoto, K	CAM	Medicine	2014
Arden-Miller, A	OXF	Fine Art	2014	Matthews, A	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014
Ariss, W	EDINB	Economic History	2014	McGrath, G	OXF	Philosophy and Theology	2014
Baden-Powell, M	GOLD	Design	2014	McNamara, P	OXF	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014
Bailey-Williams, C	OXF	History	2014	McNeill, H	UCL	Medicine	2014
Barrie, G	OXF	Classics I	2014	Mehta, R	OXF	Spanish	2014
Barrie, W	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Merrett, B	CAM	Engineering	2015
Barrott, W	OXF	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014	Millett, E	OXF	Music	2014
Behling, L	GSA	Architecture	2014	Miroshnichenko, D	CAM	Economics	2014
Beardmore, C	OXF	History	2014	Mockett, J	DUR	English Literature	2014
Beyts, M	MANU	Spanish and Portuguese	2014	Mohajer-Bastami, A			
Bexson, A	LSE	International Relations	2014	Molodtsova, E	KCL	European Studies	2014
Bird, H E				Morley, F			
Biser, N	OXF	Psychology and Philosophy	2015	Mosler, F	EDINB	Medicine	2015
Bishop, A	OXF	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014	Moss, W	OXF	English Language and Literature	2014
Bivona, B	CAM	Engineering (4 years)	2014	Murphy, C	GLAS	English	2015
Bradbury, D	CAM	Psychological and Behavioural Sciences	2014	Murphy Badger, M	CAM	History of Art	2014
Brener, D	KCL	Ancient History	2014	Musoki, R	MANU	Medicine	2015
Bridges, C	CAM	Modern and Medieval Languages	2014	Mylne, A	WARWK	History of Art and French	2014
Brochard, A	IMP	Chemical Engineering	2014	Nelson-Jones, L	SOAS	South Asian Studies	2014
Broke, K	OXF	History	2014	Newman, C	CITY	Computer Science w. Games Technology	2014
Brotherton, P A				Nguyen, M	LSE	Law (Bachelor of Laws)	2014
Brough, C	EDINB	Spanish and Philosophy	2014	Ogilvy, J	OXF	Theology and Oriental Studies	2014
Cao, A	IMP	Physics with a Year in Europe	2014	Oliver, L	SOTON	Medicine	2014
Cariati, B	WARWK	French and Italian	2014	Opzoomer, I	OXF	History	2015
Casey, C	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Osen, A	EXETR	Anthropology	2015
Chowdhury, A	UCL	Medicine (6 years)	2014	Pannetier, W	IMP	Biology	2014
Christie, A	BRISL	Computer Science	2014	Parker, B	UCL	French & Asian or African Language	2014
Chwu, M	IMP	Mathematics	2014	Parker, E	NOTTM	History and Russian	2014
Clarence-Smith, S	OXF	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014	Petrenco, A	OXF	Classics I	2014
Coppola, C	LSE	History	2014	Portas, V	OXF	Archaeology and Anthropology	2015
Cox, T	UCL	Economics & Business	2015	Porteous, A	OXF	History and English	2014
Cranston, A	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Pulsford, A	UCL	Modern Languages	2014
Curtis, J	CAM	Theology and Religious Studies	2015	Ramambason, H	CAM	Engineering	2014
Damayantharan, M	HUL	Chemical Engineering	2014	Rawlinson, I	OXF	History of Art	2014
Darke, S	UCL	History of Art	2014	Reynolds, M	OXF	French and Italian	pending
Dash, F	OXF	History	2015	Ripley, W	OXF	German and Russian	2014
Davin, M	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Ritossa, J	NOTTM	Law	2014
Digby, J	LSE	History	2014	Rivett, M	EDINB	History	2014
Dobson, R	OXF	Geography	2014	Ropek-Zackon, G	OXF	Economics and Management	2014
Doherty, A	CAM	Natural Sciences	2015	Rose, L	UAL	Directing	2014
Douglas, E	EDINB	Biological Sciences	2014	Rule, W	DUR	Classics	2014
Doyle, L J				Schaefer, C	CAM	History of Art	2014
Drawbell, A	BRISL	English	pending	Shack, T	EDINB	Architecture	2014
Drayton, C	KCL	War Studies and History	2014	Shearer, E	OXF	History and Politics	2014
Dunn Goekjian, L	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Shi, Y			
Dunne, E	IMP	Medicine	2014	Shin, M	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014
Easton, F	OXF	Biological Sciences	2014	Shone, S	OXF	French	2014
Esguevillas, L	DUR	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014	Siracusa, N	BRISL	Economics	2014
Fellows, L	STA	Theological Studies	2014	Smith, B	UCL	Classics	2014
Finch, E	OXF	Biological Sciences	2014	Snell, J J			
Fitzgerald, E	OXF	History	2014	Spicer, M	OXF	Biochemistry	2014
Fleming-Brown, L	OXF	English Language and Literature	2014	Spike, S	UCL	Philosophy and History of Art	2014
Forsyth, R	UCL	History	2015	Spillane, H	OXF	History	2014
Frizzelle, P	DUR	History	2014	Squire-Lindsay, A	CAM	History of Art	2014
Frost, W	OXF	Classics I	2014	Steele, P	READG	Mathematics	2014
Gangar, R	BRISL	Philosophy	2014	Stevens, W	OXF	Psychology and Philosophy	2014
Garcia-Miller, F				Stewart, A	CAM	Linguistics	2014
Glaser, M	OXF	Law	2014	Stott, C	UCL	Human Sciences	2014
Goalen, A	UCL	Law	2014	Strachan, C	OXF	Law	2014
Gordon, E	STA	Chemistry	2014	Stroud, F	OXF	Philosophy and Theology	pending
Gorrie, A	ASTON	Marketing	2014	Tan, M	CAM	Economics	2014
Gray, J	UCL	Natural Sciences	2015	Taylor, H	OXF	Classics I	2014
Griffiths, J	LSE	Geography	2014	Taylor, R	UCL	Modern Languages	2014
Hameedi, M	IMP	Biochemistry	2015	Thanki, D	OXF	Classics I	2014
Han, J	KCL	Dentistry	2014	Thomas, A	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014
Hanks, F	LSE	Economics	2014	Thompson, C	OXF	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014
Hanton, T	LEEDS	Biochemistry	2014	Thompson, J	LANCR	Physics	2014
Harrison-Mullane, H	OXF	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	2014	Thompson, W	OXF	Russian and German	2014
Hartley, T	IMP	Electrical & Electronic Engineering	2014	Timmis, S	OXF	History	2014
Hayes, D	OXF	English and Russian	2014	Troop, G	DUR	Modern Languages	2014
Henderson, R		Drama	2014	Uchida, S		Re-application	2015
Helmke, E	LSE	Social Anthropology	pending	Ulvestad, O	EDINB	Medical Sciences	2014
Hildebrand, T	KCL	Medicine	2014	Varakuta, T A			
Hill, T	CAM	History	2014	Varawalla, S	CAM	Economics	2015
Ho, F	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Walters, T	UCL	History	2014
Ho, S	CAM	Medicine	2014	Walker, B	IMP	Electrical & Electronic Engineering	2014
Ioannou, A	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Webster, J	UCL	English	2014
Jacquemot, A	OXF	Medicine	2014	Wesling, L	OXF	English Language and Literature	2014
Jayasekara, A	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Williams, R	CAM	Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	2014
Johnson, D	UCL	Economics	2015	Winter, A	DUR	Economics	2014
Johnson-Wheeler, M	SOAS	Arabic and Linguistics	2014	Winters, S	EDINB	Philosophy and Economics	2014
Jones, N	OXF	French and Spanish	2014	Wood, P	UCL	Philosophy	2014
Jordan, F	BRISL	History	2014	Yamamori, Y	OXF	Experimental Psychology	2014
Kang, I	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Yao, X	CAM	Engineering	2014
Karet, A	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014	Yung, J	CAM	Mathematics	2014
Kehoe, M	UCL	History	2015	Zhang, Y	CAM	Natural Sciences	2014
Kelen, J	DUR	Philosophy and Psychology	2014	Zou, T	IMP	Civil Engineering	2014
Kenny, N	OXF	Classics I	2014	Bransom, R	Duke	US application	2014
Kent, I	CAM	History of Art	2014	Chung, C	Chicago	US application	2014
Kerr, C	EDINB	Chinese	2014	Davidson, M-A	Cornell	US application	2014
Khalil, E	EDINB	Business and Finance	2014	Dayan A	MIT	US application	2014
Khan, S	LSE	Law (Bachelor of Laws)	2014	Doherty, N	UPenn	US application	2014
Khullar, H	OXF	Classics I	2014	Doumar, R	Dartmouth	US application	2014
Kim, D	OXF	Law	2014	Forbes, M	Brown	US application	2014
Koenigstorfer, S A				Iselin, O	Yale	US application	2014
Koh, B	LANCR	Geography	2014	Natt, A	Eastman	US application	2014
Kramer, R	WARWK	Mathematics	2014	Orueiro, F	MIT	US application	2014
Kulukundis, L	EANGL	English Literature with Creative Writing	2014	Rousseva, C	Williams	US application	2014
Kwoh, T	IMP	Biology	2014	Sinclair, J	Dartmouth	US application	2014
Kwon, D	OXF	Physics and Philosophy	2014	Sumra, E	Northwestern	US application	2014
Lee, J	UCL	Biomedical Sciences	2015	Vardanyan, D	Yale	US application	2014
Lee, S	CAM	Engineering	2014	Wood, W	Wesleyan	US application	2015
Lerner, L	LANCR	Geography	2014	Zhang, Z		US application	2015
Lewis, H	SHEFD	Electrical Engineering	2014				
Lewis, T	UCL	English	2015				
Li, Y	CAM	Engineering	2014				
Lines, T	NEWC	Fine Art	2015				
Liu, J	KCL	Medicine	2014				

